



## Early voting for May 4 City election is set

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Early voting for the City of Alpine's May 4 general and special election is set to begin on April 22 and will continue through April 30.

Registered voters in the City of Alpine's Wards 1 and 5 may cast their ballots early at the City Council Chambers, 803 West Holland Avenue.

The polling location will be open Monday through Friday from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for early voting. On election day, polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

In the general election, voters in Ward 4 will cast their vote for the two candidates seeking the City Council seat currently held by Martin Sandate. Lori A. Griffin and Lucy E. Escovedo

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## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024 . . . . .2.05"  
April . . . . .0.06"



### 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 Lady Bucks Area Champions

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Just as they did previously in Crane at the District meet, the Alpine Lady Bucks track and field team trampled their competition at the Area meet with a total score of 145 points. That's 76 points ahead of the second-place finisher Muleshoe and 77 points ahead of the third-place team of Denver City. This makes the Lady Bucks track and field team four-time Area champions in 3A District 4.

On Wednesday evening last week, Molly Garrett placed sixth in the 3200M run. This was the lone event on Wednesday evening. Alpine's Hatfield Cason would also compete in the varsity boys' 3200M run on Wednesday evening and would come home with the gold, allowing him to advance to the regional meet.

Thursday morning would see most events take place for the Alpine teams.

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The Alpine Lady Buck track and field team ran away with the Area championship for the fourth year in a row. Pictured are the girls and their Coach, Cory Cason.

Courtesy photo

# Pointdexter named Conservationist of the Year



John B. Pointdexter, owner of Cibolo Creek Ranch in Presidio County was recently named West Texas Conservationist of the Year thanks to his collaborative efforts with the Borderlands Research Institute (BRI.) Pictured with Pointdexter receiving the award is BRI Advisory Board Chairman Dan Allen Hughes and the presenter is BRI Director Dr. Louis Harveson.

Courtesy photo

# Border light may break the international dark skies reserve

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 16.

At the top of the meeting, Catherine Eaves, Alpine City Mayor, shared that, US Customs and Border Patrol has presented a proposed plan to install 25.15 miles of new high-intensity lighting along the international border in El Paso County.

This would greatly affect the International Dark Skies Reserve of which the entire Big Bend area is a part. During this meeting, the council approved a draft of a letter to the Border Patrol in defense of the Dark Skies regulations which the city, Brewster County, and surrounding

counties have been observing. Ward 5 council member Rick Stephens suggested that the letter present compromises and include ways that the new border lights could be Dark Skies compliant.

Stephen Hummel, Dark Skies initiative coordinator, was also present at the meeting and shared that McDonald Observatory is drafting its own letter regarding the matter. Any letters sent in response to this plan are due by April 22.

What's being proposed has already been installed but has not been turned on pending this environmental review process. The current comment period that closes on April 22 may be the only opportunity to do so, as CBP



In observance of Public Service Week, May 5-11, city workers came together to be honored at Tuesday's city council meeting.

doesn't have any legal requirements to do so, and Arizona and New Mexico didn't have any comment periods.

Eaves shared the email comments ENV@cbp.dhs.gov and said that headings to the email should include words like Texas, lighting, and environmental assessment.

In other news, to observe the departure of Judy Stokes, Eaves said, "This has been a phenomenal council."

Megan Antrim, Alpine City Manager, Stokes, and Eaves worked together for proclamations of Safe Digging Month, Earth Month, Administrative Professionals

Week, National Tourism Week, and National Public Service Recognition Week. The three city officials stood and presented thanks to individuals from the recycling center, city administrative officials from different offices, as well

See COUNCIL • 9

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# OBITUARIES

Betty Sue Imler

June 18, 1931-  
April 5, 2024

Betty Sue Imler (LaMotte) (Hargus), of San Diego, California, 92, passed away Friday, April 5. She was born June 18, 1931, in Marathon at the beginning of the Great Depression. Her parents were George and Ida May Hargus, long-term residents of Marathon. Betty spent a delightful childhood in the West Texas town of Marathon, graduating from high school in 1949. She was known for being a very energetic young person, involved in essentially everything going on at the high school. She made some lifelong friends at this time, which she remained in contact with until near the time of her death. She attended college for two years including time at Sul Ross State College in Alpine and at the University of Mississippi. Subsequently, she moved to Corpus Christi and worked



as a secretary. She married Homer LaMotte in 1953 at the Marathon Methodist Church. She and Homer had two children, Gary, and Carla, and lived in a variety of locations as Homer was in the military with many transfers. Once retiring from the military, they lived in Palatine, Illinois, Fort Stockton, and for most of the time Houston. She later met and married Robert Imler in 1980. They lived in Sugarland until 1994 and upon Bob's retirement settled in San Diego, California, and lived together until his death in 2005. She continued to live there on her own until late last year at the time

when she began to require further assistance. Betty was an extremely loving mother. She tenderly cared for her two children. She had a real estate career while her kids were growing up. Her family all came to Marathon to her parent's house to celebrate many holidays, especially Thanksgiving and Christmas. She was very fond of the outdoors and made many trips with her family to Big Bend National Park. Camping and lakehouse trips were common during this time. She loved wide open spaces and the fresh clean air of West Texas and Colorado. She delighted in the West Coast during retirement with several trips to Yosemite and Sequoia National Parks and the California Coast. When having a particularly enjoyable time she would gleefully say "Live like there is no tomorrow." She could strike up a conversation with just about anybody within her presence

and was able to get them to talk about themselves. Her energetic and happy-go-lucky spirit will be dearly missed. She was preceded in death by her parents, sister Frances Springfield (whom she dearly loved and talked to daily), brother Bill Hargus as well as both of her spouses. She is survived by her two children Gary (Grace) LaMotte and Carla (Ted) DeBont. She is also survived by three grandchildren Emilie (Ryan) Clink, Jessica (Mike) Schmidtbauer, and Amy (Dylan) Martinez as well as three great-grandchildren Annie, Zachary, and William. The immediate family will be staying in Betty's old family home in Marathon (now an Airbnb), where she was born, and where her mother Ida May Hargus lived until she passed away in 1997. Her funeral services will be held at the Marathon Cemetery in Marathon at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, April 20. All are invited to attend.

## Marathon ISD prom king, queen crowned



Marathon ISD held their annual prom last week and crowned Brawley Lee Queen as prom king and Madeline West as prom queen.

Courtesy photo

## Covington receives award



The Avalanche's Johanna (Joh) Covington was presented with the Outstanding Undergraduate English Major award on Monday evening at Sul Ross State University's Honors Convocation.

Photo by Hadley Anne Kibbe

## Sul Ross holds student research symposium



Dr. Ryan Luna was one of the keynote speakers for the seventh annual Sul Ross student research symposium last week. Luna is the department chair of natural sciences and the Kelly R. Thompson professor in quail research with Borderlands Research Institute. Luna's primary research pertains to upland game bird ecology and management, primarily focusing on the Gambel's quail, Montezuma quail, and the Scaled quail for which he gave a brief presentation for attendees of the event.

Photo by Joh Covington.



Twin Peaks 4H members Alexandra Williams, Lauren Aragon, Tyler Rose Holmes, Cheyenne McEntire, and Ella Boyd recently competed at the SRSU Invitational / District 6 4H Horse Judging Contest. The Junior team took sixth place overall in the Invitational, as well as first place in the District competition. Lauren Aragon was the fifth high point individual in the SRSU Invitational, as well as taking high point honors for the Junior District contest, with Alexandra Williams and Cheyenne McEntire placing second and third high point individual respectively in the Junior division of the District competition. Ella Boyd was third high overall in the Intermediate Division of the District 6 contest.

Courtesy photo

Twin Peaks  
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place at  
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PHOTO: MIKE OLBINSKI

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**  
**CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY**  
**RFP 2024-04-01**

The City of Alpine is soliciting Request for Proposals for Classification and Compensation Study. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at [www.cityofalpine.com/bids](http://www.cityofalpine.com/bids).

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. To be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the requests for information in the Summary of Qualifications section. Proposals should be clearly marked **"SEALED BID -2024-04-01 CLASSIFICATION AND COMPENSATION STUDY:"** and mailed or handdelivered to the address below:

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

Questions pertaining to this RFP should be submitted via email with "Questions about Comp Study" in the subject line, at least two days prior to the due date to Megan Antrim, City Manager, at (432) 837-3301 or [city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us).

# Big Bend Open Road Race is right around the corner

The Big Bend Open Road Race (BBORR) is geared up for drivers and fans alike. The streets will be humming from the horsepower from April 24 through April 27. This is the best road race around, with 59 miles each way for a 118-mile course.



Registration for the event begins at 8 a.m. in Sanderson at the Senior Center, followed by a practice run and qualification on US HWY 90.

Fort Stockton will host a meet and greet on Thursday, April 25, at the Centennial Bar and Lounge. Friday will bring a car show to Zero Stone Park from 9:30 to 11:30. There will also be a car show and parade on Dickinson and Nelson to Rooney Park in Fort Stockton from 4 to 6 p.m. Awards and a banquet will be held after the race on Saturday at the Pecos County Civic Center at 7:30 p.m.

Fort Stockton Chamber of Commerce Executive Director Arna McCorkle said, "It's one of the most

exciting races you'll ever see." Drivers get two days of practice runs that are held on Highway 90, west of Sanderson, on April 25 and April 26. In Sanderson, drivers arrive at an event called "the turnaround," where drivers, visitors, and community members enjoy festivities, and here in Fort Stockton, Paisano Pete is ready to go.

The BBORR is a non-profit corporation, and race proceeds benefit projects such as Project Graduation, food pantries, Volunteer Fire Departments, EMS, FFA, and the American Cancer Society. The

non-profit also provides a scholarship each year to a high school student in Fort Stockton and Sanderson.

If you'd like to volunteer, call Randy Archer at (432) 290-4580, or you can visit [bborr.com](http://bborr.com) to enroll online. As a volunteer, expect a day on the side of the road, exposure to the elements from dawn to late afternoon, some waiting, proximity to high-speed, very loud cars, and one-sided radio conversations. But if you like cars, this is an enticing opportunity. Volunteers do need to attend one of the course worker meetings to receive info, ask questions, and

pick up a walkie-talkie and a grid sheet that lists each car and the order they run. Volunteers are expected to be in place by 6:00 a.m.

The 118-mile course runs from Fort Stockton to Sanderson from 6 a.m. to 5 p.m. The top speed recorded is 223 by Mike Smith set in 2023, and the Course record Average Speed was 172.249 mph in 2013, set by Tom Whalen. Divisions/classes include Touring Division: 100 mph, 105 mph, 110 mph; Grand Touring Division: 115 mph, 120 mph, 125 mph; Grand Sport Division: 130 mph, 135 mph, 140 mph, 145 mph, 150 mph; Super Sport Division: 155 mph, 160 mph; Unlimited Division: Unlimited (180 and up).

The first five divisions are conducted in a rally-like fashion—the closest average speed to the class wins. In Unlimited, the fastest down and back wins. Cars regularly compete at speeds well over 200 mph.



A gathering of local area law enforcement, the Fort Davis Chamber of Commerce the museum board, and retired Brewster County Sheriff Carl C. Williams was present at the ribbon cutting for the newly opened Old Sheriffs Museum and Research Center in Fort Davis.

Courtesy photo

## Ribbon cutting held for museum, research center

The ribbon cutting for The Old Sheriffs Museum and Research Center in Fort Davis was held at 11 am on April 13. The Old Sheriffs Museum and Research Center came about because Carl C. Williams, a retired Brewster County Sheriff, and his friend Ben Medley, the son of past Jeff Davis County Sheriff Wilbur Medley, wanted to honor the history of law enforcement in this area of West Texas. Since the sheriffs out here cover large swaths of land and work with the small, local communities, they see and do a lot.

The museum and research center recognize that in the early years, law enforcement was set up to protect settler families and not the indigenous peoples in the area, due in great part to how laws were made and who the laws were made for. Several early sheriffs were Texas Rangers at some point in their careers, and the museum and research center are also aware of

the historical abuses of the Mexican communities along the border in those years. Not all these stories are easy to research, nor tell, but we're trying. Currently, numerous wall panels are giving short bios about each sheriff, listing the information found so far, all within the walls of the restored old jail in Fort Davis, right across the street from the courthouse. That's part of why there is the addition of the research center, to allow the families to share their histories and information, and the panels will be updated as more information is gathered. Already several family members have contacted the museum and research center and have shared photos and stories, about who their ancestors were and how they lived and worked in the West Texas tri-county area. There is a small section for sheriffs and deputies killed in the line of duty as well. Beginning in July, there will be several artifacts on display within the jail cells.

## Big Bend National Park Lodge to be remodeled

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

Recently, Big Bend National Park officials gave a presentation in the Big Bend Telephone meeting room for an update on the "basin access plan" to help inform those interested in the future remodeling project.

The interim Superintendent for Big Bend National Park, Chad Tinney, led the meeting and gave an update regarding the impending closure of the Chisos Lodge in the Basin. Scheduled to begin approximately 14 months from now, the construction period is expected to last about two years.

"This project will arguably be the most impactful project that the park has seen in decades," said Tinney. The project's extensive list includes the reconstruction of the lodge building and the upgrading and replacement of the Ba-

sin's water system. While this massive undertaking will affect how the Basin operates and access will be more restrictive, Tinney wanted to assure people that the location won't be completely cut off for the entire duration.

Tinney expects the impact on the park to take effect approximately in late spring, after spring break, of 2025. While the plans have been intensive, they have not been finalized yet. Despite this, park officials are confident that once they are complete and they go out for bids for the contract, construction will begin near that spring date.

All of the visitor's services in the upper basin will be cut off, such as the lodge, the restaurant, the visitors center, and the camp store.

"It will fundamentally change how people visit and access the park, and I don't think anyone can re-

ally predict what that will look like for tourism," Tinney said.

It's important to note that the park itself will remain open and the trails that have been accessible through the Basin will still be accessible through a different route. The park visitors that will be the most affected will be those on tour buses and RVs, as they will not have access to the area. It will also be closed to visitors after 10 p.m., though the campground itself will remain open for those with a reservation.

One thing that is being discussed is the possibility of allowing a company to run a shuttle service to adapt to the vehicle restrictions. If an acceptable service makes an appropriate bid for the opportunity, it could offer viable supplement.

The lodge itself has had known foundational issues for years, with movement being tracked for years.

And while not dangerous, now that the park has access to funds to fix it, they are taking the opportunity. With \$44 million for the park's entire project, 19 of which is reserved for the lodge itself, the current building will be demolished and replaced with a three-story building within the same footprint as the original lodge.

The current blueprints show a basement, a kind of visitor's center on the ground floor, and a restaurant on the top floor, which would mean fewer bears stealing sandwiches from anyone enjoying the view.

"Our goal is to create as much access to as many user groups as we can safely provide during those two years," said Tinney.

Tinney will continue acting as park superintendent until May 8, at which point the next superintendent, whose name has not been announced yet, will take over the position.

## Daughters of the Republic of Texas present awards

The Alpine Hally Bryan Perry Chapter of Daughters of the Republic of Texas presented on March 27, certificates and cash prizes for two Julia Nail Moss Awards to Joyce Baumann of Terlingua CSD, 2024 Outstanding Texas History Teacher- Seventh Grade, and to Hank Reed, 2024 Winning Essay- Seventh Grade.

The Historic Education Committee of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas provided the topic for the seventh-grade essay contest: "The Canary Islanders and their impact on The Republic of Texas." Students not only had the opportunity to improve their research skills but also to enhance their writing skills, all while learning about early Texas history.



Pictured are Kimberly Madrid, Mrs. Joyce Baumann, Hank Reed, Michelle Orozco, Miliery Hernandez, Jhonantan Lujan, and Bettina Willmon.

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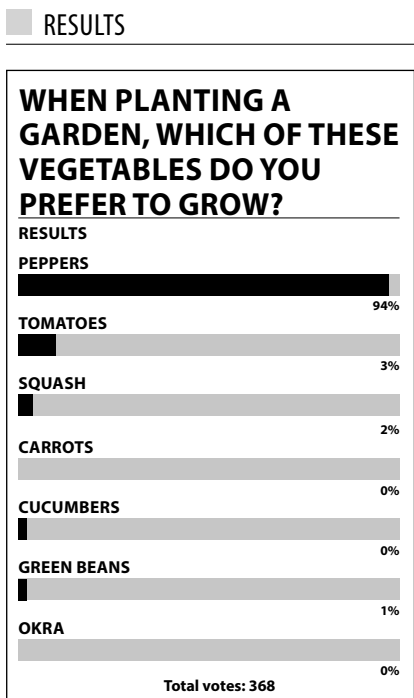
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# Opinions

## 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](http://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](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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## Bringing your state government to far West Texas

As a lifelong Texan, I've witnessed the unique challenges faced by families in our rural communities, such as limited access to essential services like unemployment and childcare, as well as insufficient support in accessing resources for business development and assistance for veterans, to name a few.



SEN. CÉSAR J. BLANCO  
Guest Columnist

The vastness of our state can sometimes create barriers to accessing essential services, leaving many feeling isolated and overlooked. And for far too long, rural families have felt disconnected from the resources and opportunities available to their urban counterparts. That's why I am excited to announce that our office will

be hosting a State Resource Fair on Saturday, April 20 from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m. at Fort Stockton High School, 1200 W. 17th Street in Fort Stockton.

This State Resource Fair will bring state agencies such as the Texas Veterans Commission, Department of State Health Services, Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS), and the Area of Aging Agency directly to your community, bridging the gap between our rural areas and their state government. Attendees will have the opportunity to connect with state services and receive direct support. Whether it's receiving a free COVID or Flu vaccine, setting up an appointment with

the DPS for license and ID renewals, or seeking assistance in healthcare, education, or business development, this fair is a significant opportunity for our rural communities.

In a state as large as Texas, with its diverse landscapes and communities, our government must remain accessible and responsive to the needs of every citizen. I've had the privilege of witnessing firsthand the hard work and determination displayed by the families and individuals in our rural communities. Texans like you are not just contributors to our state's economy; you are the backbone of our communities. Having access to essential services is a fundamental right that every Texan deserves, no matter their zip code.

By ensuring that our rural communities have equitable access to these resources, we not only empower each other but also strengthen the entire state's economic and social fabric.

So, whether you need assistance cutting through bureaucratic red tape with a state agency or have questions about state benefits and services, I invite every rural Texan to join us for our State Resource Fair. We are looking forward to bringing your state government to you and building a stronger, more inclusive Texas, where every voice in our community is heard and valued.

We look forward to seeing you there! For questions or concerns please contact our Fort Stockton District Office at (432) 336-2910.

## Maybe, just maybe, it's not too late

*"Remember the good times? When phones were dumb, and people were smart?"*  
— Spotted on a T-shirt, worn by someone using a smartphone

Old movies and television shows are the best. People enjoying life with each other. Without a cell phone. Talking, when necessary, on phones tethered to the wall by a cord.

In that not-so-long-ago time when no one was expected to be instantly and always available. Before being anatomically attached to a cellphone was considered a vital sign in the ER.

"Is he going to make it, Doc?"  
"It doesn't look good. His heartbeat is strong, but he's losing cell phone signal."

Who can argue that smartphones have enhanced aspects of our lives. But who can deny that, like most technology hailed with the hooray of reducing workload and making life easier, has heaped harmful effects on us as well.

With all this weighing heavy on my mind, I launched an experiment last week. I turned off my phone. For 24 hours.

It was pure heaven. Quiet and peaceful.

After a couple of hours, I did start to think of my kids trying to contact me. My daughter started practicing cell phone use at selected hours only, long ago. She

would understand. And my son? He calls more than I do if he initiates the call. So, I usually wait for him to call.

Maybe someone involving business would need me. Maybe not. This was a Saturday.

What if my friends called. They'll leave a message, I decided.

Satisfied that anyone wanting to talk to me could wait, I relaxed and enjoyed the bliss of no one "reaching out to touch me." To coin a twist on an old AT&T jingle.

Then when I turned it back on ...

"Have I offended you?" The tone of the first text message was hurt.

The next one inquired, "Have you seen that message I sent? It's been half an hour since I sent it, and I haven't heard from you." The tone was frustration.

"Where are you," another yelled?

I think the idea to cut the cell phone "cable" first occurred to me a couple of weeks ago in a group meeting. Everyone appeared to be reviewing reports and participating in the discussion. At least doing a better than reasonable job of pretending to be interested.

Except this one guy. Head bowed. "How inspiring," I thought. "While the rest of us are laboring with the load,



LEON ALDRIDGE  
Guest Columnist

he is praying for divine guidance in plotting a financial course."

Then I saw it. Thumbs flying on his cell phone under the table. "Must be important business," I thought. Important enough that he spent the entire meeting head down looking at his phone.

Or maybe it was the day I heard someone proclaim loudly, "What's the matter with him? Everyone today has a cell phone permanently attached to their hip." That statement of frustration was triggered when the aggravated individual did not receive a prompt response. In less than five minutes.

Actually, his wording varied slightly regarding the exact part of human anatomy to which he felt phones were forever affixed to most people, but you get my drift.

However, when you notice how many people have cell phone protrusions in their pockets and which pocket predominately sports said protrusion ...

I don't know. Maybe his impatient analogy was more than a metaphor.

Call me crazy, but I bought an old phone at an antique store. Just like the one we had at home when I was a kid.

"Leon, the phone's for you."

My sister sounded perturbed. Waving the receiver

in the air she told me, "Don't stay on there long. I'm expecting a call."

Our last home phone when everyone was still at home was in the kitchen. A black one. It was the only phone in the house. Convenience or coincidence, the cord was long enough to reach the dining room and prop up in a chair to talk. As long as no one else was expecting a call.

"You kids don't stay on that phone, now," Mom chided. "It's a school night."

"Bye," Mom said to me a few years later. "Call me when you get there. Find a payphone and call me if you need me along the way." I was leaving Mount Pleasant and driving to California to my uncle's house. Nineteen years old. Way before cell phones as even an idea.

My favorite act of rebellion against being married to a cell phone might be in restaurants. Where business associates and family alike feel it's rude to ignore messages, but not those with whom they're having dinner.

When it happens, I ask everyone to place their cell phone in the middle of the table. Once all of the phones are stacked together and curiosity peaks, I announce, "The first one to touch their phone picks up the tab for the whole table."

Maybe, just maybe, it's not too late to reverse the intelligence of people and phones. Back to how it used to be.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Joseph Biden The White House 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW Washington, DC 20500 202-456-1111	Tony Gonzales United States House of Representatives Washington, DC 20515 202-225-4511	John Cornyn United States Senate 517 Hart Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4305 202-224-2934	Ted Cruz United States Senate 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building Washington, D.C. 20510-4306 202-224-5922
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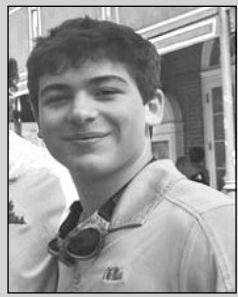


# Heard on the STREET

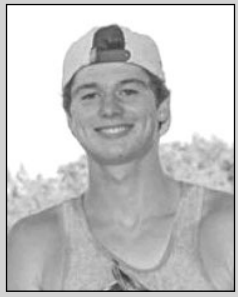
What is your favorite cereal?



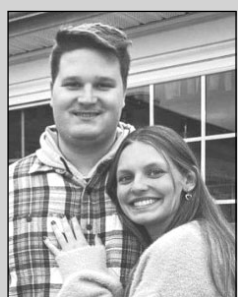
**Sophie Machado:** Does granola with yogurt count? Like on a fruit parfait, that's my favorite.



**Tucker Rider:** Lucky Charms.



**Luke Masterson:** Trix AREN'T just for kids and sometimes I also crave Honey Nut Cheerios.



**Bridget Miller:** I haven't had cereal since I accidentally had some with bad milk, it totally ruined the experience. Maybe someday.



**Cindy Howard:** I like hot cereal like cream of wheat or oatmeal, with lots of brown sugar and berries!



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

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

- April 18 Hike with Homeless Dogs,** 10 a.m. to 11 a.m. Davis Mountains State Park.
- April 19 Desert Skills Hike,** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. at the Davis Mountains State Park CCC Rock Lookout at the end of Skyline Drive. Sturdy walking shoes, water, hat, sunscreen, and hiking poles are recommended.
- April 19 Dark Skies Art Show Reception,** 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. honoring the Big Bend Dark Sky Reserve.
- April 19-21 Alpine Gem and Mineral Show,** 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Alpine Civic Center. FREE admission featuring gems, minerals, jewelry, rough and finished stones, beads, and more.
- April 20 Birding for Beginners,** 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. at the Interpretive Center Davis Mountains State Park.
- April 20 Critters of Davis Mountains State Park,** 2 p.m. to 3 p.m. at the Interpretive Center Davis Mountains State Park.
- April 20 Sunshine House's**



- Annual Quilt Show,** 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. 402 E. Holland hosted by the Desert Sky Quilters. A drawing will be held to win a quilt and vendors will be available.
- April 20 Paint Party for the Parks,** 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The City of Alpine is hosting a paint party to paint the playground equipment at Medina Park, 301 S. 10th Street. Paintbrushes will be provided, and all are welcome to attend.
- April 20 Earth Day on Historic Murphy Street,** 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Keep Alpine Beautiful and the City of Alpine will have educational booths, kids' activities, mural painting, along with

- other activities. This event is FREE and located next to the Alpine Farmer's Market.
- April 20 SRSU Borderlands Research Institute Guided Hike,** 9 a.m. hike up Hancock Hill with bird guide David Tønnessen. Hikes are free but pre-registration is required.
- 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.
- May 10 BBQ and Boots Fundraiser,** 6 p.m. to 12 a.m. at the Ole Crystal Bar benefitting the Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend. Featuring live music from Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band, a silent auction, and a BBQ dinner. Contact a member of Leadership Big Bend for tickets.

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](http://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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbccorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).
- Celebrate Recovery,** at Big Bend Cowboy Church on Thursday evenings from 6 p.m.

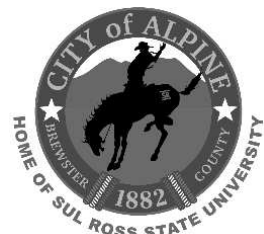
- to 8 p.m. For more information contact CW at 432-386-3628 or Stacey at 432-386-2979.
- Citizenship Classes,** at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621
- ESL Tutoring,** at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.
- Exercise Classes,** 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.

## PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Gia. Gia is a heeler mix from a large litter; she loves playing with her sister and is used to being around other dogs. She loves people and attention. Heelers are highly intelligent and trainable, so given love and patience, she should be a great companion. Gia is from one of the five litters that have inundated the Alpine Shelter this year, causing a drain on staff and resources. Please spay and neuter your pets and keep them responsibly contained in your environment. Consider volunteering to walk dogs or give play time to the puppies or cats at the shelter. Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer. Look for Alpine Humane Society at Spirits of the West on April 19 and 20. Meet us at our next Yappy Hour at Alcove (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, April 30, from 4 to 8 p.m. We receive a portion of beverage sales during that time. Stay tuned for details of

our upcoming Rattlesnake Aversion Clinic for Dogs on May 18. This community service will be offered to help our canine companions avoid life-threatening and costly rattlesnake encounters. 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 information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the shelter at 432-837-9030. The Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery is at 706 N. 5th Street in Alpine, open 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS helpline is 432-837-2532. To view adoptable pets, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) or [www.alpinehumane.org](http://www.alpinehumane.org) and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.



### PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR ENGINEERING SERVICES RFP 2024-04-03

The City of Alpine is soliciting Request for Proposals and Statement of Qualifications for Financial Advisor. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at [www.cityofalpine.com/bids](http://www.cityofalpine.com/bids).

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. To be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the requests for information in the Summary of Qualifications section. Proposals should be clearly marked "2024-04-03 TWDB ENGINEERING RFP" and mailed or hand-delivered to the address below:

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

Questions and inquiries about this RFP shall be directed to Megan Antrim, City Manager, at (432) 837-3301 or [city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us).

### PUBLIC NOTICE REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR BOND COUNSEL RFP 2024-04-02

The City of Alpine is soliciting Request for Proposals and Statement of Qualifications for Bond Counsel. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at [www.cityofalpine.com/bids](http://www.cityofalpine.com/bids).

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. To be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the requests for information in the Summary of Qualifications section. Proposals should be clearly marked "2024-04-02 TWDB Bond Counsel RFP" and mailed or hand-delivered to the address below:

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

Questions and inquiries about this RFP shall be directed to Megan Antrim, City Manager, at (432) 837-3301 or [city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us).



# Sports

## Bucks sit 2-6 in district play with two games left

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Bucks varsity baseball team fell for the second time last Friday to the Stanton Buffaloes. Although they fared better at the plate than the previous matchup, the Bucks were defeated 9-18.

Alpine collected 15 hits to Stanton's 14, but the Buffaloes dominated the bottom of the third inning, with 10 runs on five hits that would clinch their win.

The Bucks were first on the board, standing at bat in the top of the first and adding two runs with the help of a double fly to center from Jace Canaba that helped advance Iden Lujan and a sacrifice bunt from Peyton Tays to advance Canaba.

In the bottom of the first, Stanton's first at-bat Zane Henderson would knock a triple line drive to right fielder Michael Ybarra. This allowed their second at-bat, Jaedyn Martinez to hit a double fly to left fielder Devon Rojo, scoring Henderson. The Buffaloes Gage McCown would hit a fly ball to right field and reach on an error, advancing Martinez. Next up was Stanton's Bret Davis, who would single a ground ball to third-baseman Alec Ramos, who tagged out Mar-

tinez advancing to home.

Stanton would add another run to their total thanks to a single fly by Aiden Armendarez, which allowed McCown to score. The Buffaloes would add one more to their total for the first inning on a single RBI plus a steal of home by Armendarez, putting them ahead by two.

In the top of the second, Alpine would add a run by David Valenzuela thanks to a double RBI by Canaba. Josh Solis would follow Canaba at bat, for a single fly ball to shortstop, allowing Canaba and Lujan to score, putting Alpine ahead by one, 5-4. Tays would ground a single to left field that would also advance Zack Guillen, the courtesy runner for Solis, bringing the score to 6-4. The Bucks' lead was short-lived however, when the Buffaloes added three more runs to their total for the day, leading 7-6.

The top of the third saw zero action across the plate for the Bucks, while the bottom of the third was the clincher for the Buffaloes. Errors plagued the Bucks in this inning, while Stanton was hot at the plate. Three doubles, four walks, two singles, and a second-base steal by McCown had the Buffaloes ahead at the top of the fourth by 11 runs.

No action on the boards from either team in the fourth, but Kelton Tarrant was utilized as a courtesy runner for Alec Ramos in the top of the fifth, and a ground ball by Rojo advanced him to second followed by a single by Eddie Morrison would see Tarrant across the plate, adding another run for the Bucks. Morrison would be the next to cross the plate thanks to singles from Lujan and Canaba. Alpine would add their final run in the top of the sixth thanks

to a double fly to left field courtesy of Valenzuela that would drive Ramos across the plate. Stanton would also add their final run to the board in the bottom of the sixth, overpowering the Bucks in a final 9-18.

Next up for the Alpine Bucks is a road trip to Kermit tomorrow to face the Yellow Jackets at 7 p.m. Next Tuesday, the Bucks face the Blue Devils of Presidio in Presidio for their last regular district game of the season. Both Kermit and Presidio fell to the Bucks in their previous match-up.



David Valenzuela prepares to receive a pitch from the Stanton pitcher in the Bucks first match-up with the Buffaloes back on March 26 at Kokernot Field.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

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CONTACT Sue Franklin at 830-719-5883, balmorhearockshop@yahoo.com or Judith Brueske at 432-294-0174

# WesTex Community CU

## ANNUAL Meeting

**5 P.M.**

### April 20th

Attend at any of the following locations:

<p><b>Kermit</b> Kermit Rec. Center 600 S. East Ave. Kermit, Tx 79745</p>	<p><b>Monahans</b> Ward County Event Center Mesquite/Bluebonnet Room 1525 East Monahans Parkway Monahans, Tx 79756</p>
<p><b>Pecos</b> Reeves County Civic Center 1500 South Cedar Pecos, Tx 79772</p>	<p><b>Alpine</b> Our Lady of Peace Church Hall 102W Gallego Alpine, Tx 79830</p>



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6:00 PM FELINE FOX  
8:00 PM JOE KING CARRASCO

SATURDAY, APRIL 20  
11:00 AM - 11:00 PM

LIVE MUSIC  
11:00 AM ANGEL & THE BADMEN  
1:00 PM SCOTT WALKER BAND  
3:00 PM DAWN & HAWKES  
4:45 PM DOUG MORELAND  
6:30 PM RED SHAHAN  
7:45 PM ANTHONY RAY WRIGHT  
9:30 PM LOS PINCHE GRINGOS




## Lady Bucks continue with impressive district scores

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Alpine Lady Bucks softball team had yet another impressive showing in the last two weeks, winning a game against Presidio last Tuesday, followed by another win against Crane on Friday, and nearly taking Fort Stockton on Saturday.

The last time that the Lady Bucks faced the Presidio Blue Devils they lost 6-9, but regarding this comeback, head softball coach, Christopher Virdell said, "The Lady Bucks were absolutely determined to change the outcome this time around with Presidio. The girls came out focused at the plate and prepared to do their job, to make sure the team won this game."

The coaching staff felt very positive about the player's work ethic and preparation for this game. "We knew we would have to hit off their pitcher early and as often as possible. I think the girls did a great job of putting the ball in play and we hit some key shots in key moments, especially when we had girls in scoring position," Virdell said.

Defensively they had an overall clean game with just a few errors but were able to keep them from capitalizing with runners on base. The coach shared that pitching is a key strength and that they have been able to rotate their pitching for the team's benefit and matchups.



Rikki Vega runs to base during the Lady Buck's last district home game.

Courtesy photo

"The Presidio win was a big district win for us. It allowed us to put the team in a great position for an opportunity at a district championship or at least a co-district championship, now we need to take care of our side for the rest of district play.

On April 6, the Lady Bucks visited Fort Stockton for a district game with the Panthers, which had a very close point outcome for a Panther win 14-13.

The Fort Stockton game was a great pickup game for them at a very vital time in the team's schedule according to the coach. "We need games like that when we face a less competitive opponent in district play. I felt we matched up very well with them. They are a well-coached team with some really good hitting. I felt it would be a great chance for us to measure our growth while competing against a tough team," said Virdell.

They quickly jumped out on us going up by six runs, but the girls just hacked away at that lead, scoring in every inning while keeping them scoreless in the third, fourth, and sixth innings. They were able to come back strong in the top of the seventh inning, scoring seven runs to take the lead.

In the top of the first inning, the Lady Bucks jumped onto the scoreboard first with a sacrifice fly, putting Hawkins out but leaving Galvan to score. It was in the bottom of the second that Fort Stockton took a six-point lead which Alpine kept chasing into the fifth.

The Panthers continued in the lead in the bottom of the fifth, advancing to 11 points. Hernandez scored in the sixth when Galvan sent a fly out to the right fielder. The Lady Bucks continued the chase and overcame

See SOFTBALL • 9

## Track champion signs with Friends University



Alpine Lady Buck track and field champion Valeria Crespo Polidura signed with Friends University in Wichita, Kansas on Tuesday afternoon along with receiving the award for the February Ford Female Athlete of the Month. Crespo Polidura is pictured here with her family in the Alpine High School cafeteria.

Photo by Joh Covington

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

JOSH SOLIS

Josh is a standout player on offense and defensive, and has help lead the Bucks this season.

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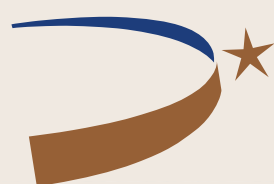
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# LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche

**April 12, 2001**  
 High School students from Alpine ISD were honored by the Board of Education at Sul Ross last week. Pictured here are Conrad Arriola, Aubany Gonzales, Sandy Fuentez, Aja Davidson, Alisa Havens, Crystal Cantwell, Roman Rodriguez, Tieva De Koninck, Casey O'Bryant, Josh Justice, and Casey Hays.



**April 12, 2001**  
 It was announced that the Jill Marie Stice (pictured) Memorial Scholarship Endowment at Sul Ross has exceeded the \$54,000 mark thanks to continued matching funds from the United Parcel Service.

**April 12, 2001**  
 Fort Davis's Casey Adams stirs the fire while preparing a meal at the recent nature writing retreat held in the Davis Mountains. The event was sponsored by Sul Ross and its Environmental Literature course.



**April 12, 2001**  
 The Alpine Chamber of Commerce celebrated Slappy's Bar-B-Q on Saturday with a ribbon-cutting.

# Lack of sunlight causing leaves to droop in fatsia plant

**Dear Neil: We wintered our normal outdoor fatsia inside this winter. It is eight feet tall and in a large pot with good drainage and new soil. The plant has a contagious condition causing droopy leaves with brown veins. I have hand-washed it several times with an insecticidal soap, but the situation is getting worse. Help!**

I have been around and grown fatsias all my life, and this doesn't look like any insect or disease issue. It looks more like a nutritional shortage or perhaps a lack of light. That's a very large plant to have indoors. Did you have it in a very bright sunroom? It would have needed more light than most houses could have provided. Plants that receive insufficient light commonly do droop. If you think that could be the case, be careful as you take it back outside. It has become acclimated, to some degree, to low-light conditions and it could easily scorch in the spring conditions outside. Keep in a shady location with no direct sunlight.

**Dear Neil: Why is my St. Augustine dying out? I fertilized it three weeks ago**

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
 by neil sperry

**with a high-quality fertilizer with slow-release nitrogen, but it hasn't corrected the problem. I already lost a lot of grass along the sidewalk last year due to chinch bugs. I'm hoping not to lose more due to whatever this is.**

Texans are having a terrible time this spring with take-all root rot in St. Augustine turf. Lawns are lethargic in greening up after the winter. Blades are yellowed and even almost white, and there are significant dead areas within the turf. The fungicide Azoxytrobin works to kill the fungus, but it's even better as a preventive treatment if you can get it to the stolons (runners) and their roots ear-

lier in the spring.

University of Florida research suggests we should use the same type of high-quality lawn fertilizer you used, that is, with 30 to 40 percent of its nitrogen in a slow-release form. Nitrate-form nitrogen should not be used. They further suggest, that because the disease has damaged the important feeder roots, a foliar application of fertilizer with trace elements may help in nursing it back to health.

**Dear Neil: It looks like my iris is mutating. The one I planted is in the center. What is happening?**

Please forgive me, but it's difficult to overlook the fact that these are growing through a fence. I'm trying to figure that out. That may be strangling off their supplies of moisture and nutri-

ents. None of these looks completely healthy to my eye. I believe I would dig and divide these this September and give them a better place to grow. See if they don't rebound by looking the way you expected them to. I may be missing the target, but I don't have much to go on.

**Dear Neil: I know you have mentioned this problem before - a disease that kills St. Augustine in full, hot Texas sun. What is it, and what is the treatment?**

The only fatal issue for St. Augustine that is limited to hot, sunny parts of the lawn would be chinch bugs. Dis-

eases pay no attention to sun or shade. Gray leaf spot is the prime disease of hot weather, and it is certainly capable of showing up in shade as well as sun.

So, back to the chinch bugs. They're BB-sized black insects that live around the runners. They will reappear in the same parts of your yard year after year, even though you may successfully treat them each summer. First symptoms: grass that looks dry (olive drab blades that are folded together), but that doesn't respond to irrigation by the next morning. That will usually be in mid-June

into July. That's the time to get on your hands and knees and part the grass with your fingers. Look for the bugs as you'd look for fleas on the back of your dog. If you see them, treat them with Merit insecticide. This will usually start to unfold by mid-June. Many people are just now noticing the dead spots in their lawns left over from last year's chinch bugs, further complicating diagnoses.

*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.*



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- 13.99** Preen® 5,625 lb. Garden Weed Preventer 1, 659-987
- 49.99** Four Seasons Courtyard® Sunny Ideas Extra-Large Zero Gravity Chair 1, 219-129
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- Santa \_ \_ , Texas
- France village
- route for TX Farrah Fawcett's "Cannonball Run" race (3 wds.)
- "... our Texas, \_ \_ hail the mighty state"
- Texas bluebonnet is a lupine, known as this (2 wds.)
- Texas-born Martin 1991 film " \_ Story"
- one of a deck
- actress raised in Dallas, Dorothy cow gave birth
- this Lindsey won 2010 downhill Gold eat dinner
- once most popular music storage
- RVing?
- Monahans \_ \_ hills State Park
- not shining bright
- TXism: "black as the \_ \_ a coffee"
- UT has the manuscripts of \_ \_ Stanley Gardner holder of Texas Blue Bell scoops
- this dentist moved to Dallas after TB diagnosis (2 wds.)
- Ruth of 1950 film "Dallas"
- Del \_ \_ , Texas
- Texas WWII hero and actor, Murphy judge's mallet
- retired Ranger sportscaster, Grieve (init.)
- historic Panhandle ranch, once the world's largest
- TX L.Q. Jones' 1960 film: "Ten Who \_ \_"
- James Bond number (2 wds.)
- copy on transparent paper
- TXism: "bought a pig \_ \_ poke"
- cash dispenser
- TXism: "in the \_ \_ of luxury"
- TXism: "does \_ \_ office business" (sells a lot)
- boot bottom
- TXism: "happy as a dog with \_ \_ tails"
- in La Salle County on I-35
- Waco is headquarters of "Improved Order of \_ \_"
- junction of 2 rivers
- TX George H.W. appointment to the Supreme Court, Clarence (init.)
- TX George W. press secretary, Fleischer
- East \_ \_ , Texas
- cap brim
- evoked a response
- Davis of 2011 film "The Help" with TX Sissy Spacek
- TX Crystal Bernard "Wings" co-star, Tim
- \_ \_ Speedwagon
- TX Lee Trevino won \_ \_ Hickok Award in 1971
- Astrodome was first \_ \_ stadium
- newspaper opinion
- witches group
- TXism: "dimwit"
- one way to order a Texas steak
- TXism: " \_ \_ up the ghost" (died)
- aid- \_ - military assistant
- TX Gene Autry's "Here Comes \_ \_ Claus"

**DOWN**

- TXism: "naked \_ \_"
- in Wood County on U.S. 69 & U.S. 80
- yearly
- approaches closely
- "Texas \_ \_" (manner of talking)
- Texas Actor, Rip
- TXism: "he's no spring chicken"
- Gold Glove center field, TX Curt (init.)
- TX Autry's "That Silver Haired Daddy \_ \_"

P-1685

**Last Puzzle Solution**

S-1684



# Alpine golfer ends run at Regionals

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Alpine Buck golfer David Baca hit the links in Abilene on Monday and Tuesday of this week for the Regional tournament. Baca has led the Alpine team this season with top wins, but nerves got the better of him this week.

According to his coach, Marco Gomez "David was nervous and anxious on day one, and he didn't have the start that he wanted." Baca was 10 over on the first nine holes, and on the back nine, he finished 16 overall, for a score of 86.

On day two, his mental game was much different.



Alpine High School golfer David Baca tees off during the Regional golf tournament held in Abilene on Tuesday.

Courtesy photo

Gomez said he'd stopped worrying about the other players and just concentrated on his game. He

was two over on the front nine and five over on the back nine, for a total of 78. "He felt more relaxed

on day two and more confident. He focused on having fun as opposed to worrying about everyone else. He also knew what to expect of the course and how to approach it on day two, so that allowed him to shoot better," said Gomez.

Baca had a total two-day combined score of 164, placing 30th out of 96 players. Unfortunately, the competition was fierce, as he needed to place in the top three to move on to the state tournament. Baca is only a sophomore, so he still has two more shots in the next couple of years for a run at the state title.

# Alpine native to compete in Arkansas



Alpine native Nathalia Rosas will be representing Alpine in the 10u USSSA South Region Select 40 Invitational 5/18 softball in Central Arkansas. She and her Texas Chrome teammates will be competing against 20 other states with a chance to advance to the United States Championship.

## SOFTBALL • FROM 1

the distance in the seventh inning with a hit by pitch, a walk, a single, and two sacrifice flies putting them ahead of the Panthers 13-11.

In the bottom of the seventh, the Panthers met the Lady Bucks neck-to-neck at 13 points and pushed ahead with a single, winning the game by one point.

"We have had several games this year with opportunities to win in the late or extra innings and have yet to win those types of games," Virdell said.

The coach said that it is definitely a growing opportunity for the team to compete and fight

through these games. All season they have stressed finishing games, and they have had several conversations with the girls about achieving greatness through mental toughness, which is a requirement in these sorts of games.

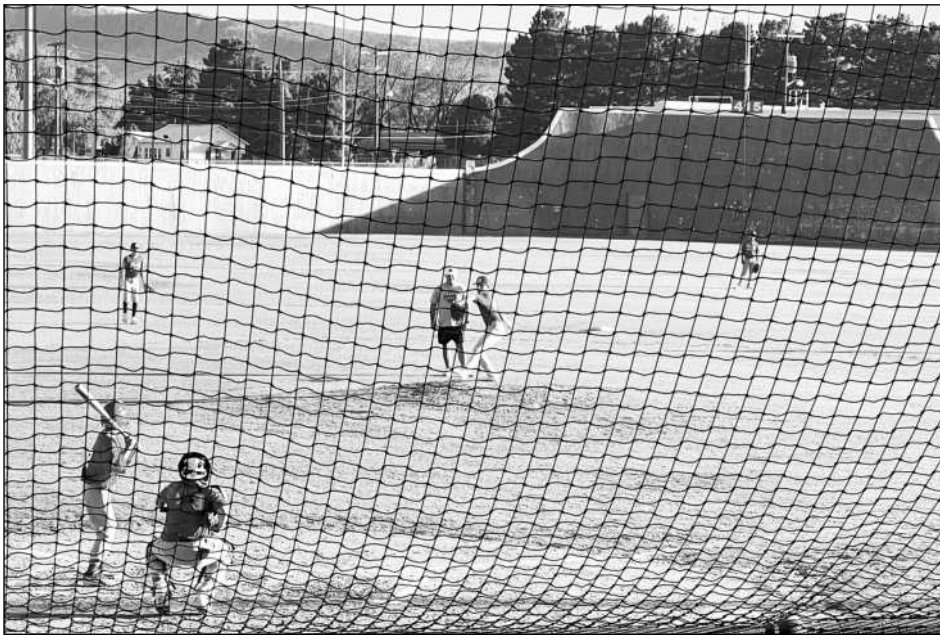
On April 9, the Lady Bucks traveled to Tornillo to play the Coyotes, reeling in a 23-1 win, and on April 12, they defeated the Stanton Buffaloes in a district home game 11-7.

Their next game is scheduled for Saturday with the Kermit Yellow Jackets in a district home game. The last time the Alpine team played against Kermit they won 17-2.

# Middle School baseball begins

Alpine Middle School eighth graders took on the Van Horn Eagles last week and came away with the win.

Courtesy photo



## COUNCIL • FROM 1

as tourism director Chris Ruggia for his work in travel service.

April is Safe Digging and Earth Month, and part of the proclamation reminded everyone to always call 811 before digging.

For public servants, Antrim said, "Without these public servants at every level, continuity would be impossible in a democracy that regularly

changes its leaders and elected officials."

Chairperson, Paul Loeffler, of the Alpine Emergency Services Board Inc., gave his report during this meeting. May 4 will be the anniversary of this joint county-city board.

When asked by Stephens what could be done to help, Loeffler said to thank the volunteers when you see them.

The Alpine Farmers Market may be moving location from where it is currently, to fulfill compliance for water and plumbing. There have been discussions with the Alpine Visitors Center as a possible new location. With their new outdoor venue and bathrooms, the center makes an attractive option.

Finally, all action items on the agenda were approved including

the final reading for the three-way stop sign to be installed at the intersection of North Hancock Drive and Avenue B.

The council also approved the Texas Water Development Board application affidavit and application filing for the Lead Service Line Replacement Funding.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled to be held on May 1.

## ELECTION • FROM 1

are the candidates vying for this position. Escovedo has held the Ward 4 seat in previous years.

A special election is being held to fill the seat vacated by current Ward 1 councilor Judy Stokes, who is stepping down next month. Candidates who have filed

to replace Stokes for the Ward 1 City Council seat are Jennifer Peel and Reagan Stone.

At the polls, voters must show a valid photo ID. To see acceptable forms of voter ID, visit [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov), and click on Identification Requirements for Voting.

## CHAMPS • FROM 1

In the 1600M race, Hope Dominguez would bring home the bronze, while Garrett would place sixth. Cason would also take first in this race for the boys.

In the 800M race, Emy Hernandez would bring home the silver for the Alpine Lady Bucks and Dominguez would place seventh, with a season's best time of 2:35.33. Hernandez would also have a personal record with a time of 2:27.73.

In the 400M race, Alpine would bring home second, third, and eighth places. Emy Hernandez and Colette Fowlkes would place second and third respectively and both would run personal record times of 1:01.42 for Hernandez and 1:01.77 for Fowlkes. Novah Carrasco came eighth with a time of 1:12.00.

In the girls' 200M dash, Danica Mulholland came in second and Ali Maroney came in sixth.

Just as she's done all season, Valeria Crespo took top honors in the 100M dash, followed by Mulholland in third. John Paul Valenzuela would place seventh in the varsity boys' competition.

In the girls' 100M hurdles, Naida Morris reached the podium in third place with a personal record time of 17.09.

In the boy's 110M hurdles, Martin Sablatura placed seventh.

In the 300M hurdles, Mia Morris placed first with a season-best time of 47.91, while her sister Naida placed fifth with a

personal record time of 51.11. The boys' John Mendoza would place seventh for Alpine.

In the girls' 4x100 relay, Alpine took first place with the team of Kylie Maroney, Crespo, Mia Morris, and Novah Carrasco with a time of 50.38. The Lady Bucks would also take first place in the 4x200 relay with the team of Mulholland, Crespo, Naida Morris, and Novah Carrasco.

Alpine's boys placed seventh in the 4x200 relay with the team of Ethan Flores, John Paul Valenzuela, Daedrick Hardwick, and Logan Smith.

The 4x400 relay would

see the Lady Bucks place second with a season-best time of 4:14.46 thanks to the team of Ali Maroney, Emy Hernandez, Hope Dominguez, and Colette Fowlkes.

The Alpine boys' 4x400 relay team of Logan Smith, Ethan Flores, Daedrick Hardwick, and Aaron Miller placed sixth and also ran a season-best time of 3:38.64.

On the third and final day of the Area meet in the field events, the Lady Bucks' Mia Morris placed second in the pole vault with a jump of 8-00.00. Her sister Naida would place sixth, followed by Ali Maroney in seventh.

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**RFP 2024-04-04**

The City of Alpine is soliciting Request for Proposals and Statement of Qualifications for Financial Advisor. The complete Request for Proposal (RFP) may be viewed on the city website at [www.cityofalpine.com/bids](http://www.cityofalpine.com/bids).

Sealed proposals are due to the Office of the City Secretary by 5:00 p.m. on May 10, 2024. To be considered, the sealed proposal must address each of the requests for information in the Summary of Qualifications section. Proposals should be clearly marked "2024-04-04 TWDB FINANCIAL ADVISOR RFP" and mailed or hand-delivered to the address below:

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

Questions and inquiries about this RFP shall be directed to Megan Antrim, City Manager, at (432) 837-3301 or [city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us](mailto:city.manager@ci.alpine.tx.us).

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**HELP WANTED**

are 10-12 and 1-3 Monday through Friday. Must have Microsoft Suite Experience along with the ability to learn church-related software. Organization is a must and strong communication skills are required. Hourly pay is negotiable with experience. Call 432-837-2487 or email pastor@alpinefbc.com for more information.

Hampton Inn is seeking dedicated employees to fill night audit. Excellent pay and benefits. Please

**HELP WANTED**

apply in person at 2607 West Highway 90.

Holiday Inn Express is seeking dedicated employees to fill morning front desk, breakfast attendant, and housekeeping positions. Please apply in person at 2004 East Highway 90.

**HOUSEKEEPERS NEEDED:** Bienvenido Big Bend is looking for housekeepers to clean its portfolio of short-term rentals in Alpine. These positions are perfect for someone who is

**HELP WANTED**

self-motivated and likes to work independently. Must be detail-oriented and have pride in work. Prior professional cleaning experience a plus! Call April at (432)-538-4182 or email bienvenidobigbend@gmail.com

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**FARM AND RANCH**

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Homer Ferguson Mills were issued on 3/26/2024, in Docket No. PR03164, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Druanne Ruth Mills. All persons having claims against the estate, which is presently being administered, are required to submit them, within the time and manner prescribed by law, and before the estate is closed, addressed as follows:

c/o John Fowlkes  
Attorney for Executor of the Estate of Homer Ferguson Mills  
PO Box 1470  
Marfa, TX 79843

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to give notice of the intent to replat the west half of Block 26 of Anderson Addition to Marathon, Brewster County, Texas into four separate lots. The subject tract is located south of S. 2nd Street and one block east of S. Lee Street. Please direct questions/concerns to Brewster county clerk.

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Please contact

Esther Howard at

956-276-1295 or email at ehoward0711@gmail.com.

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

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

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

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



Greenhouse Grown

# AVFD responds to community fires

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) responded to two different fires in Alpine early this month.

In the early morning hours of Thursday, April 4, Alpine Fire Rescue was

called out about a structure fire in the 700 block of E Ave I. At approximately 2:20 a.m., firefighters arrived at the residence in question to find that residents were evacuated safely and that there were no injuries. Firefighters identified the location of where the fire started as inside an

interior wall and were able to extinguish the blaze quickly. Upon further investigation, the flames did not extend to other areas above or below the source.

AVFD was called out the previous day at approximately 1:15 p.m. to a rubbish fire in the backyard of a residence in the

600 block of S 9th Street. Firefighters arrived on the scene and quickly stopped the fire's spread and extinguished it. All residents were safe, and the fire was extinguished before it reached the dwelling. The cause of this fire is still under investigation.



AVFD personnel responded to a rubbish fire one recent afternoon.

Photo courtesy of AFVD

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1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon



**SENIOR Spotlight**

## MARTIN SABLATURA


**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I participated in FFA and track and Cross Country.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
All the athletic trips I've been on.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
Coach George because he pushes me to be the best I can be.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
I am going into the Marines after school.

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# Devotional Page

## Don't worry

BY REV. STEPHEN WHITE  
First United Methodist Church

We all survived the total eclipse, by several days when this was published. It was a fun experience, and frankly, the amount of eclipse coverage here was good enough for me. The costs of Airbnb in the path of totality were astronomical. It is rare to have the path go through so many large cities and be so accessible to people in the United States. As an excuse to celebrate and tell a few jokes this is all fine. When folks started predicting the Apocalypse, they lost me though.

As Christians, we believe that Jesus Christ will return to Earth... some day. Scripture clearly says; "But as for that day and hour [the return of the Son of Man] no one knows it—not even the angels who are in heaven—except the Father alone. For just like the days of Noah were, so the coming of the Son of Man will be." (Matthew 24:16-17) It goes on to emphasize the suddenness of the coming and how unexpected. In 1 Thessalonians 5 we are told that the day will come "like a thief in the night." So as much as we would like the end to come and begin our "eternal reward," it does us little good to predict it. But if we want to

predict, the next total eclipse will be in August of 2026. Of course, that one will be over the North Atlantic.

Which is another problem I had with predictions this year. Is Jesus waiting for signs to hit the United States? Is he unwilling to come if some lesser locale bears the signs? How full of ourselves are we if we place the fulfillment of Creation at our convenience? We are not the center of things, and we don't need to let that worry us. God is faithful to God's promises as described throughout the Hebrew Bible. We don't need to live a life of fear and anxiety, trying desperately to figure out the future and work out when that day will come. It will come. Christ will return.

Let us be at peace and give up our attempt to control and contain. Is it worth a billion disappointments to be right once? Scripture tells us it can't be predicted so we will relax. So, we aren't obsessively trying to guess when and prepare. It will come while we are in the fields, or at our desks, out at the grocery store. Nothing we can do will change it. Nothing will prepare us more than to believe in God and Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. The time will come. We don't need to pack.

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

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# Your last meal

Over the years, my friends and I have always had a conversation about what would be our last meal request if we were ever on death row. Now granted, none of us ever did anything that would warrant us a trip to said death row, but when discussing food, the last meal one would request holds a lot of weight.

Many of my friends have said tacos, steak, and some even pizza, but mine has always been fried chicken. And while fried chicken doesn't sound all that glamorous to most people, if you're getting ready to have to "check out", your favorite comfort food should probably be on the menu.

From the time I began cooking, I've worked to improve my fried chicken recipe, and the one thing that I have figured out, like so many other great fried chicken cooks, is that brine makes it better. You see chicken, especially white meat, requires a lot of sea-



soning to enhance its rather mild and bland flavor. And while a rotisserie chicken is good, most of the flavor is in the outer skin that gets coated in the various spices. Soaking your chicken in brine before breading and frying allows for the brine to infuse itself into the meat, giving your chicken the extra flavor that would be missing if you just seasoned the outside and the breading.

Chef Thomas Keller, the American cookbook

author and restaurateur brings this fried chicken recipe to the masses, as it is the same recipe he used at his restaurant Ad Hoc. To say it was popular is no exaggeration. Keller would serve it on Mondays, twice a month, so all of those who had to opportunity to enjoy it learned to look forward to the nights it was on the menu.

As a dish, fried chicken is simple, southern, and scrumptious. It pairs well with mashed potatoes and gravy, macaroni and cheese, green beans, and countless other sides. It also happens to be my all-time favorite comfort food.



**Lemon-Brined Fried Chicken**

*Courtesy photo*

So, don't wait to make this a favorite at your table or a conversation about it being what you would order should you find yourself on death row. Grab that large pot, brine that chicken, and fry it up until it is a golden, juicy, masterpiece that will have everyone fighting for the last piece on the serving platter.

## Lemon-Brined Fried Chicken

- Ingredients:**
- 1-gallon cold water
  - 1 cup plus two teaspoons kosher salt
  - ¼ cup plus two tablespoons of honey
  - 12 bay leaves
  - 1 head of garlic, smashed but not peeled
  - 2 tablespoons black peppercorns
  - 3 large rosemary sprigs
  - 1 small bunch of thyme
  - 1 small bunch of parsley
  - Finely grated lemon zest
- and juice of two lemons
- 2-three-pound chickens
- For the dredge**
- 3 cups all-purpose flour
  - 2 tablespoons garlic powder
  - 2 tablespoons onion powder
  - 2 teaspoons cayenne pepper
  - 2 cups of buttermilk
  - Vegetable oil for frying
  - Rosemary and thyme sprigs for garnish

**Directions:**

- In a very large pot, combine 1 quart of water with 1 cup of salt, honey, bay leaves, garlic, peppercorns, rosemary, thyme, and parsley. Add the lemon zest and juice along with the lemon halves and bring to a simmer over moderate heat, stirring until the salt is dissolved. Let cool completely, then stir the remaining three quarts of cold water. Add the chickens, being sure they are completely submerged, and refrigerate overnight.
- Drain the chickens and pat dry. Scrape off any herbs and peppercorns stuck to the skin and cut each bird into 8 pieces, keeping the breast meat on the bone.
- In a large bowl combine the flour, garlic powder, onion powder, cayenne, and the remaining 2 teaspoons of salt. Put the buttermilk in a large, shallow bowl.

Working with a few pieces at a time, dip the chicken into the buttermilk, then dredge in the flour mixture, pressing so it adheres all over. Transfer the chicken to a baking sheet lined with wax paper.

4. In a very large, deep skillet, heat 1-inch of vegetable oil to 330 degrees. Fry the chicken in two or three batches over moderate heat, turning once, until golden and crunchy, and an instant-read thermometer inserted into the thickest part of each piece registers 160 degrees, about 20 minutes. Transfer the chicken to paper towels to drain and keep warm in a low oven while you fry the remaining pieces. Transfer the fried chicken to a platter, garnish with the herb sprigs, and serve hot or at room temperature along with your favorite sides.



## Area gold

Hatfield Cason took his first-place District win in the 3200M race to the Area competition in Denver City last week and came home with the same result, placing first and advancing to the Regional meet in Abilene this Friday. Pictured are Hatfield and his mom, Lady Bucks head track coach Cory Cason.

*Courtesy photo*



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