

## Colorado man arrested in conjunction with Alpine death

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

According to information received from the U.S. Attorney's Office, a Colorado man was arrested this past Saturday in Denver on criminal charges, according to U.S. Attorney Jaime Esparza of the Western District of Texas. The charges were related to his alleged possession with intent to distribute fentanyl.

As stated by the indictment, Douglas Christopher Steele, 53, of Denver allegedly conspired with others to possess with the intent to distribute a controlled substance. Said controlled substance contained a detectable amount of fentanyl. The indictment further alleged that Steele's alleged distribution of fentanyl is tied to the death of Alpine resident Daniel Celaya.

Steele's first appearance in federal court

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## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024. . . . . .2.06"  
May . . . . . .0.01"



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



## Court approves adopting PACE program

BY JOH COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, May 14. In this meeting, the court gave the final approval for the implementation of the PACE, Property Assessed Clean Energy program, and the service agreement.

The PACE program is a nonprofit voluntary state program designed to help businesses update their buildings to be more energy effi-

cient. Charlene Heydinger, the president of the Texas PACE Authority, and Collin Bibb, co-founder of Byways Hospitality, which has been working on the historic Holland and Maverick Hotel, were also present.

"I think it will help current business owners finance improvements, attract new investment to the area, and incentivize stable energy practices in the area, especially



**Frenchie Causey**

Brewster Co. Road and Bridge Superintendent

water conservation here in the county," said Bibb. Bibb also believes that voluntary participation in the program could potentially increase the attractiveness of the town as well as local construction job

opportunities. The program focuses on older buildings that need repair and to limit the waste of resources by working between lender and building owner to

spread loans over a longer period to increase cash flow. It only applies to project measures focused on energy or water efficiency or creating power on-site, things that allow them to use the grid less.

Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson gave his report regarding the recent jail inspection, in which the jail fared well. During this meeting, Dodson also presented the jail's need for a new stove to replace the current one which has stopped working. The court approved the purchase, which has an

expected cost of approximately \$24,000. The jail kitchen requires multiple prep stations and provides three meals a day to the inmates.

In other news, the court approved the 2024 unclaimed capital credit receipt from the Texas comptroller's office. Many people do not claim their dividends from capital credits after a period of time. Thus, the county can claim those particular dividends for use in economic development,

See COUNTY • 9

## Alpine's finest become internationally certified



Two of the City of Alpine's police officers, Corporal Anthony Vargas and Officer Alexis Armendariz recently received their certification into the International Police Mountain Bike Association. The two officers recently completed a grueling 40-hour course in rough terrain in El Paso where Vargas broke a class record and was followed immediately by Armendariz, just four seconds behind. Vargas and Armendariz (in bright blue shirts) are pictured here with their classmates and instructors.

Courtesy photo

## The woman walking across Texas: Walking with Edie Littlefield Sunby through Alpine

BY JOHANNA COVINGTON  
Staff Writer

According to Edie Littlefield Sunby, a person who has taken on the momentous task of walking across one of the largest states in the country, "Walking makes us curious."

Perhaps it doesn't seem as momentous after her journeys across Mexico and the U.S. from the Pecos River to each coast by way of the

Old Spanish Trail.

However, that particular description seems appropriate when speaking to Edie. Her excitement for the sights and experiences is contagious because, as she puts it, every new place is her favorite.

Edie is a stage four cancer survivor and was initially given three months to live. While a diagnosis that would



Edie Littlefield Sunby stands for a photo as she begins her trek through Alpine for the day.

Photo by Joh Covington

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# City of Alpine now accepting HOT tax grant applications

Applications are currently being accepted for Hotel Occupancy Tax (HOT) grants from the City of Alpine for the 2024-2025 fiscal year. Visitor events and other projects that draw overnight visits to the city are eligible for funding consideration, according to the requirements of state law.

The grant application and guidelines can be found on the City of Alpine website (cityofal-

pine.com) under "How Do I > Apply For > Hotel Occupancy Tax Funding".

The grant application deadline is Friday, June 14. All applications must be for events and activities occurring during the funding period, which runs from October 1 through September 30, 2025. Questions about the grants program can be directed to admin@visitalpinetx.com.

State law identifies the various ways that Hotel

Occupancy Tax funds may be used. The allowed expense categories that are available for grants include Advertising, Promotion of the Arts, Historical Restoration and Preservation, Sporting Events, and Transportation. All expenditures must also directly encourage overnight stays at Alpine's hotels and short-term rentals.

HOT Grant applications will be evaluated based on their impact on

overnight stays; business and promotional plans; the capacity to host a successful program or event; innovative new programs; and other criteria listed in the grant guidelines.

"The City of Alpine has a long tradition of partnering with event organizers and other groups to provide high-quality events and activities for our visitors and residents to enjoy," said Director of Tourism Chris Ruggia. "We are grateful to

those who bring their visions and ideas forward to help make Alpine a better place to live and to visit."

A workshop on Hotel Occupancy Taxes will be held at 5:30 p.m. on Wednesday, June 5, in the Alpine City Council Chambers. The workshop will be presented by Justin Bragiel, lead counsel for the Texas Hotel Lodging Association and one of the preeminent experts on the legal requirements

for the use of HOT funds. Mr. Bragiel's presentation will focus on guidance for elected officials in their deliberations on the uses of these tax revenues. There will also be an opportunity for grant applicants to ask questions about the grant program and application process.

For more information contact Chris Ruggia, Director of Tourism at chris@visitalpinetx.com or by calling 432-386-5916.

## The Tourist Gaze

There is a concept in physics known as the Heisenberg, or Uncertainty, Principle. This idea was conceived by the German physicist Werner Heisenberg who won the Nobel Prize in Physics in 1927. In the simple terms that I understand this principle states that, in quantum mechanics, it is impossible to determine two related quantities at the same time. One can measure the position of a particle, but not the direction, or one can measure the energy but not the position.

I am sure my friends knowledgeable in physics can take me to task for this definition, but lest we become confused this is not about physics. As Sam Cooke said, "I don't know much about the science I took." Conceptually, the idea exists that one can't place oneself somewhere without changing it in some manner.

In sociology, John Urry, a professor at Lancaster University, in England, put human nature in the equation and came up with his concept in a book by the same title, the "Tourist Gaze." As I understand this concept (and once again "I don't know much about the sociology I took") economic, social, cultural, and environmental interrelationships and services can substantially impact a location, especially places that people find particularly pleasing. People change places when they "gaze" upon them.

Dr. Sylvia Rodriguez, at the University of New Mexico, has written about the impact of tourism and population growth in Taos. Her ideas can be applied to any one of many places that have been "discovered" by people seeking their own paradise, and by those who already live in that unique place and wish to protect that uniqueness. As she writes the tourist gaze can easily create, "physical domination and control, material ownership, appropriation of services, and above all the power of symbolic representation." I suppose this means be careful what you wish for, or your sleepy little town

might turn into an international art mecca.

Rodriguez and others apply the term "amenity migrants" to those who first arrive as tourists and then stay, either seasonally or permanently. It is at this point that change begins but is not always recognized as such. As she writes, "Indeed the most elite sectors of the amenity migrant population have always been strong, persuasive, and highly vocal proponents of selective ethnocultural and environmental conservation and preservation." The key word here is selective. What the original population considers important may not match the purposes and desires of the new amenity migrants.

This issue most openly manifests itself in property values. Real property becomes more valuable exponentially. As values go up so do property taxes sometimes to the point that people who have called this place home for generations can no longer afford to live there. Often, we call this progress.

If the Uncertainty Principle holds true (as Walker Percy wrote, "the more lookers, the less there is to see.") we can only protect ourselves from the Tourist Gaze (assuming we wish to do so) by planning for change, a dichotomy of ideas for sure. One plans for change to protect what one already has and enjoys the most. Those who are opposed to any change or planning most often defeat their own purpose.

Currently, the hottest thing on television is the series "Yellowstone." While it is a huge sprawling and messy soap opera, the subtext is exactly the issue at hand: how to hold on to one's heritage in the face of a "tourist gaze" masked as progress.



**FIDDLER'S GREEN**

by Larry Francell

## SRSU partners with Follett Access for textbook solutions

Sul Ross State University is pleased to introduce Sully Shelf, an innovative new partnership with Follett Access to reduce the cost of textbooks and course materials for students starting with the Fall 2024 semester.

The cost for students under the Sully Shelf program is \$250 per the fall and spring semesters. The summer semester cost, which will not begin until 2025, is still being determined. The amount will be

collected as part of regular student fees each semester, so it is covered by financial aid. Students can opt-out and rent or purchase their books on their own if they choose to do so. Books will be automatically uploaded to Blackboard when a digital option is available, or shipped to a student's address of choice approximately two weeks before classes begin.

Follett Access is a powerful program that

enables colleges and universities to deliver all course materials (textbooks, lab kits, supplies, etc.) as part of tuition and fees. With Follett Access, students have what they need on the first day of class, which levels the playing field for all students, regardless of economic background.

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# Another graduating class in the books



Sul Ross State University held its spring graduation commencement ceremony on Friday. Pictured here, graduating students in the processional line to enter the Pete P. Gallego Center for the ceremony.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Music professor named Outstanding Teacher of the Year

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor



Dr. Andrew Alegria

Courtesy photo

This year's Outstanding Teacher of the Year for 2023-2024 was awarded to Assistant Professor of Music, Dr. Andrew Alegria. This honor was announced on April 30 by Executive Vice President and Provost Bernie Cantens.

Besides being an assistant professor in music, Alegria is the director of Choral Activities and Vocal Study. He is also the director of Alpine's Big Bend Community Chorale, the artistic director of the Big Bend Children's Chorus, and the director of Music Ministry at the First United Methodist Church of Alpine.

Alegria joined the Department of Visual and Performing Arts at Sul Ross in 2018. He holds a Doctor of Musical Arts-Choral Conducting from Louisiana State University-Baton Rouge, a Master of Music-Choral Conducting with Distinction from the University of New

Mexico, and a Bachelor of Music-Church Music/Choral Conducting from Baylor.

Among his many tasks, Dr. Alegria is head of the music program, a graduate program advisor, as well as the musical theatre conductor for Sul Ross. He is also the chair of the Region 6 Texas

Music Education Association college division and serves on the Alpine Music Advisory Board.

Among his many achievements while a member of the Sul Ross faculty, Dr. Alegria established the Rex Wilson Choral Endowment. This endowment awards scholarships to vocal

majors in performance or education and fundraises for the Musical Excellence Scholarship and the Band Excellence Scholarship. These efforts award up to 22 scholarships every year.

Dr. Alegria has served as guest clinician and conductor across the state, and later this month will be embarking on an international choir trip to Glasgow, Scotland, where he will take a group of students with Tartan Twang Productions.

At the end of each semester, students are asked to provide survey answers for each of their instructors, and one student said this about Alegria, "Dr. Alegria brought the ensemble up to a whole new level this semester. This was one of the best choir experiences I ever had."

As the recipient of this award, Dr. Alegria will be presented an award of \$2,000 along with a plaque at Sul Ross' Faculty Awards Ceremony

in the fall of this year. As this year's recipient of the Outstanding Teacher of the Year award, he will be one of the nominees for the 2025 Texas State University System Board of Regents' Teaching Award as well as the Minnie Piper Stevens Teaching Award.

### Restaurant Guide

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#### REATA RESTAURANT

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

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(Your choice of any two items)  
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Cup of Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup  
Cup of Daily Soup  
1/2 Reata Club or Steak Sandwich  
1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

## Sul Ross students receive grant to practice counseling in rural areas

Two Sul Ross State University graduate students of Counseling-Clinical Mental Health are each the recipients of a \$10,000 grant through a partnership with the University of Texas El Paso and Preventative Care Health Services (PCHS).

This grant is awarded by the Behavioral Health Workforce Education and Training program through the U.S. Department of Health with a goal to support the education of mental health professionals in rural areas. SRSU can adminis-

ter up to eight grants per year.

Both students, Crystal Lujan and Daniel Fuentes, are now fellows with the Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center Mental Health Department. The grant covers living expenses while they accrue 3,000 Licensed Professional Counselor practicum hours at PCHS and at clinics in Brewster, Presidio, Hudspeth, Culberson, and Jeff Davis counties.

Four additional SRSU graduate students are embedded in PCHS for training, including

Amanda Davis, a practicum student who is the first student ever integrated into the medical clinic to assist with mental health evaluations and screenings. Two additional grant slots are still open for graduate counseling students who are interested. For more information email

Jess Schauman at jess.schauman@sulross.edu

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## Congratulations



## to our re-elected mayor Catherine Eaves

Catherine Eaves worked her way through college, earning a Bachelor of Science Degree in Biology with a minor in Chemistry, while employed in the banking industry. She earned her Master of Science Degree in Microbiology while working as a Microbiology Researcher.

A few of the Mayor's accomplishments while in office here in Alpine include:

- Creation of the Mayor Video Series recapping the City Council Meetings
- Teaching City Government 101 at City Council Chambers
- Assisted in the Creation of the City-County Emergency Services Board

This message was approved by Catherine Eaves  
Paid for by Bob and Cindy Wuest, Alpine residents

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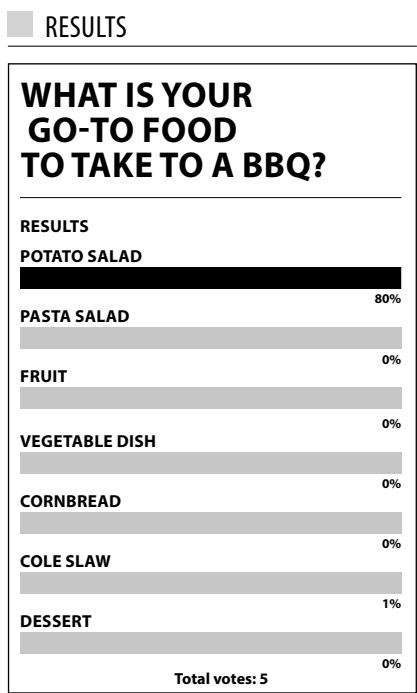
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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL



## THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:  
**What is your go-to food to take to a BBQ?**

- Potato Salad
- Pasta Salad
- Fruit
- Vegetable Dish
- Cornbread
- Cole Slaw
- Dessert

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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# BOONIEVILLE



# When Memory Fails



**JASE GRAVES**  
 Guest Columnist

Now that my age has surpassed the mid-century mark and I'm more ancient than virtually all professional athletes, everyone in my department at work, and even my pastor at church, I've noticed that the old memory is not what it used to . . . Wait. What was I writing about again?

My cognitive decline became all too obvious the other day when I was at the Verizon store upgrading to one of those newfangled iPhone jumbo-large-print editions with a camera powerful enough to take photos of the porta potty on the International Space Station. (I mostly wind up just taking close-ups of my nose hairs—sometimes by accident.)

As I proudly strode to my car after my purchase, trying to ignore the fact that I'll be making payments on the phone until approximately ten years past my life expectancy, I noticed that the "unlock" button on my key fob wasn't working. Therefore, I took the most logical next step. I began frantically and fruitlessly yanking on the door handle, calling down elaborate curses on the car itself and whoever holds the patent on the locking mechanism.

The situation worsened when I no-

ticed two large dings (complete with chipped paint) in the driver's side door of this relatively new car that my wife and I had recently purchased for our youngest and quietest daughter so that she could traumatize curbs throughout the city with confidence and style.

As I began to turn back toward the store in defeat so I could phone my wife for help (as usual), I caught a glimpse of the car's interior out of the corner of my eye. I noticed a can of Mr. Pibb in the cup holder and what appeared to be one of those vaping pen/pipe/bong/e-cig/poisonous cloud spewer-type thingies lying on the console.

It then struck me that this was not my vehicle! I mean, I'm not the healthiest dude on the planet, but I would never resort to drinking Mr. Pibb!

As I backed away, praying for forgiveness about the cursing, hoping that nobody was watching this pathetic spectacle, and concerned that I was about to be

assaulted by the vehicle's owner (who clearly has horrible taste in soft drinks), I then noticed that not only was this not my vehicle, but it wasn't even the same make — and only vaguely resembled the color.

"What is happening to me?" I still wonder. "What's next? Mistaking Preparation H for my toothpaste?"

This wasn't even the first time I've tried to unintentionally invade the sanctity of someone else's luxury upholstery. The first time it happened, I didn't look up from my Walmart buggy in time to notice that there was a lady in the driver's seat of a vehicle that was almost identical to mine — minus the grandmotherly driver who was probably considering vehicular homicide as I tugged on her door handle. Luckily for me, she just laughed hysterically instead of running me over or filling my face with buckshot.

My sweet wife assures me that I just have too much on my mind, but I'm pretty sure she's thinking about having me microchipped at this point.

I guess this is all just part of getting older, and I might as well laugh and enjoy the ride (as long as I'm doing it in my own car).

# The one thing to always remember



**LEON ALDRIDGE**  
 Guest Columnist

One summer night, we fell in love. One summer night, I held you tight. You and I under the moon of love. — "One Summer Night" song lyrics by Danny Webb, recorded by the Danleers, June 1958

"What's this you speak of ... this summer romance thing," a reader responded to a passing reference in last week's column.

I get comments on my column just about every week. Some with condolences. Some inquisitive. Even a few that are complimentary. But this one would be hard to handle, and I knew it before I opened my big mouth. For two reasons. One, I'm the least qualified to comment, qualify, or quantify on all things romantic. In any season. Check my references. And two, anyone who has to ask about the virtues of summer romance just may be less qualified than me.

Noting both points, I ignored my better judgment and jumped right in any way.

Romance comes in all shapes, sizes, packaging, and with a myriad of marketing campaigns, I explained. Poems, novels, magazines, songs, drug store paperbacks, and notes filled with romantic expressions of love, once exchanged in afternoon high school English classes. When hearts were young and first introduced to intellectual romantic literature. Like Shakespeare and Mad magazine.

Through it all, I'm convinced, however, that while memories fade with time, it's those long-ago summer romances that are seldom ever forgotten.

"Wow, is that the voice of experience," my questioner drawled.

"Maybe, dear reader," I responded. "Many high school sweethearts confess their marriage of half a century or more all started with love at first sight. Others say it took a little longer for the

love light to shine. But everyone's love storybook reads a little bit differently. It all comes down to remembering one thing.

Still ignoring better judgment, I just kept talking. "First time smitten for me actually started in the spring before school was out. The band banquet. Youth Center parties. Watching Batman on television together. Her family moved after graduation, and for me, it was working in the East Texas peach orchards. Harvesting money for college in the fall. I traveled to see her once that summer and again during the fall. But it was two lives, two worlds, and too much geography in between at that age."

Such a touching example would have sufficed, but no. I kept digging myself in deeper. Sharing that time a couple of summers later. While toiling in the Talco oil fields for another year's funding for books and tuition. She was a recent high school graduate. There were summer night movies at the Martin Theater. Cruising Mount Pleasant streets to see who else was out, cruising the streets after the movie. It's what we did then. Back when cars were fast and cool, and music spoke to hearts of summer romances.

But it was another September casualty. I went back to school, and she went with a job that took her to another city. A really long way off. I made one really long trip to see her. But once again, two lives, two dreams, and a really lot more geography between.

"So, what was that one thing you mentioned to remember," my reader asked.

"In a minute. I'm not through. The

third time can be the charm. Sometimes."

By this time, I felt like I had learned two things. I would need more than one summer job to keep me in college, in summer romances, and in my first love: fast, loud, high-powered cars that won races on Saturday night. That's why, for a young heart, that third summer romance was a match made in hot rod heaven. She went racing with me.

However, that summer ended with a fork in the road as well. It wasn't two lives this time. It wasn't even two worlds. But for reasons I long wondered about when I thought about her, it was over.

"Life with its seasons can be profound and perplexing at the same time," I tried to wrap up. I was in this discussion way over my head and outside my skill level. I needed an exit ramp. There may be no seasons for love, but there is a time to talk and a time to hush. I was grasping for the latter.

"Sometimes we never look back," I tried to sound wise and all-knowing. "And other times we remember and wonder 'what if?' Such is the nature of summer romance," I stopped. Then added, "And that's all I have to say about that."

"Wait," he said. "You haven't told me the one thing to remember."

"Two things. One, true love knows no seasons, only happiness. Two, just be careful — the brain is fickle. It works 24/7/365 until you discover the magic of one summer night ... under the moon of love.

"Oh, and one thing more. Always avoid personal advice columns when you are not qualified to write them."

—Contact Leon Aldridge at [leonaldridge@gmail.com](mailto:leonaldridge@gmail.com). Other Aldridge columns are archived at [leonaldridge.com](http://leonaldridge.com)



# Heard on the STREET

What is the best thing about graduating?



**Marley Rokas:**

The best part about graduating is knowing I did it alongside all the friends I made, professors who supported me, and the family who drove me all the way to see me accomplish my goals.



**Sinai Valdez Dominguez:**

Getting to see all of my hard work pay off and having tangible proof of my achievements, like the cords and medallions.



**Teri Miller:**

That feeling of accomplishment. I set a goal for myself and achieved it!



**Paloma Mancha:**

Having the opportunity to show my family my success and the joy of them being genuinely proud of me.



**Erin Kinucan:**

I completed the entirety of the program online, so it was fun to finally meet my classmates and professors in person and celebrate this moment together. I also taught full-time while I was going back for my master's, so getting to share the mini steps with my sweet third-graders was so fun and exciting.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**May 18 Knights of Columbus Hamburger Fundraiser,** 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at 300 S. Cockrell St. next to Skelton's Runway. Includes burger and fries for \$10. For more information call 830-317-0471 or email [kofc5096@gmail.com](mailto:kofc5096@gmail.com)

**May 20 Gallery Talk at Museum of the Big Bend,** 1:30 p.m. Seth Hopkins, Director of the Booth Western Art Museum will discuss Andy Warhol's Cowboys and Indians display.

**May 20 Musical at the Fort Davis High School Auditorium,** 6:30 p.m. The first-ever school musical "Hillbilly Hayride" will be performed under the direction of Mary Lynn and Chuck McMichael. For more information contact Mrs. McMichael at [mmcmichael@fdisd.com](mailto:mmcmichael@fdisd.com) or call 432-246-4444.

**May 24 Travel Talk at Alpine Public Library,** 7 p.m. Denis Foley and Rozolen Stanford present their 30-day circumnavigation of the United States via Amtrak. Free to the public.

**May 28-29 APD Sponsored Blood Drive,** 11 a.m. - 3 p.m. Tuesday, May 28 at the Alpine



Police Station 309 W. Sul Ross Ave. and Wednesday, May 29, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. For any questions contact Chief Darrell Losoya at 432-837-3486 or email [losoya.police@cityofalpine.com](mailto:losoya.police@cityofalpine.com)

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](mailto: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 [bbccchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbccchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).

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

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

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

**Exercise Classes,** at Sunshine

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

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

**Hike with Homeless Dogs,** 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday

at Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center 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.

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## Students complete welding certification



Eleven Alpine High School students recently completed their 1-F welding certification in Ag. Students completing this certification include Reese Ahrens, Novah Carrasco, Valeria Crespo, Jhett Hopkins, Ali Maroney, Joaquin Martinez, Mia Morris, Clancey Newman, Tannin Ritchie, Martin Sablatura, and Robert Vasquez.

Courtesy photo

## PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Dee Dee. Dee Dee is a dilute tortoiseshell color, which is beautiful and unusual. She is a loving little couch potato who loves to be held and petted. She will contentedly make biscuits while in the glow of your love until she falls asleep. She was found as a stray but is so sweet that we must assume that she had a home at one time. Come meet her and make her yours!

We recommend cats be kept indoors to avoid getting lost or injured. Indoor cats can live three or four times longer than outdoor cats. With good care, a cat can live 15 or 20 years, so make sure that if you adopt, you know that it is a long-term commitment to a family member.

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.

Meet us at our next Yappy Hour at Alcove (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, May 28, from 4 to 8 p.m. We receive a portion of beverage sales during that time.

Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week 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. If you find a stray or injured pet, call the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.



### NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

**ORDINANCE 2024-04-02:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE INSTALLATION OF THREE WAY STOP SIGNS AT THE EASTBOUND AND WESTBOUND INTERSECTIONS OF NORTH HANCOCK DRIVE AND AVENUE B.

**ORDINANCE 2024-04-03:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 23 - CITY COUNCIL TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL; AMENDING ARTICLE II - RULES OF PROCEDURE; AMENDING ARTICLE III - RULES OF DECORUM; AMENDING RULES, REGULATIONS, AND GUIDELINES FOR CITY COUNCIL MEETINGS AND PROCEDURES.

**ORDINANCE 2024-04-04:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION, ABANDONMENT, AND SALE OF APPROXIMATELY 0.128 ACRES OF CITY PROPERTY, BEING THE UNDEVELOPED ALLEY LYING BETWEEN LOTS 1 - 10, BLOCK 71, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE, BETWEEN SOUTH 1ST AND SOUTH 2ND STREETS IN THE CITY OF ALPINE, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A DEED WITHOUT WARRANTY; DIRECTING THAT FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF THE CITY'S INTEREST BE DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH THEREOF.

**ORDINANCE 2024-05-06:** AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 4, 2024 SPECIAL & GENERAL ELECTIONS HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITIZENS OF ALPINE TO THE OFFICES OF MAYOR, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1, CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 2, AND CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 4.

COPIES OF THE ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N. 13TH STREET, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM). QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT 432-837-3301, OPTION 1.



# Sports



Seniors Hanna Juett (left) and Sierra Ruckman (right) are just two Lady Bucks softball team members to receive Academic All-District honors and First-Team All-District honors for the 2024 season.

Courtesy photos

## Lady Bucks softball players receive All-District honors

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Fourteen Alpine Lady Bucks softball players have been named Academic All-District as well as some receiving All-District team honors. The Lady Bucks were both District and Bi-District champions this season.

Freshmen named Academic All-District include Isabella Shelton, Natalie Elguezabal, Alyna Gutierrez, who also received Honorable Mention All-District DP, Zariah Galvan, who also received First-team All-District Catcher honors, and Taryn Hardin who also received the All-District Utility Player of the Year. Sophomore players

named Academic All-District include Kody Hawkins, who also was named District MVP, Trinity Vega, Emyliana Hernandez who was also named First-team All-District outfield, and Emily Sweat who was also named First-team All-District shortstop.

Juniors named Academic All-District are Allison Sanchez and Jaycee Portillo, who was also named the District Defensive Player of the Year. Junior Rikki Vega was named First-team All-District outfield.

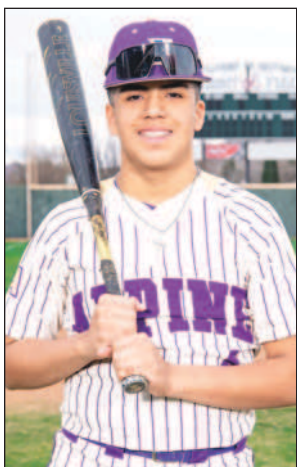
Finally, Seniors Hannah Juett and Sierra Ruckman were named Academic All-District as well as First-team All-District pitcher and first base, respectively.



Jace Canaba



Iden Lujan



Josh Solis



David Valenzuela

## Four AHS sluggers named to First-team All-District

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Four of this year's Alpine Fightin' Buck varsity baseball team have been named First-team All-District players. Along with these four outstanding athletes, two other Bucks were named to the Second-team All-District along with the district 4-3A offensive MVP and an honorable mention. First-team All-District

honors go to AHS senior and centerfielder Jace Canaba, catcher Josh Solis, first baseman David Valenzuela, and shortstop Iden Lujan.

This year's 4-3A Offensive MVP was A.J. Llanez, while pitcher Devon Rojo was named to Second-team All-District, along with Alec Ramos as Second-team All-District utility. Honorable Mention went to Peyton Tays.

## AMS golf hits the links in their first and only tournament

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Middle School golf team traveled to Wink on Monday for their first and only junior high golf tournament. This was a nine-hole tournament, and the team consisted of 12 boys and three girls.

The girls' team came out to win and on top of their game. Laci Tarango finished in the top spot, shooting a 57, while Kacy Hawkins placed third with a 59. The girls' third team member, Alice Saunders did not place but shot a strong 66. Unfortunately, without a full team of at least four, the girls' team was unable to compete as a team and place in the tournament.

The top contender on the boys' team was Thaddeus Prieto who placed fifth as a medalist. The boys did not place as a team.

"This was a learning experience for every-



Pictured with their medals from the Wink golf tournament are Kacy Hawkins and Laci Tarango.

Courtesy photo

one. Most of these kids have never played golf before and it is a perfect opportunity to start learning and build up the program. There were a couple of individuals

who stood out and have potential," said Coach Marco Gomez.

Also playing well, but not medaling were Colt Billings and Cristian Flores who both shot 62

and JJ Lujan shot a 64 in the nine-hole tournament.

"Some of these kids really enjoyed being out there and have plans to keep on playing," Gomez added.

## Lady Buck commits to Western Texas College



Senior and multi-sport athlete of Alpine High School, Mia Morris, celebrated her college signing last week surrounded by family, coaches, and friends. Morris has committed to continuing her education and sports journey at Western Texas College.

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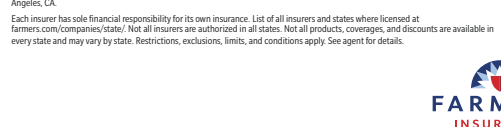


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### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



EMY HERNANDEZ

Emy displays the true character of a multi-sport athlete. She is a leader on and off the field and role model to other athletes. Emy excelled in Track and Field and Softball this year.

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# Boys' track and field recognized

# Proud parents



The Alpine High School boys' track and field team was recognized at this year's All-Sports Awards Banquet.

Photo by Felipe Fierro



Hatfield Cason (center) stands with his parents Coach Cory Cason and his dad Sam while he displays his track and field plaques and certificates. Cason was this year's high point scorer and the boys' track athlete of the year.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

# Final words

# Awaiting recognition



Alpine High School's boys' head track coach Wayne Schroeder relays final words to the athletes he's coached at this year's All-Sports Awards Banquet. Schroeder is retiring after 54 years in education.

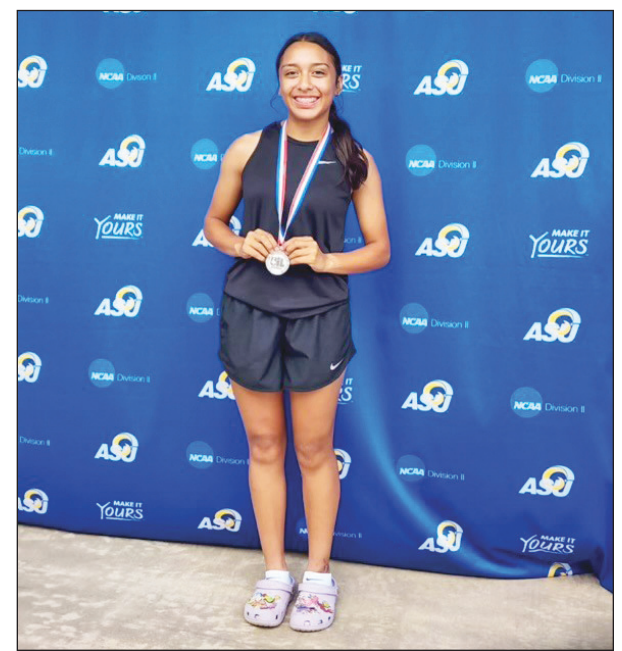
Photo by Felipe Fierro



The Lady Bucks softball team stands on stage at this year's All-Sports Awards Banquet held at the Alpine Civic Center.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

# Indian is headed to state



Maite Morales, a tennis player from Fort Davis will be playing in the State tennis tournament in San Antonio today and tomorrow.

Courtesy photo

# Standing proud

J.P. Valenzuela poses for a photo at the recent Alpine High School All-Sports Banquet held at the Alpine Civic Center. Valenzuela was a strong member of this year's boys' track and field team.



Photo by Felipe Fierro

# Smiles all around



Senior and multi-sport athlete Novah Carrasco is all smiles as she makes her way to the stage during this year's All-Sports Awards Banquet held at the Alpine Civic Center.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

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**LOOKING BACK**  
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May 12, 1977

A photo of the abandoned church 40 miles south of Marfa. The church was prominently featured in the "Andromeda Strain" movie.



May 12, 1977

**ABOVE:** As the light bulb sale, scheduled for May 13 and 14, approaches, incoming Lions President Avinash Rangra and John Barlow, the dedicated light bulb sale chairman, are gearing up. The charity funds raised from this event will be directed towards the Lions Sight-Saving program.

May 12, 1977

**LEFT:** Rusty Moore, who will be playing for the First National Bank Team, misjudged a ground ball during the Little League tryouts last week.



May 12, 1977

Governor Dolf Briscoe delivered the keynote address during Sul Ross State University's graduation ceremony on Friday. More than 150 graduates walked across the stage for the 51st annual commencement ceremony.

**Mowing early and often can keep thistle yields down**

**Dear Neil:** There has been an exponential increase in the number of thistle plants on my rural property this year. Although I have found a terrific garden tool that lets me extract them roots and all, I don't have the energy. I don't want to use toxic chemicals. What other options do I have?

It's been quite a year everywhere for thistles. I'm sure the rainy spring has brought them along. Mowing would be your only other option. If you mow early and often, you'll keep them from flowering and going to seed, therefore yielding even more thistles next year. I am comfortable recommending the responsible use of a broad-leafed weedkiller containing 2,4-D to eliminate them while they're young and developing plants. The level of toxicity of such a product to hu-

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

mans would be very low compared to many other products we use every day in and around our homes. You're too late for this year, however. The plants in your photo have already gone to seed.

**Dear Neil:** We have been overtaken by these furry caterpillars this year. They are devouring our garden. What will control them? Will they sting me?

These are not going to inflict any kind of pain-



ful sting, and almost any general-purpose insecticide will control them. Choose one, of course, that has been labeled for use on edible crops. These are not a looping type of caterpillar, but the Bacillus thuringiensis biological worm control that I recommend for loopers will also control these very well.

**Dear Neil:** I have enjoyed the Turk's cap in my garden for many years. This year, however, some of the leaves are curved inward, almost tied in knots. Is this a problem? What would cause it?

This kind of abnormal growth is almost always caused by one of two

things. Aphids can attack tender new growth in the early spring with their piercing, sucking mouthparts. That will result in distorted growth, although usually not this bad. This really looks like the impact of a broad-leafed weedkiller working as a growth hormone. This can result in drift or contamination of equipment by 2,4-D. Usually,

the plants outgrow it if it's just a glancing blow. Some plants are ultra-sensitive to the herbicide and can be impacted by applications made hundreds of yards away if the wind is just right.

*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 TXism: "changes his mind as often \_\_\_ does socks"
- 5 a star in Texas-filmed "Silkwood"
- 6 Houston has big \_\_\_ nautics industry
- 7 early slavery case plaintiff: \_\_\_ Scott
- 8 one impeachment charge against "Pa" Ferguson in 1917
- 17 Fort Worth spring festival: "\_\_\_ fest"
- 18 reparations for wrongs
- 21 TXism: "big biscuit \_\_\_ the pan" (boss)
- 22 river movement
- 23 TXism: "weak \_\_\_ -day-old kitten"
- 24 TXism: "attracted like a \_\_\_ -- chew toy"
- 29 car horn sound
- 30 Palestine AM radio
- 31 hosp. trauma area
- 32 TXism: "numerous \_\_\_ in Texas"
- 34 canal or great lake
- 35 TX George Jones' \_\_\_ Name Is"
- 36 caused to be loved
- 37 TXism: "\_\_\_ a line" (go fish)
- 38 Lubbock has the highest crime \_\_\_ in Texas (2024)
- 39 the only NHL team in Texas (2 wds.)
- 41 belly button
- 42 TXism: "heap of"

**DOWN**

- 43 San Antonio NBA team
- 44 "gotta \_\_\_ all my bases"
- 45 TX Betty Buckley was on the last three seasons of this HBO prison drama
- 46 pub brew
- 47 TX Zina Garrison won tennis gold in 1988 at Olympics in South
- 48 TV western for TX Patricia Blair: "The \_\_\_"
- 50 Travis drew \_\_\_ in the dirt at the Alamo
- 51 "\_\_\_ riot, one Ranger"
- 52 peculiar
- 53 blues guitarist, TX Stevie \_\_\_ Vaughan
- 1 UT comic strip by Berkeley Breathed, with "The" (2 wds.)
- 2 seat of Grayson County
- 3 notary words in Texas: ". . . I \_\_\_ certify that . . ."
- 4 to gradually wear away a Texas beach
- 9 jewelry retailer based in Texas
- 10 Houston rock band if it was missing a "Z" (2 wds.)
- 11 "I searched high and \_\_\_"
- 12 Rangers announcer, Nadel (init.)
- 13 TXism: "just cause a chicken has wings don't \_\_\_ can fly" (looks deceiving)
- 14 TXism: "never let '\_\_\_ you sweat"
- 15 tidy
- 16 explosive letters
- 19 treble speaker
- 20 stallion base of the King Ranch quarter horses "Old \_\_\_"
- 22 rock-forming mineral
- 24 Gov. "\_\_\_" Ferguson
- 25 "got no \_\_\_ for it"

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
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**ARREST • FROM 1**

was this past Monday in Denver. He is being charged with one count of conspiracy to possess with intent to distribute fentanyl and one count of possession with intent to distribute fentanyl. If Steele is convicted, he faces 20 years to life in prison for each count. Sentencing will be determined by a federal district court judge after they consider U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and

other statutory factors. The investigation into this matter is being conducted by Homeland Security Investigations and the Texas Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigation along with the assistance of the Alpine Police Department, Brewster County Sheriff's Office, and the U.S. Postal Inspection Service. Assistant U.S. Attorney Amy Greenbaum is prosecuting the case.



*Learning where their food comes from*

**Alpine Elementary fourth graders took a field trip to Village Farms in Marfa to check out their tomato greenhouses and how they produce the tomatoes that are used in a variety of ways from raw to tomato sauce.**

*Courtesy photo*

**COUNTY • FROM 1**

children's literacy programs, or the arts. The final amount of these dividends will be available this July.

The court voted to approve to increase the amount of two budgets. The county's autopsy budget was increased by \$50,000 and the technology budget was increased by \$25,000. In both cases, these increases will be sourced from the general surplus fund.

Regular autopsies usually cost approximately \$2,600 but that amount increases to about \$3,000 when a toxicology report is required. It is currently unknown why the cost has increased consistently every year, as the allotted budget is almost always surpassed.

The \$5,000 contract with PermiaCare was also up for approval, this amount was already set aside during the budgeting process for 2024 and was approved.

Another contract, the agreement with Emergent Air, was ratified for a year extension since the initial contract expired in March.

Beyond contracts,

the road and bridge superintendent, Frenchie Causey, gave his department's report. Afterward, Judge Greg Henington announced that Causey would be retiring soon and that July 13 is expected to be his last day.

"I'll be around, just a phone call away," Causey said after the court congratulated him and shared that he is currently considering his replacement.

The new emergency management coordinator, James Etchison, gave his report and shared that one of his first projects has been to check all the Brewster County fire extinguishers and hydrants for issues and replacement needs. Etchison said that this area is currently the driest in the country and requested that the 45-day burn ban be renewed again, which the court readily approved.

The next regular Commissioners Court meeting is scheduled for May 28. A special closed meeting will be held next week on May 21 to discuss a security report based on a recent study conducted for the county.

**WALKING • FROM 1**

make many pause, Edie shares that she decided that no matter what cancer did to her, she would continue to move until her last breath. And thus, she began her walk.

"It kind of got me through cancer. You become a walking prayer. With all the treatments, I had to do something," she said.

"I try to walk three miles an hour," said Edie, outfitted in her bright orange reflective vest. She laughed and said that otherwise, she'd never get through Alpine to Marfa.

"It's about 20 miles, so that will take me a good three days," said Edie.

While walking for days, those cold desert nights are just as important. Originally from Oklahoma, Edie travels with her husband of 48 years, who drives their home on wheels to meet her at her stops. They had traded their house for a camper van to support the dream of traveling. He is an avid cyclist who works remotely at a desk he outfitted in their van.

Their different hobbies balance the other's out, "I am so lucky because he hates to walk, but he loves

to bicycle. As a walker, I hate bicycles and love to walk. So, we are very compatible," said Edie.

After 832,000 milligrams of chemotherapy, the loss of 6% of her liver, and damage to her colon, stomach, right lung, and throat, walking became her therapy in more ways than one. "I have to walk because I have one lung. If I don't walk, I don't breathe," Edie said. She devotes a lot of credit to her healing journey to walking, going as far as to say that you can get addicted to it. Walking is her way of connecting to "people, places, and God." Her treatment wasn't just chemo, it was sunshine, fresh air, and the people that she met too.

She described how she sees the world from the perspective of someone who is outside experiencing it day in and day out, sharing that there is something so alive about being outside. One thing that becomes apparent when speaking to Edie is her eagerness and hunger to experience things deeply and sincerely wherever she finds herself.

While walking, she

takes photos of things that remind her of her friends to send to them and asks questions about the community, wanting to learn as much local history as the locals know.

"I think that in our polarized world today, I think that we'd love each other a lot more if we'd walk more because we would understand each other. Curiosity replaces condemnation," said Edie, expanding on her "walking makes us curious" philosophy.

Edie believes that there is a story to be found everywhere and that once we understand the story by walking in another's shoes, it can inspire that spirit of empathy.

At that point, she had walked 1,300 miles of the Old Spanish Trail Road, but she said she still had quite a way to go. She had walked through Fort Stockton the previous days and was headed for Marfa the next.

To make the journey more manageable, she walks for four or five days and then takes a day off.

This journey isn't her first across Texas. "I started from San Antonio to the Sabine River and then

walked from San Antonio to the Pecos River." After her last Texas walk, she walked Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama until she reached Florida.

Edie has also walked the 1,600-mile Mission Trail. When she got to Florida, she knew that she had unfinished business in Texas and decided to finish it.

She told herself at that point, "You have to finish Texas. It's not going to be easy, but you have to do it."

While walking through Alpine, she admired the murals that grace the alleyways and buildings exteriors and the windows of the local businesses. She said, "If you didn't know these were here, you would miss them!" Walking down Holland Avenue and then historic Murphy Street, Edie expressed her fascination with the city's history and architecture.

Edie sees the world she is walking through, trying to absorb every minute of this uncertain life that doesn't offer many promises to those who live it.

Currently, Edie is almost to Van Horn in her walk through Texas.

**Alpine Police Department**

**Notice Of Abandoned Motor Vehicle Auction**

Pursuant to the provisions of Transportation Code 683.011, 683.031, 683.012, 683.014, Abandoned Motor Vehicle Act, we are notifying you as either the LAST KNOWN registered owner or lienholder. The lienholder or registered owner of this vehicle has the right to reclaim this motor vehicle. WITHIN TWENTY DAYS AFTER THE DATE OF THIS NOTICE upon payment of all towing, preservation, and storage charges resulting from placing the vehicle in custody, as well as garage keepers, charges for servicing, storage or repair of the vehicle. Failure of the owner or lienholder to exercise their right to reclaim the vehicle within the time provided shall be deemed a waiver by the owner and your consent to a sale of the vehicle at public auction. If vehicle is not claimed, The Alpine Police Department will be holding a public auction of abandoned vehicles on Saturday June 8, 2024 at 10:00 am. Viewing of the vehicles will be from 9:00 am until the auction begins. The auction will be held at 2705 East Avenue I (Cemetery Road) next to the Hal Flanders Recycling Center in Alpine, Texas.

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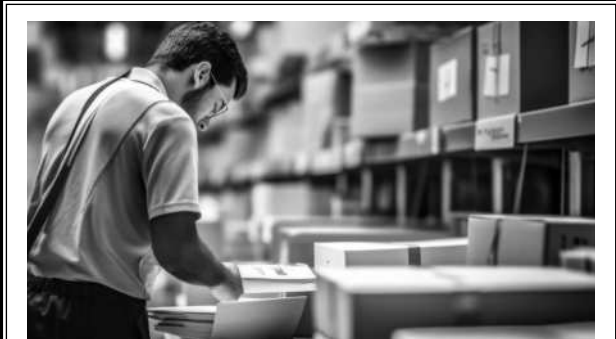
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- Susie Gonzales

**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of JOHN H. FINLEY, SR, Deceased, were issued to C. Etheline Finley on May 14, 2024, by the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, acting in Cause No. PR03166, styled in Re: Estate of JOHN H. FINLEY, SR, Deceased, in which Court the matter is pending.

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

Representative:  
Estate John H. Finley, Deceased  
c/o W. E. HERMAN III  
Attorney at Law  
Alpine :Law Center  
PO Box 252  
Alpine, Texas 79831-0252

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

Dated this May 14, 2024.

C. Etheline Finley

By: \_\_\_\_\_  
W.E. HERMAN III  
Attorney for the Estate

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# Glowing achievements



Second graders at Alpine Elementary spent Tuesday learning at their "Glow Day", which included glow sticks, glow glasses, and even some glowing chalk.

Courtesy photo

**SENIOR Spotlight**

**MAYA DOUGHTY**

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I've participated in band all four years of high school.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment of the last four years was going on all the band trips.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite teacher by far was Mrs. Crump. She was always helpful and so kind to everyone.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
After high school, I'd like to travel as much as possible.

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## Devotional Page

### Praying for those in Gaza and Israel

BY MICHAEL WALLENIS  
Priest in charge-Big Bend Episcopal Churches

The more the war in Gaza continues, the more I find myself grieving for those who have lost family and friends in the ongoing violence in Israel and Gaza. Having worked with refugees, I am aware of the horrors that those whose lives are touched by war, face. This is not a question of who is right and who is wrong. I believe that none of us have the right to decide that another person's life should be cut short. I believe God grieves when those who are made in the image of God kill and maim each other. God is a God of peace not of war. This type of death and violence is a distortion of God's intention for all persons. Out of my grief this day, I hope you will pray with me:

God, we enter into your tears today.  
We weep with you for innocent lives lost.  
Our hearts groan with grief for life distorted by death.  
We do not know how to pray,  
But your Spirit groans within us,  
With sighs too deep for words.  
When our needs burden us,  
And the pain of our world overwhelms us,  
Your Spirit is here.  
It breathes in all people,  
In all places.  
Lord may it breathe today  
Peace in the midst of war,  
Comfort in the midst of horror,  
Life in the midst of death.  
and so....

We pray for a peace that ends oppression and secures a safe homeland for all.  
For continuing 75 years of apartheid and wanting to destroy the other is no peace.

We pray for a peace which frees the captive.  
For asking 2.3 million people to go back to an open-air prison is no peace.

We pray for a peace beyond "de-escalation"  
For turning a blind eye to historic harm is no peace.

We pray for a peace that only comes from freedom, justice, equality, and dignity of all peoples  
For anything less is no peace.  
May peace prevail. AMEN

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I can do all things through Christ which strengthen me.  
~ Philippians 4:13

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# When temperatures rise

## Scatter your table with southern favorites

When outside temperatures begin to rise, dining al fresco becomes popular once again. The types of food that are prepared also gain in popularity during this time of year. Or perhaps, they regain their popularity, because they have always been popular.

We're discussing picnic and BBQ foods like potato salads, icebox pies, fresh fruit, and garden vegetables.

But there are a few dishes, while perfect for these outdoor or spring and summertime meals, that sometimes get overlooked in favor of others. Perhaps because of



the ingredients or even because of the occasion. Here are a few of some of the easiest, and best recipes to add to your outdoor dining experience as the temperatures are on the rise.

### CUCUMBER SANDWICHES

Light, refreshing, and great for your next shower, picnic, or snack.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 1 large English cucumber, thinly sliced (a mandolin works well in this instance for consistent slice thickness.)
- ½ teaspoon salt
- 1 8-ounce package of softened cream cheese
- 2 tablespoons of mayonnaise
- 1 tsp lemon zest
- 2 tablespoons chopped fresh dill
- 2 tablespoons chopped chives
- 8 slices of firm sandwich bread



#### DIRECTIONS

- In a medium bowl, toss the sliced cucumber with salt, making sure they are completely coated.
- Spread the slices in an even layer on a clean, kitchen towel.

Roll the towel and let it stand and absorb the moisture from the slices while you prepare the remaining ingredients.

In another medium bowl, stir together the cream cheese, mayonnaise, and lemon zest until smoothly combined.

Stir in the dill and chives, mixing well.

Place your four slices of bread onto a cutting board and spread about a ¼ cup of the cream cheese mixture on each slice.

Unroll the towel with the cucumber slices, and divide them between the four slices of bread, placing them evenly on the cream cheese.

Place the remaining four slices of bread on top to make the sandwiches, pressing down lightly.

If desired, slice off the crusts, then cut in half or into triangles.

Serve immediately or wrap tightly and refrigerate for up to four hours.

### FRIED GREEN TOMATOES

#### INGREDIENTS

The secret to making great fried green tomatoes is an unripe tomato.

#### Ingredients

- 1 egg, lightly beaten
- ½ cup all-purpose flour, divided
- ½ cup buttermilk
- ½ cup cornmeal
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ½ teaspoon pepper
- 3 green tomatoes, cut into 1/3-inch slices
- Vegetable oil



#### DIRECTIONS

Mix together the egg and buttermilk and set aside. Combine ¼ cup all-purpose flour, cornmeal, salt, and pepper in a shallow bowl or pan.

Dredge the tomato slices in the remaining ¼ cup flour, then dip into the egg mixture, and finally dredge in the cornmeal mixture.

Pour about ¼ to ½ inch of oil into a large, cast-iron skillet and heat to 375 degrees. Drop tomatoes into the hot oil in batches, cooking for two minutes on each side or until golden.

Drain on paper towels or a rack and sprinkle hot tomatoes with salt.

### EGG SALAD SANDWICHES

It is almost unheard of for showers, luncheons, or picnics in the South to not have these on the table.

#### INGREDIENTS

- 8 large eggs
- ½ cup mayonnaise
- ¼ cup thinly sliced green onions, plus more for garnish
- 2 teaspoons spicy brown mustard
- 2 teaspoons hot dog relish
- ¾ teaspoon kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon paprika
- ¼ teaspoon garlic powder
- ¼ teaspoon black pepper
- Crackers or bread

#### DIRECTIONS

Fill a large pot with water and bring to a boil over high heat. Carefully lower the eggs into the boiling water, cooking undisturbed for 11 minutes and 30 seconds.



While eggs are cooking, fill a large bowl halfway with ice, then add water to cover the ice and set aside.

Using a slotted spoon or spider, immediately transfer cooked eggs from boiling water to an ice bath. Let stand until completely cooled, at least five minutes or up to 30 minutes.

Peel and chop the eggs and place into a medium bowl.

Add the remaining ingredients and mix well until fully combined.

Serve immediately with crackers or bread.

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