

## Still time for early voting

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

There is still time to cast your ballots during the early voting period for the City of Alpine's general and special elections from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. today, tomorrow, as well as Monday, April 29, and Tuesday, April 30. Registered voters have these four days left to vote for candidates running for the two city council positions.

Voters in Ward 4 may still cast their vote before the May 4 election day for Lori A. Griffin or Lucy E. Escovedo from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at 803 West Holland Avenue. Likewise, registered voters located within Ward 1 may cast their votes for the two individuals vying to replace current Ward 1 councilor Judy Stokes who will be stepping down next month. Candidates who have filed to replace Stokes for the Ward 1 city council seat are Jennifer Peel and Reagan Stone.

See VOTING • 9

## INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports 8-9

### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

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



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 14 pages  
Opinions . . . . . P.4  
Sports . . . . . P.6-7  
Puzzle . . . . . P.8  
Classifieds . . . . . P.10-11

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



## 06 Cowboys season uncertain after AISD meeting

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

*"Is it historical denial or greed fueling the divide?"*

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, April 17 at the AISD administration building. Trustees Jimmy Morris and Joe Portillo were absent. After the meeting was

called to order, the public comment portion of the agenda had a bevy of board members and interested parties from the 06 Cowboys Baseball Club ready to speak on behalf of the organization and what it means to the citizens of Alpine.

Earlier in the day, AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart and Sul Ross' Dr. Carlos Hernandez, along with Amanda Workman and



Andy Smith, both athletic directors of the respective educational institutions, met with Cowboys

GM Kristin Cavness and President Bob Ward, presenting them with a lease agreement for utilizing

Kokernot Field for their summer games.

See AISD • 9

## Reptiles celebrate Earth Day in Alpine



Eli Villanueva holds a juvenile bullsnake with the help of Presidio County biologist Rachael Connally. Connally and her colleagues with Texas Parks and Wildlife were on hand at Alpine's Earth Day celebration held at Kishmish Plaza displaying mammal pelts, antlers, and live, non-venomous snake species found in the Trans-Pecos.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## Brewster County welcomes new emergency management coordinator

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, April 24. The new emergency management coordinator for Brewster County, James Etchison, was welcomed aboard by the court. Etchison is replacing the previous coordinator, Stephanie Elmore, and started the job on Monday.

Etchison served in the military for 10 years and was a private contractor for the Department of State before moving to Alpine to work with the USDA and eventually the fire department.

All the commissioners warmly welcomed Etchison and Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington,

said that they'd have to buy him lunch whenever the opportunity arose.

Several of the county representatives and employees had updates for the court during this meeting. Henington shared with the court that items on the county's project list are progressing steadily. Most items are funded, Henington removed an equipment item during this meeting, and some of the larger projects are on the horizon.

On the subject, Commissioner Pct. 2, Sara Colando, shared that the bookmobile item on the list will see some progress this week. They are scheduled to have a meeting with the volunteer builder for the outfitting of the trailer with custom bookshelves today.

Next, Commissioner

Pct. 1, Jim Westermann said that the new vehicle cover at the fire station is virtually complete and just needs some paint to finish.

No new items were added to the list during this meeting.

In other news, Henington addressed the possible implementation of the Property Assessed Clean Energy, or PACE, program. PACE loans are a type of financing tool that allows property owners to finance the upfront cost of projects and updates to improve the energy and water efficiency of their property. PACE is overseen by the U.S. Department of Energy but provided by state and local governments. The court will vote at the next meeting on whether



Judge Greg Henington

or not to approve the resolution of intent for the program.

Julie Morton, Brewster County treasurer, shared that on April 29-May 3 representatives from New York Life Insurance, an alternative whole life insurance to the county's group term life policy, will be coming to Alpine for county employee open enrollment. On May 1 they will be hosting a barbecue for county employees and their families.

Justice of the Peace Pct. 1, Judge Scott Wassermann came before the court to request that the two part-time positions in his office be consolidated into one full-time position. The Justice of the Peace Pct. 1 Office is

having some employee transitions and will be hiring to fill a couple of them as soon as possible. The court approved the motion to create the full-time administrative assistant position, with the stipulation that it would not alter the approved budget.

Henington had met with the new funeral home director, Bianca Sanchez, and has renegotiated the cost that the county is charged for body transportation. Previously, the cost was approximately \$5 per mile, which is quite steep for the expanse of the Brewster County area. The future cost will hopefully be closer to \$3.

The next regular Commissioners Court meeting is scheduled to be held on Tuesday, May 14.

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# Permian Basin Area Foundation and Community Impact Report

Join Jeff Davis County and Big Bend community citizens at the Fort Davis Community Center on Saturday, May 4 at 10 a.m. to meet and hear Director, Guy McCrary of the Permian Basin Area Foundation (PBAF). McCrary will share how the Big Bend Region has benefited economically from the foundation's work and what is planned for the future. Also discussed will be how your community can gain support from the foundation for needed future projects.

In 1989 West Texas leaders envisioned a public foundation that would sustain the spirit of philanthropy in our local communities for years to come. With a charitable investment of \$400,000, PBAF was established. Its mission: To partner with donors in creating permanent charitable funds to enrich the quality of life in West Texas communities.

The impact of the Foundation has been profound. PBAF has grown perma-

nent assets to an estimated \$280 million through 2021. Since its inception, the Foundation has returned more than \$150 million to West Texas communities through grants and scholarships. PBAF is making a difference.

PBAF makes grants to qualified nonprofit organizations that support a broad range of philanthropic purposes: animal services, arts & culture, community development, education, environmental,

health & mental health, housing & shelter, human & social services, and youth development.

In 2023, numerous nonprofits in our tri-county area received grants. Examples are the Big Bend Conservation Alliance, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, McDonald Observatory, Family Crisis Center of the Big Bend, Friends of the Jeff Davis County Library, and Museum of the Big Bend among others. PBAF also plays a vital

role in student scholars.

Plan to join this informative meeting in which a part will be devoted to answering your questions about the foundation's work and application process. The meeting is being sponsored by your friends at the Jeff Davis County

Democratic party, who invite everyone interested to join in the information to be gained from this meeting.

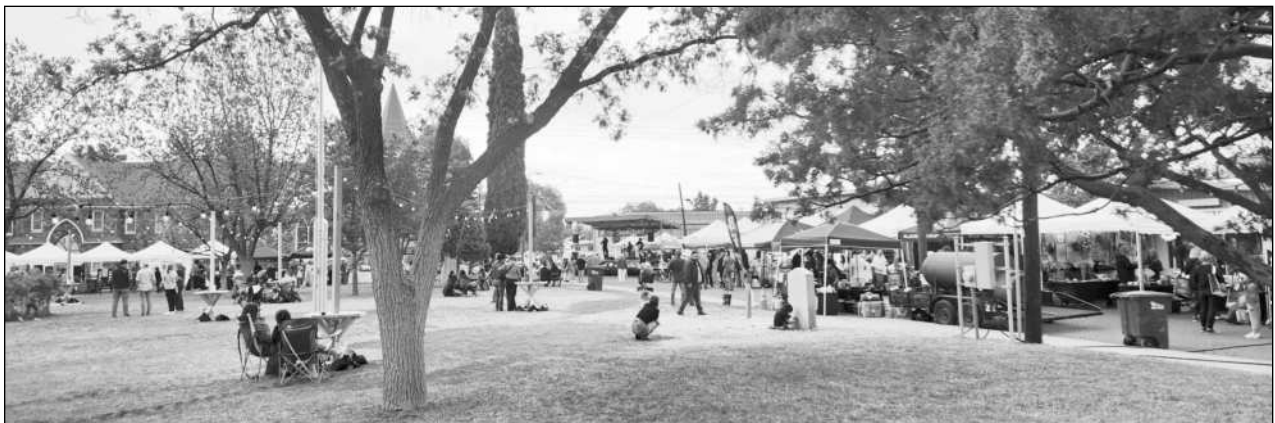
For press release questions and information: E-mail: [madgelindsay@me.com](mailto:madgelindsay@me.com) or call 432-426-2339.

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## Spirits of the West a success



Area locals and tourists alike came out for the third-annual Spirits of the West festival on Friday and Saturday. This year, the festival was hosted on the Brewster County courthouse lawn, a necessary move considering the event has almost tripled in size since its introduction. Texas brewers, distilleries, and wineries from all over the state joined local businesses to treat Alpine to an event filled with good food, fun drinks, and great live music.

Photo by Joh Covington

## DEA partners to host Spring Take Back Day

The Drug Enforcement Administration has announced the date of its bi-annual National Prescription Drug Take Back Day. This Saturday, April 27, DEA, and its partners will collect tablets, capsules, patches, and other solid forms of prescription drugs.

For more than a decade, DEA's National Prescription Drug Take Back Day

has helped Americans easily rid their homes of unneeded medications—those that are old, unwanted, or expired—that too often become a gateway to addiction.

Take Back Day offers free and anonymous disposal of unneeded medications at thousands of drop-off locations nationwide.

In partnership with lo-

cal law enforcement, Take Back Day has removed more than 8,000 tons of medication from circulation since its inception.

Collection sites will not accept syringes, sharps, and illicit drugs. Liquid products, such as cough syrup, should remain sealed in their original container. The cap must be tightly sealed to prevent leakage. For more infor-

mation and to find a collection site near you, visit [www.DEATakeBack.com](http://www.DEATakeBack.com)

Brewster County Sheriff's Office will accept drop-offs at their office prior to this Saturday, during the 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. business hours, or Saturday at True Value along with members of the Drug Task Force from the Alpine Police Department.

Sunshine House Senior Citizens Center Meals on Wheels  
402 E. Holland Ave. • Alpine, Texas 79830 • 432-837-5402  
[www.sunshinehousealpine.com](http://www.sunshinehousealpine.com)

Thank you for the following donations:

Mary Ross Bennett	Richard and Jean Zimmer
Kirsten Moody	Ronnie Drewery
Michael and Frieda Powers	Frances Sage
Alpine Avalanche	Carol V. Slocomb

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## Rain or shine, it's all about the rocks

Everly Scanlan, River Rouselov, and Roam Rouselov show off some of the polished rocks they picked up at this year's Gem and Mineral Show held at the Alpine Civic Center. Despite the cooler temperatures and wet weather, rock enthusiasts still came out to see what vendors had on hand.



Photo by Kara Gerbert

### 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).

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# Quilts of many colors

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The annual quilt show was held this past Saturday at the Sunshine House, showcasing the talents of local quilters.

The annual quilt show offers a raffle for a quilt (pictured in the background,) display quilts, challenge projects, and quilts for sale to benefit the Sunshine House or the Desert Sky Quilters, and everyone can vote on the challenge projects and the viewer's choice.

In the challenge project, Cathy English took first place, Ginger Tidwell Elliott placed second, and Diana Tompkins placed third.

For the Viewer's Choice quilt, Burns took first place, Mary Longren and Merrie Purpura tied for second, and Betty Ann Foster placed third. The raffle quilt was won by Martin Benevich.

The Avalanche spoke with one of the quilters Dot Mainz, who is one



**Robbie Ann Burns stands beside one of several quilts she had on display at the annual quilt show this past Saturday. Burns' quilt is entitled "My Story on a Bookshelf" where she commented, "I don't believe any book should be banned. I think we can learn something from all of them." The quilt listed many of the books Burns had read over the years, and although she'd had several offers to buy it, she turned them down.**

Photo by Kara Gerbert

of the few who quilt by hand. "I'm afraid that this year may be the last year we have a hand-quilted quilt in the show. Nobody else really wants to do hand quilting anymore, because everyone has gone to machines and there aren't any younger

people who have an interest."

The annual quilt show brings in locals and out-of-towners alike, and this year offered a sewing machine repair man who would clean and take in repairs. They also had material on hand for sale.

# Esteemed businessman John B. Poindexter honored as West Texas conservation leader

John B. Poindexter was honored at a Houston event for his conservation contributions in West Texas. Poindexter is the owner of the acclaimed Cibolo Creek Ranch in Presidio County, south of Marfa. The Borderlands Research Institute (BRI) celebrated the third annual West Texas Conservationist of the Year award ceremony at the River Oaks Country Club on April 10, which was hosted by the Borderlands Research Foundation, the charitable arm of the Institute.

John B. Poindexter, a steward of the land and history, is a third-generation Texan whose passion for conservation shines through his meticulous care of Cibolo Creek Ranch. This 30,000-acre expanse, steeped in natural beauty and historical significance, merited inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. His commitment extends beyond Texas to Virginia, where through the Tidewater and Big Bend Foundation he breathes life into pre-Civil War era properties, inviting the public to step back in time.

His military service, distinguished by earning two Silver Stars and a Presidential Unit Citation, is a testament to his dedication to his country. The same spirit drives his conservation efforts, through the John B.

Poindexter Endowed Fellowship for Desert Quail Research, established to deepen the understanding and ensure the conservation of these iconic species of the Texas landscape. In recognition of his relentless pursuit of preservation and conservation, the Museum of the Big Bend bestowed upon him the Heritage Award in 2018.

An author of works reflecting his deep connection to history and the land, Poindexter is fluent in the language of conservation. His comprehensive efforts to protect our shared heritage aptly merit his acclaim as "West Texas Conservationist of the Year."

"Conservation is not only about preserving land; it's about safeguarding our nation's shared heritage for future generations to come," said Poindexter. "The Tidewater and Big Bend Foundation is making a significant impact through its restoration projects in West Texas and Tidewater Virginia to enhance natural landscapes and preserve the rich historical legacy each location holds."

Several BRI students enrolled in Sul Ross State University graduate and undergraduate programs attended the event to share information about their research on West Texas wildlife, including quail, mule deer, black bears, aoudad,

grassland birds, and more.

Support from land stewards is an essential component of that research, enabling access to the wilderness and wildlife upon which these studies depend. The annual event celebrates and supports West Texas wildlife and conservation research.

"John's commitment to West Texas is evident in his beloved Cibolo Creek Ranch," said Dr. Louis Harveson, who is the founder and director of the Borderlands Research Institute and Associate Provost of Research and Development at Sul Ross State University. "It is one of the spectacular ranches in West Texas where he has meticulously restored the history, culture, and natural resources of the region, and we are proud to honor him and Cibolo Creek Ranch as the 2024 West Texas Conservationist of the Year."

# Boquillas begins summer visitation schedule

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Boquillas Port of Entry will begin their new summer schedule on Sunday, April 28. The port of entry is located within Big Bend National Park (BBNP) and provides access to the town of Boquillas, Coahuila, Mexico as well as the protected areas in Mexico of the Maderas Del Carmen and Ocampo.

Beginning Friday, May 3, the crossing will be open Friday through Monday, four days a week, and will be closed Tuesday through Thursday. During the transition week, the port of entry will be open on that Sunday, April 28 but closed the following day through Thursday, May 2.

The hours of operation for the port of entry within BBNP for pedestrians are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Visitors to the town of Boquillas should also be aware that the Mexican state of Coahuila does not adhere to Daylight Savings Time, and they will be one hour behind



the port of entry on the U.S. side of the river.

During low water times, visitors may be able to cross into Mexico by foot ONLY through legal ports of entry. They may also access the town of Boquillas via rowboat ferry for a fee during business hours only. This port of entry does not accommodate vehicle crossings or the commercial importation of products. This is the only legal access to Mexico within Big Bend National Park and there is NO other legal access within or through the park.

Proper documents are required to cross into

Mexico, and U.S. and Canadian citizens may cross with a valid passport.

The Boquillas Port of Entry is a cooperative operation effort between the National Park Service and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection. The facility within BBNP is staffed with National Park Rangers who can assist travelers with information about visiting the area, and any questions regarding proper documentation for travel into Mexico should be addressed to the U.S. Customs and Border Protection at Presidio by calling 432-229-3349.

## Join us at the Museum of the Big Bend for Director MARY BONES' RETIREMENT & BIRTHDAY PARTY!

MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND

**SATURDAY, APRIL 27, 5:00-7:00PM**  
in the Emmett and Miriam McCoy Cultural Events Center.



Come and celebrate Mary Bones' 24 years at the Museum of the Big Bend! Under Mary's leadership, the Museum has become the region's landmark destination to explore the arts, culture and history of the Big Bend region and received multiple state, regional and national awards.



## Fair Housing Month April 2024 Rio Grande Council of Governments



Housing discrimination can deny you many opportunities.



Your race shouldn't affect your home, your health, your children, or your job. Under the Fair Housing Act, it is illegal for landlords and real estate agents to refuse to let you rent or buy a home because of your race. If you believe your rights have been violated, file a complaint with HUD. We all deserve to live in safe housing with access to opportunities.

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A public service message from the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in cooperation with the National Fair Housing Alliance. The federal Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination because of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), familial status or disability.



# OLP celebrates First Communion

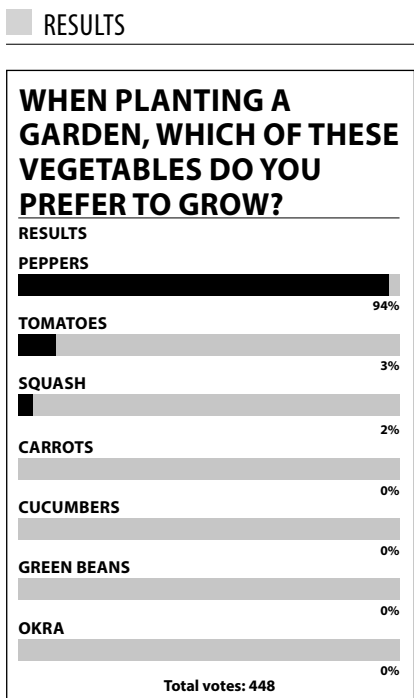


The First Communion celebration and Mass was held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on Saturday, April 13. Congratulations to these Catechism students. From left, first row, Ariana Torres, Maribel Rosas, Awanita Lujan, Ariadne Aguilar, Daniel Holguin, Leo Munoz, Catechist-Cynthia Wood. Second row, Catechist-Barbara Tucker, Aydren Macias, Maylee Galindo, Fr. Hector Chicas, Jordan Lujan, Gerard Prieto, Veydah Delao, and Catechist-Manuel Martinez

Photo courtesy of Wind River Photography

# 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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## New scholarship offers financially accessible education

Sul Ross State University is pleased to announce the Lobo Promise Scholarship, covering the full cost of tuition and fees. It's a commitment to empowering students, fostering academic excellence, and creating opportunities for social mobility. Rooted in our dedication to accessibility and affordability, this scholarship initiative will become a beacon of hope for aspiring students seeking higher education. "Promise" scholarship programs are common across public universities and are based on financial need. While the concept isn't new at Sul Ross, we are renewing our effort to freshen the brand and market the Lobo Promise across West Texas, and to deepen the pool of eligible students. At its core, the Lobo Promise Scholarship is designed to make college more accessible for students, particularly those facing financial barriers. It serves as a testament to Sul Ross State's belief that every individual deserves the chance to pursue their dreams, regardless of their economic circumstances. By alleviating the financial burden of tuition and fees, the scholarship opens doors of opportunity for students who might otherwise struggle to afford a college education. One of the distinguishing features of the Lobo Promise Scholarship is its comprehensive support system. Recipients not only receive financial assistance but also benefit from a range of resources and services aimed at ensuring their academic success. From mentorship programs to tutoring services, students are equipped with the tools they need to thrive in their academic pursuits. This holistic approach reflects Sul Ross State's commitment to nurturing the whole student, both inside and outside the classroom. To be eligible for Lobo Promise, students must be a Texas resident, first-time freshman, complete the application for federal student aid known as FAFSA, demonstrate financial need, including eligibility for federal Pell grants, and have a household income of \$80,000 or less. The scholarship is renewable for students who complete 15 hours each semester and maintain a cumulative 2.0 GPA, in addition to the other requirements. By breaking down financial barriers, Lobo Promise helps ensure that students from all walks of life have equal access to the opportunities afforded by higher education. In doing so, it contributes to the university's vibrant learning environment, enriching the educational experience for all members of our community. For more information, visit <https://srinfo.sulross.edu/finaid/> and click "Scholarships." The impact of the Lobo Promise extends far beyond the individual recipients. By investing in the education of talented and motivated students, SRSU is investing in the future of our communities and beyond. These scholars are not only the leaders of tomorrow but also the catalysts for positive change. Whether they pursue careers in education, agriculture, healthcare, or law enforcement, they carry with them the values – and promise – of being a Lobo.



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ  
 Guest Columnist

and increased fiber, my checkups are mostly good. And I require only one prescription medication. Still, the journey has had its moments. Shopping to supplement my supplements last weekend reminded me of early one morning in the early 1980s, touring Arkansas in a car born in 1956. Hitting the road early, I wasn't far down the road when I sensed my heart racing. I felt warm. A glance in the mirror revealed a bright red face staring back at me. As if that wasn't enough, I began to itch. A quick exit off I-40 took me to St. Mary's Hospital in Russellville, Arkansas. "Taken any medicine this morning," the nurse asked. "No." "Have you eaten?" "Not real food. Fast-food fake breakfast. Sausage biscuit. Orange juice. Coffee. Black." I added as how the itching was escalating. "Where do you itch," she asked?" "More all over than anywhere else," I offered. "It might be the orange juice," she commented while checking my blood pressure. "I've never been allergic to anything," I said. While scratching. "No medications," she doubled back to ask again. "No. Although I did take my morning ration of vitamins." "What supplements did you take?" "Let's see," I take vitamins A, B complex, C, niacin, lecithin, bran, brewer's yeast, zinc, bone meal ... that's all I can think of at the moment." She continued writing. "Why do you take lecithin." "Helps reduce cholesterol and lower blood pressure. Is that what's making me itchy and red-faced?" "No," she said. "I just like people who

## In good shape, for the shape I'm in

I'm trying hard to remember. What was so dad-gum funny about that?"—Me. I said that. About 1982. "Hello, how are ya," a friend greeted me. We met last weekend where I shop for vitamins. "I'm in good shape for the shape I'm in," I joked, laughing like friends do when they run into each other. "But, keeping me in shape these days is getting to be like those old cars of mine. The older we both get, the more maintenance we both require." We laughed again and waved as he went one way, and I went the other. It's a commentary on life, I suppose. Joking about aging. Until aging starts happening to us. Like my sisters and me at the family reunion some years ago. "You remember," I posed the question. "How we used to laugh at Mom and her brothers and sisters. They drove halfway across the country to drink coffee and talk about their aches, pains, and surgeries?" We laughed. "Well," I continued, "here we are, we're at that age. Talking about our aches and pains and surgeries. And I'm trying hard to remember. What was it that was so dad-gum funny about that?" I've always tried to care for myself, as I do with the old cars, I enjoy tinkering with. Routine maintenance for me and for them, to keep us all hitting on eight cylinders and on the road. During my three score and ten, plus a half dozen, I've jogged, walked, worked out at the gym and at home, water skied, and bicycled in varied attempts to stay in shape. Like the television commercial that touts a body in motion stays in motion, my goal is to keep active. I want to wear out rather than rust out. Just as I keep the rolling stock in the garage nourished with quality lubricants and fluids, I've also tried eating healthy. Reinforcing diet with vitamins and supplements. The result? So far, so good. I guess. At this mature age of social security benefits



LEON ALDRIDGE  
 Guest Columnist

and increased fiber, my checkups are mostly good. And I require only one prescription medication. Still, the journey has had its moments. Shopping to supplement my supplements last weekend reminded me of early one morning in the early 1980s, touring Arkansas in a car born in 1956. Hitting the road early, I wasn't far down the road when I sensed my heart racing. I felt warm. A glance in the mirror revealed a bright red face staring back at me. As if that wasn't enough, I began to itch. A quick exit off I-40 took me to St. Mary's Hospital in Russellville, Arkansas. "Taken any medicine this morning," the nurse asked. "No." "Have you eaten?" "Not real food. Fast-food fake breakfast. Sausage biscuit. Orange juice. Coffee. Black." I added as how the itching was escalating. "Where do you itch," she asked?" "More all over than anywhere else," I offered. "It might be the orange juice," she commented while checking my blood pressure. "I've never been allergic to anything," I said. While scratching. "No medications," she doubled back to ask again. "No. Although I did take my morning ration of vitamins." "What supplements did you take?" "Let's see," I take vitamins A, B complex, C, niacin, lecithin, bran, brewer's yeast, zinc, bone meal ... that's all I can think of at the moment." She continued writing. "Why do you take lecithin." "Helps reduce cholesterol and lower blood pressure. Is that what's making me itchy and red-faced?" "No," she said. "I just like people who

take supplements to know why they're taking them." "Funny," I added. "No one told me to expect a pop quiz. Does trying to stay out of hospitals count as a reason," I asked. I never knew not all nurses have a sense of humor. I contemplated my fate. Was it circulation, heart trouble, or old age? After all, I was approaching 40. "Good morning," announced the doctor. "Do you like broccoli?" "Broccoli," I asked? "Yes, I like broccoli. But tell me what green veggies have to do with our nice chat?" "You eat lots of it?" "Sometimes." "I think that's causing your symptoms this morning." "Broccoli," I paused. "Sausage biscuits don't come with broccoli. It wasn't even listed as a side on the menu." "You told the nurse you take niacin." "I did. And I do." "Then you took niacin this morning. And I'm guessing before breakfast?" "Maybe," I conceded. "I think you're experiencing a niacin reaction. If you eat broccoli, you're probably getting a sufficient amount of it without niacin. If so, an extra dose on an empty stomach can trigger the symptoms you're experiencing." "Seriously," I asked. "I turned around on the interstate, delayed my trip half a day, and saw my life flash before my eyes. For a niacin reaction. Shouldn't you at least keep me for observation or something?" "Nope, just lay off the niacin for a few days and reduce your dosage," he laughed. "No joke, you'll be fine in an hour or so." It really wasn't funny at the time. But funny is sometimes a matter of perspective. While I had a temporary breakdown at Russellville, my '56 Thunderbird never skipped a beat during the five-day trip covering three states. (Contact Leon Aldridge at [leonaldridge@gmail.com](mailto:leonaldridge@gmail.com). Other Aldridge columns are archived at [leonaldridge.com](http://leonaldridge.com))

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Alpine Cowboys fans, players, staff, and volunteers, My great-grandfather donated Kokernot field to AISD back in the day and AISD leases it to Sul Ross and Sul Ross subleases the field for three-and-a-half months to the Alpine Cowboys. We have always paid a small fee in addition to in-kind improvements and maintenance since we became a 501c3 Non-Profit in 2011. Last season we were

asked to put up \$10,000 so that the warning track and infield could be restored, and we complied. Knowing the struggle it was to raise this money, in addition to our operating costs and contributions, we made it clear that the Cowboys would not be able to fulfill this obligation in 2024. AISD Superintendent and the Sul Ross President finally presented us with a contract on April 8 asking for the same

\$10,000 lease fee and have not been willing to negotiate down to our offer of \$5,000 which includes full maintenance of Kokernot Field. "Deferred Maintenance," they call it. Unfortunately, we had to go up on all sponsorships and gate fees and season tickets and will now no longer be able to provide free admission to any AISD student or staff nor Sul Ross staff or student (which we have been pro-

viding for nearly 13 years). For the future of Alpine Cowboys baseball please show support this year in any way you can and let these two institutions know why we are important to the community and Kokernot Field. Our entire board has volunteered and poured our souls into this organization and Kokernot Field. Go Cowboys!! Opening Day May 29 at 6 p.m. GM Kristin L Cavness





# Heard on the STREET

Our Avalanche reporter asked, "What was a good thing about this weekend?"



**Elizabeth James:** My kids like the rock

show. They wanted to take all the rocks though, which is unfortunate, but we went rock hunting ourselves later and washed the rocks at home and had fun. New little rock hunters.



**Brandy Collins:** Seeing family and relaxing with games and hot chocolate.



**Dave Collins:** The sliders from Sky Island Culinary.



**Ethan Taylor:** We came down to camp in BBNP and were surprised by the festival.



**Hannah Taylor:** I loved sampling all the wines from visiting booths at the Spirits of the West.

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**April 26**  
**Travel Talk at Alpine Public Library,** 7 p.m. featuring Valerie Naylor presenting Beyond America: Exploring the United States Territories. Free of charge.

**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.

**April 27-28**  
**Free movie showing,** 3 p.m. each day at Alpine First Assembly of God they will show the movie "Mindreader", and they will serve bottled water and popcorn. They invite everyone to bring family and friends.

**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.

**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 [bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).

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

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

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

**Exercise Classes,** at Sunshine

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

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

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

**Kiwanis Club of Alpine,** noon to 1 p.m., first and third Wednesdays at the Alpine Public Library.

**Late Night Game Night,** 9 p.m. to 11 p.m. every Thursday night at Amigo, 101 W. Ave E. See more at [alpineavalanche.com](http://alpineavalanche.com).

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# Third graders do their part to Keep Alpine Beautiful



Last week, Veydah, Madison, Brooklyn, Arabella, Maylee, Cheyenne, Olivia, and Lindley saw that trash had blown into their playground at Alpine Elementary School. They brought a trash can outside and used part of their recess time to clean up their playground. They shared with their teacher that they wanted to take good care of their school.

Courtesy photo

# PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Twofie. Twofie is a little shy at first, but he is warm and sweet within a short period of time as he gets used to you and leans into your hand for pets. He finds companionship with his brother Kid, and he is a laid-back dude who would love to hang out and watch TV with you.

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.

Meet us at our next Yappy Hour at Alcove (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, April 30, from 4 to 8 pm. We receive a portion of beverage sales during that time.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 am to 1 pm and 2 pm to 6 pm, 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 am to 5 pm Monday through Saturday. The Pet Pantry is at 600 N. 5th Street. The AHS helpline is 432-837-



2532. To view adoptable pets, visit [Petfinder.com](http://Petfinder.com) or [www.alpinehumane-society.org](http://www.alpinehumane-society.org) and check us out on Facebook and Instagram.

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### 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).



# Sports

## “We are the District Champions!”

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

On Monday the Alpine Fightin’ Lady Bucks brought home the trophy as district champions. The Senior Night district game that they played against the Kermit Yellow Jackets resulted in a 14-4 final score.

Head Lady Bucks softball coach, Christopher Virdell said, “It was great to see their joy as they lifted and celebrated that district championship, well deserved and earned.”

This season, the Lady Bucks maintained steady winning streaks, with an overall 9-1 win-loss record in district play this year. According to the coach, this season’s district challenge came with pros and cons for the team’s overall competitive training. He maintained that while it is great to get wins, which they did more often than not, you really need high-level competition leading into the playoffs.

“I feel we had three games that benefited us in preparation for the playoffs, including our only loss in our first district game. That game lit a fire under the girls, and they never looked back after that. So, the plus side was we were able to almost run everyone in all games and win the outright district title, but the minus side was the competition before playoffs,” Virdell said.

During the game, the Yellow Jackets were at bat first at the top of the first, but the Lady Bucks were the first to put points onto the scoreboard at the bottom of that inning. Taryn Hardin singled on a ground ball to third, and Zariah Galvan scored, pushing Kody Hawkins to advance to third. Their next two points were from a score from Hawkins stealing home and a score from Hardin



The Alpine Lady Bucks celebrate their district championship win together on Monday. The Lady Bucks won 14-4 against the Kermit Yellow Jackets during their final home district game and Senior Night.

when Sierra Ruckman was outed on a sacrifice fly.

In the second inning, the Yellow Jackets gained some ground with a hit-by-pitch and strikeout, but the Lady Bucks maintained their lead in the bottom of the second when Aylena Gutierrez and Rikki Vega scored on a fly ball hit by Jaycee Portillo. These two points were followed by a score made by Hannah Juett after Galvan was out on a sacrifice fly.

The second inning ended with the Lady Bucks in an 8-2 lead after a ground-out from Hawkins and Portillo scoring, as well as a steal of home from Hardin when Emily Sweat had a pop-out to the shortstop.

The next points were earned by Vega and Gutierrez when Galvan hit a ground ball in the bottom of the third. In the fourth inning, Hardin hit an inside-the-park home run. The inning ended 13-2 after another ground out and single.

It was the fifth inning when the Yellow Jackets hit a single, bumping their score up to their final four points, and the bottom of the fifth inning when Lady Buck Hawkins scored from a ground ball hit from Hardin that reached on an error

by the shortstop.

“This season has been incredible so far. To see the girls come together and have that team chemistry has been exciting and beneficial to the program. These girls work hard every day, they want to be successful, and they want to win. I have asked a lot of them this year,” Virdell said.

The coach continued that they would have to maintain focus this week and practice as hard as possible to prepare for the playoffs. Virdell knew the potential of this year’s team coming into this season and wanted to have the toughest schedule possible in preseason play.

“We needed to see high-level competition and learn how to compete with those types of teams. I truly believe the schedule allowed us to do that and more. Our record does reflect some of those games we were in and how well we competed with really good teams all year,” said Virdell.

The Lady Bucks softball program had set high expectations since day one and the coach has placed most of them in different positions all year. According to Virdell, they accepted the challenge and have been willing

to do whatever it takes, to do their job to make sure the team wins.

“No complaining just doing it, that is what elite teams do and these girls have done that. We are excited about our chances to make a play-off run,” said Virdell.

Hosted by Wink High School, the Lady Buck’s next challenge is the bi-district playoff game, which is scheduled for this Friday with the Brownfield Cubs. The Cubs lost their last game against the Seminole Indians 4-10 last Friday and are fourth in their district with a 3-5 win-loss record this season.

“We are looking forward to facing off this weekend against Brownfield in the best two out three series for the Bi-District Champion-

Courtesy photo

ship. I believe we are ready, and the girls believe they are ready. Now we just have to go play, enjoy every moment, and have a blast doing it,” said Virdell.

## Sports Schedule

Lady Buck Softball

Apr. 27 Bi-District @Wink

## Freshman’s season ends at regionals

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Evelyn Smith’s golf season ended at her first, girls’ regional tournament last week. As a freshman, this had her nervous and scared according to her coach Marco Gomez. “She didn’t know what to expect, especially competing against 96 other golfers,” Gomez said.

On day one, Smith finished the day with a score of 110. She knew that she needed to improve her score on day two.

Although she did not improve significantly, she did better, shooting 105 for the day, and placing her 62nd out of 96 competitors. Smith said, “This was a learning experience, and I will come back and do a lot better. I



Evelyn Smith goes for birdie during the regional tournament in Abilene last week.

still have three more years.”

Coach Gomez said, “Evelyn comes from a golfing family. Her brother Diego played golf at Sierra Blanca and played at the state tour-

nament in 2019. I believe Evelyn has potential and if she really puts in the work she will be playing at the state tournament in the next couple of years.”

Courtesy photo



Mia Morris has a look of concentration as she attempts to clear the pole during the pole vault competition at this past weekend’s 3A Region I Track and Field Championships in Abilene.

Courtesy photo

# AMS baseball underway

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The baseball season is underway for Alpine Middle School Bucks. Their season began on Monday, April 8 when the eighth graders traveled to Fort Stockton to take on the Panthers. The Bucks lost a close game, 3-5, but they put up an impressive performance for their first game of the season according to Coach Marco Gomez. "Alejandro Uranga and Ezra Lujan were our pitchers for the game against Fort Stockton. They had a phenomenal performance for it having been their first game of the season. Thanks to a 3-run RBI from Darius Portillo, it allowed us to get on the scoreboard and not leave with a shut-out," said Gomez.



Last week, the eighth-grade Alpine Middle School baseball team took on the Van Horn Eagles at Kokernot Field.

Courtesy photo

our kids. It gave them confidence and allowed us to see what we need to work on," Gomez said.

Last Monday, April 15, both AMS teams took on the Van Horn Eagles at Kokernot Field. Pitching for the seventh grade were Colt Billings and Cooper Roach.

The seventh graders would fall 2-4 to the Eagles in this game. The eighth graders were a different team altogether. Thaddeus Prieto and Graham Dubois would bring home the 'W' for the eighth-grade Bucks, defeating the Eagles 12-1.

# Fightin' Bucks finish regular season with wins

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks baseball team went up against district rivals Kermit last Friday and would bring home the 'W'. The Bucks would hit the scoreboard hard in the first few minutes of the game and never look back.



Iden Lujan stands ready to tag out a Kermit player.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

Jace Canaba would hit a single grounder to right field, allowing Iden Lujan to score after a strike by Canaba had Lujan stealing second base initially. Next up to bat behind Canaba was Josh Solis, where on a ball one for Solis, Canaba stole second. After two fouls and two balls, Solis would homer, adding two more to the scoreboard, now up 3-0 over the Yellow Jackets.

the third would see Kermit's only run in the game when a ground ball resulting in a double play by the Bucks ended in a runner scoring, the score now 7-1.

Devil's second baseman allowing Lujan to score. The Bucks would add their next two runs to the board in the same inning, with Canaba stealing second and advancing to third on a wild pitch to Solis. Solis would hit a ground ball to reach on an error allowing Canaba to score. Alpine would bring in Zack Guillen as a courtesy runner for Solis, who would advance to home thanks to a single grounder to center field, leaving the score 3-0 in favor of the Bucks. Alpine would add their final run of the game in the top of the seventh thanks to a sacrifice bunt by Peyton Tays that would again send Guillen across home plate as the courtesy runner for Solis, ending the game for Presidio after their scoreless bottom of the seventh. Alpine ends their regular season with a 4-6 record in district play and a 4-14 on the season.

In the top of the second, David Valenzuela would knock a single ground ball to second base, allowing him to reach first, and then second on an error thanks to Kermit's second baseman. Lujan would single a grounder to left field, allowing Valenzuela to advance to third, where Canaba, on a ground out to first would allow Valenzuela to advance to home, putting the Bucks up 4-0.

The Bucks would add their eighth and final run to the board in the top of the fourth when a single line drive to center from Rojo would score Llanez. The Bucks defeated the Yellow Jackets 8-1 in seven innings.

In the top of the third, a single by Devon Rojo would advance A.J. Llanez to home followed by a single from Amel Holguin that advanced Rojo and Alec Ramos, putting the Bucks up one shy of their final score, 7-0. The bottom of

Alpine next took on the Presidio Blue Devils on Tuesday night in Presidio. Previously, the Bucks defeated the Blue Devils 9-3 at home. While the score was not as high when they visited Presidio, they won in the only shutout of the season for the Bucks. The game remained scoreless on both sides of the plate until the top of the fifth inning, where Canaba, once again with a single would reach on an error by the Blue

# Stiff competition



Hatfield Cason placed seventh in the boy's 3200M race this past weekend at the 3A Region I track meet held in Abilene.

Courtesy photo

# Runnin' Bucks end season in Abilene

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

After a stellar season by the Alpine Lady Bucks Track and Field team, a series of mishaps and a weather delay stranded the Lady Bucks in Abilene, with no one advancing to the state finals.



Lady Buck Track and Field Team

Courtesy photo

Despite their season ending at the 3A Region I meet, a few of the athletes were able to accomplish personal and season records.

Valeria Crespo who has ruled the 100M dash this season, placed seventh in the finals on Monday, with a time of 12.32 seconds. In the 800M run, Emy Hernandez placed 12th, but as a sophomore, she still has two years to compete and a chance to advance to the state competition.

4:13.55.

Finally, in the field events, Morris would place 14th in the pole vault, Novah Carrasco would place eighth in the long jump, with a personal record jump of 16-07.00, and Nevaeh Carrasco would place 16th in the triple jump.

For the Alpine seniors, this was their last shot at a trip to Austin for state competition, but they have had an exceptional senior season. Hats off to Valeria Crespo, Novah Carrasco, Ali Maroney, and Mia Morris on a job well done. And as always, GO Bucks!

The 1600M run had Hope Dominguez coming in 14th, but she would hit a season record for the event with a time of 5:55.04. Hatfield Cason, the only boy to advance to the regional competition placed fourth in the 1600M with a personal record time of 4:36.26. Cason would also compete in the 3200M where he placed eighth and had a season record of 10:16.92.

The lone hurdler, Mia Morris placed fifth in the 300M girls' hurdles.

The relay events, one of the strongest events for the Lady Bucks this season, and with the best chance of advancing to state competition were unable to make the cut. In both the 4x100 and the 4x200 relays, the girls dropped the baton, putting them in fifth and sixth place respectively. Both teams consisted of Danica Mulholland, Valeria Crespo, Mia Morris, and Novah Carrasco. In the 4x400 relay, the team of Ali Maroney, Emy Hernandez, Hope Dominguez, and Colette Fowlkes placed eighth but were able to run a personal record time of

## ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

TARYN HARDIN

Taryn is a freshman who plays triple duty on the field. She is a starting outfielder, rotates to shortstop, and pitcher. Taryn had a .455 batting average last week including 5 hits, 4 RBIs, and scoring 5 runs. She is key on defense with her versatility of play in positions and helps lead the offense at the plate.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS AND STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS FOR FINANCIAL ADVISOR 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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## LOOKING BACK

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**April 14, 1994**  
Karl Hess puts the finishing touches on his project for the state competition in Dallas this weekend.



**April 14, 1994**  
High school student Zerelda Gallego shows her exhilarated play in a recent tennis match against Balmorhea



**April 14, 1994**  
Music instructor Johnnie Mae Stice is shown working with Alpine Elementary students as they prepare for the spring musical on Tuesday.



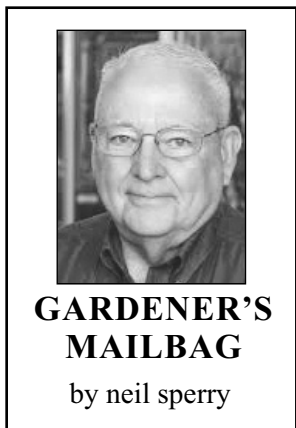
**April 14, 1994**  
The Alpine Fightin' Bucks pose at Kokemot Field with first-place trophies from the third annual Alpine Baseball Classic

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

# Vitex can be pruned the same as crape myrtles

**Dear Neil: Two years ago, I bought two very small Vitex plants in small pots. I planted them in our flowerbed, hoping they would cover unsightly electrical equipment. They are no longer small, and I'm concerned the electric company will be coming after me. Should I take them out? (The grass is artificial.)**

Before you give up on them entirely, why don't you consider using lopping shears to raise their canopies? That's how we convert a crape myrtle into a tree, for example. Remove the bottom-most branch off each plant step back and look to see how the results are. If you see another branch that needs to be removed, do so. Step back and look again and continue the trimming



**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

until you like the looks. You can do more trimming next winter while they're dormant.

**Dear Neil: I've lost large chunks of bark off my Mexican white oak in just six weeks. It is without leaves. It's a great shade tree on the west side of my kitchen. What might have caused that?**

It's a bit hard to determine just from the pho-

tos, but I'd lean strongly toward the same radial shake that has impacted so many thousands of other oaks across Texas since the great cold spell of February 2021. The bark was split away from the trees' trunks, and when that happened the phloem was interrupted. That's the cylinder of tissue that carries sugars down from the leaves to the roots. Without that nourishment, the roots die. You can see that the internal wood of your tree's trunk has been dead for some time as judged by its color and its cracking. Mexican white oaks are not winter hardy to the kind of temperatures much of Texas encountered during that period. It's odd that it would have waited the extra years to die from that cold, but the

damage must just have become severe enough to cause the bark to separate completely. Sadly, it's time for a different type of tree.

**Dear Neil: This oak tree has been pruned recently and we noticed that the limbs are attaching to other limbs. Is this unusual?**

This is a sort of natural grafting, and it happens every once in a while. It's usually because two branches grow across one another. As their tissues develop, they unify. It can certainly happen to more than one pair of branches at a time. It's usually not a good thing because moisture and fallen leaves will get trapped in the cracks. Prune one of them off if you can reach it before they become firmly unified, but not to the point

of disfiguring the tree.

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.



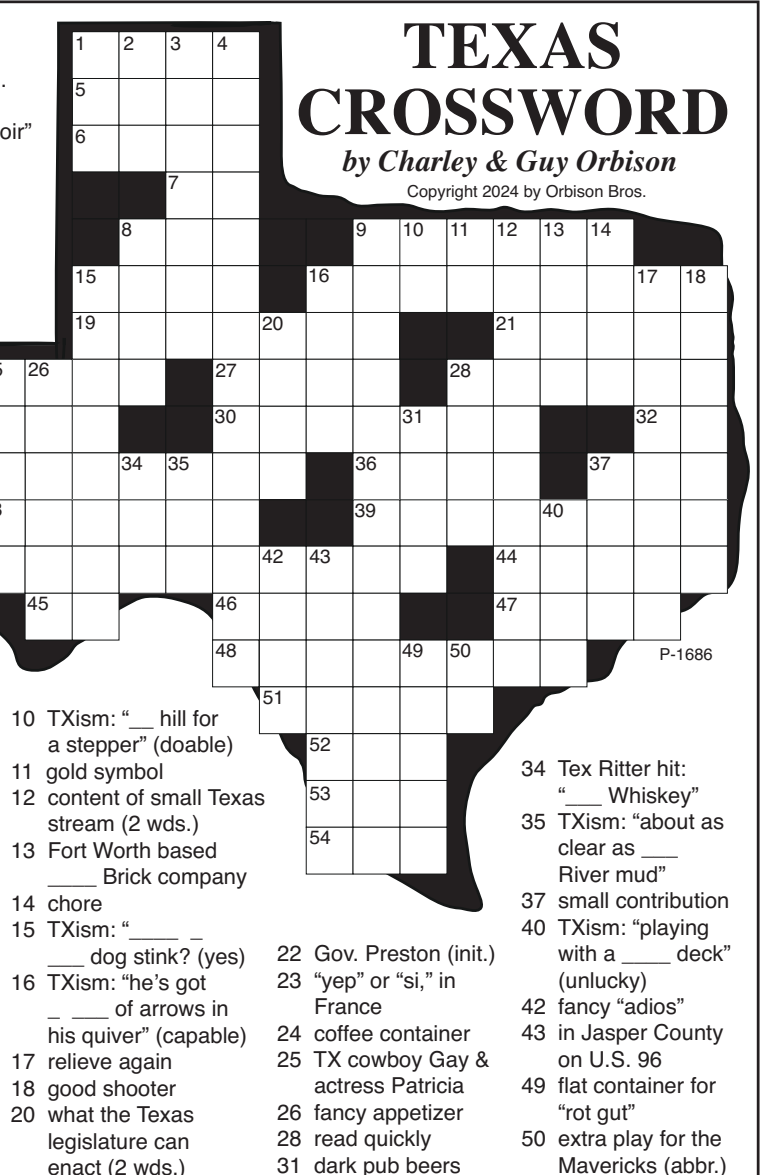
- ACROSS**
- 1 \_\_\_ Performance Hall in Fort Worth
  - 5 TXism: "best I ever wrapped \_\_\_ around"
  - 6 French explorer in Texas: Sieur \_\_\_ Salle
  - 7 George H. W. to George W.
  - 8 LBJ choice for chief Justice of Supreme Court: \_\_\_ Fortas
  - 9 TXism: "covered like fur \_\_\_"
  - 15 type of Dr. Pepper
  - 16 TXism: "worthless as \_\_\_ flush"
  - 19 divided by two (2 wds.)
  - 21 TXism: "never let \_\_\_ you sweat"
  - 22 box with perforated top for perfume
  - 27 what Christ said on the cross meaning "My God"
  - 28 unemployed Texan \_\_\_ job
  - 29 TXism: "\_\_\_ shooting" (certain)
  - 30 TXism: "use your head for something besides a \_\_\_"
  - 32 TX Janis Joplin died of this (abbr.)
  - 33 TX Larry McMurtry wrote "\_\_\_ Grave"
  - 36 cole \_\_\_
  - 37 Larry, Curly & \_\_\_
  - 38 TXism: "run it by a \_\_\_" (finalize)

- 39 persistence
  - 41 entrants at Texas Motor Speedway, e.g.
  - 44 TXism: "you're preaching \_\_\_ choir"
  - 45 "Giant" actress (init.)
  - 46 roof overhang
  - 47 Gen. Robert \_\_\_
  - 48 historic "Opera House" in Columbus
  - 51 fully grown Texan
  - 52 TXism: "busy \_\_\_ bartender on pay day"
  - 53 Dallas suburb: \_\_\_ Colinas
  - 54 deer-like animal in West Texas
- DOWN**
- 1 TX Jimmy Dean's "Big \_\_\_ John"
  - 2 TX eatery: "Steak and \_\_\_"
  - 3 in Hardin County on U.S. 96
  - 4 TXism: "don't \_\_\_!" (hurry)
  - 8 TXism: "thinking \_\_\_ doing"
  - 9 Jerry got "right \_\_\_" clause in Emmitt's 1993 contract
  - 10 TXism: "\_\_\_ hill for a stepper" (doable)
  - 11 gold symbol
  - 12 content of small Texas stream (2 wds.)
  - 13 Fort Worth based \_\_\_ Brick company
  - 14 chore
  - 15 TXism: "\_\_\_ dog stink? (yes)"
  - 16 TXism: "he's got \_\_\_ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
  - 17 relieve again
  - 18 good shooter
  - 20 what the Texas legislature can enact (2 wds.)
  - 22 Gov. Preston (init.)
  - 23 "yep" or "si," in France
  - 24 coffee container
  - 25 TX cowboy Gay & actress Patricia
  - 26 fancy appetizer
  - 28 read quickly
  - 31 dark pub beers
  - 34 Tex Ritter hit: "\_\_\_ Whiskey"
  - 35 TXism: "about as clear as \_\_\_ River mud"
  - 37 small contribution
  - 40 TXism: "playing with a \_\_\_ deck" (unlucky)
  - 42 fancy "adios"
  - 43 in Jasper County on U.S. 96
  - 49 flat container for "rot gut"
  - 50 extra play for the Mavericks (abbr.)

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by Charley & Guy Orbison

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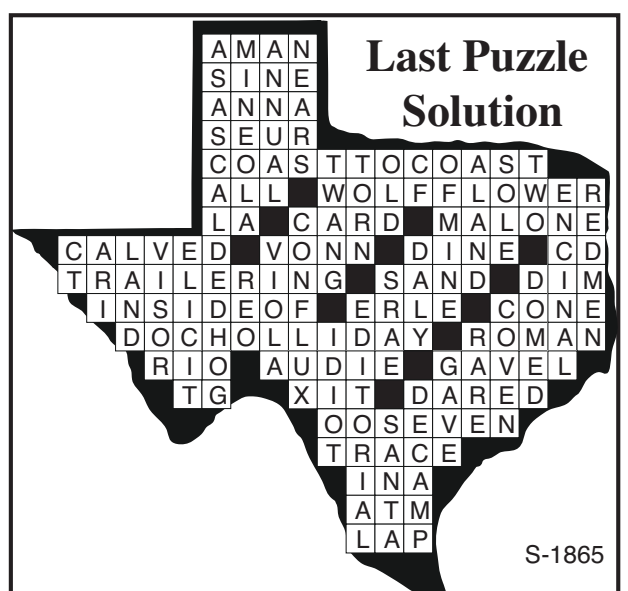
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**AI SD • FROM 1**

The owners of the historic ball field (AISD) already lease the field to Sul Ross, and are currently in negotiations on a new, explicitly worded lease so that all parties involved are aware of their responsibilities towards the ballpark. Later in the meeting, Rinehart would mention that Sul Ross pays a \$1 per year "symbolic" use fee as they are supposed to be taking care of all maintenance inside the walls of the field as well as all of the utilities.

In the meeting with the Cowboys representatives, both AISD and Sul Ross presented a third-party sub-lease agreement to the group for \$10,000 for the 32 games and the three-and-a-half-month period that the ball club uses the field.

First to speak to the AISD board on behalf of the Cowboys organization was Cavness, where she told the board and the audience that a series of emails had been sent back and forth explaining that the Cowboys were a non-profit 501c3 organization and that having been given a lease with the expectations of a \$10,000 payment with just one month before the players coming to town and that wasn't budgeted was not tenable. Cavness said that last season was an exception, in that they were able to give a \$10,000 amount to the district for repairs for the field and that \$5,000 is the most that they'd ever paid for leasing the property. She mentioned that Sul Ross, in their meeting earlier that morning had said they would be willing to go as low as \$7,500, but that she still requests the lease amount to be lowered to \$5,000 because everything has already been scheduled and budgeted for the season.

Next up to speak on behalf of the Cowboys was Aaron Rodriguez. Rodriguez mentioned that thanks to the Cowboys organization, and a generous donation to them from the Lost Alaskan RV Park last year, the stadium now had a good public address system in place. "We used it all last season and I know the school district is still using it. That is fine, but what I don't believe you understand is that we work off of donations just like this system as well as monetary contributions, and many volunteers who donate their time to make sure the kids and families in the Alpine community have something to do in the summer. Being a former full-time police officer, I can guarantee you, without something like this to keep the kids entertained and busy in the summer, they would be up to all sorts of mischief," Rodriguez stated. He also noted that the organization gives to the kids' leagues of baseball and softball for their summer teams and that the scoreboard was donated to the field by the Cowboys as well as the volunteer time the team itself gives to take care of the warning track and infield by hand pulling grass and weeds as well as mowing.

Katie Hector spoke to the board next, explaining that she had been with the organization since the very beginning before it was even the o6 Cowboys, and that she was the non-profit's

board secretary. "I am responsible for putting on the 5k and 10k, I organize the kids' baseball camps, and the read-and-play program, which allows elementary-aged kids to read to one of the players. These players, volunteer their time to spend with these kids and help them with their reading. They're not getting paid to do this. I've reached out to the owner of the league and other teams, and he said the most they are paying anywhere is \$5,000 for the season. All I ask is that you treat us like the non-profit we are and recognize that \$5,000 for such as short-term lease be sufficient," Hector said.

Bob Ward, President of the Big Bend Community Baseball and Softball non-profit that governs the o6 Cowboys team said to the board, "The last time I addressed this board was in 2009 when I told everyone that semi-professional baseball was coming back to Alpine. Since 2011, when the team became the Alpine Cowboys, all AISD staff and students, and all Sul Ross faculty, staff, and students have been given free passes for the season to come to enjoy baseball during the summer months. I asked if our players could utilize the weight room, and that was greeted with absolutely, not a problem, but when I approached the subject of using the laundry facilities to wash uniforms, the answer was sure, for \$2,500. I found another way of handling it and spent just under \$676 of my own money to take care of the uniforms instead," Ward said.

According to information obtained from the Cowboys organization, the cost for more than 700 free passes runs between \$120,000 and \$140,000 per year, which ends up in a loss of revenue for the non-profit that they could utilize for improvements, upkeep, or in-kind donations for the field, but instead, had rather contribute to the community of Alpine in the form of free admission.

The final speaker on behalf of the Cowboys organization was Shazlyn Tays, whose son plays for the varsity Bucks baseball team. Tays said, "We moved here in 2012, and since then my son has been enamored with the Cowboys team. He's a baseball fanatic and has been since he was six. He volunteers each summer at the Cowboys games and has recruited the family too. We have talked about the history of the field, and we help to find host families for the players each year. We've donated money out of our own pockets to the organization because we believe in what they bring to the Alpine community each summer. Bob and Kristin put their heart and soul into this team, and the players spend hours keeping up with the field and leaving it better than they found it."

Another important agenda item during the meeting was the acceptance of three donations to AISD. One was \$100 from Big Bend Regional Medical Center to go towards the CNA program at the high school, and the other two were from the Buck Boosters. The first was \$1,179 to go to the tennis team for a portable ball

machine and the other was \$2,000 to go towards the sports banquet awards.

Finally, in the superintendent's report, Rinehart told the board that they would be launching an AES Campus Expectations Committee to design the campus-wide behavior expectation system that will be paid for with the \$115,000 ESF Focused Support Grant. Rinehart also told the board that she'd met with a playground representative about upgrades to the elementary and middle school playgrounds and that there would be new playground equipment coming to both campuses.

She also mentioned that while it has not come in yet, they were eagerly awaiting the community donations for the childcare facility. The district will receive \$50,000 from Brewster County, \$50,000 from the Permian Basin Area Foundation, \$25,000 from the City of Alpine, \$25,000 from Big Bend Regional Medical Center, and \$15,000 from Sul Ross State University on top of the Child Care Investment Partnership grant from the Texas Workforce Commission, which will match the total amount received from the other partners for a total of \$330,000.

The district also received a \$127,000 grant from the Office of the Governor that will pay for a licensed professional counselor (\$16,650), a school resource officer (\$50,236), and truancy prevention efforts (\$60,068.)

Rinehart informed the board that she was working on a partnership agreement with the Alpine Montessori School called the Early Childhood Education Partnership Agreement, where students from a private school may be dually enrolled in their school and AISD, allowing AISD as well as the private school to garner state funding based on attendance of the private school students. This is geared toward Pre-K through second grade, due to state-required exams given in higher grades in the public schools.

In conclusion of her report, Rinehart addressed the board about the leases involving Kokernot Field. Earlier in the meeting she gave each board member a copy of the lease agreement that she was working on with Sul Ross and went over the different portions

of it. In this last portion of her report, she focused on the lease with the o6 Cowboys, saying "We're excited that the Cowboys are here, but we feel that the \$10,000 is a fair ask to lease the facility. Since Sul Ross does the maintenance and pays the utilities, we (speaking on behalf of the district and Sul Ross) believe that all that adds up to that cost. I believe we will reach an agreement with the Cowboys organization quickly." Rinehart also noted that while Sul Ross mentioned decreasing the lease amount to \$7,500 AISD was not in agreement on that.

After the superintendent's report, the board adjourned into closed session where they accepted three resignations, a new hire, and teacher contract renewals that the campus principals submitted. The board accepted the resignation of 52-year educator and boys head track coach Wayne Schroeder. They also accepted the resignation of high school band director A.K. Holmes who will be taking a position in Andrews as an assistant band director to gain more experience. Finally, they accepted the resignation of Jessica Sierra from the middle school, as she wanted to take a step back from teaching but would remain at the campus as an administrative assistant. The board then approved the hiring of Jamie Johnson as a teacher at the elementary school. The next regularly scheduled meeting for the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees is set for May 15 at 5:30 p.m.

**VOTING • FROM 1**

On election day, May 4, polls open at 7 a.m. and close at 7 p.m. All voters must show a valid photo ID to cast their ballots both during early voting as well

as on election day. To see acceptable forms of voter ID, visit [votetexas.gov](http://votetexas.gov), and click the Identification Requirements for Voting.

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**Rio Grande Council of Governments**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The RIOCOC planning region is responsible for ranking CDBG-eligible project activities by priority based on the region's unique needs and stakeholder feedback. These "Regional Project Priorities" will account for 25% of the total points in scoring 2025-2026 CD applications. There will be a Public Meeting on Public Meeting on Friday, May 3, 2024, 10:00 - 12:00 P.M., MDT, at the Hudspeth County Courthouse, 109 Millican Street, Sierra Blanca, Texas 79851. The meeting is in-person with a virtual option. Virtual TEAMS Meeting Link: Meeting ID: 222 819 227 006, Passcode: SDaB7J. Call or email Judy Cisneros at 915-533-0998, ext. 134, or at [judyc@riocog.org](mailto:judyc@riocog.org).



**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).

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**CITATION BY PUBLICATION - DETERMINATION OF HEIRSHIP**

The State of Texas  
**To all persons interest in the Estate of DOXIE LENORE JACKSON, Deceased Cause No. PR03165, in County Court, Brewster County, Texas**

The alleged heir(s) at law in the above-numbered and entitled estate filed an application to Determine Heirship in this estate on the 3RD day of April 2024, requesting that the Court determine who are the heirs and only heirs of **DOXIE LENORE JACKSON, Deceased**, and their respective shares and interests in such estate.

This Application may be acted on by this Court at any call in the docket on or after 10:00 A.M., on the first Monday next after the expiration of ten days from date of publication of this citation on the 15th day of April 2024. All persons interested in this case are cited to appear before said Honorable Court by filing a written contest or answer to this Application should they desire to do so. To ensure its consideration, you or your attorney must file any objection, intervention, or response in writing with the County Clerk of Brewster County, Texas on or before the above-noted date and time.

If this citation is not served within 90 days after date of its issuance, it shall be returned unserved.

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By \_\_\_\_\_, Deputy

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**Please contact Esther Howard at 956-276-1295 or email at ehoward0711@gmail.com.**

# Bugs, bugs, and more bugs



Second graders from Alpine Elementary School took a field trip to the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute (CDRI) on Friday to learn about insects and arachnids and their role in the desert.

Courtesy photo

## 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  
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 Marfa, TX 79843

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LUKE SANCHEZ

**In what activities did you participate in High School?**  
 Throughout high school, I was in Art, Robotics, and Welding.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach and why?**  
 Mrs. Crump from our geometry class. I always found her to be a fair, nice, and patient teacher. I especially liked how she would always use the "No man left behind" logic with her teaching. She would always take the time to make sure everyone understood what we were doing.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
 Through all the four years I've

been in high school, I would have to say my favorite moment was in robotics class when the robot my team and I made actually worked. I still remember how proud I felt when it moved. It was pretty janky, but it worked.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
 My plan for after high school is to delay going to college/technical school for a year or two, so I can work a job to earn money. Not only will this delay period let me earn money to help me pay for school, but it will also give me a small break to live my life free from school. When I do eventually go to college/technical school, I aim to become a mechanical engineer.

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# Devotional Page His blood perfects us

BY PASTOR MARK WILLIAMS

Grace Christian Fellowship

The book of Leviticus teaches us that life is in the blood. Chapter 12 of Exodus describes how God instructed Moses to use blood to save many people from death. For the next fifteen hundred years, the priests reenacted this concept using blood to save people from their sins.

Then, when Christ came-He offered Himself as the last and final sacrifice using His blood to save men from eternal death and damnation. In Christ, we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of His Grace. (See Ephesians 1:7)

We have also obtained more benefits through the blood of Jesus. So, now in Christ Jesus, you who formerly were far off have been brought close by the blood of Christ. For He is our peace. (See Ephesians 2:13,14) Also, how much greater will the blood of Christ, through the eternal Spirit who offered Himself without blemish to God, cleanse your conscience from dead works to serve the living God. (See Hebrews 9:14) he has been manifested to put away sin by the sacrifice of Himself. (See Hebrews 9:26) For by one offering, He has

perfected for all time those who are sanctified. (See Hebrews 10:14)

Therefore, since we have confidence to enter the holy place by the blood of Jesus; by a new and living way which He inaugurated for us through His flesh. (See Hebrews 10:19) In addition, He also said, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood." (1 Corinthians 11:25) Jesus also sanctifies the people through His blood. (See Hebrews 13:12) Jesus purchased us with His own blood. (Acts 20:28) They overcame Satan because of the blood of the Lamb (Jesus) and because of the word of their testimony. (See Revelation 12:11) When believers discover the power of the blood of Christ Jesus and its transforming effects, it will strengthen their faith in God's redemptive work that He obtained for us through sending His Son to the cross. We can boldly confess: "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new." 2 Corinthians 5:17 King James Version (KJV)

How can you be in Christ? Say with your voice that Jesus is your Lord and believe in your heart God raised Jesus from the dead and you shall be saved! (See Romans 10:9)

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 ~ Philippians 4:13

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# A chocolate lover's nirvana: Mississippi Mud Cake

While the origins of this classic are unclear, its flavor is not. It is pure chocolate heaven. It's gooey, messy, and despite its unlikely name, tastes nothing like the mud from the banks of the river it's named after, although it may resemble said mud.

There is also a Mississippi Mud Pie, and it is just as delicious and messy, but folks tend to throw in a type of crust for it. Usually a graham cracker crust. Either one of them is just as delightful as the other and will satisfy the chocolate lovers in your house.

It's super easy to put together, with the only hang-up, the wait. Yes, that's right, there's a waiting period after the frosting is added. About two hours or so to be exact. And that is the worst



thing about the entire dessert.

There are numerous recipes, all just a bit different of course. As you know, in the South, everyone's grandma had the best recipe of all. This is one of the reasons why there are a multitude of recipes for this same cake.

One of the recipes I have looked at required bittersweet chocolate, while in others, the simple unsweetened co-



Mississippi Mud Cake

coa is all that is needed. Whatever recipe you use still get all that chocolate goodness.

What makes this cake different from most others is the addition of mini marshmallows. Although I have made this before with marshmallow cream instead. Both will work. The rest of the ingredients are pretty standard.

*Courtesy photo*  
Butter, sugar, eggs, vanilla, salt, flour, you get the picture.

If you're making the cake version, it will resemble more of a brownie base, covered in marshmallows and icing. If you're making the pie version, then you have your crust, which can be made of chocolate cookies, graham crackers, or even brownies. And like

the cake, different recipes are abundant. For the cake version, you can use a shortcut and substitute two packages of brownie mix for the cake layer.

Regardless of which version you choose, if you're a chocolate lover you can't go wrong with this baked chocolate paradise.

## Mississippi Mud Cake

- Ingredients:**
- 2 cups of sugar
  - 1 cup melted butter
  - ½ cup unsweetened cocoa
  - 4 eggs beaten
  - 1 teaspoon vanilla
  - 1/8 teaspoon salt
  - 1 ½ cups all-purpose flour
  - 2 cups chopped pecans
  - 10.5 ounces miniature marshmallows
- For icing**
- 1-pound powdered sugar
  - ½ cup whole milk
  - 1/3 cup unsweetened cocoa
  - ¼ cup butter softened

**Directions:**  
Preheat oven to 350 degrees.  
Add sugar, butter, cocoa, eggs, vanilla, and salt to a large mixing bowl. Whisk together until well combined. Stir in the flour and 1 ½ cups of chopped pecans.  
Pour the batter into a greased and floured 15x10-inch pan. Bake for 20-25 minutes or until a tester inserted into the center comes out clean.  
Remove the cake from the oven and top evenly with the marshmallows.  
Return the cake to the oven for five more minutes.  
While the cake is baking, make the frosting.

Place all the frosting ingredients in a medium bowl and beat at medium speed with an electric mixer until combined and smooth. Remove the cake from the oven and drizzle chocolate frosting over warm cake. Sprinkle with remaining pecans.  
Cool completely before cutting, about two hours.  
Wrap tightly in aluminum foil or plastic wrap and it will stay fresh for five days at room temperature. You may also freeze it for three months and allow it to defrost completely before serving. Cake serves approximately 24.



## Alpine takes on Austin

History Fair teams traveled to Austin this past weekend to compete in the State History Fair competition. Emilie LeBlanc placed third with her junior historical paper, just missing continuing on to the national competition by one place. She is pictured in the front row, far right.

*Courtesy photo*

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