

OBITUARIES

Ismael Robledo

July 8, 1932 - March 27, 2024

Ismael Robledo passed away peacefully with his family by his side in San Jose at 91 years of age. He was born in Alpine and was a veteran of the Air Force.

He will be remembered for his remarkable soul, kindness, smile,



and generosity. He was a great listener with a

razor-sharp mind, and we could always count on his impeccable memory to recall dates and names that we couldn't recall.

He was a maestro of melody who strummed the strings and keys of both guitar and accordion with passion. Home was his sanctuary, where his singing filled every room

and the news of MSN-BC, or the timeless tales of his beloved westerns rang throughout. Nothing brought him more joy than receiving Snapchats from his grandchildren, each image a glimpse into their world, followed by a text message or call that never failed to light up his face with his infectious smile.

Ismael is reunited with his beloved wife of 50 years, Marge Robledo; son, Manuel Robledo; and his sweet Schnauzer, Reina in heaven.

He is survived by his children, Ernest Robledo, Lucinda Callaghan (Thomas Prudell), Rita Milazzo (John); and his stepdaughter, Monica Ramos (Kilos); grand-

children, Rachel Ryan (Nick), Lena and Victoria Robledo, Karen Callaghan, Brianna, Marcus and Marissa Milazzo, and Ruben, Rolando, and Rita Ramos; great-grandchildren, Colt, and Palmer Ryan; and grand dogs, Mia Milazzo, Zoey and Tito Callaghan. Private services have been held.

Vicente Vega Urquidez

Vicente Vega Urquidez, loving husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather, left this world on March 31 in his hometown of Alpine. Born in the same town on December 16, 1947, Vicente's legacy will forever be remembered by those whose lives he touched.

In his illustrious career, Vicente worked diligently



for the Santa Fe Railroad, the Texas Highway Department, Sul Ross State Uni-

versity, and even began his journey at the Coca-Cola Company. His dedication and strong work ethic were evident in every role he undertook.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Vicente's true joy came from his family. He was a devoted family man who cherished his time with his beloved wife of 57 years, Margie D. Urquidez, their children Vince, Jude, and Mercedes, as well as

their seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Family meant everything to him.

Known for his love of the outdoors and grilling delicious meals under the open sky, Vicente's passion for cooking outdoors brought smiles to many faces. His warm personality and sense of humor brightened the lives of all who knew him. He will be greatly missed by all who

had the privilege of knowing him.

Among Vicente's proudest accomplishments were being a loving, kind, and funny father; a supportive husband; and a reliable provider for his family. His unwavering love and care created a strong foundation that will continue to guide his family through life.

In addition to his immediate family members mentioned above, Vicente is

also survived by four brothers and one sister who will carry on his memory with love and fondness.

Vicente's presence will be deeply missed but his spirit lives on through the memories shared by those who had the pleasure of knowing him. May he rest in peace knowing he was cherished beyond measure.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Dr. Stillman visits Texas

When I was in graduate school, to make ends meet (sort of), I worked for the Parks Division of Texas Parks & Wildlife. I was assigned to produce a survey history of a new State Historic Park, Fort Lancaster. One of the most isolated and desolate posts in Texas, Fort Lancaster, 1855-1861, was in the Pecos River valley near Live Oak Creek.

As opposed to most of the other frontier forts built to protect the Overland Trail to California, no civilian settlement grew up to enliven a larger community. The garrison itself never numbered more than one hundred men, and often near half that number. The troops were assigned the duty of protecting the road and as infantry, they had no real ability to pursue the Apaches who called the region home.

Recently I was asked to present a paper at the annual meeting of the Oregon-California Trails Association, through the Southern Trail Association, a subset of the larger organization. I chose as my topic one of those unknown, but interesting and important figures in the history of the American West, Doctor Jacob D.B. Stillman. A man possessed of considerable wanderlust, in 1855 Stillman decided to visit Texas, a place he thought "inhabited by an Elysium of rogues." He had an agreement to publish a report of his adventures with the New York "Crayon," at the time a leading journal of landscape art.

By happenstance, Stillman found himself at Fort Lancaster in October 1855 just at the time the post commander, Captain Stephen Carpenter needed a doctor. Knowing the conditions on the frontier, the Army allowed him to employ a civilian doctor if necessary. Stillman was his man, and the two became friends.

While Stillman had numerous adventures while



FIDDLER'S GREEN
by Larry Francell

at Lancaster, his most poignant observations were directed at the methods the Army used to deal with the Apaches, methods that obviously did not work. Those observations are worth recounting. Writing first of the dilemma of foot soldiers pursuing some of the best horsemen in the world, Stillman wrote, "What can they do without horses, against these Arabs of the American desert? As well might dragons be used as marines on the deck of a frigate. I have every reason to be proud as an American of the character of our Army officers."

Stillman placed the blame fully at the feet of the Secretary of War, writing "Their very energy is crippled by the necessity of conforming to orders, in so many ways, that they can accomplish nothing." He then critiques the Army's style of the chase, as it were. "What can be expected when an officer is sent with a company of

riflemen when they are sent with a long train of wagons, which can barely carry forage for their own mules' consumption thundering over the road and their progress announced with the flourish of trumpets." Stillman knew of what he wrote for several times during his stay he accompanied troops into the field.

Eventually, Stillman returned to New York but soon settled in California where he had two other important encounters with history. Establishing a farm near Redlands, he imported grape vines from France and Italy, becoming instrumental in creating the California wine industry. He was also involved in one of the most famous arguments of the day: does a running horse at some point have all four hooves off the ground? The railroad magnate, politician, and financier Leland Stanford, for whom the university is named, employed Stillman and Eadweard Muybridge to resolve the argument. Muybridge developed the multi-stop action camera for which he became rightly famous. While Muybridge took the photographs, Stillman studied the physiology of the horse and together they published "The Horse in Motion," proving Stanford's position that, in fact, a running horse leaves the ground.

Sul Ross to host ag career development

The College of Agriculture, Life, and Physical Science at Sul Ross State University will host 114 regional members of 4-H and Future Farmers of America who will compete in six separate career development events on Thursday, April 4.

The participants represent 10 different high school FFA chapters and four county 4-H clubs. The CDEs are facilitated by Sul Ross faculty, students, and community volunteers. Events and associated superintendents include Applied Agricultural Engineer-

ing, Dr. Eric Busby; Environmental and Natural Resources, Eliana Dykehouse; Horse Evaluation, Luke Hendryx; Range Plant ID, Dr. Bonnie Warnock; Veterinary Science, Dr. Jamie Boyd; and Wildlife and Recreation Management, Dr. Ryan Luna.

Additionally, students enrolled in the Agricultural Leadership course taught by Dr. Carl Igo, are providing assistance and coordination for each CDE. Student coordinators include Jackson Carroll, Corbin Dube, Lucas Dunand, Nicholas Hinojosa, Sara LeB-

lanc, Julia McMillin, and Yancy Perkins, who have been working with the various event superintendents to secure equipment, materials, animals, and volunteers.

While specific contests have varied, data shows that Sul Ross has hosted this opportunity for intermediate and secondary students since the 1950s, though this is the first year for Applied Agricultural Engineering and Environmental and Natural Resources.

For more information email carl.igo@sulross.edu or call 432-837-8260.

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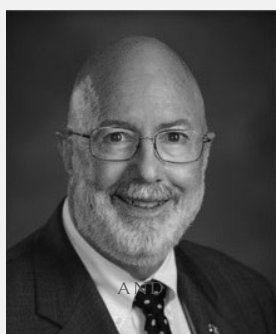
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LIGHT REFRESHMENTS

Safety tips for watching the solar eclipse in Texas

Texans should start preparing for the April 8 event

BY BROOKE MCDONALD
Contributing Writer

The total solar eclipse is a large-scale natural phenomenon that Texans have not seen since 2017. Something so rare and intriguing is one that will certainly draw the attention of people far and wide within the coming weeks, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

As people begin to make plans to travel across the state for eclipse-watching events, AgriLife Extension's Disaster Assessment Recovery, DAR, unit, along with state emergency preparedness officials, urges individuals to be mindful of increased traffic and resources leading up to and the day of the event. Bryan Davis, AgriLife Extension DAR area chief South Region, Seguin, said more than 1 million visitors are expected to flock to areas along the eclipse path. Populations in some small towns and rural counties are expected to

balloon into the hundreds of thousands of people. "Because there will be such a sudden influx of much higher volumes of people and traffic, we want to make sure everyone is thinking about the little things that will help make this a good experience," he said. "We want residents to be prepared for visitors, and we want the visitors to be prepared for locations and situations they may be unfamiliar with."

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, the moon will start to block the sun along its track around noon on April 8 and will be visible for up to four minutes and 25 seconds in optimal viewing locations in Texas. While the timing of the event may be relatively short, safety measures for the event are strongly recommended for viewers everywhere.

It is inevitable, with a natural phenomenon of this caliber, that people from far and wide will make the trek to parts of

the state to experience optimal viewing of the total solar eclipse. With that in mind, Davis recommends a few ways for residents to prepare for the big event. Anticipate higher traffic on highways and increased crowds in tourist destinations and hotels, schedule errands and appointments in advance of April 8, and fuel up gas tanks and stock up on essential groceries beforehand.

Along with the need for anticipating large crowds gathering across the state, Davis suggests Texas should also anticipate and plan for other delays including expecting decreased cellular service in highly populated areas and having multiple forms of communication, expecting potential delays in supply chains and deliveries, know local business hours, as some may close early during the eclipse, and check the weather forecast beforehand.

Davis also suggests specific items that will be

important to bring with you should you attend an eclipse-watching event.

Bring eclipse viewing glasses that meet ISO standards, carry plenty of drinking water, a first-aid kit, and any necessary medications. Pack food and snacks, comfortable clothing, and chairs for comfort during the viewing. Bring cash in case online payment systems may become unavailable and bring bug spray repellent.

Finding the right location to view the eclipse safely is another thing viewers should consider, Davis said.

Identifying prime viewing spots can be done by consulting the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's state park viewing locations. Note the specific times when the eclipse will be visible in your viewing area, be mindful of wildlife including snakes and other animals or insects, like fire ants, and ticks that may be present in rural settings. Be aware of and respect private property lines, including fences, to avoid trespass.

Farron Sultemeier, DAR agent for District 18A, Fredericksburg, said this event is truly special and one people should prepare for but also remember to enjoy. Sultemeier said he hopes crowds gathering for the eclipse are respectful to the locations they visit and their fellow viewers. Trash dumpsters have been added to public viewing areas, but Sultemeier said it is important for visitors to adhere to the outdoor ethics principle, "leave no trace." Sultemeier said Texans should have time to prepare for the event and

that should make for an overall great day to watch this total solar eclipse. By following safety and preparedness tips, people across the state can make the most of this experience while staying safe and well-prepared. "It is good to remember this event is important to so many people because of how very rare it is," Sultemeier said. "We have visitors traveling into our state from all over the world. They are looking to find a place that has some open space for viewing with limited light interruption."



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Planning for area Fourth of July celebrations

The Alpine Community Projects group gathered outside the Brewster County courthouse last Wednesday afternoon to discuss the plans and responsibilities for the Fourth of July celebrations. For about the last 50 years, the Kiwanis Club of Alpine has organized Alpine's celebrations, the parade, the town gathering, and fireworks. This year many groups are jumping in to take on the weight with the Kiwanis, volunteers like the Lion's Club, Our Lady of Peace Guadalupanas, Knights of Columbus, Historic Alpine, Alpine Volunteer Fire Department, and the Alpine Women's Club.

Photo by Joh Covington



Sul Ross to host rural health career camp

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Sul Ross State University (SRSU) in collaboration with the Texas Tech Health Science Center (TTHSC), Odessa College (OC), and the University of Texas of the Permian Basin (UTPB) will host a rural health career summer camp. This three-day camp is geared toward rural high school students as well as beginning college students looking at a healthcare career.

According to Dr. Adrian Billings with the TTHSC, this camp is an attempt to replicate a program out of Illinois that is based on rural healthcare.

"Because I have served in the Big Bend area, and because rural healthcare across the nation is sometimes so limited, we wanted to set up a program to introduce rural healthcare to young adults seeking a career in this discipline. Our goal is to showcase as many aspects as we can from associate degrees all the way to MDs," said Billings.

The camp will cover three days, is overnight, and will begin June 5 and conclude on June 7. Admission is free but limited to 20 rural area students. Registration begins at 1 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5.

The camp will include interactive groups, guest speakers, community and experienced professionals, and students will get the opportunity to experience what living on a college campus is like. On day three (June 7), the camp will be open to the public and will be more of a rural health fair. Higher education entities such as Howard College in Big Spring, San Angelo State

University, and Southwest Texas Junior College will be on hand to answer questions for the community or prospective students about what healthcare opportunities they have to offer towards a rural healthcare career.

"I really hope our area kids take advantage of this opportunity because the field of healthcare is so vast that I believe more students would take a greater interest in this discipline if they knew all of the options available to them," Billings added.

For more information on the rural careers health camp contact PBRCE@TTHUSC.EDU

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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

His patients may:

- Remain as a patient at PCHS and be referred to another practicing provider at this clinic. Make an appointment with Dr. Patrick Daly, Dr. Emily Sliz, Tyler Zher, PA, William Mason-FNP and Jose Soto, FNP today.
- Obtain your medical records from this office.
- Request a medical records transfer release to another health care provider.

Aviso:

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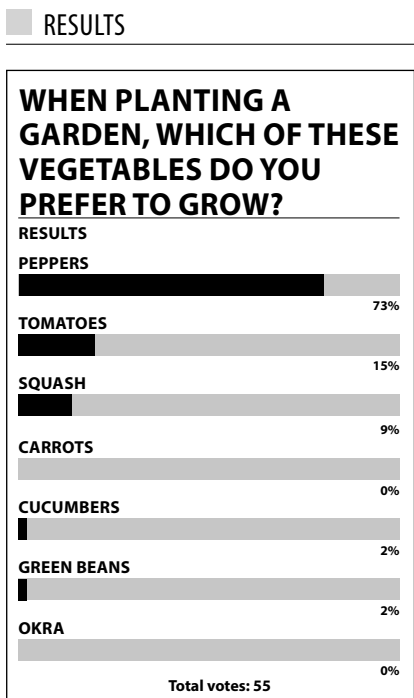
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- Obtenga sus registros médicos de esta oficina.
- Solicitar una liberación de transferencia de registros médicos a otro proveedor de atención médica.

Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

When planting a garden, which of these vegetables do you prefer to grow?

- Peppers
- Tomatoes
- Squash
- Carrots
- Cucumbers
- Green beans
- Okra

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.

STAFF

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

Kara Gerbert
Managing Editor
kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

Joh Covington
Staff Writer
joh.covington@alpineavalanche.com

Shelley Maroney
Office Manager
shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

432-837-3334

www.AlpineAvalanche.com

Facebook: Alpine Avalanche

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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.



The Bucks start here

Over the last two months, staff at Alpine Elementary have been hard at work designing and leading a culture shift on behalf of the children of Alpine. Why? Because, as Alpine Elementary's motto states, The Bucks Start Here.



DR. MICHELLE RINEHART
Superintendent,
Alpine ISD

What does that mean? It means that the character traits we associate with Alpine Fightin' Bucks – honesty, respect, responsibility, compassion, fairness, and accountability – are intentionally fostered at all levels of our public school system. We start teaching and training these traits in our Pre-kindergarten programs, helping our students hone these skills throughout their time as Alpine Bucks.

When people think about what schools teach, they often think about reading, writing, mathematics, the arts, and related content areas. However, we also explicitly and unabashedly teach

our children how to be good people, how to work hard, how to self-regulate, how to care for others, and how to lead. In this way, schools partner with parents to raise our community's children in the ways they should go.

A group of teachers and campus leaders at Alpine Elementary have leaned into this work this spring, designing a campus-wide expectations program that launched at AES this week. This program represents a structured, nurturing, corrective approach that trains students to act with integrity, communicate respectfully, and maximize their learning using consistent routines, procedures, and communication in order to create a positive and productive learning environment.

By design, this program is corrective, not punitive, meaning that it is focused on helping students hone their self-regulation and

discipline skills. When students come to school and they don't yet know how to read, how does a school respond? We teach them how to read, helping them learn those critically important skills that will serve them throughout their lives.

Similarly, how should a school respond if students come to school and they don't yet know how to self-regulate, respond to adversity or frustration, or discipline themselves? We will teach them these critically important skills, as well.

Discipline is not an inherent personality trait that you are born with. Rather, it's a character skill set that can be developed over time. Developing discipline isn't about becoming compliant; actually, it's just the opposite. Many of our greatest leaders have incredible levels of discipline that they have honed over time, and this skill set has allowed them to maximize their potential in ways they might never have imagined.

This is what we want for every child of Alpine: the skills that help

them maximize their potential.

The AES Campus Expectations Committee has crafted a vision for campus-wide expectations that will help students develop these skills. They've spelled out these expectations in great detail, building a system that is focused on being fair, firm, and consistent. They've also designed and launched a campus-wide incentive program where students earn "Buck Bucks" currency for exceeding the campus' high expectations.

We're excited to see how our students thrive within this program over the coming months and into the next school year. This work matters because it helps students act with integrity, communicate respectfully, and maximize their learning, all of which are critical components of what it means to be a Buck.

At Alpine Elementary, we're blessed that The Bucks Start Here, and we're honored to help our students build the discipline skills that will serve them well as Bucks and throughout their lives.

Remembering the Hunt County haunted house

"Bells started ringin' and chains rattled loud, I knew I'd moved in a haunted house."

— 'Haunted House' song lyrics, recorded by Jumping Gene Simmons 1964.

The old house was charming, even in stages of ruin. An elegant two-story with dormers. Paint gone so long that it was impossible to tell what color it might have been. Probably white. Nearly all houses were painted white the last time this one enjoyed any. Weathered gray boards hung from the eaves. Some by a nail and a miracle. Broken windows allowed remnants of curtains to wave in the wind. Birds freely flew in and out.

A front porch larger than whole homes today once spanned the front. But it had fallen in, leaving the front door chest-high to most wanting to venture inside. Still, it was easy to envision a time when it was a gathering place. Evenings in rocking chairs. Talking about the spring garden or the neighbor's cows across the road. Listening to doves cooing. And singing "Blessed Assurance" together. Like my grandparents did. Before television.

What was left of someone's country home sat off an oiled country road amid knee-high grass and weeds. For a quarter mile in either direction in rural Hunt County, Texas, a few miles outside of Commerce, no other house or any sign of life existed.

I was in the house twice: once for educational endeavors and once during a temporary lapse of good judgment.

The first was a class assignment. I was doing time at East Texas State University at the end of the 1960s and the beginning of the 1970s. Left there with a degree in psychology and art. Graduated short of Magna Cum Laude, closer to "Laudie How Come."

Today, the school goes by the name of Texas A&M at Commerce.

Visiting the derelict dwelling one spring afternoon was part of learning oil painting techniques in Professor Karl Umlauf's class.

Yes, the same Karl Umlauf, whose work today is found in more than 40 museums and public collections, including the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, the Modern Museum of Art in New York City, and the Dallas Museum of Art.

His assignment was for young minds to find inspiration in the old house worthy of capturing on canvas.

Many set up easels around the outside and began capturing the structure's aging essence in oils. I found my muse inside, looking through massive windows from huge rooms with 12-foot ceilings.

Applying paint to canvas, I daydreamed of what life through the long-gone glass looked like over the decades. My completed masterpiece resembled an East Texas rural setting. Trees, fences, flowers, and crumbling front porch columns. All framed by the window openings from where I stood. Done and headed back to cam-



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

pus, I had no way of knowing the old house, and I was not through making memories.

I am trying to remember how that next meeting developed. It's miraculous how the brain protects us, deleting total recall of youth's stupidity.

What I do recall is winding up in a carload of guys one night with nothing better to do than "check out this old, haunted house." Other cohorts from my hometown of Mount Pleasant matriculating at ETSU may or may not have been involved. I'm not saying until I've confirmed the statute of limitations.

When headlights hit the old house, I thought, "I've been here before." It differed from daylight, looking like an old house in decline. In the dark, it looked like something straight out of a midnight movie horror flick at the Martin Theater in downtown Mount Pleasant.

Then some idiot said, "Let's have some fun."

An hour later, we were back, leading a carload of unsuspecting victims. All corralled at the Sonic back in town, they were dared to check out a haunted house. "Unless you're chicken!"

Two refused to get out of the car on the spot. "Y'all go ahead, we're good."

After climbing to reach the front door from what used to be the porch, we stood in the two-story foyer, illuminated only by moonlight.

This is as good a time as any to define, "Let's have some fun." Two "plants" remained at the house while we went to town looking for suckers.

The group moved slowly toward the staircase leading to a landing at the top that overlooked the foyer. About two steps up the creaking stairs, one of the planted "haints" shuffled out of an upstairs bedroom in the darkness, a flashlight under his chin. Moaning, "Who is in my house?" On that cue, the other co-conspirator echoed similar sounds from the downstairs hallway.

Unsuspecting victims made a mad rush for the front door. The leader left the building in full stride. Completely forgetting there was no front porch. And that the ground was five feet below the door. The rest was a scramble of bodies knocking down anyone blocking the path to preservation.

We watched as taillights disappeared in a cloud of dust, dimly illuminating shadows of those still trying to climb through car windows.

Surprisingly, everyone survived. Not surprisingly, however, some never spoke to us again.

Sadly, only memories remain of my oil painting. An unfortunate victim of improper storage in later years.

The old "haunted house" is also long gone, I'm sure. But memories remain of my good, bad, and ... uh, otherwise episodes at the haunted house in Hunt County.

More than 50 years ago.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

To be "Woke"

What is "Woke"? If you ask the self-proclaimed "Woke" they may say it's their awareness of social injustices and a need to work against them. Under the guise of "Woke," they accept corruption of the DOJ, Judges, Criminal Courts, and the Military. Under the pretense of "Progressive,"

they promote Marxism, election fraud, and illegal migration while attacking the First and Second Amendments. "Wokesters" denounce Jews and Christians while supporting violent terrorists. They promote family divisions with immoral education advocating sexualized children and racial divides. "Progressives" support euthanasia, and sexual

mutilation of children, and defend more than a thousand daily abortions. The legal use of harmful drugs is another "Woke" agenda. Their "Progressive" leaders have weakened the U.S. with appeasement to its enemies, climate change nonsense, open borders, and mass printing of inflationary dollars. "Woke" Politicians demonize millions of

Americans who point out their harmful actions. "Wokesters" distort language, as depicted in Orwellian Newspeak, to defend their indefensible schemes. To rephrase Ronald Reagan, "The trouble with 'Wokesters' isn't that they're ignorant, it's that their agendas are bogus and harmful."

James R. Le Blanc
Fort Davis



Heard on the STREET

Do you have any "spring cleaning" tips?



Mary Ahn: Declutter first. Go through each room and decide what to keep or throw away and you'll have less to clean.



Maria Gonzalez: I create a checklist for each room that I keep in the room so that I can check off each task. It's very satisfying.



Justin Goodman: Don't forget to clean your air filters.



Jurie Burger: Before I start a deep clean if the weather is nice, my first thing to do is open a bunch of windows.



Corbin Benson: My spring cleaning is for the garage. I use boxes to throw things into and then organize each box later if I am lucky.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

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

April 13 Old Sheriff Museum Ribbon Cutting, 11 a.m. at Old Jail in Fort Davis, the Old Sheriff Museum and Research Center will hold their official ribbon cutting at 102 W. Woodward Ave. Tours, and visits with regional law enforcement officials as well as regional county government officials along with food will be available until 2 p.m.

April 26 Friday Night Lights Jackpot, 6 p.m. Sul Ross SALE Arena including barrel racing, breakaway



roping, and team roping. All entries are cash only. NIRA rules in all events except for youth breakaway.

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 meet-

ing, 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 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 Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Exercise Classes, at Sunshine

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

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

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

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

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

Easter egg fun



Zandolyn Welch poses for a picture with the Easter Bunny after the annual Kiwanis easter egg hunt held on Saturday morning.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Gonzales meets with area officials



Congressman Tony Gonzales met with local area law enforcement, EMS, fire, and county officials Tuesday morning in Fort Davis at a roundtable to discuss the need for a regional Fire and EMS center.

Photo by Joh Covington

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Bon Bon. She can be your walking, running, and hiking companion. She is a young, female heeler mix. When she came to the shelter she was shy, but quickly blossomed into a social girl who loves people and playing with her bestie Milo. She loves water and going for a run, and she would make a great adventure companion.

If you are looking for a unique experience, consider attending our next fundraiser.

Messages from the Rainbow Bridge will be happening on Saturday, April 6 with Sara Cash. Sara is a social worker, grief therapist, and Reiki practitioner. She will use her mediumship gifts to relay messages of love and healing from our departed pets to a select group of participants. Call 432-837-2535 for advance tickets. Seating is limited.

Look for AHS at Spirits

of the West on April 19 and 20.

Looking to foster or volunteer? Call 432-837-2532.

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 p.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For more information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the shelter at 432-837-9030.

The Alpine Human Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine. It is open from 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.alpin-humane-society.org and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



Restaurant Guide

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

ESPRESSO... Y POCO MAS

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

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

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

CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll • Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers • Carne Asado with Reato's Cheese Enchiladas • Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries • Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce • Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

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

1-14 Prescribed by Secretary of State Sections 4.004, 83.010, 85.004, 85.007, Texas Election Code 9/2023

NOTICE OF GENERAL ELECTION FOR MUNICIPALITIES AVISO DE ELECCIÓN GENERAL PARA MUNICIPIOS

To the registered voters of the County of Brewster, City of Alpine, Texas:

(A los votantes registrados del Condado de Brewster, Ciudad de Alpine, Texas)

Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., May 4, 2024 for voting in a general election to elect:

City Council Member Ward 4

(Notifíquese por la presente, que los sitios de votación citados abajo se abrirán desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 4 de mayo para votar en la elección general para elegir

Miembro del consejo distrito 4

On Election Day, voters must vote in the precinct where registered to vote, unless the countywide polling place program is being used in the election.

(El Día de Elección, los votantes deberán votar en el precinto donde están inscritos para votar, a menos que el programa de sitios de votación del condado se está utilizando en la elección.)

Location of Election Day Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios de votación el Día de Elección) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Precinct Number(s) (Número de precinto)
City Council Chambers 803 West Holland Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830	Ward 4 Distrito 4

During early voting, a voter may vote at any of the locations listed below:
(Durante Votación Adelantada, los votantes podrán votar en cualquiera de los sitios de votación nombradas abajo.)

Location of Main Early Voting Polling Place Include Name of Building and Address (Sitio principal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
City Council Chambers 803 West Holland Avenue Alpine, Texas 79830	Weekdays, April 22, 2024 – April 30, 2024 Entre Semana, 22 de abril 2024 – 30 de abril 2024 8:00am – 5:00pm

Locations for Branch Early Voting Polling Places Include Name of Building and Address (Sitios sucursal de votación adelantada) (Incluir Nombre del Edificio y Dirección)	Days and Hours of Operation Días y Horas Hábiles
None.	None

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
(Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán enviarse a:)

Geoffrey R. Calderon
Name of Early Voting Clerk
(Nombre del Secretario(a) de la Votación Adelantada)

100 N. 13th Street, Alpine, Texas 79830
Address (Dirección)

Alpine, Texas 79830
City (Ciudad) Zip Code (Código Postal)

(432) 837-3301, Option 1
Telephone Number (Número de teléfono)

city.secretary@cityofalpine.com
Email Address (Dirección de Correo Electrónico)

www.cityofalpine.com
Early Voting Clerk's Website (Sitio web del Secretario(a) de Votación Adelantada)

Applications for Ballots by Mail (ABBMs) must be received no later than the close of business on: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votarán adelantada por correo deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

April 23, 2024.
23 de abril 2024.

Federal Post Card Applications (FPCAs) must be received no later than the close of business on: (La Tarjeta Federal Postal de Solicitud deberán recibirse no más tardar de las horas de negocio el:)

April 23, 2024.
23 de abril 2024.

Issued this 2nd day of APRIL, 2024
(day) (month) (year)

(Emitida este día 2 de abril, 2024)
(día) (mes) (año)

Anthony Jones
Signature of Mayor (Firma del Alcalde)

Everyone's looking for something. Find what you need in the Avalanche Classifieds.

Offensive plays in the infield



Alpine's Peyton Tays attempts a bunt in last week's game against the Stanton Buffaloes.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

AVFD • FROM 1

the board's account happened between July and December of 2023 when the city, county, and grant funds came in.

Wood questioned why there seemed to be no action regarding the Rural Services Grant that was received to purchase hoses and other equipment in which Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) Chief Andrew Pierce said he had not received a purchase order to proceed with the buying of the equipment. Chairman Loeffler remarked that he had given a PO to Pierce, but Pierce did not recall receiving one. Stephanie Elmore said that she could re-issue the PO and Loeffler pointed out to Pierce that this needed to be done immediately.

Wood also notified the board that she had formerly applied for the Yarbrough Foundation Grant which the AVFD could benefit from. "This grant is a \$15,000 grant and can be used to purchase equipment or be used in various capacities for the department, as there are no limitations as to what the money may be

used for if received," said Wood. Pierce noted that the department had received money from the Yarbrough Foundation in the past.

In the chairman's report, Loeffler reported to the board that preventive maintenance was being done on equipment and that what is currently being worked on was going to be paid for out of the Brewster County budget according to information he received from Brewster County Judge Greg Henington. A list of items that needed to be addressed was being made and would be attended to in order of priority.

In the secretary's report, the only information Rusty Moore had for the board was that he had spoken with Congressman Tony Gonzales and that he would be holding some town halls, one of which would be in Fort Davis on Tuesday, April 2 at 9:10 a.m. where he would be addressing all area fire departments.

Next on the agenda was a report from AVFD Chief Pierce. Pierce reported that four members of AVFD had completed

and passed the Emergency Vehicle Operation Course (EVOC) that was put on in Terlingua. Pierce also told the board that all, but two members had completed their Incident Command System (ICS) training, and that those two individuals were working to complete that at the time of the meeting. Judge Henington had given the department a deadline of Monday, April 1 to have the ICS training complete. Pierce also told the board that they were working toward all 27 members of the AVFD certified in EVOC training.

In other news, Pierce told the board that he had applied for grants that would supply drinking water for the AVFD during this year's fire season and that Lowe's had donated a pallet or 84 cases of bottled water to the department as well. He also mentioned that he had compiled a quote sheet for First-Aid kits for the units that were not command units so that if for some reason a command unit was not immediately available, the other units would have a function-

ing First-Aid kit aboard in case they were needed. He presented this quote to Loeffler. Loeffler also requested an inventory of all gear, such as suits, helmets, bottles, and breathing apparatuses, and what they were used for, if they were in good enough shape to respond to emergencies, or if they were just used for training purposes on site.

Finally, Pierce told the board that he met with the new manager of the solar farm, just East of Alpine on Hwy 67 and that the manager had requested that the AVFD come out and train at the property for any possible incidences that might occur on that site. He also told the board that the manager requested all EMS and area law enforcement come out as well.

After Pierce's report, Loeffler jumped to item 11 on the agenda, to set the next meeting date for the AESB. The date for the next regular meeting of the AESB was set for May 23 at 5:30 p.m. before the board adjourned to enter into executive session.

COUNCIL • FROM 1

second week of April to be National Public Safety Telecommunications Week.

In other news, two members of the board of the Alpine Country Club were present at the meeting and shared plans for the club's water project, designed to get the golf course to use more affluent water and be less dependent on the city water.

After their recent audit, the club was found to no longer be able to be designated as a non-profit, as more of their income comes from non-members now than club members, as opposed to their original business model.

The board members shared that the course will not be making a profit this year, as the cost will put them in the red, and they are uncertain as to how the water project will be undertaken. Council member Rick Stephens and citizen Rudy Losoya both offered their aid and expertise to make the project possible.

Council member Chris Rodriguez, Ward 2 said, "I hope you take advantage of their offer to help. That's the only way things will get done. I think it is a great show of how people get together and make things happen."

The council approved four action items during the meeting; the installation of an additional three-way stop sign located at the intersec-

tion of North Hancock Drive and Avenue B, the \$1 increase for both the children and adult day passes to the Alpine municipal swimming pool and approving the letter of intent to apply for the "Drinking Water State Revolving Fund." The fund is for replacing lead and copper service water lines and is a 51% grant and 49% no-interest loan.

Last but not least, the court approved the hire of Robert Ruckes as the new building official. Ruckes was present for this meeting and stepped forward to speak with the council. Rodriguez asked Ruckes if he planned to remain in the area, and he responded that family was his reason for being here and that wasn't going to change in the foreseeable future. Ruckes has an extensive history in the Marine Corps and local plumbing businesses in Alpine.

"I am very impressed with your resume; I think great things are to come. Thank you for applying to the position," said Eaves.

The only action that wasn't approved was the ordinance to amend the official zoning map to reflect the property located at 708 S. Cactus St. as a C-1A zone instead of an R-4, the action received no motion.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, April 16.

HOY • FROM 1

back to Texas full-time in 1993 and took a job in Austin. Although he was working within the discipline of his degree, he was not satisfied. He was offered the opportunity to obtain another degree in the biological sciences at Texas State University in San Marcos when he came across and applied for a job with TxDOT and became the supervisor of the Judge Roy Bean Museum and Visitor Center in Langtry, where in 2015 he moved to Sanderson. This allowed him to be closer to Big Bend in a timelier manner than the degree pathway offered.

In October 2018, Hoy was able to officially begin Big Bend Birding and Photo Tours full-time and moved to Fort Davis. In 2023 he merged his company with Wild Side Nature Tours which he is still with today.

"My dream, to be a nature and wildlife photographer has become so much bigger than I ever imagined. It is one thing to dream of a job like this and it is another to make it a reality. Since I began this journey full-time in 2018 up until now, I have had the opportunity to photograph nature and wildlife on six continents," Hoy said.

His merger with Wild Side Nature Tours keeps Hoy on the road and in the air over 200 days

a year, leading photo workshops across the globe as their senior photography workshop instructor in places like the Galapagos Islands, Zambia, South Africa, The Amazon, Yellowstone National Park, and the Grand Tetons as well as wildlife refuges in Florida and Texas and other states.

Some of the more challenging moments in his career include shooting puffins on top of a cliff in the Faroe Islands with 40-plus mph winds, being charged by an elephant in Africa, being chased by a bison, shooting a raining downpour in Alaska, shooting in Yellowstone in -45 degrees, close lightning bolts in Big Bend, and being bitten by an anaconda in the Amazon.

Besides his photo workshops, Hoy also submits occasionally to Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and he's a regular contributor to the Journal of Wildlife Photography. He leads classes and teaches for Precision Camera and Video out of Austin and Houston, and he also has created a YouTube channel where he discusses the merits of the OM-System, formerly Olympus of which he is an ambassador, but his true love is being in the field and teaching others how to create stunning images.

"Out of all my accomplishments with my photography career, the one thing that I wish is that my grandparents were alive to be able to see one of the cover photos I've

submitted to the Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine and have it come to their house. That magazine was such a huge part of my childhood when spending time with them, and that is the one thing that I wish they could have seen me accomplish," Hoy relayed.

The one thing Hoy hopes his students gain from his workshops or those who are just embarking into the world of photography is not to be afraid of failure. "If you want to be a great photographer, embrace the failure. You will learn more from that than from your successes. Celebrate your successes sure but learn from your failures and be willing to accept criticism and learn how to become better at your craft," Hoy concluded.

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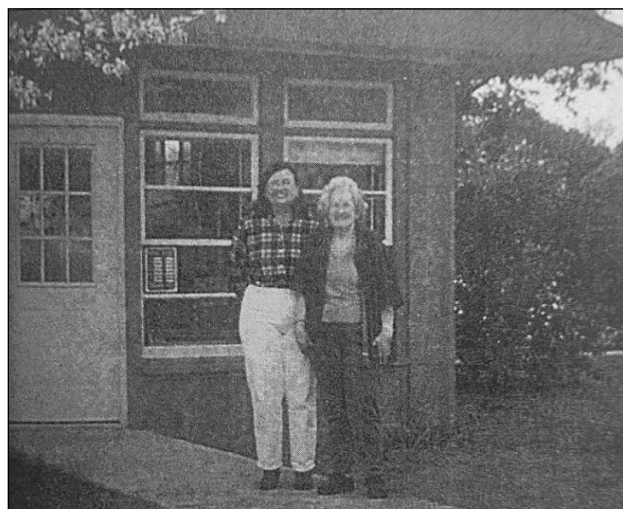
LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche

April 8, 2004

On April 1, the Marathon Public Library welcomed a new library assistant, Jackie Malone on the left. On the right is Eula Mae Colmenero who is the current assistant.



April 8, 2004

A Sul Ross student is seen here trying to relax by lounging on one of the campus walls outside the SRSU admin building.



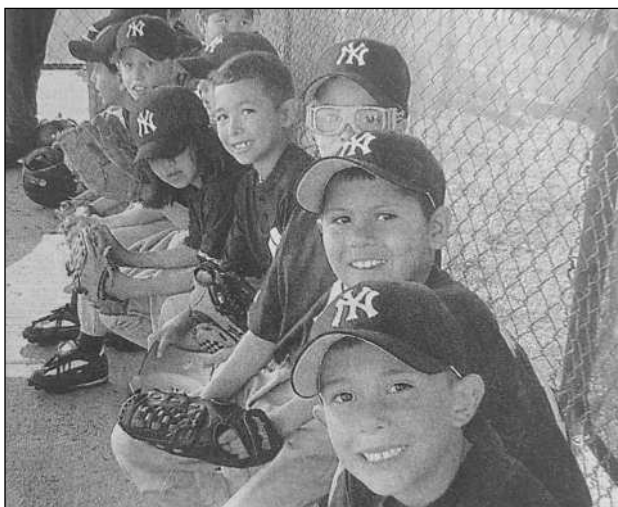
April 8, 2004

Alpine community members band together to help in the cleanup for the Adopt-a-Highway program on Saturday.



April 8, 2004

The Minor League Yankees were all smiles at the Big Bend Little League opening day on Saturday.



Tomato cages are good for developing fruit

Dear Neil: I learned to garden by watching my grandfather. He used to tie his tomato stems to a heavy stake with strips of cloth. He removed all the side branches and kept his plants very tidy. Is that a better way to raise tomatoes than the cages we see today?

Vegetable specialists recommend caging tomatoes for several good reasons. First, it keeps developing fruit off the ground so pillbugs and other chewing pests can't get to them as easily. The side branches, often called "suckers," also produce fruit, and they act to shade all of the fruit as it matures. That reduces sunscald and cracking. You can also wrap cages with frost cloth anytime that it's cold, and in the spring when it's windy. The wrap reduces insect populations and keeps the young plants growing in slightly warmer conditions. But to be effective, your cages need to be four or five feet tall and 18 or 20 inches in diameter. Concrete reinforcing wire works perfectly if you can find a hardware store that

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

will sell you partial rolls. Dear Neil: For years we have had liriopie around all our flowerbeds as well as half our backyard where grass won't grow. In the past five years, the liriopie will come out, but after a couple of months it turns yellow, and the leaves die. Some comes back the next year, but the cycle is repeated. Any suggestions?

A photo might have helped. I wonder if you might be experiencing liriopie leaf and crown rot caused by the soil-borne fungus Phytophthora palmivora. Some may recognize Phytophthora as

being the cause of seedling loss called "damping off" where the stems die at ground level soon after germination. Liriopie leaves rot right at the soil line, and it's most common in spring and early summer following cool, moist springs. I have experienced this with the liriopie cultivar "Silvery Sunproof." The disease started at one end of my planting and worked its way to the other end. Green selections are also hit by it, although in my experience, less often. I also lost a bed of dwarf mondograss to it. I have not seen it either regular mondograss. LSU has the best write-up on the disease and dealing with it. Google "Louisiana Plant Pathology Leaf and Crown Rot of Liriopie" and you should find a fact sheet by E.J. Butler. This is a bothersome disease. If that's what you have, good luck with it.

Dear Neil: I live in a part of Texas where I can grow

Meyer lemon outdoors. I protect it when it gets really cold. It has produced fruit regularly each year. My peach tree is about 30 feet away. The lemon is covered in bees, but the peach has none. The peach has only borne one fruit in recent years. You can see them blooming in my photos. Why the difference?

Peach flowers (at least of the common fruit-producing varieties) typically have light pink blooms with five petals. This looks like one of the

double-flowering ornamental types. They do bear fruit occasionally, but that's not why we usually grow them. And they require a second peach variety somewhere nearby for best pollination. I'm not an expert on this specific topic, but I wonder if bees are put off by peach flowers with a lot of extra petals. Entry may be difficult for them.

Dear Neil: My arborists (a recognized national company) are recommending that my oak trees be fertilized even though they

are in great shape. Is that a good suggestion?

I would think so. We don't necessarily apply fertilizer just to get a sick tree well again. We want to keep them healthy and vigorous, and proper nourishment is an important part of that process. Sounds like what a doctor would say to us, doesn't it?

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 Texas amateur radio operator (2 wds.)
 - 5 TXism: "a sheep in wolves clothes"
 - 6 this Texas Speaker was a great center fielder
 - 7 seat of Jackson County
 - 8 TXism: "that ___ won't drill" (differ)
 - 9 who TX Jeannie C. Riley "socked it to"
 - 12 TX Tommy Lee Jones won one for "The Fugitive"
 - 17 in Andrews County on U.S. 385
 - 19 TXism: "couldn't fight his way out of ___ bag"
 - 21 Zagreb is this country's capital
 - 22 the ___ Bend Reservoir is near Hemphill
 - 23 TX Vernon Dalhart tune: "Can't ___ Me Callin' Caroline?"
 - 28 TX Orbison's "___ Woman Blues"
 - 29 car washing aids
 - 30 ___ soil is hard to farm
 - 31 how a Texan says "can't"?
 - 35 historical "Texas Gazette" was published by this Cotten (init.)
 - 36 eastern Houston suburb

- 42 TXism: "bellered ___ bull"
- 44 TXism: "no flies ___" (pretty)
- 46 TXism: "he's a frisky fiddler"
- 48 rich layer cake
- 49 George W. to George H.W.
- 50 close a person's eyes
- 51 TXism: "she's ___ best when her lips ain't moving"
- 52 TXism: "scarce ___ wildcatter with a bank balance"
- 53 TXism: "___ it or lose it"
- 54 coldly ignores
- 56 actress Adams in "Racquet" with TX Lynda Day George
- 57 TXism: "head rug"
- 58 dejected
- 1 TXism: "attacked like grandma ___ snake"
- 2 Gov. ___
- 3 Runnels (1857-59)
- 3 TX Judith McNaught novel: "___ of Dreams" (1989)
- 4 Fort Bliss site: Lanoria ___
- 9 Quannah Parker's father, Nocona

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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P-1683

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Sports



The Alpine Lady Bucks track team took home a lot of hardware during the Crane Relays this past weekend, taking first place overall. Pictured are Molly Garrett, Ali Maroney, Mia Morris, Naida Morris, Novah Carrasco, Valeria Crespo, Nevaeh Carrasco Colette Fowlkes, Hope Dominguez, Danica Mulholland, Kylie Maroney, Emmory Mercado, Ailea Fierro, and Evelyn Smith.

Crane meet a prequel to district championship

BY COACH CORY CASON
Contributor

The Crane Relays on March 28 was a preview of the district meet with all schools participating except for Tornillo and with the addition of Wink, Marfa, Midland Classical, and McCamey. It was an important track meet and it allowed us to see where the girls are in head-to-head competition with the athletes in our district.

The Varsity Girls won the Championship beating Wink by 48 points and third place Crane by 110 points. The girls are looking strong going into the championship season starting with a 2-day district meet back in Crane

Sports Schedule

FIGHTIN' BUCK TRACK & FIELD

Apr. 4 & 6 District Meet @ Crane
Apr. 11 Area @ Denver City
Apr. 19-20 Regionals @ Abilene
May 2-4 State Championship @ Austin

BUCK BASEBALL

April 5 Alpine vs Crane* JV @ 4:30 p.m. Varsity @ 7 p.m.
Apr. 9 Tornillo vs Alpine* JV @ 4:30 p.m. Varsity @ 7 p.m.

LADY BUCK SOFTBALL

April 5 Alpine vs Crane* Varsity @ 5 p.m. JV @ 7 p.m.
Apr. 6 Midland Greenwood vs Alpine. Varsity @ 1 p.m. JV @ 3 p.m.
Apr. 9 Alpine vs Tornillo* Varsity @ 5 p.m. JV @ 7 p.m.

TENNIS

April 12-13 Sanderson Invitational @ Sanderson
*Denotes District Game

on April 4 and 6. The seniors are looking forward to winning their fourth straight district track and field championship title.

Some of the best competition the girls will face will be their own teammates Spectators should look forward to

some great performances by the Alpine Girls Track and Field team over the coming weeks. "I believe that our track team will perform to the best of our ability just like we have been doing all season. I am excited and a little bit nervous for my events

but overall, very confident that I will perform my best," said Hope Dominguez

The 4 x 100m and the 4 x 200m relays took first place with the 4 x 400m relay finishing in a tie with Presidio for fourth. Sprinters, Valeria Crespo won the 100m with Danica Mulholland earning the silver in both the 100 and 200m and third in the high jump.

Freshman, Colette Fowlkes continues to be competitive placing second in the 400m, fourth in the 800m, and second in the high jump. Senior Novah Carrasco finished third in the 400m immediately after running her

See TRACK • 9

AMS holds district track championship

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Middle School hosted the 4-3A middle school district track championship at Buck Stadium last Wednesday. Alpine boys placed fourth in the district overall behind Crane, Odessa Compass, and Kermit.

Athletes competing in the seventh-grade boys' individual events included John Ritchie, fourth place 100M, and fifth-place 400M, Colt Billings 10th place 100M and 200M, Luis Lujan 11th place 100M, Matthias Prieto second-place 400M, Tripp Warren, seventh-place 1600M and eighth-place 2400M,

Barry Young, fourth-place 110M hurdles, first-place 300M hurdles, and ninth-place 2400M.

In the individual field events, Matthias Prieto placed fourth in the long jump, followed by Emerson Roach in seventh and John Ritchie tied for eighth place. In the shot put, Luis Lujan placed seventh. In discus, Wyatt

Warren placed fifth followed by Hunter Stieg who placed eighth.

In the triple jump, Matthias Prieto took first place followed by John Ritchie in second, and Emerson Roach in fourth. In the high jump, Cooper Roach tied for

See AMS • 9

Fightin' Buck and Lady Buck golf heads to Pecos



Alpine golfers tee off in Pecos.

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks and Lady Bucks golf teams traveled to Pecos on Wednesday and followed up with day two of their district tournament on Tuesday, April 2. The boys' team has already seen action on the Pecos course this season, having played there in February. The girls' team however was still competing in basketball, so they did not join the boys at that early tournament.

Both teams have improved as they've advanced throughout the season, with the boys securing a first-place team finish at the Wink tournament before competing last week at home and bringing home a third-place overall finish.

The boy's standout, David Baca has several first-place finishes under his belt this season and had this to say going into the district tournament. "I think that the team is feeling confident. Hole number seven will

be challenging in Pecos, especially if the wind is against you," Baca said.

Other varsity players also commented on the upcoming course.

"I feel that I am ready for the tournament and think that most of the holes are fine," commented Levi Garcia. Ace Granado said he was going into it with a clear mind, while Riley Killingsworth said, "I feel pretty good."

Junior Varsity player Mason Dove had this to say, "Feeling good. I feel

like the holes with water or rocks will be the challenging ones to watch out for."

With the girls' team having not played the Pecos course previously, they felt a bit more cautious about what they were facing. The first-place individual player in last week's girls' competition, Evelyn Smith said, "I'm feeling nervous because I have never played there before."

Analia Adame com-

See GOLF • 9

Nothing but wins for Lady Bucks

BY JOH COVINGTON
Staff Writer

Last week the Lady Buck Softball program faced teams from Crane, Tornillo, Stanton, and Kermit, bringing in crushing wins for each game.

On Tuesday, March 19 the Alpine team was scheduled to travel to play the Golden Cranes on their home turf, however, with the recent rain the game was moved to the drier Alpine field.

This was the second district game of the season. The Lady Bucks had a rough start to their district play in the previous game with the Presidio Blue Devils who made a resounding win.

After that game, head softball coach, Christopher Virdell said, "I think the biggest lapse in the game is that we struggled to hit the ball and left runners in scoring positions. As we look ahead to the rest of the first half of the district, we will have to correct both those things and be ready for some tough games."

While they continue to improve their skills in all corners of the field, the Lady Bucks made their next four wins look easy.

"The girls were able to refocus this past week and take advantage of their opportunity to grab a couple of wins. Their skills have

been there all year, regardless of the position they play," said Virdell after the next two games.

In the first inning of the game with Crane, the guests were at bat first ending the top of the inning with three outs. The bottom of the first really picked up with two walks, one from Portillo and then one from Galvan. Hawkins hit a single, pushing Portillo home and the Lady Bucks put their first point on the board. Hardin then hit a triple followed by a double delivered by Hernandez on a fly ball to the right fielder. The Lady Bucks had a few outs before Juett hit a single and Portillo a triple. The first inning ended with Alpine leading 9-0.

Crane gained a point in the top of the second with a score on a wild pitch. The Lady Bucks reached their final score in the bottom of the second at 22-1, without any movement on the scoreboard for Crane in the final third inning, after several strikes, fouls, and balls with Hardin as pitcher.

In the Friday, March 22 home district game with Tornillo, the Alpine team jumped onto the scoreboard early in the bottom of the first inning, immediately putting three points up,

See SOFTBALL • 9



The Lady Buck Taryn Hardin at bat during the Friday game with Tornillo.

Courtesy photo

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

EVELYN SMITH, DAVID BACA

David Baca and Evelyn Smith are both Regional Qualifiers after an impressive showing at District.

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ehoward0711@gmail.com

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of Rebecca Jane Smith, Deceased**, were issued on March 27, 2024, under Docket No. PR03162, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Cathy Virginia Fortenberry**.

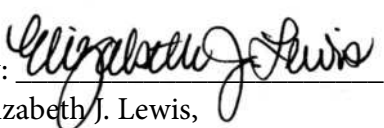
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

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

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

DATED March 27, 2024

Cathy Virginia Fortenberry

By: 
Elizabeth J. Lewis,
Attorney for Representative

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of Margaret Skeels Stevens, Deceased**, were issued on March 27, 2024 under Docket No. PR03156, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Betty Louise Alex**.

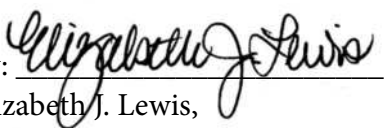
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

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

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

DATED March 27, 2024

Betty Louise Alex

By: 
Elizabeth J. Lewis,
Attorney for Representative

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Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Clare Magers Ritzi, Deceased**, were issued on March 27, 2024, docket number PR03151, in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas to **Christopher Ritzi**. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, c/o Law Office of Sandy Stewart, P.O. Box 298, Fort Davis, Texas 79734. All persons having claims against this estate which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED: March 28, 2024 .

s/s Sandy Stewart
Sandy Stewart

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of TANA JEANNE STRINGFELLOW, Deceased**, were issued on March 13, 2024, under Docket No. PR03157, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Michelle Williams Murff**.

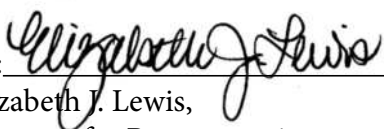
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows:

Representative,
Estate of Tana Jeanne Stringfellow,
Deceased
c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law
SIBLEY ANDERSON LEWIS
121 N. 6th Street
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All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law.

DATED March 20, 2024

Michelle Williams Murff

By: 
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NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE REQUEST

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publishes this notice that on February 29, 2024, AEP Texas filed with the Public Utility Commission of Texas (Commission) its Petition and Statement of Intent to Change Rates (the Petition), a copy of which is kept at AEP Texas' office at 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. The Petition has been assigned Docket No. 56165. This notice is being published in accordance with 16 Tex.Admin. Code § 22.51(a) (1).

AEP Texas' Petition is based on the system-wide financial results for a 12-month test year ending on September 30, 2023, adjusted for known and measurable changes. Related to its distribution cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of approximately \$100.4 million over its adjusted test year revenues. This net change is a 13.1% increase over net present distribution revenues. When expected annualized Transmission Cost Recovery Factor revenues are included in the comparison to present revenues, the net increase to distribution cost-of-service is 8.4%. Related to its transmission cost of service, the Company requests a rate increase of \$63.1 million above its adjusted test year revenues, an increase of 9.29%.

In addition to new rates, AEP Texas requests a prudency determination on all capital investment made to its system for the period from January 1, 2019, through September 30, 2023.

AEP Texas' Petition requests Commission approval to continue its offering of facilities rental services, as described in tariff schedules 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6, and 6.1.4.3.6, and a good-cause exception to the Commission's rule requiring AEP Texas to obtain the Commission's approval to provide these services every three years. If approved, the requested good-cause exception will allow the Company to extend the effective date of its existing tariff schedules through the effective date of the tariffs approved in its next comprehensive rate case.

Finally, AEP Texas requests recovery of its reasonable rate-case expenses associated with this proceeding and certain prior rate proceedings, including those expenses paid to reimburse municipalities for their participation.

If approved, the increased rates will be charged to AEP Texas' direct customers, all retail electric providers (REPs) in AEP Texas' service area, as well as the retail electric customers of those REPs. The extent to which the REPs pass along to their customers the increased retail rates is a function of the competitive market. In addition, AEP Texas' petition affects customers taking service under the Company's wholesale transmission rates.

AEP Texas has requested its proposed rate change become effective 35 days after the filing its Petition.

Persons who wish to intervene in or comment upon these proceedings, in Docket No. 56165, *Application of AEP Texas Inc. for Authority to Change Rates*, should notify the Commission as soon as possible, as an intervention deadline will be imposed. A request to intervene or for further information should be mailed to the Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. Further information may also be obtained by calling the Commission at (512) 936-7120 or (888) 782-8477. Hearing-and-speech-impaired individuals with text telephones (TTY) may contact the Commission at (512)936-7136. The deadline for intervention in the proceeding is 45 days after the date the Petition was filed with the Commission.

AVISO DE MODIFICACIÓN DE TARIFA

AEP Texas Inc. (AEP Texas) publica este aviso de que el 29 de febrero de 2024, AEP Texas presentó ante la Comisión de Servicios Públicos de Texas (Comisión) su Petición y Declaración de Intención de Cambiar las Tarifas (la Petición), una copia de la cual se encuentra en la oficina de AEP Texas en 400 W. 15th Street, Suite 1500, Austin, Texas, 78701. A la Petición se le ha asignado el Número de Expediente 56165. Este aviso se publica de conformidad con 16 Tex.Admin. Code § 22.51(a)(1).

La Petición de AEP Texas se basa en los resultados financieros de todo el sistema para un año de prueba de 12 meses que finaliza el 30 de septiembre de 2023, ajustados por cambios conocidos y medibles. En relación con el costo de servicio de distribución, la Compañía solicita un aumento de tarifas de aproximadamente \$100.4 millones de dólares sobre sus ingresos ajustados del año de prueba. Este cambio neto supone un incremento del 13.1% sobre los ingresos netos actuales de distribución. Si se incluyen los ingresos anualizados previstos del Factor de Recuperación de Costes de Transmisión en la comparación con los ingresos actuales, el aumento neto del costo del servicio de distribución es del 8,4%. En relación con el costo del servicio de transporte, la Compañía solicita una subida de tarifas de 63,1 millones de dólares por encima de los ingresos ajustados de año de referencia, lo que supone un incremento del 9,29%.

Además de las nuevas tarifas, AEP Texas solicita una determinación de prudencia sobre toda la inversión decapital realizada en su sistema para el período comprendido entre el 1 de enero de 2019 y el 30 de septiembre de 2023.

La Petición de AEP Texas solicita la aprobación de la Comisión para continuar con su oferta de servicios de alquiler de instalaciones, tal y como se describe en los programas de tarifas 6.1.2.3.6, 6.1.3.3.6 y 6.1.4.3.6, y una excepción de causa justificada a la norma de la Comisión que exige a AEP Texas obtener la aprobación de la Comisión para prestar estos servicios cada tres años. Si se aprueba, la excepción de causa justificada solicitada permitirá a la Compañía ampliar la fecha de entrada en vigor de sus programas de tarifas existentes hasta la fecha de entrada en vigor de las tarifas aprobadas en su próximo caso tarifario global.

Por último, AEP Texas solicita la recuperación de sus gastos razonables relacionados con este procedimiento y algunos procedimientos tarifarios anteriores, incluidos los gastos pagados para reembolsar a los municipios por su participación.

Si se aprueban, las tarifas incrementadas se cobrarán a los clientes directos de AEP Texas, a todos los proveedores minoristas de electricidad (REP) en el área de servicio de AEP Texas, así como a los clientes minoristas de electricidad de esos REP. La medida en que los REP repercutan a sus clientes el aumento de las tarifas minoristas depende del mercado competitivo. Además, la petición de AEP Texas afecta a los clientes que contratan el servicio según las tarifas de transmisión al por mayor de la empresa.

AEP Texas ha solicitado que el cambio de tarifa propuesta entre en vigor 35 días después de la presentación de su Petición. Las personas que deseen intervenir o hacer comentarios sobre este procedimiento, en el expediente N°56165, *Aplicación de AEP Texas Inc. de Autoridad para Cambiar las Tarifas*, deben notificarlo a la Comisión lo antes posible, ya que se impondrá un plazo de intervención. Las solicitudes de intervención o de información adicional deben enviarse por correo a Public Utility Commission of Texas, P.O. Box 13326, Austin, Texas 78711-3326. También puede obtenerse más información llamando a la Comisión al (512) 936-7120 o al (888) 782-8477. Las personas con discapacidad auditiva o del habla que dispongan de teléfonos de texto (TTY) pueden ponerse en contacto con la Comisión en el número (512) 936-7136. El plazo para intervenir en el procedimiento es de 45 días a partir de la fecha de presentación de la petición a la Comisión.

High winds destroy AirBnB lodging



Teepees located in the Terlingua Ghosttown which are part of Base Camp Terlingua's AirBnB lodging facilities were destroyed by high winds in the area yesterday. The teepees were some of the first vacation rentals available to visitors and are owned by Jeff Leach.

Photo courtesy of Kaci Kothmann

SENIOR Spotlight

EVREN MARTINEZ

In what activities did you participate in high school?
In high school, I participated in track, football, welding, and basketball.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
With no doubt Coach Hardwick. He has had an amazing impact on my life, not just with basketball, but with life and becoming the man I am today.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
Without a doubt, my most memorable moment in the last few years was winning against Stanton in the district for basketball. Just the atmosphere and being able to share that moment with my friends since elementary was great. The cherry on top though was my go-ahead bucket to win, making that moment more memorable than any other.

What are your plans after high school?
My plans for the future are to enlist in the military and to become the best person I can possibly be.

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Devotional Page

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BY PHILIP FRANK
Redeemer Lutheran Church

The curse of sin and death was introduced into God's perfect Creation when Adam and Eve rebelled against God in the Garden of Eden. They listened to the devil's lies and ate the forbidden fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil. They did so, believing Satan, that they would be like God themselves. Ever since, sin has corrupted and defiled every human being – except Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God.

The original sin of Adam and Eve has since become human nature; passed down from generation to generation. From our inherited sinful nature stems all kinds of actual sins; evil desires, thoughts, words, actions, and even withheld words and inaction – omissions of good that we should have said or done. Unfortunately, there is no escaping our sin. And the only way to pay for the debt it has caused is death.

"For the wages of sin is death, but the free gift of God is eternal life in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 6:23 ESV).

Thanks be to God that He had a plan to redeem us from before the moment Adam and Eve brought sin into this world. The only way to atone for our sins is through spilled blood. God made the first move for them, covering their shame and guilt by covering them in animal skins. This was the beginning of animal

sacrifices that would form the sacramental life of God's chosen people throughout the Old Testament. In that, God demonstrated to them that He still loved them, despite their sin.

Right after announcing the curses, God assured Adam and Eve of His promise to send a Savior through their offspring. This was God's only begotten Son, Jesus Christ, who came to bear the burden of all our sins for us. Jesus became our sins, even though He had never committed any sins Himself. He took all sin with Him to death on the cross, paying the full price of the debt of them. Then Jesus rose from the dead and ascended back to heaven to rule over all Creation until He will return again to judge all the earth.

Through Jesus' ultimate sacrifice on the cross in our stead, He fully paid for all the sins of all people from all times.

To receive this free gift from God, all you must do is repent and believe. The word "repent" means "to turn back." In other words, to repent of your sins, you have to first believe that God has, and will, forgive you for them. And through the faith that He provides, you will be enabled to turn away from your sins and turn towards God.

Through Jesus' death on the cross, God demonstrated to us that He did not want any of us to die for our sins. Jesus came to pay a debt that He did not owe and a debt that we could not pay. Thanks be to God!

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Always searching for a side dish



Lemon Braised Artichokes

Courtesy photo

Are you like me? Do you struggle to decide what sort of side dish you want to make with your meals? This is the one conundrum that I always seem to struggle with. Sure, I could make the same old tired green beans or California mix, or corn, and if the asparagus looks good at the store, I may grab a bunch of that or whip up some yellow squash. And while all of that sounds great, sometimes I just crave something different and new. Recently I came across this yummy-sounding dish that I never would have thought about because this particular "vegetable" is not one of those that comes to mind too often. I'm talking about artichokes.

Artichokes come from Italy and Sicily. The cultivation of this unique vegetable dates back as far as 300 BC. They were considered a delicacy by the Greeks and Romans and were introduced to Spain around 800 AD by the African Moors who brought them from Sicily. Artichokes are a variety of thistle that has been cultivated as a food. And the hearts of the artichoke are the best part, because they stay soft and pliable, whereas the outer petals become tough and stringy. Artichokes may be found in a variety of Mediterranean foods, made into dips, roasted, stuffed, or baked. They

can also be fried, added to pasta dishes, marinated, and made into soup. But their flavor really lends itself to be complemented by citrus and briny flavor profiles. They complement main dish proteins such as fish and pork well and are said to have multiple health benefits including lowering blood sugar levels and improving digestion. They're only 90 calories per cup cooked and supply a surprising 5 grams of protein. But basically, they just taste really good. So, next time you're hard-pressed to decide what side dish to add to your meal, consider the lowly artichoke.

Lemon Braised Artichokes

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Ingredients: | 2 tablespoons fresh lemon juice |
| 2 9-ounce packages of frozen artichoke hearts | 4 tablespoons olive oil, divided |
| ½ cup water | 2 minced garlic cloves |
| ½ cup white wine | 1/8 cup chopped parsley |
| 3 wide strips of lemon zest | 1/8 cup chopped mint |
| | Salt and pepper to taste |

Directions:
 Bring ½ cup each of water and white wine, two packages of artichoke hearts, three wide strips of lemon zest, and 2 tablespoons each of lemon juice and olive oil. Bring to a simmer in a large skillet. Season with salt and pepper, cover, and cook, stirring halfway through, until the artichokes are tender, about 10 minutes. Uncover and add two minced garlic cloves. Add two tablespoons of olive oil. Add chopped parsley. Add chopped mint. Cook, stirring, until the garlic softens, another one or two minutes. Serve with protein of choice.

For questions or comments, email foodie9372@gmail.com

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