

Vol. 133 • No. 9

Early voting ends tomorrow BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Registered voters interested in casting their votes for the March 5 primary election prior to election day can still do so from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. tomorrow at the Val Clark Beard Office Complex at 203 N. 7th Street. There will also be early voting available today and tomorrow in Marathon from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Marathon Community Center for Precinct 3 and in Terlingua in precincts 5, 6, and 7 at the J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center.

Voters may choose to vote in either the Democratic primary or the Republican primary.

Local candidates running for office on the Democratic ticket are Ronny Dodson for Brewster County Sheriff, Sylvia Vega for County Tax Assessor-Collector, Mary Bell Lockhart for Democratic County Chair, and in Precinct 3, Brewster County Commissioner incumbent

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INSIDE



FEATURED

Sul Ross' Aragon still producing champions

Wrangler

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

Editor's Note: This is part two of a two-part series on Sul Ross rodeo and Coach C.J. Aragon.

As many may know, Sul Ross State University is the birthplace of the National Intercollegiate Rodeo Association. They've turned out a few champions since 1948, but no one since 1983 has had the successful teams Coach C.J. Aragon has in the last few years and he just keeps building on that success.

Aragon competed professionally as a steer wrestler for 27 years and had been giving private lessons at his house, when Mesalands Community College in Tucumcari, New Mexico approached him about taking over their program. "At one point, I had nine consecutive state champion steer wrestlers, and when Mesalands approached me, it was just a good fit and a passion I have," said Aragon.

His career in coaching college rodeo full-time began in 2007 at Mesalands, and in six seasons he was able to turn their program on its head, earning not only his own honors but also sending more competitors to the College National Finals Rodeo (CNFR) than in the history of the program.

Aragon's coaching style has

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Photo courtesy of Roseanna Sales, PRCA

Ky Hamilton celebrates a completed bull ride during the

2023 Wrangler National Finals Rodeo as Tristen Hutch-

ings (far left) looks at the scoreboard. Hamilton earned

the World Champion title in bull riding last year.

Wrangle

Leaving them in the dust



Alpine's Valeria Crespo, left, takes the handoff from Mia Morris during the 4x100-meter relay during the 80th Comanche Relays Saturday in Fort Stockton. At right, Fort Stockton's Havyn Gaytan prepares to take the baton from Larie Belle Urbano.

Photo by Shawn Yorks

AHS One Act gearing up for public presentation, contest

See sports 8-9.

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024									.0.38″
February	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	•	.0.13″



BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Alpine High School is a school lacking a theater program or even a theater class and is the only school to enter the competition without an actual theater program. Yet, students interested in the arts and theater have managed to bring this to fruition despite these challenges, as they embark upon UIL One Act Play with the help of their advisor who financed the advertising for the group.

One Act Play is just as it sounds, a play that consists of a single act. This group of high school thespians has decided to tackle what in today's world one might call a romantic comedy with a twist. Based on the old Greek mythology story of "Pygmalion," "Farewell to Galatea," written by Ford Ainsworth embarks upon a comedic love story that

shines a light on what happens when the term "watch what you ask for" comes to fruition.

Restricted to an entire handbook of UIL rules for this event, the cast and crew can consist of no more than 20 students. They are limited to the number of set pieces that they use and have seven minutes to put it up and take it down, without any verbal communication. They also have only 40 minutes to tell their story. If they advance to the next level of competition, another one of the rules is that they must pay royalties for each advancement, and scripts must be blacked out, highlighted, and sent to the three judges ahead of the competition.

In order to compete, and have props, makeup, and costumes, the students rely on fundraising and donations



Members of the cast of the One Act Play pose in one of their warm-up exercises prior to practice. Pictured are Izabel Ortiz, Raul Renteria, Ayleen Adame-Ramirez, Kalavati Caulfield, Zoe Arredondo, Naylana Smith, Andrea Johnson, Alyssa Mitchell, Alyssa Barron, LauraLai Bates, and Taryn Klockman.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

to fund their way to the competition. According to Gil Grabow, the faculty advisor for One Act Play, this year they are very fortunate in that their funds are in good shape. "We are good as far as funding is concerned to be able to travel to competition and feed the kids and put them up in hotel rooms, as well as pay the initial royalty fees for the play so that there is no copyright infringement. All of this gets expensive, but these kids are worth it because they are so passionate about what they are doing," Grabow

See ONE ACT • 13



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Emergency Services Board gets donation

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

The Alpine Emergency Services Board (AESB) held its regular scheduled meeting last Thursday, February 22 at 5:30 p.m. Top on the agenda was a presentation by Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim and Brewster County Judge Greg Henington of funds obtained by the auction of surplus items.

"We had this money from getting rid of surplus equipment and we wanted it put to good use, so donating it to the AESB seemed to be our best option, so it could be used to fund new equipment, training, or maintenance work as needed," said Henington.

After the presentation of the donation by Antrim and Henington, the board approved the minutes from the January 11 meeting, followed by reports from the board.

Board member Aaron Rodriguez reported that Rusty Moore had personally donated another computer to aid the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) with their reports and overall managerial work. He told the board that he would have one of his employees from Velocerus come by and set everything up for them so that they



The Alpine Emergency Services Board which oversees the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department, received a donation from Brewster County and the City of Alpine from the auction of surplus equipment. Pictured are members of the board and AVF. From left are Aaron Rodriguez, Assistant Chief Charles Worden, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, Albert Lujan, Paul Loeffler, Rusty Moore, Albert Benitez, Stephanie Elmore, Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim, Captain Zack Davis, Lieutenant James Etchison, and Chief Andrew Pierce.

would be up and running as quickly as possible.

Board treasurer Stacev Wood joined the meeting by phone, where she reported that all of the 1099's that were due to be distributed to members of the AVFD had been mailed out by their deadline. Wood also informed the board that she had been in contact with two private groups about the needs for the AVFD, one of these groups being the Yarbrough Foundation, which had donated one of the vehicles in the past according to AVFD

Chief Andrew Pierce. Wood said, "The Yarbrough Foundation is interested in helping out, but whatever they donate won't happen until the end of the year. The other private donor requires a quarterly application, and although we have missed the deadline for the first quarter of this year, we can still apply for the second quarter. Both of these entities, but especially the second one donates and helps out community projects." Chairman Paul Loef-

fler reported that the quotes for the hose and hose washer that would be purchased with the updated grant as well as the purchase order had been obtained by Pierce. Pierce told the board he would be ordering these two pieces of equipment by the end of the week. Loeffler also told the board that he would be presenting a yearly report to the commissioner's court as well as the city council. He would be presenting his report at the April 9 commissioner's court and recommending the reappointment of both Albert Lujan and Stephanie El-

Photo by Kara Gerbert

more to three-year terms on the board. A date for his presentation to the city council was still pending.

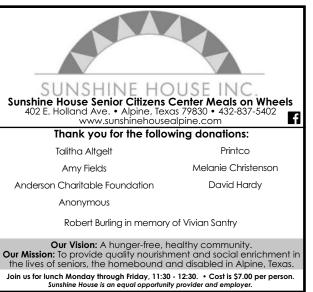
In other news, Pierce reported to the board the series of calls that the AVFD had responded to in January. He and Captain Zack Davis also explained to the board what their training schedule was looking like going forward and that they had

two new volunteers show up who wanted to be a part of the department.

Davis also went into more detail about the training schedule that he and Pierce had been working on. "I have set up a training schedule through June so far, where we will be working on things such as building rescues, water training, vehicle rescues, and the training we worked on last month which was ladder operations training," said Davis.

In closing, Loeffler discussed some of the upcoming training opportunities such as the training being held in Terlingua the upcoming Sunday and Monday, February 25-26 as well as the Certified Emergency Response training being held at the Alpine Fire Station that Friday through Sunday, February 23-25.

As there was no need for an executive session. the board set the date for the next regular meeting before they adjourned. The next regular meeting is scheduled for March 28 at 5:30 p.m. in the AVFD meeting room.



Alpine football sees another change in UIL redistricting

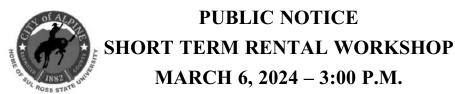
BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees met last Wednesday night to discuss the Texas Academic Performance Report, approve numerous donations, and receive reports from Alpine ISD principals and the athletic director. Absent from the meeting was Jimmy Morris.

After the call to order and standard opening procedures, the American Legion Big Bend Post 79 Auxiliary presented snack bags to the board in appreciation for all they do. Sara Herman spoke on behalf of the Auxiliary saying, "We perform work projects throughout the year in various aspects and this small presentation is to show our appreciation and is one of this year's education projects." After the board thanked the Auxiliary, the next order of business was the discussion of the Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR.) In this report, Alpine ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart discussed with the board what had changed with the STAAR test and what these changes meant as

far as Alpine students last year's performances. Rinehart gave each of the board members an example of several of the questions that could be found on the STAAR

See AISD • 13





The American Legion Big Bend Post 79 Auxiliary presented snack care packages to the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees last Wednesday night as part of their education project. Pictured are Judy Stokes, Sara Herman, and Sara Bow.

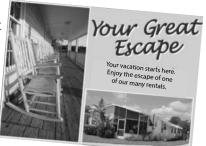


Brewster County Commissioner PCT3

PROVEN LEADER FORMER ALPINE CITY COUNCILMAN **CURRENTLY ON AISD SCHOOL BOARD**



The City of Alpine advises the public that the City Council will hold a short term rental workshop on Wednesday, March 6th at 3:00 p.m. The workshop will be in consideration of updating rules, regulations, and requirements for short term rentals operating in the city. Board members, community



members, and short term rental operators are invited to attend and provide feedback. Interested parties that may not attend in person may view the workshop virtually with the login details found at www.cityofalpine.com/meetinglogin. Questions may be directed to the Office of the City Secretary at **city.secretary**@cityofalpine.com or by phone call to 432-837-3301, option 1.



PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR ROAD MATERIALS

RFP 2024-02-01

The City of Alpine is soliciting Request for Proposals for Road Materials. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at www.cityofalpine.com/bids.

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 4:00 p.m. on March 4, 2024. To be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the requests for information in the Summary of Qualifications section. Proposals should be clearly marked "SEALED RFP ROAD MATERIAL 2024-02-01 - TO BE OPENED MARCH 4, 2024 AT 4:00 P.M." and mailed or handdelivered to the address below:

City of Alpine **City Secretary** 100 N. 13th St Alpine, Texas 79830

Questions regarding this project may be directed to the Director of Public Works, Eddie Molinar, at eddie.molinar@ci.alpine.tx.us. Any questions or concerns must be addressed in writing by the deadline to submit additional written questions as of 5:00 p.m. on February 26, 2024. No further inquiries will be accepted after the deadline. The tentative award date for this project is March 19, 2023.

McGuire to seek lesser sentence for murder conviction

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

Lisette McGuire, formerly of Marathon was found guilty last June in the murder of Alpine local Aquiles Gonzales and will face a new jury trial in Fort Stockton in hopes of being granted a reduced sentence. This new trial is scheduled to begin May 6, and will only affect the punishment, as the guilty verdict still stands.

According to Assistant

District Attorney William Parham who prosecuted the murder case, the newly selected jury will see the entirety of the case that was presented in the 394th District Court last vear.

"After the guilty verdict was established last year when it was time for the punishment phase, Judge Ferguson did not believe that the defense for McGuire was effec-



McGuire

tive, so he allowed for a second trial to determine punishment," Parham said.

Parham told the Avalanche that the previous District Attorney Sandy Wilson had origi-

nally offered McGuire a plea of 25 years, which she did not take, and that his office has offered the same deal.

McGuire and her new attorney had until last Friday to accept the plea, otherwise, they would continue to court in front of a new jury and the honorable Judge Robert Cadena in Fort Stockton.

"She (McGuire) is hoping that she can reduce her original sentence by saying it was a murder of passion," Parham said.

Parham also added that the entirety of the trial that occurred in the 394th District Court will also occur in Fort Stockton. "The jury that we select in Fort Stockton will see all the evidence and almost all of the witnesses that determined McGuire's guilt and punishment in the first trial. These new jurors don't know anything about the case, so it is up to my office to present them with this information so that they can decide on what her punishment will be," Parham added.

According to Parham, McGuire's initial sentence was 39 years, and if she took the plea offer of 25, she would be eligible after 12 and a half years to be released. "She's gambling on receiving a lower sentence of 20 years maximum for a passion plea, which would make her eligible for release after serving 10 years. My plan as the prosecution in this case, after presenting all of the evidence to the new jury is to seek life in prison, just as I did during the first trial," Parham concluded.

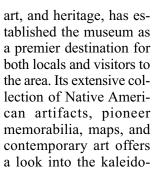
Museum of the Big Bend named Best Small-Town Museum

USA Today hosts an annual 10Best Awards and thanks to many voters, the Museum of the Big Bend secured the top spot in the Best Small-Town Museum category.

The 10 Best Awards are highly coveted and recognize excellence in their many categories across the United States.

"We are incredibly honored and grateful to receive this recognition," said Mary Bones, director of the Museum of the Big Bend. "We are so thankful to those who took the time to vote and to encourage friends and family to vote. We are also thankful for the hard work and dedication of our staff, volunteers, and supporters who have helped make the museum a vibrant hub of cultural enrichment."

The museum's commitment to preserving the rich cultural heritage of the Big Bend by showcasing its diverse history,



scope of life in far West Texas.

Museum of the Big Bend Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building

Traffic delays expected in Big Bend National Park

The museum offers a permanent collection of art and objects along with a diverse selection of temporary exhibits throughout the year. Along with these collections, the museum also offers educational programs and community events, such as lectures and workshops, guided tours, and handson activities. For more information on hours of operation, current exhibits, and upcoming events, visit the website at museumofthebigbend.com.

Courtesy photo

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on the Arts

Visitors to Big Bend National Park (BBNP) can expect to encounter delays if they are entering the park through the western entrance. Begin-

Park officials say that work will begin each morning at about 10 a.m. and will continue until approximately 6 p.m. each day until repairs

of the park at Persimmon Gap, 30 miles south of Marathon will remain fully open.

Park officials warn visitors to expect singleone priority, and we are working diligently to address some concerns along the entrance road. I appreciate everyone's patience while we work to

ning this past Monday, February 26, road crews began making emergency repairs to the road at the western entrance that visitors access via Highway 118 near Study Butte and Terlingua.

are completed. Visitors are encouraged to arrive early and expect traffic delays of up to one hour as work crews repair a heavily eroded section of the road base.

The eastern entrance

lane traffic and ask that they follow all safety signage and procedures inside the road construction zone. Acting Superintendent Chad Tinney said, "Safety of our park visitors is our number

repair the damaged road before the busy spring break period begins."

BBNP will offer updates via social media and their website of the construction timeline.



John Caldwell Tidball

Although he may have passed through at some point, to the best of my knowledge John Caldwell Tidball never visited Texas. However. he was one of those individuals somewhat lost to history, but a man who lived life to the fullest and had an impact on all of us. Tidball, from Ohio, graduated 11th in the 1848 class of West Point and was assigned as Second Lieutenant to the U.S. Artillery.

In 1853 Tidball was assigned to escort Lieutenant Amiel Weeks



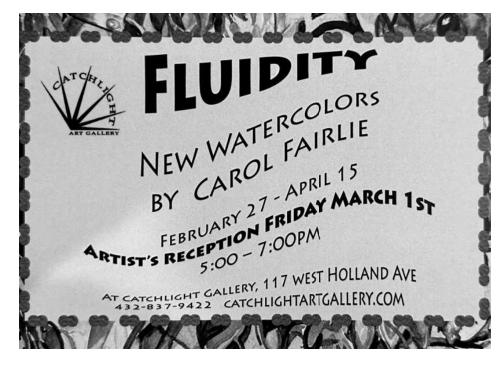
FIDDLER'S GREEN by larry francell

Whipple's Pacific Railway Survey of the 35th Parallel through Indian country from Fort Defiance, located in what is now eastern Arizona. He

through Navaho lands to the Colorado River, where the escort marched separately to San Diego. Besides his escort duties for the survey, Tidball, an accomplished artist who studied art and drawing at West Point, provided at least three of the eleven widely distributed color illustrations printed in the final report. "Bivouac, January 28" and "Camp Scene in the Mojave Valley of the Rio Colorado" are two of

remained with the survey

See FIDDLER'S • 13



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April 1 – April 5, 2024 6 – 8 hours daily Participants earn \$15.00 per hour.

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Project leaders include Jason Crosby, Sul **Ross Borderlands Research Institute;** Jim Martinez, Marfa-based landscape designer and soil scientist; Price Rumbelow and Jeff Bennett, Rio Grande Joint Venture.

To apply or request additional information, please call 432 729 4362 EXT 225 or email education@chinati.org.

Enrollment is limited. Women and gender non-conforming individuals based in the tri-county area are strongly encouraged to apply by March 7. Transportation to research sites will be provided from Marfa or Alpine.

Chinati's educational and public programming is generously supported by the Prentice Farrar & Alline Ford Brown Foundation, the Cowles Charitable Trust, the Carl B. & Florence E. King Foundation, the Warren Skaaren Charitable Trust, #startsmall, the Texas Commission on the Arts, and the Union Pacific Foundation. Chinati is also grateful o our members and the people of Marfa and Far West Texas for their generous support and in-kind contribution







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NLINE POLL

RESULTS

WHICH POLITICAL OFFICE **BEING VOTED ON IN THE MARCH PRIMARY IS THE MOST IMPORTANT TO YOU?**

RESULTS	
DISTRICT JUDGE	
SHERIFF	75%
DISTRICT ATTORNEY	4%
SENATORS	2%
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPI	3% RESENTATIVES
PRESIDENT	1%
	16%
Total votes: 174	

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

ETTERS

Send us your letters.

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

Letters should be no more than 300 words.

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

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



Southwest beef symposium slated for New Mexico

While beef cattle operations are a staple across the state of Texas, beef cattle production is far and away the largest agricultural commodity found in the Big Bend re-

LUKE HENDRYX gion of Texas. The AgriLife Extension Agent ranching industry

can be challenging anywhere, however producing high-quality beef in the Chihuahuan Desert comes with a unique set of challenges, making area-specific programs a unique and valuable opportunity for local producers.

The annual Southwest Beef Symposium, hosted at New Mexico State University in Roswell, is a flagship program to help modern-day beef cattle producers navigate a rapidly changing industry, harsh weather conditions, and a myriad of other factors in their efforts to provide consumers with high-quality beef products.

The educational program is a joint effort between Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and the New Mexico State Univer-

sity Cooperative Extension Service. While the hosting agencies serve stakeholders in two different states, the issues addressed in the program are universal for beef cattle producers across the region.

The program, which will be held March 7 and 8, features a roster of presenters from Texas, New Mexico, Nevada, Oklahoma, and Nebraska. The presentations included in the program will cover topics including market outlook, changes in industry standards, mortality factors, genomic testing, cow efficiency, toxicity concerns, range management, as well as pertinent research updates. The topics covered during the Southwest Beef Symposium will provide producers with relevant information and resources that will aid them in their effort to maintain conservationbased approaches to beef production.

While the slate of speakers will cover a wide array of topics, certain topics have significant importance regionally. Dr. Bruce Carpenter, Ph.D. professor in the Texas A&M Department of Animal Science and AgriLife Extension livestock specialist, Fort Stockton, will be discussing the details of cow size and how differences in cow size directly correlate with production efficiency in desert beef cattle operations. While this topic finds relevancy across the state, it requires special consideration when managing cow-calf operations in the arid conditions of the desert southwest. Maximizing efficiency in all aspects of the production cycle is paramount to producers as they continue to emphasize resource management.

The cost of the two-day program is \$85 before March 2 or \$100 at the door. Anyone interested in registering for the event may visit the event's website https://tx.ag/ SWBeefSymposium.

For more information, please contact your local Texas A&M AgriLife Extension office at 432-837-6207 or by email at luke. hendryx@ag.tamu.edu.

The passing of neighborhood stores

"The more things change, the more they stay the same.'

— Well-used term, credited to French critic of the hill on South Jean-Baptiste Alphonse Jefferson, at Hol-

The white frame building bearing the Raney's Grocery sign sat at the top

Albert related how Robert came to Ripley from

on the south side of town, Raney's is the one I remember. Neighborhood grocer-Mount Pleasant ies were just a few blocks in the 80s to pur- away, and always had that chase his, and the quick loaf of bread or gallon of milk needed right at suppertime. Also, the go-to place for a kid looking for a candy bar or cold drink on a summer afternoon. Or needing air in a bicycle tire. For my grandparents in Pittsburg, it was Unger's Grocery Store on Mount Pleasant Street. In Center, I've been told, it was places like Pete and Mattie Dellinger's neighborhood grocery on Shelbyville Street. Every community had them. As South Jefferson grew from a sleepy two-lane street into a busy four-lane thoroughfare, I remember Robert as the friendly and outgoing guy Albert described as "hands-on" at the McDonald's in Ripley. Always there and always the one behind the counter. My father probably knew him better than I did. When coming home to visit, a trip to Dunavant's for something with my father was a given. "I need to run over to Dunavant's," Dad would say. "Want to go with me?" "Sure," I always said. Figured it was most likely for something Mom needed to get supper on the table. Because, despite change as a constant in the world, even then, some things just never changed.

Sta<u>ff</u>

PUPINE AVALANCHE

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

Kara Gerbert Managing Editor kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

Joh Covington Staff Writer joh.covington@alpineavalanche.com

Shelley Maroney Office Manager shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

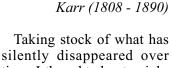
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.



time, I thought about neighborhood grocery stores last week. How they've all but disappeared from the American way of life.

"Run over to Raney's," Mom often directed me with a list of two or three things. "I need this to have supper ready when your Daddy gets home at five."

And in a flash, I was peddling my bicycle through the neighborhoods. From our house on Redbud Lane to Raney's Grocery Store. A few blocks away on South Jefferson.

"Hello, Leon," Mr. Raney said from his stool, where he often sat at the cash register just inside the door. "Your mother needs some things for supper?"

"Yes sir," I said, placing the items on the counter.

"Charge 'it today," he asked, reaching for the account book with Aldridge hand-written on the cover.

"Yes sir ... please."

Everything was placed carefully in my bicycle basket; I was soon headed home. And I aimed to make it back without a torn bread wrapper or a leaking milk carton.

Mom never had eggs on her list for me, with good reason.

land Street. Today, a modern convenience store sits in the exact location. Guest Columnist

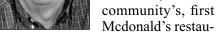
A far cry from the once commonplace neighborhood grocery store.

Raney's had gas pumps, unlike many neighborhood groceries of the day. In fact, it resembled a gas station where a grocery store was added after the fact. Even had a door separating the two.

Following the years of bicycle trips to Raney's, I left and went off to college. Followed with a headfirst dive into the working world. During a visit home, I noticed Raney's was gone one day. Replaced by a new business in a new building.

I don't recall if he was the first to follow Raney's, but the newer proprietor I remember the most was Robert Dunavant. Because he followed the same "greet the customer by name" business model practiced by his predecessors.

Fast forward a few more years into the age of computers. The day a message from long-time friend and one-time business partner Albert Thompson hit my inbox. "An old associate and friend from Mount Pleasant passed away this week in Ripley, Mississippi," it read. "Robert Dunavant."



Mcdonald's restaurant. "Robert was LEON ALDRIDGE one good person, as hard of a worker

as I ever shook hands with," He concluded in his native Alabama, country boy terms.

"We ran a picture of him mowing the grass at Mc-Donalds as he was wearing his necktie. In reading his obit," Albert added, "I see he is going back to Pittsburg, Texas, for a graveside on Saturday.

"We always talked about Mt. Pleasant, as I knew you were from there," Albert said. "Robert owned and sold a convenience store there if I remember right. He always wanted a McDonalds. He had the opportunity to purchase other franchises but chose to be hands-on with the one. He worked until three weeks ago.

"Something tells me ya'll likely passed ways one way or the other," the message concluded. "A great guy."

Robert Dunavant and I, in fact, did "pass ways" to borrow Albert's axiom. Where our family and many others on the south side of Mount Pleasant frequented Raney's neighborhood grocery store, they continued to stop at Dunavant's.

Mount Pleasant had more than one neighborhood grocery, but growing up



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Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering Alpine, Texas

Members and directors of the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering cannot begin to thank all who have helped, given to, encouraged, volunteered for, hosted, and attended this Gathering. We especially thank the City of Alpine Visitor's Bureau and Sul Ross State University for all they have done to facilitate our planning and events.

An extrordinary thank you goes to our

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who made it possible to bring more than 2,700 people from 33 states and 4 countries to Alpine this year:

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What are some of your favorite books?



Robert Flanders: Mysteries. **Dorothy Sayers** and C.J. Box to name a couple of authors.





UPCOMING EVENTS

March 1 Fish Fry, Knights of Columbus at Our Lady of Peace parish hall.

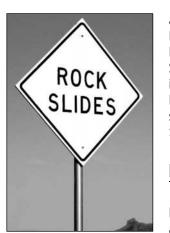
March 1 Andy Warhol Reception, 5 p.m. Museum of the Big Bend.

March 1 R3 Recycled Art **Reception**, 5 p.m. Gallery on the Square.

March 8 Sul Ross Spring Jackpot at SALE arena, beginning at 5 p.m. Barrel racing, breakaway roping, and team roping of one-head rodeo run. All timed events will use a rope barrier, NIRA rules in all events except youth breakaway will use junior high rules. All entry fees are cash only.

March 9 Desert Mindfulness Walks and Talks, 2 p.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Contact the park for registration.

March 11 Free Health Clinic- Terlingua, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Big Bend Church 100 Hwy 118. No insurance or documents required. No appointment or re-



ferral required.

March 12 Free Health Clinic-Sanderson, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. St. James Hall 209 E. Hackberry St. No insurance or documents required. No appointment or referral needed.

March 13 Free Health Clinic-Marathon, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. Marathon Clinic 100 SW First Street. No insurance or documents required. No appointment or referral needed.

March 16 Desert Mindfulness Walks and Talks, 2 p.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Contact the park for registration.

March 22 Fish Fry, 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. Leadership Big Bend and the American Legion Big Bend Post 79 fundraiser for Casa Hogar Orphanage and Escuela Secundaria Adolfo Ruiz Cortines. Plates include fried catfish, French fries, hush puppies, cole slaw, and a glass of ice tea for \$15 each.

ONGOING EVENTS

Alcoholics Anonymous, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or aa-intergroup.org.

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

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

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

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

Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals, on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew. alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale. wixsite.com/bbcc.

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

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

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

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

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

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

Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon, Wednesdays at the Sul Ross University Center, room 210 Late Night Game Night, 9

p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101 W. Ave E.





Cathrine Crumpton: An Immense World by Ed Yong has been a recent favorite.





Roland Teague: Westerns by Louis L'amour.



Alpine Elementary School principal Mr. Wubbena and AES counselor Mrs. Hendryx work with fourth graders in a specialized mini class that focuses on their writing skills as part of the preparation for the STAAR test.

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. Mon-

day through Friday at

2900 E. Old Marathon

Highway. For informa-

tion about shelter pet

adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found

pets, call the Shelter at

432-837-9030. The Al-

pine 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

Courtesy photo



Alpine Retirement Low income Housing

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Dottie Harding: Like Water for Chocolate by Laura Esquivel and A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park are two that come to mind.





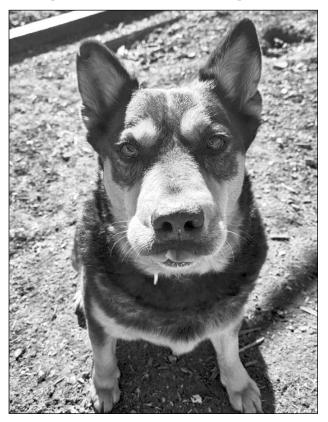
Marie Burnett: Historical fiction. I recently read Manhattan Beach by Jennifer Egan and Cold Mountain by **Charles Frazier** and they were both very good.

et of the Week

Our Pet of the week is Milo. Milo is a sevenyear-old Rottweiler mix who loves to be the center of attention. Milo is alert and attentive, making him a great candidate for a guard dog. He will take any opportunity to go for walks or a quick outing for a change of scenery. If Milo sounds like the guy for you, come say hello at the Alpine Animal Shelter. You can support the Alpine Humane Society by visiting our See's online candy store, attending one of our monthly Happy Hours, shopping and donating at our Thrift Store, fostering, volunteering, and donating online. Call 432-837-2532.

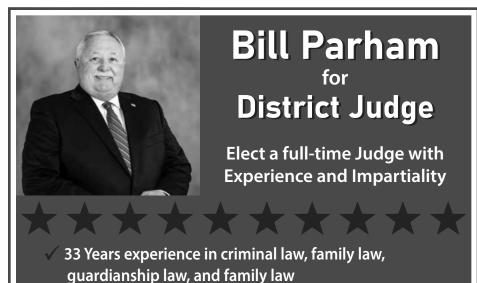
Pet promotions are

432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumane-



society.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.





- ✓ Currently- First Assistant District Attorney for 394th District Court in Brewster, Presidio and Jeff Davis Counties
- ✓ I will ensure a fair and just court where all litigants and defendants are treated the same and with respect.
- ✓ I am a full time prosecutor and I would like to be your full time District Judge.

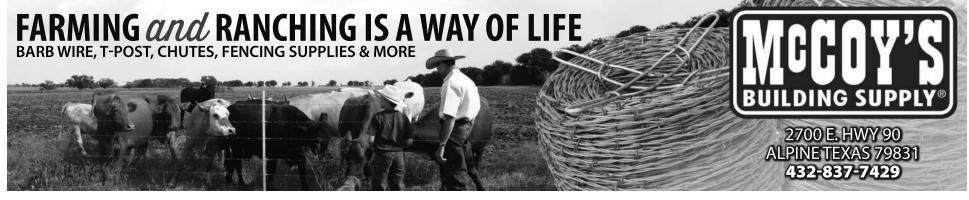
May I have your vote for 394th District Judge?

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LOOKING BACK **Alpine Avalanche**

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February 16,

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Morrow,

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February 16, 1995 А CBS mini-series has been filming south of Marfa. The series called Streets of Laredo, is a sequel to Larry Mc-Murtry's Lonesome Dove.

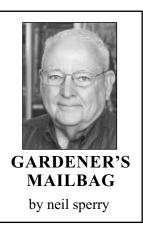
February 16, 1995 The Lady Bucks players Mari Cervantes, Hillary Sleeper, Amy Roberts, Elena Pearce, Urguidez, Dioni Jennifer Martin, Zerelda Gallego, Celia Garcia, Erica Reyes, and Monica Ybarra are pictured here with their coach Lara Gaydon. The Alpine team is playing Greenwood this weekend.



Rescue grass offers obvious seed heads for identification

Dear Neil: Correct me if I'm wrong, but I'm assuming the lush green lawns around town are rescue grass. If so, how does it perpetuate itself from one year to the next? I've never seen it produce seedheads, yet it does die out as summer arrives.

It could be rescue grass, but its seedheads are very obvious unless the grass is being mowed every three or four days. I seriously doubt that you would be seeing entire lawns of rescue grass. It's too coarse. Most people would be applying a pre-emergent herbicide between August 25 and September 5 to prevent its germination. Of course, it could also be annual bluegrass (Poa annua). I wouldn't describe it as "lush," and it's usually not dark green. It certainly does produce quantities of small, fine-textured seedheads in April. Are you certain you're not seeing ryegrass? It fits your descriptions perfectly and it rarely produces seedheads when maintained in a home lawn. I'll bet that's what you're seeing because commercial landscapers use it abundantly for the great



looks it brings to dormant winter turf. Dear Neil: Should I evict can see the roll from about the one o'clock position of the wound around to about seven o'clock, but even then, it's not continuous. I fear that there is substantial decay within the trunk itself.

Relative to the concrete: everyone wants to fill holes like this, but the truth is that the concrete adds no strength to the void. It merely seals off access to air so that any moisture and decay can continue to accumulate around it. Trained and certified arborists almost always recommend leaving the tree alone to heal on its own. If it is unable to do so, adding concrete wouldn't have helped it. Dear Neil: I have battled gummosis on my peaches for years. It's been four years since I had a good peach. My grandfather painted over these cracks. Relative to the last photo with the most damage: should I remove the limb?

less familiar, "gummosis" refers to a heavy oozing of sap from limbs and the trunk of peaches, plums, and other stone fruit trees. It can be caused by insect damage, infection of a fungus, herbicide injury, mechanical damage, or other challenges to the tree. It usually attacks weakened trees and often causes loss of branches or entire trees. You can often identify whether the original cause was insect-related by looking beneath the sap. If you see small fragments of wood that have been chewed by the insects, that would be your

clue. If the sap is clear of those chips, the cause is probably fungal. Unfortunately, once you have the gummy ooze it's almost impossible to turn things around. That's about the best I can do without photos. Hope it helps.

Dear Neil: I have really enjoyed my oak leaf hydrangea for several years. However, the cold this year has done severe damage to it. Several of the large stems appear to be dead. Should I cut it to the ground and let it resprout from its base?

Oh, no! Oak leaf hydran-

geas are completely winterhardy to any cold in your part of Texas. Granted, they lose all their leaves, but cold should never cause them to die back. I have about 20 of them, and I usually trim mine back by 12 to 18 inches each winter. Pruning encourages a burst of new growth in spring for a better bloom soon after.

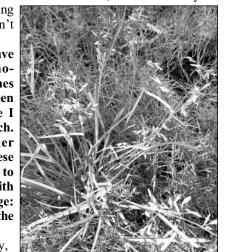
of the 35 entered.

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.

the squirrel who lives in the hole in my golden raintree's trunk? There is some rotting on the cut stump. Should it be filled with concrete, or is there a better way to repair it?

You're going to have to hope that the tree can heal across the decaying area. It looks like the cut may have been made too close to the trunk, meaning into the branch collar. That opened a larger wound than necessary and took away much of the tree's ability to form a symmetrical roll of new bark around the wound. You

Unfortunately, your photos failed to attach. For those



Rescue grass



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Sports

Lady Bucks making strides in track and field

BY KARA GERBERT Managing Editor

The Alpine Lady Bucks track and field team traveled to Fort Stockton last week for the Comanche Relays. Despite the unseasonably warm February temperatures, the girls held up well according to their head coach Cory Cason.

Overall, the varsity team placed second at the meet just behind the Monahans team. Just like last year, Valeria Crespo and Danica Mulholland dominated their events, earning first and second in the 100m, while Novah Carrasco placed second in the 200m.

The 400m runners Emy Hernandez, Collette Fowlkes, and Ali Maroney took second, third, and sixth place respectively. Along



Alpine Lady Bucks track and field team.

with Hope Dominguez, this group also took the silver medal in the 4x400m relay.

In the 4x100m and 4x200m relays, Mia Morris, Mulholland, Crespo, and Novah earned a silver medal in both relays, and Hernandez earned a fourthplace finish in the 800m for her first meet of the season. Hurdlers Mia won the 300m, while Naida Morris placed fourth in the 100m.

The JV team placed third overall in Division II with only six girls on the team. Their 4x100m relay team of Kylie Maroney, Sophie Janis, Nevaeh Carrasco, and Ailea Fierro earned the gold medal, beating out all the other larger schools they competed against. Janis placed second in the 100m while Carrasco

with 11-1 in district play.

Undefeated at home, the

Alpine team was Co-Dis-

trict champions, Bi-District

champions, and Area final-

the UIL championship, the

Bucks faced the Denver City

Mustangs at Buena Vista

High School. The two teams

were well matched and there

were several turnovers dur-

Alpine took the lead in

the first quarter by six points

over the Mustangs, ending

The Bucks would further

advance their lead on the

scoreboard in the second

quarter, with field goals and

free throws from Hardwick

and Canaba as well as a few

three-pointers from both of

them and Martinez. Before

ing the game.

the quarter 16-10.

To reach the Area level of

ists.

Courtesy photo

placed second in the 400m, with Kylie earning a fourth and fifth place spot in the 100 and 200m.

"Our distance runners ran strong and just keep improving their times each week," said Cason.

Molly Garrett would take the gold in both the 3200m and the 1600m in Division II, while Hope Dominguez placed second in Division I with a time of 5:55.

In the field events, Fierro earned fourth place in both the shot put and discus, and Kylie and Nevaeh both had personal records in the long and triple jumps on top of earning first and second place respectively. Kylie's long jump was 14'-10" and Nevaeh's triple jump was 31-00.75. Alpine Buck Relays in conjunction with Alpine Middle School beginning at 4 p.m. today with our varsity meet kicking off at 9 a.m. on Saturday. Unfortunately, some of our varsity runners will be missing, due to other events so our JV girls will work to step into some of those roles. Both of the Morris girls along with Dominguez and Sierra Ruckman qualified for the regional powerlifting meet, while Hernandez and Trinity Vega will be on the softball field. This is just one of those situations we face in the spring with other sporting events wrapping up," said Cason.

Next up for the Alpine Lady Bucks track and field team is a trip to Monahans on March 8 for the Sandhills Relays.

"This week we have our

Lady Buck powerlifters qualify for regionals

BY JOH COVINGTON Staff Writer

The Alpine powerlifting team has completed their regional qualifying meets and many of the Lady Bucks are heading to regionals because of their impressive performance.

The girls' final qualifying meet was on February 15 in Wink. Sierra Ruckman, Naida and Mia Morris, Kody Hawkins, Kaylee and Enyssa Fierro, Hope Dominguez, Roxell Adams, Ayleen Adame, Madalyn Warren, Hannah Vidal, Shanna Tamale, and Vianney Santos became regional qualifiers at this meet. Before the qualifying challenge, head powerlifting coach, Jerry Dominguez, had a good sense of the team's abilities as the Alpine girls competed in Kermit on Saturday, February 10, before the regional qualifier, and were named third overall as a team. Several of the Alpine members placed impressively in their weight classes. Enyssa Fierro placed first in the 148-weight class and Vianney Santos was fifth.

In the 165-weight class, Madalyn Warren placed first with Roxell Adams in fourth place. And in the 123-weight class, Hope Dominguez placed third and Kaylee Fierro placed fifth.

Mia Morris placed second in the 97-weight class, Naida Morris placed third in 105, and Trinity Vega placed eleventh in 132 while Shanna Tamale was eighth in 165.

Hannah Vidal and Ayleen Adame had a

Bi-district champs end season in area

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks fought their way up to the Area challenge last week, after defeating the Denver City Mustangs in Bi-District play on February 20. The Bucks then traveled to Roscoe to meet the Canadian Wildcats on February 23 for the Area playoff title.

Aaron Hardwick, head basketball coach for the Bucks, said, "Looking back, I am extremely proud of how the 23-24 Fightin' Buck basketball team represented themselves. They were committed to bringing the district championship back to Alpine and went undefeated at home. They battled through all types of adversity, and I am extremely proud of them. Job well done." The Bucks had quite a few accomplishments to boast about this year. Hardwick was nominated for co-coach of the year, player Jace Canaba was named Co-MVP, and Ferris Daley was given newcomer of the year. Evren Martinez and Daedrick Hardwick were firstteam all-district while JJ Victorino, Santi Alvidrez, and Zane Wash were recognized as second-team all-district. An honorable mention was reserved for players Guillermo Busey, Davian Fierro, and Alec Ramos. The Bucks had a 25-8

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks and Coach Aaron Hardwick celebrate their bi-district win against the Denver City Mustangs.

Photo by Annika Canaba

overall record this season halftime, the Bucks were

Before reaching Area, the Wildcats defeated the Slaton Tigers 72-46 in their Bi-District game.

The Bucks made headway in each quarter of the game against the Wildcats, however, there was very little room for turnover against the scrappy offense of the panhandle team. The Wildcats took a five-point lead in the first quarter 20-15, ended the second quarter 33-22, 54-34 in the third, and took the win with a final score of 73-43.

With their win against Alpine, the Wildcats go on to face the Shallowater Mustangs for the regional quarter-final.

aced third they competed against. 10" and Nevaeh's triple tear on II with Janis placed second in jump was 31-00.75.



great showing as well.

Some of the competitors were given recognition for outstanding performance. Enyssa Fierro was named for outstanding bench press in her weight class and Madalyn Warren for outstanding deadlift.

Last season, Madalyn Warren, Enyssa Fierro, and Kody Hawkins, all qualified for state and have returned in a good position for regionals. According to Dominguez, many others were also in a good position to qualify.

The regional meet for the girls will be on March 2 with the state competition following soon after, on March 13.

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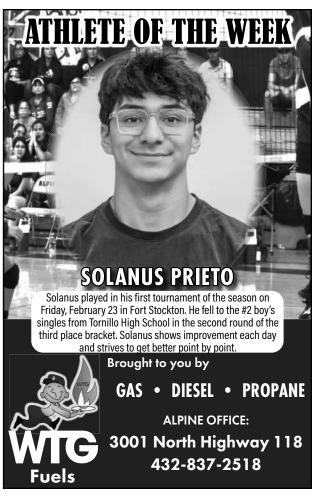
Each insurer has sole financial responsibility for its own insurance. List of all insurers and states where licensed at farmers com/companies/state/. Not all insurers are authorized in all states. Not all products, coverages, and discounts are available in every state and may vary by state. Restrictions, exclusions, limits, and conditions apply. See agent for details. ahead by 14 points 38-24.

It was the Mustang's ball at the top of the third quarter and they gained some ground but with more threepoint goals from Canaba and Martinez and two-point shots from Wash and Hardwick, the quarter ended with the Bucks maintaining their lead 52-40.

The Fightin' Buck's win was punctuated in the fourth quarter, with free-throw scores from Busey, Alvidrez, Martinez, and Hardwick with a two-point score from a shot made by Canaba. The game ended with a 62-48 win for the Bucks, leading them to the next stage of the championship, an area challenge against the Wildcats of Canadian. As the season ended, the Alpine Fightin'Bucks basketball program had to say farewell to several of their senior players.

"Saying goodbye is never easy, but this senior class has been truly special. I wish Evren, Jace, JJ, Guillermo, and Santi all the best and thank them for making this season so memorable," said coach Hardwick.

The coach also extended thanks to the Alpine Avalanche and Ryan Weyl at Big Bend Radio for covering the season, as well as a special thanks to the supportive administration, parents, and fans.



Bucks sluggers 1-2 in tournament play

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

After last week's loss to the Pecos Eagles, the Alpine Bucks baseball team hit the road last Thursday for a tournament in Fort Stockton. The Bucks would end up taking a win on Thursday against Big Lake but would fall in their second game against Monahans and again to Midland Classical Academy on Friday.

In their win against Big Lake, the Owls put up two of their three runs in the top of the first with Derek Rojo on the mound for the Bucks. In the bottom of the first, the Big Lake pitcher walked the first man at bat, Iden Lujan. Lujan would be followed by David Valenzuela, who swung and missed on the first pitch, while Lujan stole second base. Valenzuela would take a ball and a second strike in his atbat before a line-drive double to third allowed Lujan to score.

AJ Llanez would take the plate next with a single up the line to third allowing Valenzuela's advance to third base. Strikeouts by Rojo and Josh Solis would follow, but Solis' at-plate

See BASEBALL • 9

Lady Bucks softball swings into tournaments

BY JOH COVINGTON

Staff Writer

The Lady Bucks traveled to College Station this past weekend to participate in the Texas Lead Off Classic Tournament. In this first tournament of the season, the Lady Bucks defeated the 6A team from Round Rock Westwood and the 4A from Devine, losing in very competitive games to 6A Waller, 4A Robinson, 5A Canutillo, and 5A Clearlake.

The Lady Bucks competed against high-quality players ranging from 6A to 4A and with some of the highest-ranked teams in Texas. The Lady Bucks ended the tournament 2-4.

Before the tournament, head softball coach Christopher Virdell said, "This tournament is a big deal for the girls. It is one of the best tournaments in the state, and to have the opportunity to not only be invited but to compete with some of the best teams in the state is a privilege."

Day one of the tournament saw the Lady Bucks fall to the Waller Bulldogs 10-0 and to the Robinson Rockets 3-0. On day two, Alpine prevailed over their Round Rock Westwood hosts 5-4, but would fall to the Canutillo Eagles 9-6.

On the final day, the Clear Lake Falcons defeated Alpine 10-0, but the Lady Bucks ended the tournament with a win against the Devine Warhorses 5-1.

"The girls are working hard every chance they get, and expectations are being set very high in



Taryn Hardin stands at the pitcher's mound during a recent scrimmage in College Station.

every aspect of the program," said Virdell.

Before the Lead Off Classic Tournament, the Lady Bucks traveled to Pecos for their second scrimmage. And according to Virdell, his team performed very well.

"I always treat the scrimmages as a glorified practice. We move people around to work on different defensive schemes and the batting lineup. The girls played very well all around. We definitely saw the things we know we need to work on, but we also saw some areas where we feel we are ahead of the curve," said Virdell.

They ended the scrimmage with a final score of 8-4, defeating the Eagles. A major focus for the Lady Bucks this year will be batting, according to the coach, and the team did very well on that front during this scrimmage.

"All the girls were good at the plate with Kody Hawkins and Emily Sweat both hitting home runs during the scrimmage. I got a chance to work all three pitchers for a few innings a piece and they looked strong overall," said Virdell.

Courtesy photo

The coach shares that scrimmages like this one are very important for both practice and for training the girls to prepare for the future challenges of the season.

"It was a great day of softball with a great opportunity to learn against quality opponents," said Virdell.

After the Lady Bucks completed the Texas Lead Off Classic Tournament in College Station, they traveled to Midland for the West Texas Classic and went 2-3 in the tourney, beating Lubbock Cooper and Post.

During the game with Lubbock-Cooper, Kody Hawkins and Emyliana Hernandez each drove in four runs and Taryn Hardin along with Jaycee Portillo were able to perform multiple hits for the Lady Bucks. Sierra Ruckman topped out with 10 chances in the field while Emily Sweat was able to steal two bases.

"Tournament season is always fun but more importantly it provides us

with lots of games and opportunities to work and get better. We will play 19 games just in tournament play, which is vital to building your program to a high standard while allowing the coaching staff to see different players in different positions. The girls' skills are progressing every chance they get. They work hard and are coachable, which makes the progression very easy. We are focusing on building a mentally tough team and we can see that slowly growing with every game. We are excited about the possibilities with this team and looking forward to continuing to build a high-level program through the very tough schedule we set up for them this season," concluded Virdell.

The Lady Bucks will travel to El Paso this weekend for the Fox Tournament, where they are scheduled to play Americas, Pebble Hills, and Van Horn. The Lady Bucks are currently 4-9 and will begin district play against Presidio on March 15.

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCK TRACK & FIELD Mar. 2 Fightin' Buck Relays @ Alpine Mar. 8 Sandhills Relays @Monah-

ans

BUCK BASEBALL

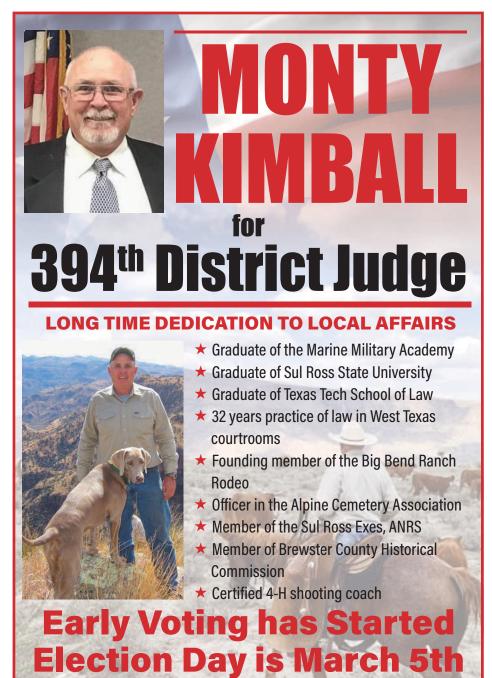
Feb. 29-Mar. 2 Seminole Tournament. @Seminole TBA Mar. 3 Midland TLCA vs Alpine. Varsity @ 6 p.m.

LADY BUCK SOFTBALL

Feb. 29-Mar. 2 Fox Tournament-Varsity @El Paso TBA Mar. 5 Pecos vs Alpine JV @ 5 p.m. Varsity @ 7 p.m.

TENNIS Mar. 5 Alpine vs Balmorhea TBA

BUCK AND LADY BUCK GOLF Mar. 1-2 Andrews Tournament Mar. 5 Wink Tournament



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BASEBALL • FROM 8

performance still allowed for a steal of home by Valenzuela and second base by Llanez, leaving the game tied until singles by Peyton Tays and Michael Ybarra would score both Llanez and Tays, putting the Bucks in the lead 4-2. The Owls would not score their third and last run of the game until the top of the fourth, whereby that time the Bucks had put 15 runs total on the board. Big Lake would fall to the Bucks 15-3. Next up for the Bucks that day were the Monahans Loboes. After their big win against the Owls, the momentum unfortunately did not continue. The Loboes put up a total of 14 runs on the board to the Bucks' three, in an almost identical switch from Alpine's first game of the tournament. The first run against the Loboes would not happen until the top of the third when Valenzuela on a pop-fly to right-center allowed Lujan to score. The Bucks were down by seven at this point in the game, and Monahans would be up by nine at the end of the third. The Loboes added two more

runs in the bottom of the fourth. Alpine would put their two final runs on the board against the Loboes in the top of the fifth with a triple by Solis driving in Llanez and a single by Tays would drive in Solis. Monahans would add their next two runs thanks to a triple and a line drive that would end the game-winning score for the Loboes at 3-14. On Friday, Alpine would meet up with Midland Classical Academy. Both teams struggled to get on the board when in the bottom of the first, Midland would use a sacrifice bunt to push in their runner on an error by Alpine. The next run on the board would be thanks to a couple of single RBIs by Midland to put them ahead of the Bucks 2-0. The Bucks would not get on the board after seven, ending the game in a loss of 0-2. "We played defensively very well all weekend and had some strong pitching from Devon and AJ. Our bats are getting stronger with each game, so things are looking up," said Coach Llanez.

for another tournament, followed by a trip to Midland on March 5. The Bucks are currently 1-3 on the season and district play begins March 19 against Crane.

Next up for Alpine is a trip to Seminole today



The Alpine Bucks had a pre-game meeting with their coach Adam Llanez before they began tournament play last week in Fort Stockton.



THE LEADER WE NEED to tackle biden's border crisis

DESIGNATE CARTELS AS TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS





TonyGonzalesForCongress.com

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Courtesy photo

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Tennis warms up

BY JOH COVINGTON Staff Writer

The Alpine Bucks tennis team now has three scrimmages under their belt this season and has progressed into tournaments. On February 2, they traveled to Crane followed by Monahans on Friday for constructive practice and experience.

"All of our meets throughout the season bring great competition. So far, we've seen skilled players at Fort Stockton and Crane. We'll get a better idea of what our district competitors look like throughout this season," said head tennis coach, Lauren Martinez.

Martinez along with new assistant coach Doug Grey, led the players during the recent Monahans meet, which was a great practice round for the players. Meeting with a variety of teams helps them brush up and get acquainted with competition skills as well as their opponents.

"The Monahans tournament went great. Our number one junior varsity girls' singles took first place," said Martinez. Although they didn't t have any other team members' place, they all competed well according to the coach.

Tennis players, Megan Struthers and Adayna Garcia are returning this season and bring fierce and competitive play to the team.

"They are eager to guide our new team members with helpful compe-



Megan Struthers hits the ball back during last week's tennis practice after the scrimmage in Crane. The Alpine High School tennis team has been meeting for practices between scrimmages at the Sul Ross courts.

Photo by Joh Covington

tition tips and point winners," said Martinez.

On this year's tennis roster, the Bucks have varsity players Jaylynn Celaya, Adayna Garcia, Diego Hidalgo Miranda, Solanus Prieto, Vianney Santos, Megan Struthers, Shanna Tamale, and Aaliyah Villanueva.

For the junior varsity, Madalyn Carter, Gabby Dominguez, Everett Edwards, Esther Lotti, Elizabeth Marta, Emmory Mercado, Ashley Neal, Mariana Palazuelos, Arturo Santos, Isabella Shelton, Kiara Tedeschi, and Isla Velasco.

With Crane, Fort Stockton, and Marathon scrimmages behind them, the Bucks' next step was entering into the long line of matches. They traveled to the Reagan County High School Winter Invitational on February 16 where the Bucks's abilities were put to the test.

Then, last Friday, the Fightin' Bucks faced off with several of the area's teams at the Fort Stockton Invitational, which enlightened the coach on the areas the team needs to concentrate on before the upcoming tournaments.

"The Fort Stockton Invitational went well. Our JV and varsity players were able to get in a lot of match play against some really great schools that know how to move the ball around," said Martinez. Although the Alpine team didn't have any players return with medals, the players were able to learn new skills, work on existing ones, and strengthen these abilities according to the coach.

Up next for the Bucks is a trip to Andrews for the Andrews Invitational Tournament today and a scrimmage in Balmorhea on March 5.

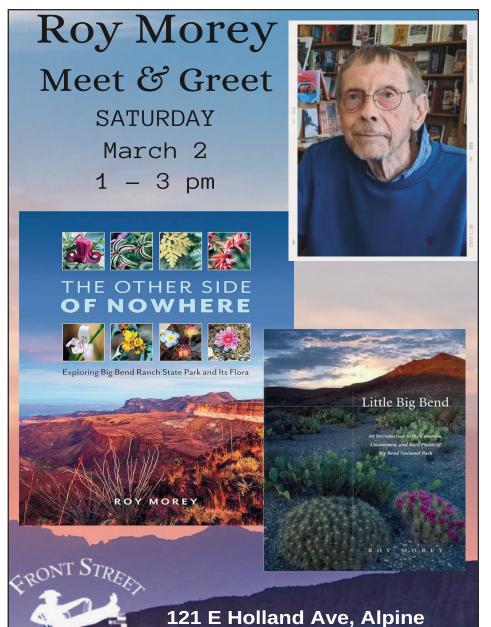
Their first district meet is scheduled for April 22, with Fort Stockton.

Comanche Relays long jump



Ethan Flores competes in the long jump event at last week's Comanche **Relays in Fort Stockton.**

Photo by J.T. Maroney



Find out more on Facebook & Instagram

ELECTION • FROM 1

Ruben Ortega and challenger Joe Portillo.

Local candidates running on the Republican ticket for the March 5 primary include Monty Kimball and Bill Parham for District Judge, in the 394th Judicial District, incumbent Ori T. White and challenger Jesse Gonzales, Jr. for District Attorney, for the 83rd Judicial District, County Attorney Marisol Aguilar Skelton, and Monica McBride for Republican County Chair. On election day March 5, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. at the following locations.

may cast their ballots at the Assembly of God Fellowship Hall (across from the high school) at 1802 N. Hwy 118.

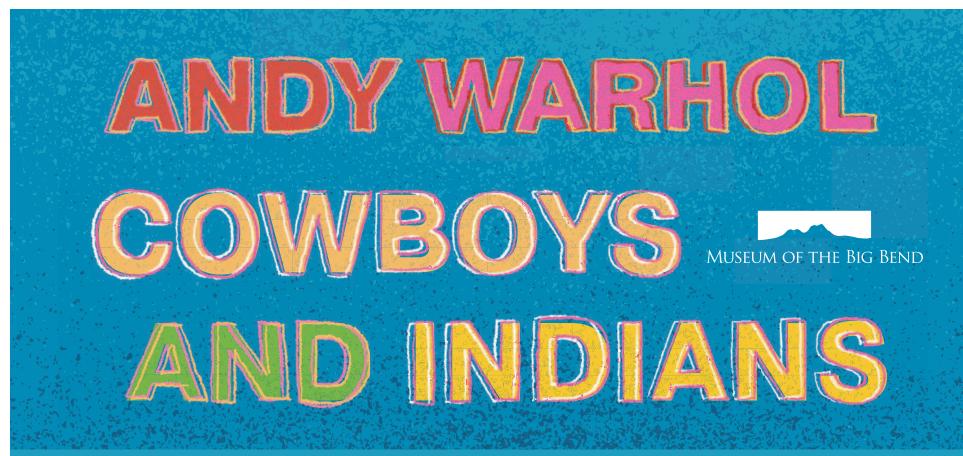
Precinct 2 may vote at the Val Clark Beard Office Complex located at

J.W. "Red" Pattillo Community Center located at 201 Rex Ivey Road in Terlingua, and Precinct 8 will cast their votes at the Food Pantry of Alpine located at 933 East Gallego Ave.

203 N. 7th Street. Precinct 3 voters may cast their ballots at the Marathon Community Center located at 2nd and Ave E in Marathon. Precinct 4 will vote at the Alpine Civic Center at 801 W. Holland, and Precinct 5 will vote at the Panther Junction Visitor Center located in Big Bend National Park. Voters in Precincts 6 and 7, may For Precinct 1, voters cast their ballots at the



BOOKS



OPENING RECEPTION MARCH 1, 2024 – MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND

"Andy Warhol: Cowboys and Indians" exhibit will be on display through June 1, 2024

5:00-7:00 PM

Free for Museum Members Non-Members \$20/person

Featuring live music with **ROSS CASHIOLA & THE GRAND TOURISTS** Refreshments will be served





FIDDLER'S • FROM 3

the best and most dynamic. While camped along the Colorado, Tidball impressed the local Mojave's by removing and replacing his false tooth, a story still remembered three years later when Lt. Joseph Christmas Ives first explored the Grand Canyon by small steamboat.

In 1859, back serving in the East, Tidball was assigned to the force under Colonel Robert E. Lee at Harper's Ferry to end the insurrection and capture John Brown. When war broke out, as a Virginian, Tidball had the choice of sides, but maintained his loyalty to the Constitution and stayed in the Union Army. Always the artilleryman, Tidball served in the Army of the Potomac as captain of Battery A, Second Artillery.

Tidball's next brush with history occurred when General Daniel Butterfield decided that a new bugle call was needed for the end of the day. It was July 1862 and the end of the Federal retreat from the Peninsular Campaign and a low point for the

Union cause. One night Butterfield, working with Bugler Oliver Wilcox Norton, created the call we know as "Taps," twenty-four haunting notes. At the time known as "Butterfield's Lullaby."

While exchanging artillery fire with Confederate batteries at Harrison's Landing, during the Peninsular Campaign one of the Union artillerymen was killed. At the time of burial, Tidball was afraid that the traditional three volleys of rifle fire would cause the Confederates to think that an attack was in process. Rather than disturbing the battlefield, yet wishing to honor the fallen soldier, Tidball had the bugler play the new call created by Butterfield and Norton, and thus the tradition of playing Taps at military funerals was born as others followed. This is now a tradition that continues to this day, including First Responders. As time went on it also became a tradition that Taps was the last call of the day at military posts.

Tidball served with the

ONE ACT • FROM 1

The students themselves are all on board for this opportunity and put their all into it despite many of them being a part of other extracurricular activities. Zoe Arredondo said, "One Act helps with confidence, and creates memories and new relationships with people I might not ordinarily associate with."

"I believe One Act helps to not only boost your confidence, but it helps you create your physical presence, and how the audience perceives you and your character," Alyssa Barron added.

Several of the students also remarked that it helps them with their English because these plays are based on literature. Izabel Ortiz replied, "As a crew mem-

II believe One Act helps to not only boost your confidence, but it helps you create your physical presence, and how the audience perceives you and your character." — Alyssa Barron,

Alpine High School student

ber it also helps you to pay attention. If you are working sound or lights, you have to be in sync with what is happening on stage, so you can't zone out and not pay attention to what is going on."

The students began this journey last November and have been practicing several times a week after school, after initially deciding what play they were going to perform. "I really hope this experience encourages these kids to continue in theater and acting. Even to go so far as to write their own play and perform it. Having One Act Play on your resumes and entrance applications for college also looks really good, since it is a UIL event and these kids are doing a great job," said Grabow.

"Farewell to Galatea" will be performed tonight at 7:30 p.m. at the Alpine ISD Administration building auditorium. The public is encouraged to attend this public performance before the students head to Stanton on Thursday, March 7 for competition.

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.

AISD • FROM 2

test and had them look them over, so they have a better idea of what students were facing. "Our students scored above the state average as well as the Region 18 average in both the Approaches Grade Level or Above and the Meets Grade Level or Above scores for the STAAR test in 2023. Our students scored 81% in the approaches measure, which was 5% higher than the state average, and 51% at the level of the meets measure, which was 2% higher than the state average, but did fall 3% behind the state average with 17% at the Master's Grade Level or Above, but still outperformed Region 18 in this measure," said Dr. Michelle Rinehart. Next on the agenda was the approval of credit for a bi-directional antenna that was thought at first would be needed for hand-held radio performance at the high school by the SRO and other faculty and staff. Since the antenna was not needed, the original construction contract for the high school was amended to reflect this credit of \$99,982 which will be applied against the \$100,000 project close-out retainer with Imperial Construction. Following the board's approval of the credit, Alpine Elementary (AES), Alpine Middle School (AMS), and Alpine High School (AHS) principals Curtis Wubbena, Judith Pardo-Alferez, and Jarrett Vickers gave their monthly reports. Wubbena told the board that students at AES had been busy learning about civilizations and that first, second, and fourth graders had the opportunity to journey to the Museum of the Big Bend and learn about the early inhabitants of the Big Bend area and about fossils. The early childhood students also had to opportunity to travel locally to learn about all of the different animals at Wasserman Wranch. Pardo-Alferez told the board in her report that students at AMS had the opportunity to learn about different areas of law enforcement and how they all work together in the area. "We

had visits from Homeland Security to talk to the students about child trafficking, from the Family Crisis Center to talk to the students about suicide and domestic issues, and from the Brewster County Sheriff's Office to talk to about drugs and how they affect our area and our citizens," Pardo-Alferez said.

Vickers first told the board how proud he was of the recent band students who had advanced to state solo and ensemble competitions. He then went into detail about how networking with his English teachers led to the creation of STAAR test boot camps to be held in April. "Because students all over the state are struggling with the STAAR test, especially the writing portions, the English teachers at AHS did a bit of brainstorming on how we could help these kids with the English I and II portions of the test. What we came up with was a STAAR Bootcamp to be held on two different Saturdays in April. April 6 for English I and April 13 for English II. For those students and parents who need help filling out and understanding the FAF-SA paperwork, March 4 is FAFSA day at AHS and we will have people from Sul Ross on hand to help out with this. In other reports, Alpine Athletic Director Andy Smith gave his report to the board, explaining some recent UIL redistricting changes that had occurred. "Initially, Tornillo had decided to request a move from 2A to 3A for football, but after further consideration decided they would not play football at all this coming season. This left Alpine with only two opponents in district play, Anthony and Crane. After making some phone calls to the director at Odessa Compass, who was in our district this year, but had been placed into a different district for the 2024-2025 football season, they agreed to come back into our district to help level out our competition," said Smith.

artillery throughout the

war, winning honors at

Gettysburg. After the con-

flict, he continued active

service until retirement

in 1889 as a major gen-

eral. During this period,

he served as Commandant

of Cadets at West Point,

Commandant of the Ar-

tillery School, and aide-

de-camp to Army Com-

mander General Sherman.

For a military journal, he

wrote a series of articles

on the history and analy-

sis of artillery during the

war that was one of the

best firsthand accounts of

the Civil War. It was later

published as "The Manual

of Heavy Artillery Ser-

vice" and used well into

the 20th Century. For

six years he served as the

third military governor

of Alaska, following our

favorite Jefferson Davis

Tidball died May 15,

1906, and is fittingly bur-

ied at West Point. It is hard

to imagine how a person

could have participated in

so many important events

and still be so little known

who was the first.

to history.

Smith also went over the redistricting for vollevball and basketball and told the board that the spring sports redistricting schedules would be released by the UIL later this spring.

Finally, the board approved numerous donations from various donors including the Al-

pine Buck Boosters for the volleyball team and for a new mascot for the Alpine Middle School, two online fundraisers for both the Lady Buck Softball team and the Buck Baseball team, and two donations from both West Texas National Bank and Trans-Pecos Banks, each donating half the cost of a new laminator for AMS. The board also approved donations from the Brewster County Historical Commission and the Bechtel Foundation to go toward the Big Bend Regional History Fair, as well as a donation from the Aerospace Industries Association Organization's STEM Innovation Grant to support the AMS robotics and rocketry program.

The next regular meeting of the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for March 20 at 5:30 p.m.



Open 8am - 2pm Mon. thru S. Menu items (some items change daily): Breakfast burritos, breakfast english muffins, eggs benedict, quiche, breakfast pastries, organic fair trade coffee, espresso, cappuccino /latte /mocha, fresh squeezed juices, smoothies, homemade soups, ham / turkey / chicken breast sandwiches, Reuben SADDLE PACK COMBINATION: sandwiches, meatloaf sandwiches, curry chicken sandwiches, rotisserie chicken & picnic lunches, fruit pies,cobblers, brownies, Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich tres leches cake.

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

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers

Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

(Your choice of any two items)

Cup of Tortilla Soup • Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup 1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppered Bacon

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/02forms.html

BUSINESS PERSONAL PROPERTY OWNERS

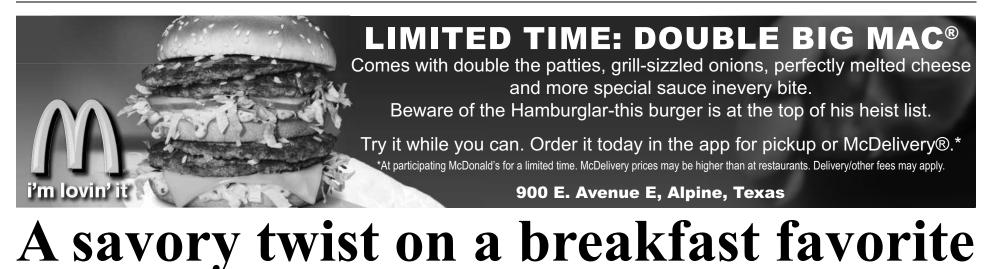
State law **requires** the filing of a rendition declaring what types of business personal property that a person or company owns. Failure to file the rendition will result in a 10% penalty. If a fraudulent rendition is filed, a 50% penalty is mandated. A rendition can be obtained from the appraisal 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/

www.alpineavalanche.com



Cinnamon rolls. Just those two little words can get your salivary glands working overtime. The anticipation of those buttery, sticky, decadent morsels easily brings a smile to your face and ramps up an anticipation level for some on par with a competitive sport. The same buttery dough used to make a cinnamon classic can just as easily turn savory with a mash-up of a few different ingredients.

Bacon is a standard breakfast meat and



by kara gerbert

cheese is also common in everything from burritos to breakfast sandwiches, to quiche, and even scrambled eggs, so it makes sense to combine these two ingredients into a savory breakfast roll.

Ingredients such as ham or spinach and feta cheese to mimic Greek spanakopita are just such options.

These savory rolls, just like from-scratch cinnamon rolls take a bit of time but are well worth it. Therefore, when you're all out of ideas for brunch or breakfast, or even lunch or dinner, whip up a batch of savory rolls. Your stomach is sure to thank you.



Bacon, cheese and chive buns

Courtesy photo

Courtesy photo

coach," Aragon said.

"Sul Ross had the

draw of being able to

coach athletes for four

or five years, versus

the two years at a ju-

nior college. That is a

big deal as a coach. The

physical and mental ma-

turity has time to grow

and working with kids

longer allows you to see

coached the stand-out

Having most recently

talents of Tris-

ten Hutchings

and Ky Ham-

ilton, Aragon

says his coach-

ing style is no

different over-

all because

each student

is different. "I

approach each

Ky, there are different

the process through."

Bacon, Cheese, and Chive Buns

For dough: ¹/₂ cup whole milk

- 2¹/₄ teaspoons active dry yeast (one ¹/₄ ounce package)
- 2 tablespoons sugar
- 4 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted, plus more for the bowl and plastic wrap.
- 1 large egg yolk
- 2 ³/₄ cups all-purpose flour, plus more for the work surface.
- 1 teaspoon kosher salt

For filling:

5 slices of bacon, cut into ¼ inch pieces.

FOR THE DOUGH:

1. Warm the milk and ½ cup of water in a medium saucepan over low heat until it is about 100 degrees but no more than 110 degrees. Remove from heat and sprinkle the yeast over the liquid followed by sprinkling the sugar over the top, and set aside without stirring until foamy, about five minutes. Then whisk in the butter and the egg yolk.

2. Whisk together the flour, remaining sugar, and salt in a large bowl. Make a well in the center and stir in the yeast mixture with a wooden spoon until you have a thick and slightly sticky dough. Turn the dough onto a floured work surface, and knead until soft and elastic, about six minutes. Shape the dough into a ball.

3. Brush the inside of a large bowl with butter. Add the dough ball, turning to coat lightly. Cover the bowl with plastic wrap, trace a circle the size of the dough ball on the plastic, and note the time. Let the dough rise in a warm place until doubled in size, about an hour and a half. 4. Turn the dough out of the bowl and knead briefly to release excess air. Re-

.

form the ball and return to bowl. Lightly butter a large piece of plastic wrap and lay it over the dough. Cover the entire bowl tightly with the rest of the plastic and refrigerate for four hours or over-

night for the dough to proof. 5. For the filling, cook the bacon in a large, nonstick skillet over medium heat until browned and crisp. Transfer to a small bowl and remove all but one tablespoon of fat from the skillet. Return to medium heat, whisking the flour into the bacon fat until it is light brown. About one minute. Slowly whisk in the milk, and continue whisking until thickened, about another minute. Transfer to a medium bowl and add the egg yolk, cheese, chives, bacon, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, and a bit of ground black pepper and stir and combine. Let cool completely.

6. Butter a 9x13-inch baking pan with 2 tablespoons of softened butter. Turn the dough onto a floured work surface and press flat. Roll it into a 10x18-inch rectangle, with a long edge facing you. Spread the filling evenly over the dough, leaving a 1-inch border on the side op-

2 tablespoons all-purpose flour 34 cup milk 1 large egg yolk 1 cup shredded cheddar cheese 2 tablespoons chopped, fresh chives.

Kosher salt and finely ground pepper 2 tablespoons of unsalted butter, at room temperature for the pan.

For topping:

4 tablespoons unsalted butter, at room temperature. 2 tablespoons chopped fresh chives. 2 tablespoons grated parmesan.

> posite you. Starting from the side facing you, roll the dough up into a tight roll. Lightly brush the 1-inch border with water and continue rolling to seal the roll and fold in the ends, making sure the roll looks even.

> 7. Cut the roll every 1 ½ inches with a serrated knife, to make 12 buns. Place buns cut side down (except end pieces) in the prepared pan, spacing them one inch apart. Cover loosely with plastic wrap and set aside in a warm place to rise until doubled in size, leaving no gaps between, about an hour and a half to two hours.

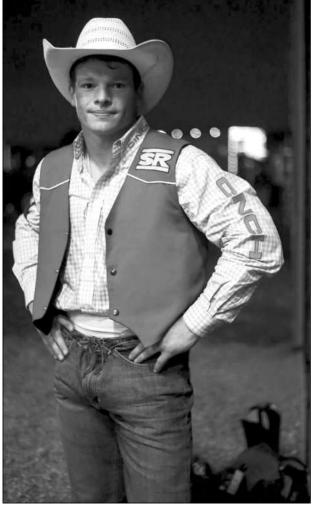
> 8. For the topping, stir the butter, chives, and parmesan in a small bowl and set aside.

9. Position an oven rack in the center of the oven and preheat to 350 degrees. Bake the buns until they are golden brown and the tops spring back when touched lightly, 25 to 30 minutes. Spread the topping evenly over the buns and return them to the oven for five minutes more. Let cool in the pan for 10 minutes before serving.

_ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

ARAGON • FROM 1

changed since that inaugural coaching position, as the students have changed. "When I started 16 years ago, students weren't as soft, and you could be pretty direct in how and what you told them. I think I've become a better communicator, and we do a good job of laying out our expectations to them as students, competitors, and community members," Aragon remarked. Once Aragon began coaching, he went back to school and earned a Master's in Coaching Education from Ohio University. "I grew up in Idaho, so I went and spent time with the Boise State football program to learn how they operate and how they maintain a successful program. I also spent a week in Colorado Springs with the USA Olympic Wrestling team to see how they develop their mental toughness in an individual sport," Aragon said. Not only did he spend that time with those two teams, but he also spent time with some of the top coaches in the country in a wide variety of sports. "I wanted to hopefully get better at my craft, and spending time with these types of teams and coaches is one of the best ways I knew to watch coaching firsthand. I 11 think in the day and time, coaching will continue to evolve just as sports have," Aragon replied. Having coached college rodeo in New Mexico, Odessa, and now Alpine, Aragon says each place shaped him and his coaching in very



we communicate. My job is to get the most out of each athlete and they are all different, so my approach to each of them would be different as well."

Over his coaching career, Aragon has had a total of nine students go sport. You can't blame someone else for your failure," Aragon concluded.

Aragon says he sees no end at this point in his coaching career. He plans to coach as long as he still has a passion for it and sees himself retiring as a coach in some aspect as long as he can and has the support of his family. "I have been involved in the rodeo world my whole life, so it is literally part of who I am."

nd Ave 19843 -4299

Tristen Hutchings

specific ways.

"In Tucumcari, I was new to the game and learning a lot. There was so much behind the scenes that I had to learn, and while coaching has always been something I was passionate about, it took a while to learn the workings of the school system. Odessa was entirely different, in that I was able to recruit a lot

opefully the success of the current students will be measured in 15-20 years. I try to impress upon them that they are responsible for their actions and that equates to accountability."

— C.J. Aragon, Sul Ross rodeo coach

of talented kids from student as an individual. across the country, and Just between Tristen and having talent always makes you a better learning styles and ways

to the National Finals Rodeo (NFR) for 28 trips. He's had two go to the Professional Bull Riders (PBR) World Finals, and 11 others to the Indian National Finals Rodeo (INFR).

Aragon says despite the recent success of Hutchings and Hamilton which is helping highlight the Sul Ross rodeo program, he has been using the program as a recruiting tool since he got here. "When kids see the kind of community support, we have for our program, that is huge for us. We have packed houses each night at our rodeos and our program relies so much on the support of the community to grow and be successful. Alpine and the Big Bend region are known as cowboy country and we want to carry on the tradition of the program and the region," Aragon adds.

What Aragon hopes to impress upon those he coaches is that first and foremost he expects them to be good students. He also expects them to be contributing members of the community and good competitors. "Hopefully the success of the current students will be measured in 15-20 years. I try to impress upon them that they are responsible for their actions and that equates to accountability. The beautiful thing about rodeo is that the results speak for themselves because it is an individual



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Shooting for the stars



The Alpine Middle School rocketry team is pictured with their first contest rocket and rocket launcher for the American Rocketry Challenge (ARC.) The rocketry team is sponsored by Mr. Creer-AMS, Wanda Green-ARC, Rosalynn Larsen, and Dr. Bill Kitch-ARC. Pictured are Mr. Rodelio Creer, Rosalynn Larsen, Cain Vidal, Ryan Hinojos, Elisia Markin, Rose De Guia, and their ARC mentor Dr. Bill Kitch of San Angelo.

Courtesy photo



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Devotional Page Lenten Fasting

BY REV. KATIE HUDAK St. James Episcopal Church-Alpine

We are in the season of Lent. This is the time of year when we Christians move to selfreflect on the who, what, where, when, and why we have not loved God and our neighbors like Jesus has asked us to. It is a time of year when we repent or turn toward God. It is a time of year that is often associated with "giving something up" that we know is not really good for us, or to pray and fast in order to turn more fully to God and to prepare for the celebration of Easter after these 40 days of Lent.

The idea of giving something up, like chocolate, cigarettes, or some other perhaps detrimental practice is to help us clear our minds in order to focus more on our relationship with God. Prayer or a spiritual devotion is a way to also help us to repent or turn towards God. One ancient practice for Christians throughout the Lenten season has been fasting for a certain amount of time or on certain days, usually Wednesdays or Fridays, in order to allow ourselves to turn more fully towards God. Most often this looks like having a cup of tea or coffee in the morning, a full meal at lunch or dinner, and something very light at the meal that is not a full meal. People frequently give up meat or meat products when fasting. Fasting should not be done by individuals who have

a medical condition that can be aggravated by fasting such as diabetes. Also, if one cannot "make it through the day" fasting, is not a reason to mentally beat oneself up about it. Turning towards God is achieved by the mere fact of attempting to fast, as it puts into focus one's relationship with God.

A few years ago, I came upon a meditation concerning a different kind of fasting, perhaps one that we can all heed during this Lenten season, even those of us who may not be able to physically fast:

DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT? In the words of Pope Francis:

Fast from hurting words and say kind words. Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude. Fast from anger and be filled with patience. Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope. Fast from worries and have trust in God. Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.

Fast from pressures and be prayerful.

Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.

Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.

Fast from grudges and be reconciled. Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Amen

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In what activities did What was your you participate in high school? I participated in volleyball, softball, powerlifting, and student would be when I would council.

Who was your favorite teacher/ coach, and why? My favorite teacher would probably be Mrs. Parson because of her hilarious sarcasm and odd humor.

favorite moment in the last four years? My favorite moment these past four years MC for the pep rallies every Friday.

What are your plans after high school?

My plans after high school would be to try to uphold my athletic career and continue playing volleyball.

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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 5th Street, Alpine, Texas.

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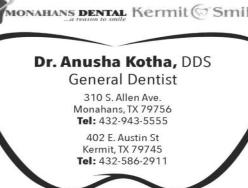
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