

TxDOT workshop finds no immediate solution

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Last week the Alpine City Council and the Brewster County Commissioners Court joined in the city council chambers for a workshop with the Texas Department of Transportation regarding the railway bridge concerns.

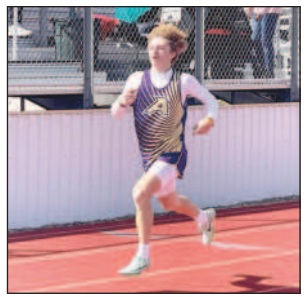
TxDot representatives presented a preliminary railroad route study that they prepared to start discussions for possible resolutions for the roadway's low passage issues.

The issues on the route, two railroad crossings, one located along Union Pacific and one along Texas Pacifico, are the focus of the study. Both crossings have very low clearance and have been the locations of truck impact accidents.

The Union Pacific Crossing's height clearance is only 13'7" while

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

20242.05"
March0.00"



Burn Ban ON

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



Alpine ISD receives presentation, OKs calendar

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held their regular meeting on March 6 prior to the week of Spring Break. Absent from the meeting were Niki Ahrens, Haley Babb, and Jimmy Morris due to conflicting Houston Stock Show schedules.

After calling the meeting to order and assuring that the board complied with meeting notifications, the board entertained a

presentation from several Alpine Elementary students from Mrs. Herring's fourth-grade class. The students presented each board member with bags of fresh, green lettuce that they grew in their Flex Farm hydroponics growing system, along with a slide show on how the system works and the different stages of growth. The students and Mrs. Herring answered several questions about the project



Mrs. Herring's Alpine Elementary fourth-grade class presented the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees with lettuce that they grew in their classroom using the Flex Farm hydroponics growing system.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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Bucks battle on the diamond



Iden Lujan takes a strike during the Alpine Bucks' home game last week against Midland. The Bucks came away with a victory over the Eagles with a score of 13-8.

Photo courtesy of Noe Lujan

60-foot easement approved for County Road

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday morning, March 12. Several agreements and grants were on the agenda for approval by commissioners.

After the Brewster County Road and Bridge superintendent, Frenchie Causey, gave his report he presented the need for a 60-foot easement to be established on North County Road. The Court approved the easement which will be used for maintenance and the entire 60 feet, while necessary for water drainage and maintenance, will not be entirely used.

Pet. 2 Commissioner, Sara Colando, reminded the court that the 15th annual Desert Chihuahuan Challenge is coming up on Saturday, March 10, where all small dog breeds are



The Brewster County Commissioner's Court met for their regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday this week. Pictured here are Commissioners Jim Westermann, Sara Colando, Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, and Commissioners Ruben Ortega and Mo Morrow.

Photo by Joh Covington

welcome to join. Held in the Terlingua Ghosttown, race events & registration begin at 10 a.m.

The court approved two grants and three agreements during this meeting. They unanimously approved the

ratification of the Senate Bill 22 grant funding program which will be directed to the Sheriff's office for payroll for deputies and jailors of \$250,000. Half of the funds from this grant are expected this week and

the other half, sometime in the following weeks.

They also approved the Senate Bill 22 rural prosecutor's office salary assistance grant program for the Brewster County Attorney's office, which is a \$100,000 grant for

supplementing salaries and hiring new staff.

The Failure to Appear Interlocal Agreement and the agreement between Brewster County and the Texas Association of

See COUNTY • 6

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OBITUARIES

Idelfonso S. Celaya

Idelfonso S. Celaya, also known as Poncho, age 89, of Alpine, was called to his eternal home on Sunday, March 10, at Big Bend Regional Medical Center. Poncho was born August 1, 1934, to Maria Santiago Celaya and Federico Celaya in San Vicente. On Decem-



ber 2, 1957, he married Berta Gallego. After residing in Marathon for

29 years and raising six daughters, they moved and made their permanent home in Alpine. Poncho was a God-fearing selfless man, a husband, father, grandfather, great-grandfather, uncle, friend, heavy equipment operator, and most gentle of souls. He was a humble man of immeasurable faith, unconditional love

for all, and passionate about his work and time at the ranch. He was preceded in death by his parents Federico and Maria Celaya, brothers Hilario Celaya, Pablo Celaya, and Pedro Celaya, and sisters Margarita Sanchez and Ignacia Grano. He is survived by his siblings Gregorio Celaya and Marcela Portillo, wife Berta

Gallego Celaya, daughters Rosella (Lonnies) Salmon of Alpine, Rosalinda (Mike) Cordero of Ft. Stockton, Lorina (George) McGuire of Odessa, Dorina Heflin of San Antonio, Sonya (Jess) Roberts of Denver City, and Corina (Joe Ray) Ramirez of Alpine. He was blessed with and greatly loved by 12 grandchildren and 15

great-grandchildren. Visitation will be at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 6 p.m. on Thursday, March 14 with the most Holy Rosary following at 7 p.m. Funeral service will be held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 10 a.m. on Friday, March 15 with interment following at Holy Angels Cemetery.



Thomas R. Lackey

Thomas R. "Tommy" Lackey, 84 of Lakehills, Texas died on March 8.

Tommy was born in Medina in 1939 to M.F. and Teresa Lackey. He retired in 1990

from a lifelong career with the Southern Pacific Railroad. He was an active member of the Alpine Masonic Lodge #766 and had served as Worshipful Master. He served in the U.S. Navy

and was a member of the American Legion while living in Alpine.

Tommy was preceded in death by his parents, his brother John Lackey, sister Ruby O'Neill and her husband Jack

O'Neill, brother-in-law Lewis Edwards, niece Faye Walsh, and nephew Randy O'Neal.

He is survived by his loving wife Beth Lackey, son Ron Lackey, sister Dorothy Edwards, sister-

in-law Kaye Taylor, and her husband Larry, his aunt Nancy Cunningham, as well as many nieces, nephews, and friends.

There will be a graveside service in Del Rio at a future date.

Olive Evelyn Hill Snow

Olive Evelyn Hill Snow passed away peacefully and surrounded by her family on March 7. Born in Alpine on December 6, 1921, to Eva May Hinson and Jesse James Harding Hill, she survived the Great Depression and spent her incredibly interesting childhood in Texas and Arkansas. Olive graduated from Mount St. Mary Academy



in Little Rock, Arkansas in 1939 and Draughon Business College in 1940. She went to work in 1941 in the Surgeon General's office,

worked as the Chief Nurses Secretary in Ashburn General and William Beaumont Army Hospitals, the business office at Sul Ross State University, and as the Media Secretary for Region XIX Education Service Center until retiring in 1981. She married Frank George Snow, an officer in the US Army, on November 27, 1946. Their first child, Frank James, was born in 1948, Sharon was born in 1950,

and William was born in 1960. They lived in Texas, Maryland, Japan, and Germany. Olive and George were married for almost 65 years before he passed away in 2011. Olive and George enjoyed traveling the country in their Airstream trailer, and they were members of the Paseo Del Norte Texas Unit of WBCCI - attending the annual International Rallies whenever possible. She was an active member

of PEO, the Order of The Eastern Star, the Retired Officers Wives Club, and the Cielo Vista Garden Club. After 102 incredible years, Olive is survived by her children, Sharon and William, her son-in-law Tom, her grandchildren Cara and Catherine, and her grandson-in-law, Constantine. She was preceded in death

by her husband George and her eldest son Frank James. She will be joining her family at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine on March 13. The Snow family has entrusted Alpine Memorial Funeral Home with arrangements. Condolences may be left online at: www.alpine-memorialfuneralhome.com.

Antonio de Espejo

Anyone familiar with the Davis Mountains knows that the prominent peak that is seen from almost any direction is Mount Livermore, the second-highest point in Texas. While researching William Livermore and his survey of the Davis Mountains and the mountain named after him, I remembered that the first European to visit the area was Antonio de Espejo. Espejo was here three hundred years before Livermore.

Espejo does not pop up in the history books as often as Cabeza de Vaca, who was the first European to pass through the Big Bend region. De Vaca had no plans to explore the Big Bend, landing in Florida with Panfilo de Narvaez in 1528 intent on conquering new lands for Spain. After months of conflict with the Florida natives, the survivors determined to construct rafts and sail along the Gulf Coast to Mexico.

This turned out to be a disastrous plan and many weeks later a handful of survivors landed on Galveston Island. Joining three other



FIDDLER'S GREEN

by Larry Francell

survivors and enduring hardships and adventure, de Vaca and his companions stumbled upon other Spaniards in northern Mexico. The tales of de Vaca and his companions spurred interest in exploring new lands to the north.

One of those adventurers was Antonio de Espejo who made it further north into our mountains. Although his date of birth is unknown, de Espejo was born in Cordova, Spain. By 1571 he was in New Spain where he was a member of the Catholic Archbishop's Inquisition police. Realizing that money could be made in business, by 1580 he had become a cattleman, owning several ranches. However, after a

controversy over the murder of one of his servants he fled north where he met the survivors of an expedition that escorted two Franciscan missionaries into what is now New Mexico.

De Espejo received permission to mount an expedition north ostensibly to rescue one of the Franciscans and a companion who stayed behind to convert the natives. As with most of the Spanish explorers who traveled into New Mexico and the lands north, much of his real purpose was to search for gold, always rumored to be just a bit further down the path.

Leaving in November 1582 with fourteen men and 115 animals to carry men and supplies, de Espejo first traveled down the Rio Conchos to the Rio Grande, which he named the Rio del Norte. Travelling up the Rio Grande, he marched into New Mexico reaching as far as the Pecos River close to present Santa Fe. He then turned south following the river to what is now the town of Pecos.

With Indian guides from

the area showing de Espejo the way, the expedition likely followed Toyah Creek to the area of Balmorhea and San Solomon Springs and then up Limpia Creek through Wild Rose Pass into the Davis Mountains. Passing through the Davis Mountains he surely spied the highest peak, named three hundred years later not for him but for U.S. Army Engineer William Roscoe Livermore.

The de Espejo expedition returned to New Spain later in 1583, where, having found none of the riches he sought, he nevertheless promoted the concept of wealth to be had. In Havana, Cuba, on his way to Spain to promote his ideas on further exploration and settlement he died in 1585. Leaving no real description or record of the area, de Espejo is still credited with being the first European to visit the Davis Mountains.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT A CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD AT **5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024** REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2024-03-01: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 70 - OFFENSES AND MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS, ARTICLE II - MINORS TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; REPEALING DIVISION II - CURFEW; REPEALING THE JUVENILE CURFEW WITHIN THE CITY LIMITS OF ALPINE TO BETTER ALIGN WITH STATE LAW; PROVIDING FINDINGS OF FACT, REPEALER, SEVERABILITY, EFFECTIVE DATE, PROPER NOTICE, AND HEARING CLAUSES.

THE PUBLIC HEARING WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.** IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE.

COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCE ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY_SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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DESTRUCTION OF SPECIAL EDUCATION RECORDS

In accordance with applicable state and federal regulations, the 588 Educational Cooperative does hereby notify you of its intent to destroy student special education records. All special education records, prior to **July 1, 2017**, will be destroyed. The 588 Educational Cooperative will destroy special education records for the following school districts:

- Alpine Independent School District
- Balmorhea Independent School District
- Culberson County-Allamore Independent School District
- Fort Davis Independent School District
- Marathon Independent School District
- Marfa Independent School District
- Presidio Independent School District
- Terlingua Common School District
- Terrell County Independent School District
- San Vicente Independent School District
- Sierra Blanca Independent School District
- Valentine Independent School District

If you would like to be provided with a copy of the records to be destroyed, please contact the 588 Educational Cooperative by telephone at 432-837-3315, by fax at 432-837-3573, or via mail at 704 W. Sul Ross Ave, Alpine, Texas, 79830.

Records will be destroyed within 90 days of the date of this notice.

Far West Texas landowner seminar to take place in April

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

A seminar for West Texas landowners will be conducted on Saturday, April 13 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. in the conference room at Big Bend Telephone. This seminar is being offered by Texas A&M AgriLife Extension and lunch will be

provided by Capital Farm Credit. This seminar is in response to the devastating wildfires in the panhandle that have recently affected the state. Topics being covered will include Do-It-Yourself brush control, herbicide tips, and pre-and post-native seeding maintenance by Dr. Megan Clayton with Texas A&M

AgriLife Extension. Also, on tap for the seminar is "Managing Small Acreage Rangeland for Livestock" which is being presented by Dr. Silverio Avila with the Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service as well as the Borderlands Research Institute. Jayme Trainer will present the third and final segment of the seminar with the Texas A&M Forest Service. Trainer will talk about wildfire preparation and readiness. These topics will provide three continuing education credits and registration is limited to 30 participants. Interested parties are asked to RSVP to luke.hendryx@tamu.edu or call 432-837-6207.

Locals arrested for possession of fentanyl, meth

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Alpine locals Willie Ben Lara, III, Michael Espinosa, and Emily Medley of Fort Davis were recently arrested and taken into custody in Hudspeth County with approximately 8,500 potentially lethal doses of fentanyl along with methamphetamine that was destined for Alpine according to the Alpine Police Department. The three were taken into custody through the collaborative efforts and investigations initiated by the Alpine Police Department, Brewster County Sheriff's Office,



Willie Ben Lara III
Texas Department of Public Safety, Homeland Security Investigations, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. All suspects are subject to multiple federal charges and are innocent until proven guilty.

Emily Medley

Michael Espinosa

Students win big at Big Bend History Fair

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Each year, Sul Ross State University hosts the Big Bend Regional History Fair on its campus. Area students from Fort Davis, Marathon, Marfa, Valentine, and Alpine compete in both the junior and senior-level events. This year, several different presentations will be advancing to the Texas History Day State Competition in Austin on April 20.

First Place Sr. Historical Paper and the American History Award went to Alexa Renteria for "Courage in the Crosshairs: Daniel Ellsberg's Pentagon Papers and Commitment to Truth-Telling."

First Place Jr. Historical Paper was presented by Emilie LeBlanc and was titled "The Significance of the Louisiana Purchase."

First Place Sr. Group Exhibit was awarded to Izabel Renteria and Raul Renteria for "Monkeying Around with Religion: The Evolution Debate in Schools."

First Place Elementary Individual Poster went to Zachary Herring for "Effects of the Atomic Bomb on Nagasaki and Hiroshima."

Second Place Elementary Individual Poster went to Riley O'Shaughnessy for "The Assassination of Franz Ferdinand."

First Place Jr. Group Documentary went to Rylen Driscoll and



Students of all ages participated on March 6 on the campus of Sul Ross State University in the Big Bend Regional History Fair. Students from Fort Davis, Marfa, Valentine, Marathon, and Alpine competed for an opportunity to advance to the state competition in Austin on April 20. Pictured with their awards in the front row are Kutter Baeza, Zachary Herring, Acy Gentry, Ella Roach, and Rylie O'Shaughnessy. The middle row is Raul Renteria, Alexa Renteria, Emilie LeBlanc, Rylan Driscoll, and Jaden Miller, and the top row is Miguel Batras, Izabel Ortiz, Laralai Bates, Judith Frioux, Evan Frioux, and Yanessa Welch.

Jaden Miller for "Steel Crucible: The Echoes of Stalingrad."

Outstanding Regional Sr. Entry went to the group of Evan Frioux, Judith Frioux, Laralai Bates, Miguel Batras, and Yanessa Welch for "A Rude Awakening: 'How the Other Half Lives' Jolted the American Conscience."

Kutter Baeza received an Honor-

able Mention (non-advancing) for the Best Topic to Theme award: Elementary Individual Poster of "Pearl Harbor."

The annual History Fair is spearheaded by Alpine Middle School teachers Doug Gray and Matthew Chavez and Alpine High School teachers Renee Parson and Caroline Fox.

Courtesy photo

AHS 'Spies' produce podcast

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Coach Cory Cason, and Renee Parson, both history teachers at Alpine High School embarked on a journey last summer thanks to a grant from the Fund For Teachers, following in the footsteps of world-changing female spies. The Fund For Teachers Podcast features both of these educators, relaying their journey on researching and learning about the likes of Virginia Hall, Noor Inayat Khan, and Josephine Baker and their roles as spies in Europe.

Both Cason and Parson will share how they brought what they learned back to their classrooms, along with tales of their journey. How they expanded the mindsets of their students, and how ordinary people can accomplish great things when they don't allow societal norms to deter them in the name of humanity and justice.

Follow along with these two amazing educators as they reveal their experiences thanks to today's technology. Listen to their story at <https://fundforteacherspodcast.buzzsprout.com/.../14647302>

www.alpineavalanche.com

Coffee with Cops



The first "Coffee with Cops" was held at the Bread Garden Bakery recently. Members of the Alpine Police Department showed up to enjoy a Cup O' Joe with members of the community. Pictured is Captain Felipe Fierro, Lt. Kirk Caughman, Chief Darrell Losoya, owner Gabriela Pilonieta, Lori Griffin, and Isaiah Martinez.

Courtesy photo

AMS Robotics reaches new heights



The Alpine Middle School robotics team competed early last month at JM Hanks Early College High School in El Paso for the first time in the aerial drone competition. All participating teams made the semi-finals, with one team advancing to the finals.

Courtesy photo

NOTICE OF SHERIFF'S SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS §
COUNTY OF BREWSTER §

By virtue of Tax Warrant issued out of the 394th District Court of Brewster County, Texas in Cause No. TXB22397 on the 27th day of February, 2024 by the Clerk thereof, and to me as Sheriff, directed and delivered, I will proceed to sell at **10:00 a.m. on the 2nd day of April, 2024** at the West Door of the Brewster County Courthouse, in Alpine, Texas, the Properties described below:

Cause No.	Styling	Legal Description
TXB22397	City of Alpine, et al vs. Owners of Various Properties Located Within the City Limits of Alpine, Texas	<p>Tract 2: Lots Six (6) and Seven (7), Block Forty-seven (47), Shipman Addition, to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. R12618</p> <p>Tract 3: Lot Five (5), Block Two (2), Hancock Subdivision C, to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. R32107</p> <p>Tract 4: Portion of Lot One (1), Block Three (3), Metta Harms Addition, to the City of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, which lies North of the State highway #3, also designated as Federal Highway #90; and being the same land described in a Warranty Deed recorded in Vol. 233, Pg. 845, Deed Records of Brewster County, Texas. R34418</p> <p>Tract 5: Lots One (1) and T o (2), Block Twenty (20), Thomas-Derrick Addition, to the Ci of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas. R12815</p>

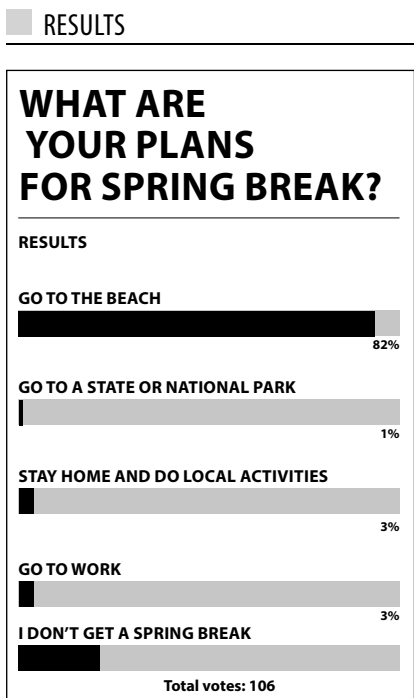
LEVIED ON the 27 day of February, 2024, as the property of those persons listed above to satisfy taxes, penalties, and interest and all costs of seizure and sale against those persons listed in said Warrant and any other unknown owners in favor of the Taxing Units listed in said Tax Warrants.

GIVEN UNDER MY HAND THIS THE 27 DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024.


Sheriff, Brewster County, Texas

Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What are your plans for Spring Break?

- Go to the beach.
- Go to a state or national park.
- Stay home and do local activities.
- Go to work.
- I don't get a Spring Break.

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

LETTERS

Send us your letters. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed. Send your letters to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

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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.



Please practice patience

As the month of March has blown in, the Big Bend region is on tap for the annual influx of visitors for the Spring Break holiday. This week-long hiatus for school-age children and their families along with the college-aged crowd, have planned for the lengthy travel to Big Bend country for a little rest, relaxation, and perhaps some adventure.



KARA GERBERT
Managing editor

As locals in the area, the actions of visitors sometimes frustrate us. Whether they are wandering the sidewalks in downtown Alpine, or gazing at the wonders of this magnificent part of the world we are fortunate to live in, they seem to interrupt our normal "flow."

This should be expected, and we should all be a bit more patient with them, simply because chances are we would be doing the same thing when visiting their town.

Now, this is not to say that we should be tolerant of outright rude behavior, or not reprimand them if they litter. Although, we should also be cognizant of the fact that the saying "those who live in glass houses should not throw stones," is always in play.

If you're asking the reason as to "why" we should practice patience when dealing with our visitors, the answer is quite simple. We rely on them almost exclusively as an economic driver not just locally, but area wide.

An economic study done in 2022 by Texas A&M University on the visitation to Big Bend and Brewster County reported that spending in the county from visitors totaled \$191.6 million in 2022. If this number were extrapolated for the following year, the estimate was \$264.7 million for 2023 and it supported almost 2,600 full and or part-time jobs annually.

And while this study was done with the exclusion of Alpine proper, Alpine itself brought in \$738,998 and change in tourism dollars in 2023. That's a nice sum of money coming into our coffers thanks to tourism.

Visitors to Alpine and the Big Bend region eat at our restaurants, shop at our gift

shops, buy groceries at our grocery stores, buy supplies at our hardware stores, and fuel at our gas stations.

We owe it to ourselves, despite our misgivings about visitors, and the minor inconveniences they may bring, to practice patience with their gazing at our landscapes, and causing us to wait 30 more seconds at the stop light while they cross the street to the restaurant they will spend upwards of \$100 in potentially, or the gift shop they will buy souvenirs in for their loved ones back home. Just so that those folks may be persuaded to come visit our little corner of paradise and help our local business owners keep their doors open for many years to come.

Don't step on my blue suede shoes

"Well, it's one for the money, two for the show, Three to get ready now go, cat, go But don't you, step on my blue suede shoes."

— Rock and roll standard written and recorded by Carl Perkins in 1955. It was a hit song for Perkins in 1955 and for Elvis Presley in 1956.

I never noticed how many songs have been written about shoes until I wrote about them last week. Shoes, that is.

"Old ladies' shoes," someone remarked on my column last week. "What's that?"

"You've seen 'em," I said. "Shoes that, let's call them mature, women wore when I was a kid. Black. Lace up. Stocky heels. Back when, to a youngster, an older woman was one who had graduated from high school.

It was a memory on the fly. Popped into my mind as I was writing about two "mature" women visiting, one of them my grandmother. Back when shoes were real.

I miss real shoes. Leather shoes that were comfortable and lasted longer than temporary government programs.

Shoes like I wore to school. When tennis shoes were all high-top black-and-white lace-up Keds or P.F. Flyers. Because other than cowboy boots, that's all there was. High-top tennis shoes and real leather shoes.

Shoes that mom made sure I polished every Saturday night

for Sunday morning church service.

Shoes that were sold in shoe stores where clerks measured the customer's foot to ensure the correct size. Then double checked by gently pressing the shoe to see how close the toes were. Shoes that could be purchased in all sizes and widths.

Shoes worn until the heels were run down and the soles were more holy than righteous. Well-worn shoes that weren't thrown away but taken to the local shoe repair shop. Where the smell of leather lingered. Where the proprietor wore an apron and used industrial-strength sewing machines to bring shoes back to life. Repaired, polished, and shined to a gloss that dazzled in the sunlight.

I remember buying my first pair of leather loafers at Beall's Department Store in downtown Mount Pleasant. Working my sophomore year after school. Virgil Tolbert was the manager, Gerald Birdwell was the assistant manager, and classmate Janice White's mother was a sales clerk. Where Saturdays, I wore a coat and tie, and sold men's clothing and shoes. Wearing cordovan Bass Weejun loafers for which I had paid \$4.95 out of my average \$20 weekly earnings.

Then, in the early 1980s, the tennis shoe craze catapulted sportswear smack dab into the mainstream of acceptable dress. Overnight, everyone was wear-



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

ing tennis shoes—with everything. In all colors and styles. For all occasions. Everywhere.

That's when a friend noted that she thought it might be an excellent time to buy stock in one of the trendy brands. I sure hope she did. It was probably a good idea. She's probably rich today. And probably owns lots of shoes.

Well, she walked into the shoe store, picked out a shoe, She tried on a twelve, but that wouldn't do.

Betty Lou got a new pair of shoes, Betty Lou bought a new pair of shoes.

— Song lyrics by Bobby Freeman.

I watched shoe styles change again with my children in the 1990s. Daughter Robin was a teenager. "I like those," she proclaimed, pointing to a store window in the San Antonio mall.

"Those combat boots," I asked. Still wearing cordovan Bass Weejun loafers. For which I paid a lot more than \$4.95.

"They're Doc Martin's, Dad," she said. With an "Ugh."

Those shoes would be the first of several pairs of combat boots ... I mean shoes... that Robin would own and wear with jeans, shorts, dresses, formal wear — everything. Everywhere.

I always wondered if my friend invested in combat boots.

Rumors exist that my focus on footwear was formulated at an early age. Mom was delighted in the story that supposedly, the first thing I inspected was someone's shoes. And it was a "no go" if I didn't like them. "We hired a babysitter one time when we lived in Ballinger," Mom told. About a hundred times, "You looked at her shoes and started crying. Only after the poor woman removed her shoes and hid them in a closet would you consent to be in the same room with her."

Even after Mom started losing her memory, she remembered that story. Bless her heart.

"And someone else will fill the shoes that I once wore, Cause them shoes, don't fit me anymore."

— Written by Hank Cochran and Velma Smith, recorded by Patsy Cline.

Noticing recently that it was repair time for some dress shoes, I conducted the "every year, whether needed or not, shoe inventory." This year's tally totaled 35 pairs. Mostly dress and casual shoes, most leather. Seven pairs of cowboy boots, all leather. One pair of tennis shoes, just for the gym.

And ... From Lansky Brothers Men's Shop in Memphis where Elvis shopped. The store that still markets themselves as "Clothier to the King."

One pair of genuine blue suede shoes.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Trash and Tourism

To the local citizens of South Brewster County, Tourism, "The Industry" that supports our working friends and families, is the reason we have access to the conveniences we have and use such as GROCERIES, MULTIPLE RESTAURANTS, FUEL, and

VEHICLE REPAIR, just to mention a few. For all of the primary Spring Break period, Brewster County's Hotel Occupancy Tax provides roll-off dumpsters for TOURISTS to place their trash bags in, in Marathon and Study Butte. This helps keep bags from being left on the sides of the roads. There is signage ask-

ing for trash bags ONLY, however, each and every year there are local folks that fill these dumpsters with every manner of household junk within 24 hours of drop off. Some ideas for scheduling can possibly help with extra pickups as tourism declines, but PLEASE allow the dumpsters to do the job they

are intended to do, which is preventing littering all over our highways and camping areas. Later, let's work to get the Commissioner's Court to provide more than one Trash Day per year for South County! Thank you all for your consideration and help.

Barbara Trammell
Study Butte-Terlingua

Heard on the STREET

What is something that you are looking forward to for spring break?



Emily Chase: So, mine is going to be so boring. Just having some extra time to rest and do stuff around the house, but honestly, that's exactly what I need right now.



Jasmine Florence: I am going home to see my family. It feels like I haven't seen them in forever.



Peter Bernstein: What is spring break?



Dean Bryant: I have taken a few days off work to have some fun with my family, we might even go camping.



Maya Soto: To do all the studying I haven't been able to keep up with. And sleep.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 14-16 Overland Trail Museum Spring Break, extended hours for Spring Break are 1-5 p.m. Thursday, Friday, and Saturday. We will also have these extended hours the following week, March 21-23. Donations are suggested. Adults \$5 and children under 12 \$2. For group tours contact the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce at 432-426-3015.

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

March 16 Paint Out Group, 9 a.m. to Noon at CDRI

March 17 Big Bend Arts Council Meeting, 2 p.m. at 933 E. Gallego (Alpine Food Pantry Building).

March 22 Cheese Enchi-



lada Dinner, 5 p.m. until sold out, the Alpine Humane Society is holding this fundraiser at the American Legion at 306 W. Sul Ross. Plates come with cheese enchiladas, beans, rice, salad, and salsa.

March 23 Sunshine House 2nd Annual March for Meals Fun Run, 8 a.m. at the St. James Episcopal Church corner of 6th Street and Ave A. Entry fee is \$15 and it benefits the Sunshine House's initiative to combat hun-

ger and feed people in the community.

April 6 Sculpture and Mark Making Workshop, with Alex Ferante and partner Brynn at Sul Ross State University.

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

Celebrate Recovery, at Big Bend Cowboy Church on 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 Pub-

lic 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.

4-H members make sale in Houston



Wyatt Renfroe (above) and Rynn Matthews (below), members of the Brewster County 4-H had successful runs at the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo last week. Both exhibitors qualified for the premium livestock sale, with Matthews placing 14th with her lightweight fine wool sheep, and Renfroe placing 10th with his market goat and 13th with his lightweight medium wool sheep.

Courtesy photo



PET OF THE WEEK

Alpine Humane Society Pet of the Week is Luna. Luna enjoys love and attention along with walks, exercise, and playtime. She is a little sassy, but it's part of her charm. She would like a good playmate to run and wrestle with. She is loving and outgoing. Come meet this cutie pie at the Alpine Animal Shelter. Plan your Lent dinner with our fundraiser for the Alpine Humane Society. A cheese enchilada plate with rice, beans, and salad, on Friday, March 22, at the American Legion will be served. Come early, limited quantities are available from 5 p.m. until sold out. Stay tuned for details on our upcoming fundraiser on April 6, Messages from the Rainbow Bridge, Sara Cash, social worker, grief therapist, and reiki practitioner will use her mediumship gifts to relay messages of love and healing from our departed pets for a select



group of participants. Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster and volunteer. Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 to 6 p.m. Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the

Shelter at 432-837-9030. The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS Helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit PetFinder.com or www.alpinehumane-society.org, and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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WORKSHOP • FROM 1

Texas Pacifico is slightly higher at 14'7". Both are now lower than the required new standard for railroad overpasses, which is currently 18'6".

Present at this meeting was TxDOT team member, Jose Bocanegra, project manager for the study, and Liza Amar who is the contract manager from CDM Smith.

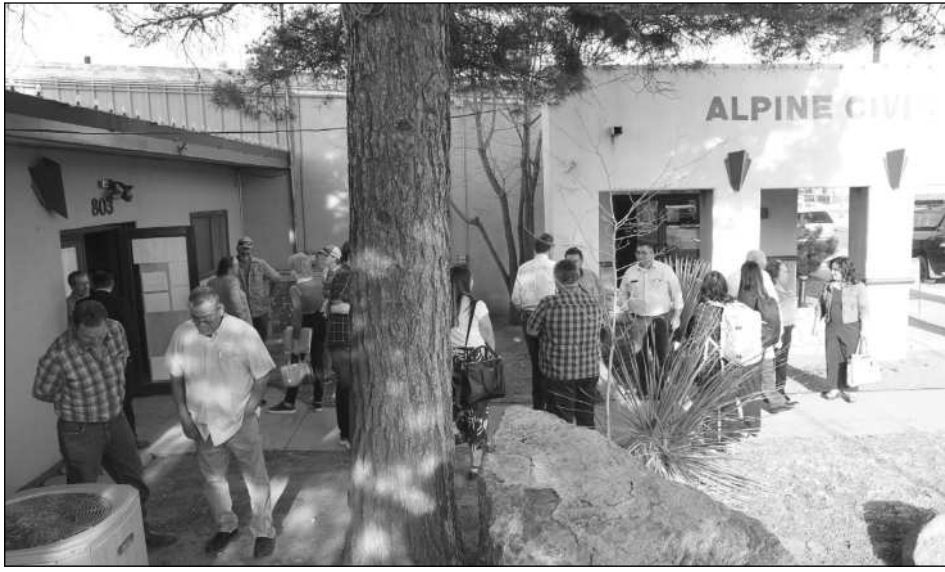
According to Bocanegra, the feasibility study, which contains four phases, is currently in phase two, to "develop alternative concepts and identify goals and objectives."

Having already defined the problems and constraints along with potential traffic changes in phase one, the study project members expressed to both the city and the county the desire to begin workshops to begin problem-solving.

The study is only in the fact-finding stage right now, and there are no plans set for construction, funding, or timeline as of yet. They are on a 20-year planning horizon to find the most sustainable long-term option.

Council member Rick Stephens asked Smith about the budget and how they conduct a study like this without a fiscal horizon. Smith assured the group that while costs are not considered at their current stage, once they define all of the feasible options there will be a planning level concerning cost estimates.

As far as a timeline is concerned, after the feasibility study is concluded, next will come the schematic phase which would consider costs. According to Bocanegra, if the involved parties



Elected officials and members of the community congregate outside the city council chambers after the joint workshop of Brewster County and the City of Alpine with the Texas Department of Transportation.

had funding already set aside for any actionable project, the estimated construction start would be a minimum of five years out.

Things that will need to be considered for the project include the fact that these passes are transitional from rural to urban, leading into downtown Alpine, as well as the required clearances above and below the train tracks. Which leads to the options that the study has produced.

There is a Texas Highway Freight Network, that this route is located on, which has that 18'6" height of underpass requirement. They also have a requirement of 23'4" for roadways that go over railroad tracks. Moving forward, any construction project has to comply with the requirements.

There were three options presented during the workshop with a shorter timeframe in mind. One option was placed along the current route, below the overpass with excavating and regrading to fulfill that

clearance distance. This option would require the building of a temporary bridge, resulting in temporarily lower clearance, and the main long-term concern is the lack of drainage ability.

Another option was to move the route north by about 70 feet and go over the track with an overpass. The second option would be a dramatic difference, and even more so was option three which would be to realign and straighten US-90 south of the existing railroad crossing. This option would affect Avenue E. and the properties located there.

For each option, the presentation showed two lanes going in each direction with additional bike lanes on each side as required by the new guidelines.

In the long-term timeframe, three alternatives were also presented to the community: a new reliever route south of Alpine, taking traffic around the outskirts of town, a new route north of Alpine, and one even

further north, beyond the airport.

While these options may have the least construction impact within city limits, there is the possibility of the diversion of traffic away from the city and they have that distant 20-year construction estimate.

County Judge Greg Henington's initial thoughts were that perhaps the long-term options should be considered first since nothing will be put into action anytime in the near future and that the potential increase in traffic through town as well as a decrease should undergo further study.

There are clearly pros and cons to every option, and even before discussions about funding can begin, there will be many workshops in the area's future to consider the fallout and benefits of each one.

However, members of the community should begin to take notice and keep up with such discussions and participate as they will most likely have a large impact on the area.

AISSD • FROM 1

from board members such as how long the root systems were, and what other types of food could be grown. Mrs. Herring told the board, "We can grow everything from lettuce, spinach, and tomatoes to herbs and even strawberries. Our next project I believe will be different herbs and probably more lettuce."

After the presentation, the board moved on to financial news.

Chief Financial Officer Chris Valenzuela gave the board a rundown on current financials and went into detail about a mistake made by one of the district's investment accounts. "As you know, because interest rates are doing pretty well right now, we have been transferring funds to some of our investment accounts so that they can grow in the future. We transferred money into our Texas CLASS investment account, but when it came time to reconcile the account at the end of the month, we noticed that it had never come through. I immediately called their representatives, to find out what was going on and why we showed

no record of it ever being deposited into our account. Turns out that they had mistakenly deposited the money into someone else's account. They immediately rectified the situation by depositing the money into the correct account along with the interest that would have accrued for the time it was in the other account. Thankfully we caught this quickly, and we will be monitoring this account going forward," said Valenzuela.

In other financial news, Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart discussed the seven different financial topics that she brought to the board's attention earlier in the year that they would like to see happen in the district. This was a list of ideas that the board was asked to identify by priority earlier and then a questionnaire was sent to all faculty and staff to ask them to do the same. This questionnaire went to and included all three Alpine campuses, the 588-Co-op, the Administration building, maintenance and transportation, and the AISD board.

Of the seven different topics, Competitive Staff

Compensation came in number one for everyone as being the most important financial topic that needs to be addressed. The second most important topic overall was Student Support Services. This could include everything from the amount of money each student is allotted for travel meals, on-campus para-professional support from licensed mental health professionals, to the SRO's at each campus just as examples.

In other news, the board discussed and approved the board minutes from the previous meeting along with the approval of the audit engagement agreement that AISD has with Singleton, Clark, and Company, PC for the district's audit services for fiscal year 2024. The board also approved the out-of-state travel for the Bucks baseball team to compete against Eunice, New Mexico last Friday as well as taking action on the order of cancellation for a general election in May, as Single Member District positions, One, Three, and Four are all up for re-election but were all unopposed. Other items

discussed were quotes for fencing at the Alpine Elementary and Alpine Middle Schools, as well as a policy on the naming of facilities. Finally, the board considered the approval of the 2024-2025 school calendar. Board trustee Joe Portillo said, "I think we might should consider postponing the approval on this because we are missing three people tonight that it might affect." The board decided to go ahead and vote on the calendar approval since there was a quorum present. Board President Eddie Natera, along with board members Mary McCallister and Adrian Billings voted in favor of approving the 2024-2025 School Calendar while Joe Portillo voted against the approval.

Following the vote on next year's school calendar, a short report was heard from the superintendent followed by the board entering an executive session where they accepted the resignation of Alpine High School's counselor Sandra Alvidrez. The next regular meeting of the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, April 17 at 5:30 p.m.

First place finish in tennis



Andynne Ramirez took first place in eighth-grade girls' singles tennis last weekend in Fort Stockton at the middle school tennis tournament.

Courtesy photo

COUNTY • FROM 1

Counties for the CIRA technology program were both approved. The Failure to Appear contract is for the restriction of driver's licenses if the owner fails to appear in court after a traffic violation and the CIRA technology program is to renew the email services contract provided by TAC.

Lora Nussbaum, the elections administrator, appeared in court to present an agreement with the City of Alpine for the rental use of the county's election equipment and limited election services offered by the election's office for their upcoming election in late April and early May. The court also approved this agreement.

Stephanie Elmore, the Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator, shared that while the burn ban is still in effect people can still contact her of-

Elmore also participated in the law-enforcement memorial run on Saturday morning which honored fallen heroes.

In light of Spring Break, Robert Alvarez, the director for the Brewster County Tourism Office shared that they have journalists from all over the world coming to the Big Bend area who will be touring the National Park and staying in local hotels while sightseeing.

Alvarez also shared with the court about the trash issues in South County exacerbated by tourism traffic. For the season roll-off trash containers are provided by TxDot, however, they are usually filled up before Spring Break even starts in the area.

The next regular Commissioners Court meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 26.



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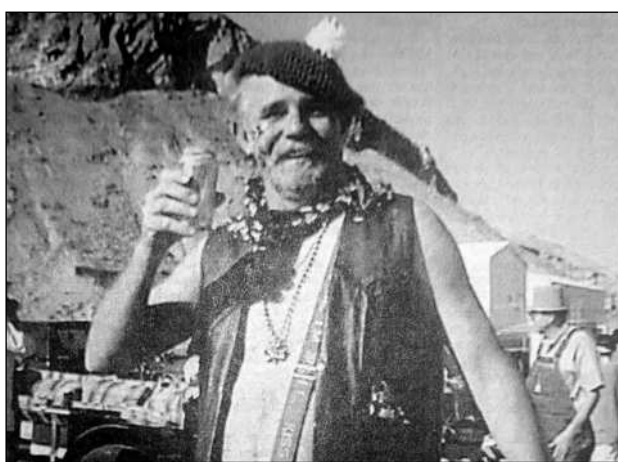
March 16, 2000

Lady Bucks hosted the third annual Alpine softball tournament and came away with a strong third-place finish.



March 30, 2000

Pictured here are AHS students who are advancing to the area round of the UIL One Act play competition. Alpine beat out four other schools with the play "Do Not Go Gentle." The area competition will be held in Midland on April 7 and 8.



March 26, 2000

South county residents and travelers celebrated St. Patrick's Day in Terlingua-Study Butte style with colorful local flavor and live music. Pictured here is Jim Holbrook, Grand Marshal of the parade.



March 30, 2000


Jimbo Howell slides into home plate during Saturday's action at Kokernot Field. Even though Howell was out in this play, the Lobo shortstop contributed a double, triple, and two runs during their 17-7 win.

Trailing lantanas not very winter-hardy

Dear Neil: How long do I have to wait to know if my lavender lantanas are going to come back after the winter?

Trailing lavender lantanas are perhaps the least winter-hardy types that we grow. It doesn't take a very harsh Texas winter to kill out their crowns. This past winter was certainly cold enough in much of the state. That said, all lantanas are among the last perennials to sprout back each spring. That's why I prefer to cut my plants back to two or three inches from the ground soon after their tops freeze in the fall. I leave the stubs exposed so I can see where they are. That way I can keep an eye on them as the soils warm in March. It also helps keep me from sending a sharpshooter right down their middle as I'm planting new colors for the upcoming year. To give you a direct answer, if they're still alive, I would think you would be seeing new growth pop up very soon, depending on how cold it's been where you are.

Dear Neil: If I plant 4-inch zoysia plugs out of trays from the nursery and space them 15 inches apart, how long will it take them



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

to grow together?

That's a great question. The answer depends on several things. Is it sun or shade? (Sun is better.) Have you eliminated all other vegetation so that there will be no competition, or are you expecting it to crowd out the existing turfgrass? That probably won't work - bermudagrass and St. Augustine are much more dominant grasses. Taking everything into consideration, if you give the zoysia good care and regular attention, to that spacing you should get it to cover within 18 months. It's a slower-growing grass, which is why many people prefer sod to plugs.

Dear Neil: Is there any way to keep wild persim-

mons from bearing fruit? We track the mess into our house, and they make the patio almost unusable.

I'm often asked that question relative to fruiting mulberries, and unfortunately, the answer is about the same for both. There is no mechanical or chemical means of preventing or removing fruit before it becomes messy. While I don't want to be the executioner for what might otherwise be very nice trees, your only recourse short of removing them will be to sweep or blow them away daily (or more often). Think long before you remove them. They do bring some great texture and character to their part of the landscape.

Dear Neil: I need your advice on plant spacing. Let me know if any of these might be too close. A Natchez crape myrtle seven feet from concrete piers under the house and eight feet from concrete stairs; a Choctaw pecan 23 feet from the

piers and from the roofline; a Texas red oak 15 feet from concrete piers; a cedar elm 18 feet from the house and piers and 13 feet from a concrete porch and sidewalk; and a chinquapin oak 12 feet from a wood fence. I have no problems currently. Just thinking ahead.

You've been busy measuring. Those distances sound adequate, although I wouldn't want to plant them any closer. I have several of those trees in similar settings, although mine are closer. Your best bet is to have a certified arborist check the trees every couple of years. Watch for roots that could cause

damage to become obvious.

Dear Neil: I know you work with crape myrtles. What is your favorite white type that grows as a tree?

All crape myrtles are shrubs genetically, but we train the taller varieties into tree forms with reasonable ease. I have several that I like a great deal. Sarah's Favorite White is somewhat available, and it's a superior selection. Glendora White is what I have at my home. It is not one of the newer hybrid types, but I really like its large, tight flower heads. But it has become difficult to find. Kiowa is a newer selec-

tion from the U.S. National Arboretum's breeding program, and it's outstanding. But it, too, is not common in nurseries. Natchez is the one that most often shows up in garden centers. It does have lovely trunk character and color, but I think the reason it's most common is because it grows faster than the others in the wholesale nurseries. Nonetheless, all are good.

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



ACROSS

1 home to giant catfish in east Texas: "Lake _ _ Pines"

5 TXism: " _ _ like I was chewed up and spit out"

6 TXism: "sounds like a dry _ _"

7 TXism: "useless as panty _ _ on a pig"

8 TX Charley Pride's "Then Who _ _"

9 a question in 1991 College Bowl won by Rice: "vexillology" (study _ _ _)

16 a Texas pond

18 refuses to follow accepted doctrine

21 great TCU lineman Charles _ _ Aldrich

22 Texas or Nevada town

23 "The Turtle Lady," TX Loetscher building face

30 O. Henry story: "A Fog _ _ _"

34 TXism: "chompin' _ _ the bit" (eager)

35 Ranger Juan was _ _ in 1999

36 big party at the governor's mansion

37 TXism: "wipe the slate clean"

39 once a source of gold in Texas (2 wds.)

43 TXism: "knocked my _ _ off (amazed me)"

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison

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44 event at Luling's "Watermelon Thump": seed _ _ _

45 Texas soda: _ Pepper

46 ERA to TX Nolan Ryan in Upshur County on U.S. 259 (2 wds.)

49 a fancy speech

52 TX Cassidy ("Lurch") of "The Addams Family"

53 TXism: " _ _ could strut sitting down" (big ego)

54 TXism: "skunk egg"

55 "the gorge" in Mexico

58 TXism: "he'd be _ _ to his own funeral" (unreliable)

59 _ Grande

60 flightless bird

61 TXism: "I reckon"

DOWN

1 TXism: "at the drop _ _ _"

2 lake between Texas and Oklahoma

3 TX Bowling won gold in diving in _ _ _ Finland

4 Gen. Robert _ _

9 TX Roy Orbison's " _ Pretty Woman"

10 San _ _ Cathedral is oldest cathedral in Texas

11 worry

12 Carson successor

13 makes amends

14 a Texan in the U.S. Army (abbr.)

15 TX Roddenberry's genre: _ _-fi

17 TX Gene Autry: " _ _ _ Cowboy"

19 person from the biggest state by area up-to-date

20 _ Worth, TX (abbr.)

24 in Smith County on highway 135

25 ex-Cowboy Aikman once owned dealership that sold these

27 TXism: "hot as _ _ stove"

28 TX Greer Garson film " _ _ Me"

29 spliced a film

31 Mr. Houston

32 this fighter beat TX Foreman in 1974

33 problem along the Texas coast

38 _ _ Historic Site in Hood County

40 gunslinger Holliday

41 TXism: " _ _ was any better, I couldn't stand it"

42 TXism: "he zigged when he should have zagged"

48 TXism: "war hoop"

50 TXism: "beats _ _ thing I ever saw"

51 a King Ranch Kleberg

56 Macdonald in 1949 film "Streets of Laredo"

57 TXism: "many _ _" (often)

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Sports

Fightin' Lady Bucks track hits Odessa

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Buck girls' track, and field team traveled to Odessa last week to compete in the 80th West Texas Relays held at Ratliff Stadium. Both the varsity and JV teams competed against heavy competition from schools such as 6A Odessa Permian and San Angelo Central.

In the JV competition, Alpine placed in 11 events. In the JV girls' 3200M race, Molly Garrett placed second with a time of 13:57.30 as well as in the 1600M race with a time of 6:25.12. In the girls' JV 4x100M relay, the team of Ailea Fierro, Evelyn Smith, Trinity Vega, and Sophie Janis placed fifth with a time of 56.26.

In the JV 100M hurdles, Naida Morris brought home a fourth-place finish with a time of 18.42 as well as a third-place finish in the 300M hurdles. The JV girls' 100M dash had Sophie Janis, Ailea Fierro,

Sports Schedule	
FIGHTIN' BUCK TRACK & FIELD	TENNIS
Mar. 22-23 San Angelo Relays @ San Angelo	Mar. 22 RCHS Invitational @ Regan County
Mar. 28 Crane Relays @ Crane	Mar. 26-27 Fort Davis Invitational @ Sul Ross
BUCK BASEBALL	April 2 Alpine vs Fort Davis @ Fort Davis
Mar. 19 Alpine vs Crane* JV @ 4:30 p.m., Varsity @ 7 p.m.	BUCK AND LADY BUCK GOLF
Mar. 22 Alpine vs Tornillo* JV @ 4:30 p.m., Varsity TBA	Mar. 19 Alpine Tournament*
LADY BUCK SOFTBALL	Mar. 27 District Varsity and JV* @ Pecos
Mar. 15 Alpine vs Presidio* JV @ 7 p.m., Varsity @ 5 p.m.	April 2 District Varsity and JV* @ Pecos
Mar. 19 Alpine vs Crane* JV @ 7 p.m., Varsity @ 5 p.m.	

*Denotes District Game

and Emory Mercado placing fourth, ninth, and 11th respectively. In the 400M dash, Trinity Vega took seventh place with a time of 1:14.19. Vega also earned 10th place in the 200M dash.

In the field events, Sophie Janis took ninth in the long jump, while Fierro and Smith placed ninth and 13th respectively in the JV girls' shot put. Both Fierro and Smith would place in the discus throw as well, with Fierro securing eighth place and Smith 15th.

The varsity girls would

place in eight of the running events and five field events.

Alpine's 4x100m relay team of Danica Mulholland, Valeria Crespo, Mia Morris, and Novah Carrasco placed fourth with a time of 50:38. This team would also place fourth in the 4x200M relay with a time of 1:49.81.

In the 800M race, Alpine had three runners place in the top 25. Emyliana Hernandez placed 14th, Colette Fowlkes placed 19th, and Hope Dominguez placed 21st. Dominguez would



Colette Fowlkes is pictured running in one of the longer races that she excels in during the recent Fightin' Buck Relays.

Courtesy photo

also place 10th in the 1600M.

In the shorter races, Crespo took third in the 100M dash, while Novah took ninth in the 200M dash and Mulholland placed 15th.

In the 400M race, Fowlkes placed fourth, Hernandez placed fifth, and Nevaeh Carrasco placed 22nd. Finally, the varsity 300M hurdles had

Morris placing fourth.

In the varsity girls' field events, Novah placed sixth in the long jump with a jump of 16-01.00, while Dominguez placed 20th with a jump of 14-04.00. In the triple jump, Nevaeh placed eighth with a jump of 32-02.50 followed by Morris with a jump of 31-09.00.

Mulholland and Fowlkes would place fifth

and seventh respectively in the varsity girls' high jump, and in the varsity shot put and discus, Sierra Ruckman placed 14th in the shot put and 19th in the discus with throws of 26-03.00 and 74-10 respectively.

Alpine travels to San Angelo next for the San Angelo Relays on March 22-23, followed by a trip to Crane on the 28th.

Lady Bucks softball almost topple Eagles

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Last week the Lady Bucks softball program faced off with teams from Pecos, Big Spring, and Odessa. These were the final challenges for the Alpine team before they prepared for the upcoming district play starting this Friday, March 15.

"The Pecos and Big Spring's games were very close, competitive games. We went into extra innings in both games. The games were close but two different stories. In the Pecos game, we were up a couple of times during the game and struggled to close the game out. The Big Spring's game we were down for most of the game and battled back to tie the game," said head softball coach for the Lady Bucks, Christopher Virdell.

After their return from the El Paso Fox Tournament earlier this month, where the Lady Bucks went 4-4, the Alpine team had a home non-district game with the Pecos Eagles last Tuesday that resulted in a narrow loss for the Alpine team, 8-10.

The Lady Bucks got onto the scoreboard first in the second inning and kept a lead by scoring 3-1 in the fourth and 4-3 in the fifth, however, the Eagles tied with Alpine in the sixth with four points and pushed for the win with two points in the eighth.

On Friday of that week, the Lady Bucks traveled to Big Spring to challenge the Steers on their home turf. Despite some impressive plays in the first, sixth, and seventh innings, the Lady Bucks ultimately fell to



Taryn Hardin steps up to bat during the Lady Buck's recent home game with the Pecos Eagles.

their hosts 9-10.

This game came down to the wire in the final play. The game was tied at the bottom of the eighth inning 9-9. Having collected eight hits, the Lady Bucks played a strong game that came down to a run resulting from a walk drawn by the Steers.

Alpine started at bat at the top of the first. Emily Sweat led the charge on the board when she scored a run from a single and collected two hits for the Lady Bucks. Zariah Galvin helped tie the game when she tripled after a six-pitch at the top of the seventh.

Galvin also went 3-4

at the plate, leading her team in hits. Hannah Juett pitched four and one-third innings for the Lady Bucks while she and Isabella Shelton led the team with two walks each.

The Lady Bucks didn't have any errors during this seven-inning game. Kody Hawkins stole two bases out of the four that the Lady Bucks stole and Sweat had the most chances, eight, on the field.

Big Spring led the game in points from the start, with 4-3 points in the first inning, but the Lady Bucks almost overcame them in the last half. Starting in the fifth,

Photo by Annika Canaba.

the Lady Bucks started climbing the board steadily with 1-2, 3-0 in the sixth, and 2-0 in the seventh. The Steers won the game by one point in that final eighth inning.

"Although we were unable to take home victories in either, both games were good for the program. The girls learned how to battle through adversity on both ends, when we are up and when we are down," said Virdell.

According to the coach, in both of those games, bats were not consistent. Although they did score nine runs

See LADY BUCKS • 9



A Midland player attempts to tag out an Alpine runner as he slides into second base last Tuesday at Kokernot Field.

Photo courtesy of Noe Lujan

Baseballers 4-8 going into district play

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

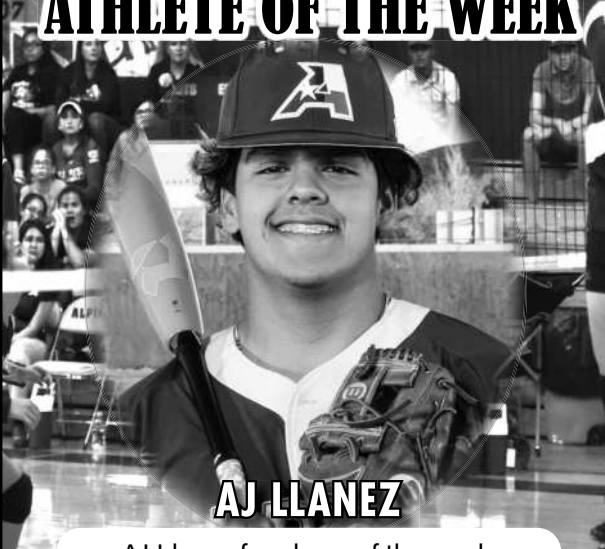
The Alpine Fightin' Bucks baseball team, like many sports at the high school level, faces numerous non-district opponents before they play the teams that "count." And while the Bucks have struggled

against a few tough opponents, their wins speak for themselves.

Last Tuesday, March 5, the Bucks faced Midland at home, where they were able to capitalize on their at-bats, beating the Eagles 13-8. Alec Ramos started

See BASEBALL • 9


ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



AJ LLANEZ

AJ Llanez for player of the week. He got the win against Eunice NM last Friday with 8 strikeouts.

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Cowgirls round-up Lobos in softball

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

This past weekend the Sul Ross softball team hosted the Hardin-Simmons University Cowgirls for a doubleheader on Friday, followed by a single game on Saturday.

During the first Friday game, the Lobos trailed the Cowgirls as the guest team took the lead 2-0 in the first inning.

Lily Wiser pushed across a run in the bottom of the first with an RBI single up the middle and Samantha Chavez and Kyndell Garcia gave the Lobos two-straight singles at the beginning of the inning.

In the second, the Cowgirls pushed their lead to 4-1 with an RBI double and an RBI single.

When Jasmine Garcia got a base hit to center to bring in Toni Mishnick in the bottom half of the second, the Sul Ross team was able to half that distance on the scoreboard. Lobo Chavez hit an RBI single to get the Lobos within one run in the bottom of the second inning.

In the third, Sul Ross State was able to tie up the game 4-4 with a fly by Madison Hodges that put in Wiser at third.

This tie didn't last however, when in the fourth inning Hardin-Simmons took the lead and then climbed above with a solo



The Sul Ross softball team stands on their home Lobo Softball Field during their last game with Hardin-Simmons University.

Photo by Brylee Sweeten

home run in the fifth to make the score 6-4.

The gap on the scoreboard was furthered by an RBI single in the seventh that was followed up by an RBI triple by the Cowgirls, ending the game with the win 4-8.

In game two, Sul Ross started off the game on a strong foot by scoring three runs in the first inning. After Jaelyn Zuniga plated home with Chavez on a sacrifice fly, Jasmine Garcia then hit a two-RBI single to center.

In the bottom of the second,

Vivian Jimenez hit a leadoff inside-the-park home run and Wiser hit an RBI double down the left-field line to make the score 5-0.

The Cowgirls scored two runs on three hits in the top of the fifth, erasing the shutout.

But the Lobos increased their lead to three runs just before the end of the bottom half of the fifth.

There was a turnover in the top of the sixth for the Cowgirls, when with nine runs on nine hits, they took a 12-6 lead.

In the bottom of the sixth, the Cowgirls had another run and in the seventh on an RBI groundout but the Lobos rebounded in the bottom of the seventh. Wiser hit a leadoff single followed by an infield single by Zuniga. Avila then hit a three-run home run.

The Lobos then got several RBI singles from Chavez and Mishnick granting the Lobos a difference of only two runs. Hannah Clark was able to with two outs, bring the score to 13-12.

The Lobos won game two with an RBI single by Avila.

The following day, the Lobos took the lead 4-1 in the bottom of the first inning. Samantha Chavez, Lily Wiser, and Toni Mishnick hit several singles in a row and then Elizabeth Clemente delivered a three-RBI triple. Hardin-Simmons scored seven runs on six hits in the top of the third. Lobo player Ella Salinas also had a two-run home run during the third.

The Lobos were down 10-4 in the bottom of the fourth but got two runs in on a two-RBI double by Lily Wiser. The Cowgirls followed up with a two-RBI triple in the top of the fifth.

Despite the Cowgirls increasing their score only by four points in the remainder of the game, and the Lobos fighting for six more, the Sul Ross team couldn't close the gap, losing with a final score of 13-15.

This week, the Lobos traveled to Tucson, Arizona for games with Salve Regina, the University of Hartford, Midland University, Franklin and Marshall College, and Eastern Connecticut State for the Tucson Invitational.

The next challenge for the Lobos is in Richardson with UT Dallas on March 22.

Fightin' Buck golf brings home the gold

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Buck varsity boys' golf team competed in Wink last week, where they placed first with a combined score of 358. Individually, golfer David Baca also placed first in the tournament, shooting 77.

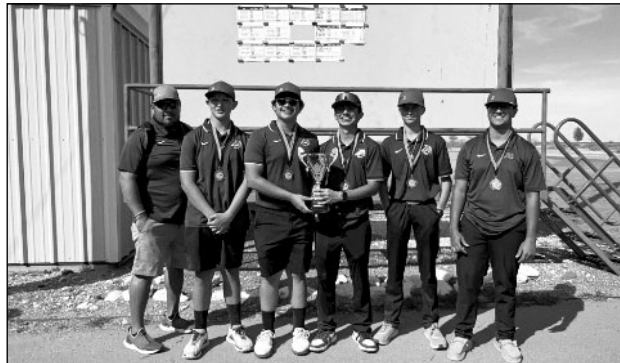
Baca was followed closely by Abram "Ace" Granado who shot a 90, Mateo Solis who shot 92, Riley Killingsworth who shot a 99, and Levi Garcia who shot a 120.

The Alpine girls' golf team also traveled to Wink last Monday for tournament play. Evelyn

Smith was the top performer for Alpine, shooting a 99 which put her in fifth place. Just behind Smith was Analia Adame with a 104, putting her in sixth place, and Ashlee Neel participated at the JV level and shot 120.

The JV boys' team traveled to Marfa last week for tournament play. Golfer Mason Dove led the group of four with a total of 109 followed by Camilo Celaya and Colt Hale who both shot a 124. Ferris Daley would round out the group with a 143.

"Every week we have been getting better and better. It was one of our team goals at the beginning of the season to



The Alpine Fightin' Buck varsity boys' golf team poses with their first-place trophy after winning the Wink tournament last week. Pictured are Coach Marco Gomez, Levi Garcia, David Baca, Mateo Solis, Riley Killingsworth, and Abram "Ace" Granado.

Courtesy photo

improve each week," said head coach Marco Gomez. The Bucks will host their next tournament here in Alpine on

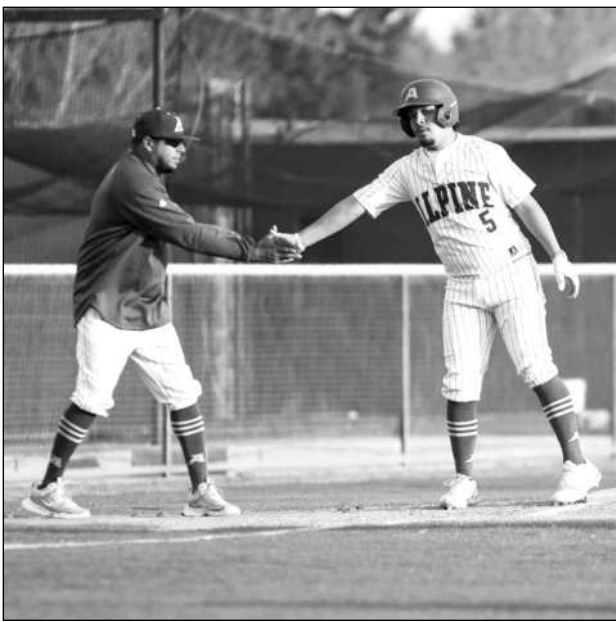
Tuesday, March 19 before moving on to district play.

BASEBALL • FROM 8

the Bucks off on the mound in the first, where he quickly disposed of the Midland batters. The bottom of the first would see David Valenzuela with a line-drive double to third, followed by AJ Llanez being hit by a pitch and walked to first. A triple to center field by Ramos would score both Valenzuela and Llanez, putting the Bucks up 2-0 at the end of the first.

Midland would not score any runs until the top of the third when an RBI would advance them to home plate followed by an error by the Bucks' defense that led to another run scored, tying the game at two.

The Bucks would add three more runs to the scoreboard in the bottom of the third, thanks to efforts from Jace Canaba who hit a ground ball single that resulted in a series of errors by Midland, allowing him to advance to second while Ramos and Llanez score. Peyton Tays then doubled on a line drive to left field, scoring Canaba, leaving the Bucks ahead 5-2 at the top of the fourth. The Bucks would add another run at the bottom of the fourth before Midland answered back in the top of the fifth with four runs, tying the score again, 6-all. The tie would not last long, however, when Michael Ybarra would score thanks to a single



Alpine varsity baseball coach Adam Llanez gives Alec Ramos a "five on the side" as Ramos waits at third base for the next batter at play.

Photo courtesy of Noe Lujan

by Valenzuela followed by Robert Vasquez advancing to home after a Josh Solis single, putting the Bucks ahead once again 8-6.

The Bucks would add five more to their tally in the bottom of the sixth, and while Midland added two more runs to their total on the day at the top of the seventh, they were unable to surmount the Bucks' lead. Alpine would defeat the Eagles 13-8.

On Friday, the Bucks traveled to Eunice, New Mexico to take on the Cardinals. Iden Lujan would put the Bucks on the board first after a single, followed by another single from Valenzuela, and a fly ball to

left from Solis would see him score. The Cardinals would walk the next two batters, Llanez and Ramos, allowing Valenzuela to add another run for the Bucks, putting them on the board 2-0 in the first.

Eunice would tie up the game in the bottom of the first, but the Bucks would take the lead again in the top of the second with a run scored by Lujan on an error. In the top of the third, a single by Canaba followed by a double fly ball by Tays to left field would send Canaba across the plate. Tays would steal home, adding another run to the Bucks' tally after a single by Ybarra and Eddie Morrison. The Cardinals

would strike out Lujan and walk Valenzuela before a line drive to center by Solis would advance Valenzuela to third and score Morrison. A wild pitch would see Valenzuela crossing home plate, leaving Alpine in the lead with their last run of the game 7-2. The Cardinals would only add one more run to their total for the day, and the Bucks would take the win 7-3.

On Monday, the Bucks were not able to keep up with the Indians from Seminole. The Indians were the first on the board in the top of the first, and the Bucks were able to keep them at bay until the top of the fourth when Seminole would add two more runs to their total.

The Bucks, thanks to a solo home run by Llanez would finally add a run to the board in the bottom of the fourth followed by a double from Lujan in the bottom of the fifth to advance Tays. The Indians would add three more runs in the top of the sixth to defeat the Bucks 2-6.

Next up for the Bucks was a meet with the Lobos of Monahans on Tuesday. The Bucks fell to the Lobos 0-11 in Monahans. Next up for Alpine is their first district match-up set for Tuesday, March 19 on the road against Crane. First pitch is at 7 p.m.

LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

in both of those games, Virdell believes that if they had hit the ball a little more consistently in those games, they would have won both.

"I was very pleased defensively overall, but we did see some small fundamental errors that we need to clean up," said Virdell.

Lastly, on Saturday the Lady Bucks played the Odessa Bronchos in a non-district away game.

The Lady Buck's first district game of the season will be in Presidio against the Presidio Blue Devils. The game is scheduled for Friday, March 15 at 5 p.m.

Over Spring Break, the team will have practiced the whole week and prepare for the real part of the season, district play and beyond. Virdell's main focus

will be building confidence, mental toughness, and consistency at the plate.

"Our bats are going to be key to the girl's success this year, as I feel our pitching and defense is very strong," Virdell said.

The Lady Buck's schedule this year was one of the toughest that the coach has ever arranged. The girls faced many good teams with great pitching and hitting. It will build on and lead to success through district play and the playoffs Virdell shared.

"The girls are more than prepared to take on district opponents due to the amount of game experience they now have. We are ready for the challenges of the district and the girls are working hard every day to find success in the program," Virdell said.



Hannah Juett winds up to hurl her pitch at the opposition in a recent Lady Bucks softball game.

Photo courtesy of Annika Canaba

Restaurant Guide

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Cup of Daily Soup • 1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich
1/2 BLT Sandwich with Pico de Gallo

Serving up fried goodness for a cause



Tommy Mangrem chats with Kay Tscheyka as he picks up his catfish dinner and drink last Friday at the Alpine Public Library's Fish Fry fundraiser. The fundraiser had a large turnout with music by the Swifts and A Few Too Many.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

One Act Play advances to Bi-District



The cast and crew of Alpine High School's UIL One Act Play placed second behind Stanoton last Thursday in district competition. The group will advance to bi-district competition in Stanton on March 20. Members of the cast and crew also garnered individual district honors during the contest. Jake Esparza received best actor, Zoe Arredondo received all-star cast, Hatfield Cason and Alyssa Barron received honorable mention, Lauralai Bates received best stage manager, and the crew of Taryn Clockman, Lauralai Bates, Alyssa Mitchel, Isabel Ortiz, Raul Renteria, Andrea Johnson, and Hannah Vidal received the best crew award.

Courtesy photo

Fort Davis youth exhibits in Houston



Fort Davis' Gracie Boultinghouse took fifth place with her market goat at this year's Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo.

Courtesy photo

Successful search and rescue conducted in BBRSP



The Terlingua Fire and EMS (TFEMS) along with rangers from Big Bend Ranch State Park (BBRSP) conducted a search and rescue last Friday in Closed Canyon at BBRSP. According to TFEMS the rescue took approximately two hours and was successful.

Courtesy photo

TEXAS COMMISSION ON ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY



NOTICE OF RECEIPT OF APPLICATION AND INTENT TO OBTAIN WATER QUALITY PERMIT RENEWAL

PERMIT NO. WQ0014349001

APPLICATION. City of Alpine, 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830, has applied to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) to renew Texas Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (TPDES) Permit No. WQ0014349001 (EPA I.D. No. TX0022985) to authorize the discharge of treated wastewater at a volume not to exceed a daily average flow of 900,000 gallons per day. The domestic wastewater treatment facility is located at 2418 North State Highway 118, Alpine, in Brewster County, Texas 79830. The discharge route is from the plant site to an unnamed tributary; thence to Alpine Creek, thence to Musquiz Creek, thence to Coyanosa Draw, thence to Hackberry Draw, thence to the Upper Pecos River. TCEQ received this application on December 11, 2023. The permit application will be available for viewing and copying at Alpine City Hall, 100 North 13th Street, Alpine, Texas prior to the date this notice is published in the newspaper. This link to an electronic map of the site or facility's general location is provided as a public courtesy and not part of the application or notice. For exact location, refer to application.

<https://gisweb.tceq.texas.gov/LocationMapper/?marker=-103.644722,30.398055&level=18>

ADDITIONAL NOTICE. TCEQ's Executive Director has determined the application is administratively complete and will conduct a technical review of the application. After technical review of the application is complete, the Executive Director may prepare a draft permit and will issue a preliminary decision on the application. **Notice of the Application and Preliminary Decision will be published and mailed to those who are on the county-wide mailing list and to those who are on the mailing list for this application. That notice will contain the deadline for submitting public comments.**

PUBLIC COMMENT / PUBLIC MEETING. You may submit public comments or request a public meeting on this application. The purpose of a public meeting is to provide the opportunity to submit comments or to ask questions about the application. TCEQ will hold a public meeting if the Executive Director determines that there is a significant degree of public interest in the application or if requested by a local legislator. A public meeting is not a contested case hearing.

OPPORTUNITY FOR A CONTESTED CASE HEARING. After the deadline for submitting public comments, the Executive Director will consider all timely comments and prepare a response to all relevant and material, or significant public comments. **Unless the application is directly referred for a contested case hearing, the response to comments, and the Executive Director's decision on the application, will be mailed to everyone who submitted public comments and to those persons who are on the mailing list for this application. If comments are received, the mailing will also provide instructions for requesting reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision and for requesting a contested case hearing.** A contested case hearing is a legal proceeding similar to a civil trial in state district court.

TO REQUEST A CONTESTED CASE HEARING, YOU MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS IN YOUR REQUEST: your name, address, phone number; applicant's name and proposed permit number; the location and distance of your property/activities relative to the proposed facility; a specific description of how you would be adversely affected by the facility in a way not common to the general public; a list of all disputed issues of fact that you submit during the comment period and, the statement "[I/we] request a contested case hearing." If the request for contested case hearing is filed on behalf of a group or association, the request must designate the group's representative for receiving future correspondence; identify by name and physical address an individual member of the group who would be adversely affected by the proposed facility or activity; provide the information discussed above regarding the affected member's location and distance from the facility or activity; explain how and why the member would be affected; and explain how the interests the group seeks to protect are relevant to the group's purpose.

Following the close of all applicable comment and request periods, the Executive Director will forward the application and any requests for reconsideration or for a contested case hearing to the TCEQ Commissioners for their consideration at a scheduled Commission meeting.

The Commission may only grant a request for a contested case hearing on issues the requestor submitted in their timely comments that were not subsequently withdrawn. **If a hearing is granted, the subject of a hearing will be limited to disputed issues of fact or mixed questions of fact and law relating to relevant and material water quality concerns submitted during the comment period. TCEQ may act on an application to renew a permit for discharge of wastewater without providing an opportunity for a contested case hearing if certain criteria are met.**

MAILING LIST. If you submit public comments, a request for a contested case hearing or a reconsideration of the Executive Director's decision, you will be added to the mailing list for this specific application to receive future public notices mailed by the Office of the Chief Clerk. In addition, you may request to be placed on: (1) the permanent mailing list for a specific applicant name and permit number; and/or (2) the mailing list for a specific county. If you wish to be placed on the permanent and/or the county mailing list, clearly specify which list(s) and send your request to TCEQ Office of the Chief Clerk at the address below.

INFORMATION AVAILABLE ONLINE. For details about the status of the application, visit the Commissioners' Integrated Database at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/cid. Search the database using the permit number for this application, which is provided at the top of this notice.

AGENCY CONTACTS AND INFORMATION. Public comments and requests must be submitted either electronically at <https://www14.tceq.texas.gov/epic/eComment/>, or in writing to the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality, Office of the Chief Clerk, MC-105, P.O. Box 13087, Austin, Texas 78711-3087. Please be aware that any contact information you provide, including your name, phone number, email address, and physical address will become part of the agency's public record. For more information about this permit application or the permitting process, please call the TCEQ Public Education Program, Toll Free, at 1-800-687-4040 or visit their website at www.tceq.texas.gov/goto/pep. Si desea información en Español, puede llamar al 1-800-687-4040.

Further information may also be obtained from City of Alpine at the address stated above or by calling Mr. Eddie Molinar at 432-837-3301.

Issuance Date: February 20, 2024

Debaters compete at state



Hatfield Cason and his debate partner Ayleen Adame-Ramirez competed at the State XC Debate competition held this past Monday and Tuesday, March 11-12 at the University of Texas at Austin.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR Spotlight
ALEXA RENTERIA

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in Sports Medicine, Marching/Concert Band, Academic UIL, Cross Country, and National Honor Society.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
My favorite teacher is Coach Cason. She has always pushed me to become a greater version of myself and she was someone I felt like I could talk to and rely on. I will definitely miss her!

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
Going to the Caprock Tournament with the other basketball managers was an amazing experience! We became so close and had so much fun. Thanks for the opportunity, coach Hardwick!

What are your plans after high school?
I plan on attending Texas State University in San Marcos, beginning a long journey toward becoming a Physical Therapist.

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Devotional Page To Forgive and Forget

BY REV. BILL COTMAN
First Presbyterian Church of Alpine

There is a biblical passage from Isaiah 43 in which God announces, "My people have eyes & ears, but they cannot see or hear." God goes on to say, "I promised to save you and I kept my promise... Don't worry about the past... I wipe away your sins because of who I am, and I will forget the wrongs you have done". It is from these words that we get the common English idiom: "To Forgive and Forget," but it seems as if its most common use is people saying, "I may forgive but I will never forget."

Forgiving and forgetting is difficult, but according to Isaiah this is the way our Lord forgives; the slate is wiped clean, and we can be assured that despite all our shortcomings, our Creator loves us still. Those of us who follow Jesus know that he calls us to be just as forgiving, but we all hear people who call themselves Christians who do not seem to act this way. Of course, those of us who follow Jesus also know that we are not the judge of anyone else.

There is another biblical prophet, Jonah, who many remember as the man God saved from drowning when he was swallowed by a giant fish, but there is much more to the story. God tells Jonah to go to the city of Ninevah and announce that God has judged them to be wicked. Then, Jonah, acting like a typical human, de-

cidates he does not want the people of Ninevah to have an opportunity to change. Jonah wants God to smite all the people of Ninevah, so, instead of heading there, as God told him, he bought a ticket on a ship going in the opposite direction.

On his journey, a violent storm threatened to break the ship apart, so the desperate sailors started praying to their various gods and threw the cargo overboard trying to save the ship, it's passengers, and themselves. During the awful storm, Jonah was asleep down in the ship's hold. The sleeping Jonah is awakened and asked, "How can you sleep at a time like this? Wake up and pray to your god; maybe he will pay attention and spare our lives". Jonah tells them, "I am a Hebrew, and I worship the Lord, the God of heaven, who made the sea and the land". The sailors are terrified when they hear this because Jonah has already told them that he is running away from the Lord. Jonah tells them to throw him overboard to save themselves.

After the giant fish spits Jonah out on the beach, he gives in and goes to Ninevah. The prophet Jonah eventually did what God wanted, but he was angry that God did not destroy Nineveh. When Jonah realizes that the Lord is not going to destroy the people of Nineveh, he says, "That's just like you, Lord. I knew you wouldn't come through; you are always so kind and merciful." Jonah thought he could show God the right way to keep people in line.

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Buck tennis revs up for district with local matches

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

While the weather rained on the Buck's parade, preventing the tennis team from playing in Andrews on February 29, the junior varsity and varsity Bucks were able to practice their skills in Balmorhea on March 5.

The Andrews Invitational was canceled due to the rain as well, so the Alpine team had to turn around and head back to their own school. However, according to the head tennis coach, Lauren Martinez, the team

used their other play opportunities to improve their skills and make up for the lost time.

"Balmorhea was another great opportunity to practice with nearby teams to help us improve our match play. Valentine also joined us with one of their girl's singles players," Martinez said.

Next up for the junior varsity team is the Reagan County Invitational where the players will be matched up with great competition giving them another opportunity to improve their skills.

The Reagan County

Invitational is scheduled for later this month, on March 21.

The varsity players will travel to Tornillo on March 22 for a tri-meet with Tornillo and Immanuel Baptist from El Paso.

"This is a great opportunity for our varsity players to go up against Tornillo and prepare for the district tournament a month after," said Martinez.

According to Martinez, practices are going smoothly, and they will be back out there next week, after Spring Break.

In other news, the Alpine middle school tennis players have also been performing notably, especially at the recent Fort Stockton match last week. The younger Bucks even brought some medals home, Andynne Ramirez won first place in the eighth-grade girls singles, Abigail Scott and Ryan Hinojos received eighth-grade mixed doubles consolation, and Elisia Markin and Abram Portillo received seventh-grade mixed double consolation.



Vianney Santos perfects her swing during practice early in the season.

Photo by Joh Covington.

Family Crisis Center breaks ground



The Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend broke ground last Friday at their new building. Renovations will begin shortly with local construction company Clayton S. Construction, LLC. Pictured are Dr. Jimmy Case, Clayton Shoot, Clint Weber, Dr. Richard Gluck, Sara Bow-Gluck, Rhonda Cole, Carol Fairlie, Leticia Carrillo, Tona Vega, Naomi Hernandez, and Tamie Neu.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Indians present at History Fair



Fort Davis students Naomi Rashbach and Brooke Trautloff presented their exhibit last week at the Big Bend Regional History Fair. Their project was entitled "The Chernobyl Disaster" and earned them second place which advanced them to state competition.

Courtesy photo

Taste of the outdoors



Sul Ross Professor Dr. Theron Francis took his environmental literature class to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, otherwise known as the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center, for a taste of the outdoors in this wild and rugged area.

Photo by Joh Covington.

Indians headed to bi-district

The Fort Davis UIL One Act Play advanced to bi-district competition after competing at the district level. Several members of the cast and crew were awarded individual honors as well.

Courtesy photo



Local LEOs run in honor of the fallen



Local law enforcement officers from the Alpine Police Department to members of Homeland Security Investigations and DEA participated in a Heroes Run last week in memory of those officers in the U.S. Marshall Service who have fallen in the line of duty.

Photo by Joh Covington



Notice:

Dr. Mark Dwinell's last day of seeing patients at Preventative Care Health Services (dba) Presidio County Health Services, Inc. is April 17, 2024

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Light and bright vegan tacos

I'm the first to admit to being a meat eater. No matter the animal protein, be it beef, chicken, pork, or fish, any and all deserve to be in a taco. But besides animal protein, we usually add in vegetables of some kind.

Normally those veggies include lettuce or cabbage, onions, cilantro possibly, and probably tomatoes. Jalapenos or serrano peppers are fairly common in tacos as well. But what if you



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert



Roasted Cauliflower Tacos

Courtesy photo

your tacos out of beans, why

don't eat animal protein? While I suppose you could whip up some pan-fried tofu, or just make

not try cauliflower?

Cauliflower has become very versatile as a substitute in cooking and recipes these days. It can be found as a substitute for pizza crust, mashed potatoes, and even rice. All those delicious carb-laden delicacies

we tend to like to indulge in. But what about making it the star of your tacos?

Seasoned properly, this relative of cabbage and broccoli can "become" just about anything. And while most varieties we think about are typically white, cauliflower

also comes in orange, purple, and green. So, no matter if you are vegan or not, the warmer temperatures may call for something of lighter fare. These roasted cauliflower tacos may just be what you need to make your Taco Tuesday complete.

Roasted Cauliflower Tacos with Avocado Sauce

Ingredients:
 1 small cauliflower, outer leaves and core discarded and cut into small florets.
 1 pound of red cabbage thinly sliced (about 1/2 a small red cabbage).
 1/4 cup olive oil
 1 teaspoon ground cumin
 1 teaspoon ground coriander
 1 teaspoon kosher salt
 Thinly sliced radishes (optional)
 Sliced jalapenos or serranos (optional)

Sliced avocado (optional)
 Chopped cilantro (optional)
 Corn tortillas
 Limes
For Avocado Sauce:
 1 ripe avocado, peeled, pitted, and roughly chopped
 1 large handful of fresh cilantro, finely chopped
 2 tablespoons fresh lime juice
 3 tablespoons mayonnaise (can use vegan if desired, but use a good mayonnaise)
 1/2 teaspoon kosher salt

Directions:
 Preheat oven to 400 degrees
 Place the cauliflower and cabbage on a large sheet pan (separate pans are ideal). Drizzle with olive oil and sprinkle with cumin, coriander, and salt.
 Use your hands to mix everything together and spread it into an even layer on the pan.
 Roast, stirring every 15 minutes, until vegetables are softened and browned in spots, approximately 45 minutes. (Cauliflower is cooked

for around 25 minutes while cabbage is around 10.)
 Evenly divide the avocado sauce and roasted vegetables among the tortillas. Serve immediately with radishes, peppers, avocado slices, and cilantro if desired.
For Avocado Sauce:
 Place all the ingredients into a food processor and puree until smooth, adding water, slowly if it is too thick, 1/2 tablespoon at a time.
 Season with more salt if needed.

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