

**Big Bend Regional Hospital District gets new executive director**

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

The Big Bend Regional Hospital District held its regularly scheduled meeting on Thursday, May 30. The meeting was held at the Alpine Public Library due to debris and the smell of smoke still in their office because of the structure fire earlier in the week. Secretary Angela Juett was the only board member absent.

After the meeting was called to order, the first item of business was the yearly audit, which Shelly Ruddock from Gibson, Ruddock, Patterson, LLC went over via Zoom and discussed with the board. Ruddock

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**INSIDE**



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**Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport**  
 2024. . . . . .2.06"  
 June. . . . . .0.04"



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



**Alpine City Council sees large public turnout for recent meeting**

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

The Alpine City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting last Tuesday, June 4 at 5:30 p.m. Due to the large turnout of citizens, the meeting was held in the Alpine Civic Center because it exceeded the capacity of the council chambers. All council members were present and accounted for at the meeting.

After the meeting was called to order, Alpine City Mayor Catherine Eaves went over the rules of conduct for the meeting due to the large number of people present. She emphasized proper meeting decorum prior to the public comment section on the agenda, reiterating that sarcasm and emotionally charged comments or attacks would not be tolerated.

More than 15 area citizens spoke to the council, the majority of which were commenting on the board's action item 11E listed on the agenda. The action item in question read as follows: Approve Resolution 2024-06-03, requesting the Alpine Lions Club to require background checks for

See COUNCIL • 6



**Locals compete in Fort Davis BBQ Cookoff**



Smoke Busters was one of six local teams who competed this past weekend at the Smoke in the Mountains BBQ Cookoff. The team is comprised of Don Miller (Midland), Jim Miller (Fort Davis), Jason Miller (Alpine), Joe Natera (Alpine), and Wes Miller (Kerrville).

Photo by Carolyn Nored Miller

**UIL debate: a student's perspective**

BY HATFIELD CASON  
 Contributor



Hatfield Cason

A pair of well-dressed students sit in a classroom, whispering to each other in hushed and urgent tones, shuffling papers, scratching down notes on legal pads, and looking through "the box." Another pair of students sit across from them, waiting silently. The judge in the room waits as well, pen and paper with remarks at the ready. The students' whispering stops as a timer goes off, one of them stands, crosses to a podium, clutching their papers, and clears their throat. After a moment to acknowledge the room, they begin to speak. Scenes like this

take place every season in Texas UIL high school debate, one of the most renowned extracurriculars offered at the high school level. While it can seem daunting for parents or aspiring students to understand or get their foot in the door, debate is one of the most rewarding challenges an Alpine High School stu-

dent can take on and is worth the work. Debate Coach Matthew Chavez believes that "competing against other schools' top debaters creates a thrill that cannot be compared to academically."

Best described as a structured argument between students about the best course of action to take concerning a specific issue, there are two kinds of debate at the high school level. LD debate, short for Lincoln-Douglas debate, is between two students debating over the morals of a specific issue. CX or cross-examination debate is two teams composed of partners debating over national policy. Each year the National Federation of

State High School Associations releases the national high school debate topic for the next season of debaters to verbally battle over. Overseen by a judge, the debate takes place in turns, like a board game, where each student or team can make an argument and ask questions about their opponents' arguments. Before a round starts the debaters are told whether they are on the Affirmative team, who try to argue for a course of action, or the Negative team, who try to convince the judge the Affirmative plan is a bad idea. Because all debaters will have to be Aff. or Neg. (debate slang) in their careers, they need to create a case and gather evi-

dence for both sides.

"Students have the opportunity to practice public speaking and learn about domestic and foreign policies in the United States and around the world. They have the opportunity to find their voice and develop opinions about real-life issues that affect modern-day society," says Chavez. This past season's debate topic was: "Resolved: The United States Federal Government Should Substantially Increase Fiscal Redistribution in the United States by Adopting a Federal Jobs Guarantee, Expanding Social Security, and/or Providing a Basic

See DEBATE • 6

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# Making the most of a trip to the farmer's market

## What to know about nutrition and safety

BY SUSAN HIMES  
Texas AgriLife Extension

Unless you are lucky enough to have a vegetable garden of your own, you'd be hard-pressed to find produce that tastes fresher or lasts longer than what your local farmers market has to offer, according to Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service experts.

In addition to accessing delicious food, shopping at a local farmers market can also be a good way to support local agriculture and keep your dollars in the local economy. "It's likely that the farmer is going to pick their produce at peak quality because they're going to sell it right away," said Jenna Anding, Ph.D., AgriLife Extension nutrition specialist and professor in the Texas A&M Department of Nutrition. "So, by shopping at a farmers market you'll typically get the produce at peak quality when it's in season."

Anding said while most Texans come up severely short in the amount of vegetables they consume each day, the produce at a farmers market may taste better, so they may eat more of it. Going to the market is also a great way to get children more excited about eating vegetables by letting them pick out what they want and perhaps pique their interest in trying something new. In addition to the vegetables and fruits, the variety of products sold at many farmers' markets has increased, which creates the need for consumers to be more careful and informed, the AgriLife Extension experts said.

"Farmers markets can be a good place to buy things like honey, jams and jellies, and eggs, but consumers need to keep safety and consumer common sense in mind," said Rebecca Dittmar,

AgriLife Extension program specialist for the food safety education program in Kerrville. From what to look for to what to avoid, our AgriLife Extension experts shared what consumers should know before they grab their baskets or shopping bags and head out to a farmers' market. "Generally speaking, the nutritional content of fresh produce bought at a local farmers market is higher because it is usually harvested and then immediately sold," Anding said. "For example, one study found that three days after harvest, some produce has lost 30% of its vitamin C. That is also a good reason not to buy more produce than your family will eat, especially if nutrient quality is a concern."

Anding said if you know you aren't going to eat all of what you bought immediately, eat what will not freeze well first. The sooner you freeze fresh produce, the more nutrients it can retain. "The longer produce stays in storage and the longer it takes to get to the grocery store and then into a consumer's home, the more nutritional quality is lost," Anding said. "But at the end of the day, any vegetable is better than no vegetables. If you don't have access to a farmers' market, then the frozen and canned vegetable options at a grocery store are usually cheaper and can have more nutrition than a grocery store's fresh options."

Make sure what you're buying is actually local if you aim to support agriculture in your area. Don't hesitate to ask the seller where it was grown and what farm it came from. Even if they are not the producer, they should be able to give you that information.

Nobody wants to buy produce that was just re-

packaged from a big box store to look local. Produce can cost more at a farmers' market too, so make sure what you buy is as advertised.

Do keep in mind, though, that not all regions in Texas grow the same produce and some types may need to be brought over from a different region.

"For example, it costs money to truck produce to San Angelo that's been grown in Poteet," Anding said. "There is an added cost to get those strawberries up to the Concho Valley, and the consumer needs to take that into account that producers have to price accordingly."

And while some things may cost more at a farmers' market, some things may cost less. It is a good idea to check prices at your usual grocery store, so you have a reference point. Organic fruits and vegetables may be cheaper than what you'd find in the market, so don't be afraid to question if something is organic or not. If so, you need to ask how the growers define that term.

A farmers' market isn't typically going to have as wide of a selection of produce as your local grocery store. But farmer's markets will have in-season produce that hasn't been shipped from out of state or even from another country. The freshest fruits and vegetables are the ones most recently picked, so embrace what is growing in Texas each season. "You're probably not going to see a whole lot of cut leafy greens right now because it's more of a winter vegetable," Anding said. "But warm season produce like tomatoes, cucumbers, and squash, and fruits like blackberries should be bountiful."

Your local farmers market might also be a great place to explore



Locally grown watermelons are a favorite for summertime eating.

Photo courtesy of Michael Miller/Texas A&M AgriLife

a veggie or fruit you haven't tried before. Sellers are almost always happy to offer advice on how to cook or prepare that unknown, alien-looking squash.

Produce is protected by its skin. Look for a fruit or vegetable that does not have bruises, tears, holes, or mold. You also don't want to buy anything that has been cut open, such as half of a watermelon. Just as you'd clean produce bought from a grocery store, take the same care with what you buy at the farmers market.

If buying eggs, Dittmar said they must always be kept below 45 degrees. It's OK if a seller has a carton on display just for looks, but make sure what you are buying is taken from a refrigerated unit. Also, check to ensure the eggs are clean and there are no breaks or cracks in the shells. If you discover one after purchase, make sure you discard it. Egg sellers must have a temporary food establishment license and eggs must be properly labeled as "un-

graded" with safe handling instructions.

To be an informed consumer, know the rules established by the Texas Department of Agriculture that sellers must follow. For example, raw milk and any products made from raw milk cannot be sold at a farmers' market. For homemade products like honey and jam, the cottage food industry rules apply.

"I think consumers educating themselves before they go shopping is critical," Dittmar said. "Having a basic understanding of the rules and

knowing what questions to ask is important to keep your family safe."

She said it is also fine to ask about how the produce provider controls weeds and pests and the type of water used to irrigate crops.

"Farmers markets are a great opportunity to get to know producers in your area," Dittmar said. "Local growers take great pride in their products and care about their reputation, but it's always good to use common sense, and it's never wrong to ask a question."



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## Judd works to be exhibited in Switzerland



Donald Judd, Basel, Installation View

Photo by Maris Hutchinson courtesy of Judd Foundation/Artist Rights Society, New York

Gagosian in Basel, Switzerland began exhibiting a series of works by Donald Judd on June 10. The exhibit will run until September 7.

The exhibit is comprised of ten single-unit, wall-mounted works in anodized aluminum and plexiglass sheets in a range of colors and opacities. The precisely constructed works are defined by Judd's interest in materials and color. Non-referential and self-contained, they emphasize the intrinsic qualities of their components and the relationships between part and whole.

This exhibit coincides with the presentation of a large-scale exhibit by Judd that runs from

June 10-16 at Art Basel Unlimited by Gagosian. Created in 1970, this large-scale work has only been exhibited five times, and only twice in its original U-shaped configuration of galva-

nized iron panels. It was first shown by Leo Castelli in New York, and the work is both variable and directly related to its site, transforming the architectural space where it is installed.

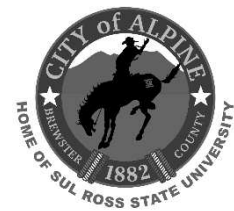
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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT 5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024 REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

**ORDINANCE 2024-05-03:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 10 – ANIMALS TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; PROVIDING FOR UPDATED DEFINITIONS WITHIN THE CHAPTER INCLUDING DEFINITIONS OF ADEQUATE SHELTER, DEFINITION OF EUTHANASIA, AND DEFINITION OF CURRENT VACCINATION REQUIREMENTS; AMENDING THE PROCESSES, PROCEDURES, AND TIMELINES FOR THE IMPOUNDMENT AND DESTRUCTION, OR EUTHANASIA, OF ANIMALS IMPOUNDED BY THE CITY; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE.

**ORDINANCE 2024-05-04:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING ANNEXATION PROCESSES AND PROCEDURES TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING CHAPTER 9 – ANNEXATION TO PROVIDE ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS UPON ANNEXATION OF A SUBJECT PROPERTY; AMENDING APPENDIX C – ZONING TO REMOVE THE REQUIREMENT THAT PROPERTIES BE DESIGNATED R-1 UPON ANNEXATION AND PROVIDING THAT THE CITY COUNCIL MAY ESTABLISH THE ZONING DESIGNATION UPON ANNEXATION OF A SUBJECT PROPERTY.

**ORDINANCE 2024-06-01:** AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION, ABANDONMENT, AND SALE OF THE PARTIALLY DEVELOPED AND UTILIZED ALLEY BETWEEN LOTS 6-8 AND 9-11, BLOCK 3, ORIGINAL TOWNSITE OF 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.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JUNE 18, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M. IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM). QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.



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## Lieutenant Governor serves as keynote speaker

Lieutenant Governor Dan Patrick served as the keynote speaker last week for the Big Bend Area Law Enforcement Association Memorial ceremony that took place on the Sul Ross State University campus. The annual memorial service pays homage to those law enforcement officers lost in the line of duty.

Photo courtesy of Felipe Fierro



## APD welcomes two officers



The Alpine Police Department welcomed two new officers to the force last week. Officers Zack Juarez and Zack Hirst are recent graduates of the Joaquin Jackson Law Enforcement Academy. They are pictured here with APD Chief of Police Darrell Losoya.

Courtesy photo

## West Texas Water Research Center coming to Sul Ross

Thanks to funding from the Horizon Foundation, a West Texas Water Research Center will soon be established at Sul Ross State University (SRSU) in Alpine. The Horizon Foundation has committed a \$125,000 per year challenge grant over the next three years to help launch the new center, which will be incubated at the university's Borderlands Research Institute (BRI).

The concept for a West Texas Water Research Center crystallized after the Water in the Desert conference held in January 2024 at Sul Ross State University. The conference, which was the first of its kind in the region, brought together over 260 attendees, including members of the Texas House and Senate, local groundwater conservation district leaders, scientists, and Texas landowners.

"It was clear to us after the successful Water in the Desert conference that a research center housed here at Sul Ross was the next logical step to advancing the water issues in the West Texas region and beyond," said

Sul Ross State University President Carlos Hernandez. "The Borderlands Research Institute has a proven track record of providing sound science to inform policy decisions, and incubating this new West Texas Water Research Center at BRI will help ensure its long-term success."

The need for the West Texas Water Research Center is becoming more apparent with each passing day. As the human population in Texas grows, so does its demand for water. Texas' existing water supplies are projected to decline by approximately 18% between 2020 and 2070, while the population is growing at an explosive rate. Demographic estimates suggest that over 400,000 people move to Texas each year, more than 1,000 people a day. Texas is on track to exceed 51 million residents by 2070.

Rural Texas is especially at risk as strong science on water availability, recharge, and projections is often lacking. Among the 10 ecoregions in Texas, the Trans-Pecos stands out as the most iconic, the

most biologically diverse, and the most pristine.

"Although water is our most critical resource everywhere, it is particularly precious in West Texas, where most of the water comes from inadequately researched and understood aquifers," said Robert Potts, who is chairman of the Dixon Water Foundation and a board member of the Horizon Foundation. "The Horizon Foundation board believes that for people and wildlife to continue to thrive in West Texas, we must all develop a greater understanding of our water resources. We are proud to support the creation of the West Texas Water Research Center at Sul Ross State University—in the heart of West Texas—to help meet this need."

The West Texas Water Research Center will focus on establishing research priorities and will provide guidance to local municipalities, agencies, and other stakeholders. The new center will also lead the development of curriculum in Water Resource Science which will be multidisciplinary

in nature and complement existing SRSU programs.

Fundraising continues to match the \$125,000/year pledged by Horizon Foundation. Once those funds are secured, a steering committee composed of water experts and university faculty will help guide the new center. One of its first priorities will be to develop a job description and help recruit, interview, and hire a director, which SRSU officials project will happen by the end of 2024.

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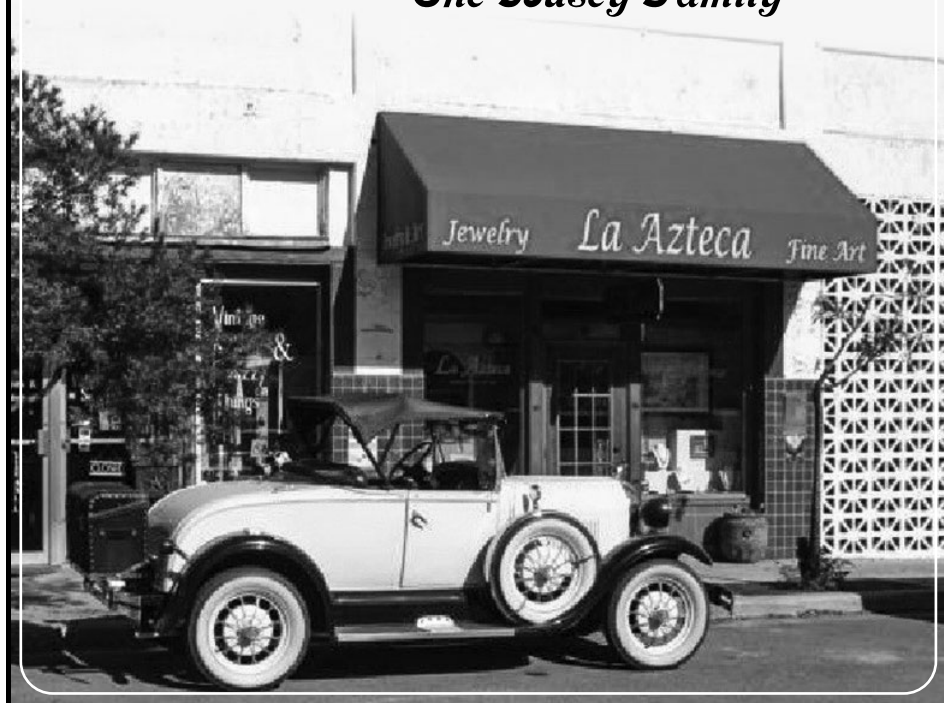
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*On behalf of our family, we extend our gratitude to all who reached out to us in many ways during this difficult time. We feel so blessed by all who were and are there for us.*

*Sincerely,*  
*The Busey Family*



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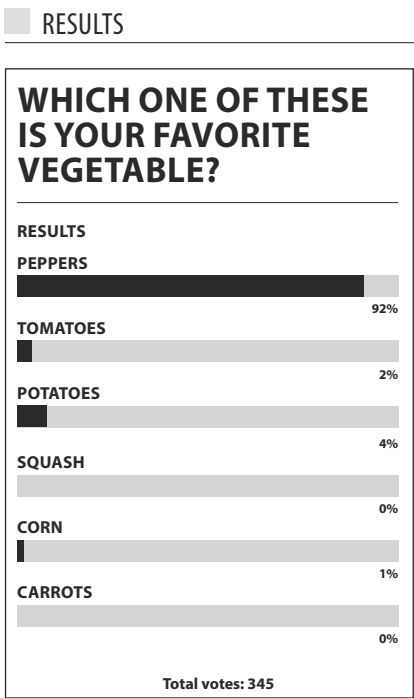
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# Opinions

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THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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- Carrots

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## 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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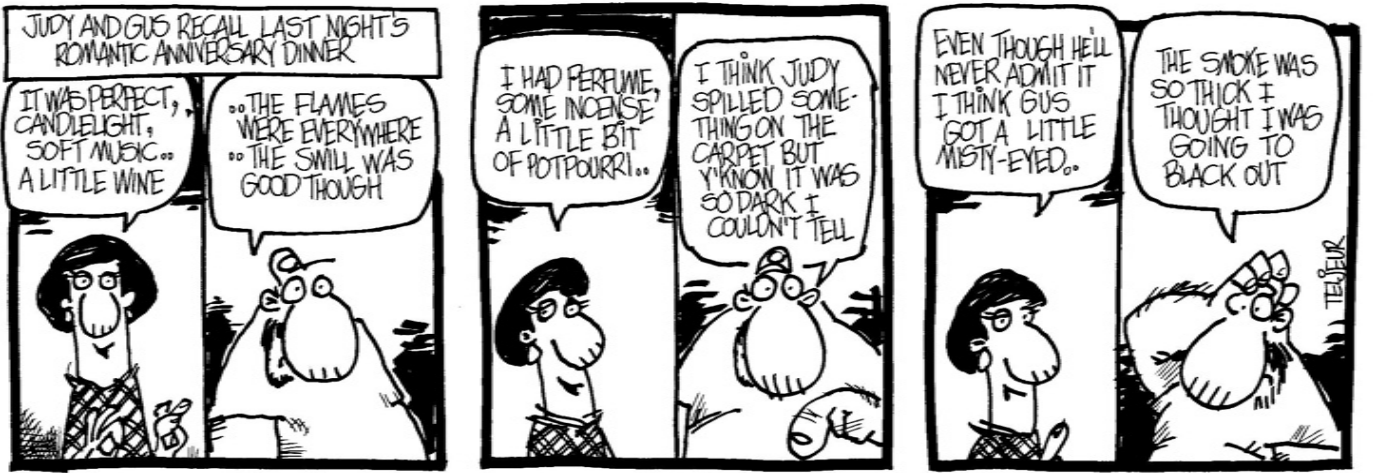
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# BOONIEVILLE



## Rock on, and pass the Tylenol



JASE GRAVES  
Guest Columnist

Now that two of my daughters are away at college and the one still at home basically views me as an ATM in an unfashionable neighborhood, I've tried to find myself a hobby. Since I'm not interested in activities that involve getting out of bed before noon on a Saturday, that pretty much rules out most manly-type-outdoorsy stuff that would require me to sweat profusely in a tent, clean an animal carcass or have one of my friends pluck a tick from a region of my anatomy that I can't reach.

Instead, with the money we have left after paying for college tuition, semi-grown-daughter car insurance, and an occasional can of bean dip, my wife and I have been attending concerts. Something about the exciting atmosphere of several thousand fans enjoying music together and anticipating their next restroom break makes me feel alive. It also allows me to temporarily forget about the pain in my lower back from sneezing too hard the day before.

Below are a few brief reviews of concerts we've attended over the last few months:

First, we've seen alternative singer-songwriter Ben Rector in concert twice recently – once in Austin, where we

waded through throngs of hormonal college students on notorious Sixth Street to visit the famous Amy's Ice Creams after the show. Ben Rector is currently my favorite artist – by a mile. He seems like a genuinely good guy, and his songs include themes like lost youth, how quickly time passes, how hard adulting can be, and how lucky guys like us are to have our wives. Watching him also makes me wish I hadn't quit piano lessons. Yes, Mom, you were right about that – and pretty much everything else.

Next, we traveled to Shreveport, Louisiana, to see what could be called "The Remnants Tour" with surviving members of southern rock bands ZZ Top and Lynyrd Skynyrd. Even though both bands have been around for years, they can still tear it up on stage. It's also refreshing to see musicians who are older than me and still manage to stand upright—though they made me feel a little self-conscious about my lack of facial hair.

Speaking of musicians who make me feel young, sort of, in early Spring, we traveled to Houston, to see legendary rockers The Eagles with my big brother and his wife. After listening to my brother speak in elaborate tongues as he

navigated the Houston traffic, we saw the band perform all of their greatest hits, and Joe Walsh killed it on several guitar solos, making the same faces of pleasure and pain I make when I've had too much Taco Bell.

Most recently, we attended the iHeart-Country Festival in Austin. Granted, I'm about as country as one of the Three Amigos, but I do enjoy some rock'n country music. (I even wore boots.) One of my favorite performers at the festival was Jelly Roll, who—along with belting out some great hard-luck ballads – seemed thrilled and thankful to be there. The other was Keith Urban, who sang his upbeat hits, shredded on the guitar, and owned the crowd. Unfairly, Urban is roughly my age, but he looks like a twenty-something heartthrob, and I look like Dorothy from "The Golden Girls."

Attending concerts has been great fun for my wife and me in our "almost empty nest and bank account" years, and we don't plan to slow down. Upcoming concerts include Def Leppard with Journey and Steve Miller, Niall Horan, and Kacey Musgraves. They all should be a blast—as long as I remember the Tylenol and sit close to the restroom.

## We'll work on prayers for intervention

*"Family reunions. Where generations are united, and memories are rekindled."*  
— True statement. Author unknown.



LEON ALDRIDGE  
Guest Columnist

What were the odds, we surmised while talking about it? A miracle? Nothing quite so divine, but certainly, some intervention was involved. On that, we all agreed.

Whatever it was, the tale was told more than once at the family reunion in Abilene last weekend. Where sharing memories reigns supreme.

I've read recently that family reunions in America are declining. Please don't tell my family.

The descendants of my mother's parents, Arthur George and Bernice Conlee Johnson, conducted a memorable long weekend get-together in West Texas last weekend. Forty-nine reunion believers from my mother's side of the family who were raised on the importance of family togetherness traveled from as far away as Ohio, Tennessee, and Center in Deep East Texas to catch up, recount memories, and keep the family tradition alive and well.

My earliest childhood memories of Kentucky Johnson family reunions were in the Blue Grass state, where every sibling was present. No small feat for a family that scattered as they grew up. Mom moved to Texas, where she lived her life. She was followed by two sisters who also made Texas their home. Another sister settled in Ohio, and the youngest, a brother, stayed in Southern California after discharge from the Navy before later moving to Texas.

Reunions have remained a time for stories. Updated news about each new family. About growing up. About happiness and about sorrow. Plus a few about the challenges of sometimes getting everyone to the gatherings supplemented with lots of snappy cheese dip and Ale-8-1 soft drinks—both Kentucky traditions rooted in the Winchester area.

After some 70-plus years, the stories are still repeated. I've heard most of them more times than I can count. Including some, I heard again this year for the umpteenth time. But I'll listen to them as long as they are still being told because, with each recitation, there are variations that only time and the love for recounting family history firsthand can enhance.

So how does a family with deep Kentucky roots come to converge on Abilene for family reunions?

Families expand, family trees grow new branches, and generations move to meet new opportunities. Getting together every year requires traveling across the state, and sometimes across the country. With that, some of the interventions mentioned above are essential.

Like the time Uncle Bill, Mom's baby brother made the trek to Kentucky from California in the mid-50s with his family traveling in his red Mercury convertible. He made it as far as the Oklahoma Turnpike before the car quit on him in the middle of the night.

I've heard the story and have foggy memories about part of it as well. But my five or six years of age at the time memories are somewhat less than vivid. Except those of that gorgeous red convertible.

We were traveling from West Texas with a plan to meet Bill at a predetermined point on the turnpike that night.

After reaching the meeting spot and waiting more than a reasonable amount of time, Dad started backtracking and found Bill and his family stranded.

As you process the story, factor in the fact that this was when cell phones and GPS devices were still science fiction. Before air-conditioned cars when trips were often planned at night when it was cooler.

Dad got help, the car was repaired, and everyone made it to Kentucky in time to enjoy snappy cheeses and Ale-8s.

Intervention was still working well this

year when history repeated itself. As in years ago, family members were coming from all directions. Flying. Driving. I left East Texas before lunch on Thursday and headed west without knowledge of anyone else's itinerary.

Approaching the destination city as dinner time neared, I called Abilene cousin Fred Scott, who gave me the address of a restaurant on the east side of town where inbound early arrivals were converging. I plugged the address into GPS, smiled, and relaxed because I was less than an hour away.

Not five minutes later, my cousin was calling. "Where are you?"

I thought, "A couple of minutes closer than I was when we just talked." Before I had time to question his question, he said, "Kama's car has broken down on I-20 at the 513-mile marker. Are you anywhere near that?"

"Let me see ... I don't know," His daughter was stranded on the interstate with her kids. My relaxed feeling turned to tension and concern. Then I saw it. Mile marker 524 flashed past me. "I'm right behind her," I called back.

In less than 10 minutes after answering the call, I was pulling up behind them on the service road. Neither of us knew we were traveling anywhere near each other. Coincidence? I think not.

Everyone made it to dinner and the storytelling sessions were underway. "You won't believe what happened today!"

Family. United in generations of love and often repeated stories. The best parts of a reunion. I'm somewhat concerned, however, that the snappy cheese and Ale-8 tradition has been waning recently. I'll take the lead to correct that before next year.

In the meantime, we'll work on prayers for intervention so that everyone arrives safely. And in time for stories, snappy cheese, and Ale-8.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank You

I would like to express thanks to new Alpine Councilman, Reagan Stone, for jumping into the job to try to make our community better. His article in the news-

paper regarding the loss of life in Texas resulting from gun violence and his attempt to introduce a background check for gun shows here demonstrates his willingness to work to keep our community safe. Thank you for

your efforts! Any step to reduce the chance of shootings in schools-- such as those in Alpine and Uvalde, shopping centers, churches, and other gatherings is a step in the right direction. Until 25 years ago, these occurrences

were unthinkable. They shouldn't become acceptable today.

Sincerely,  
Helen Snook  
Alpine



# Heard on the STREET

What food do you think is overrated?



**Julie Hawkins:** Definitely pickles.



**Josh Rinehart:** Barring a few exceptions, pretty much anything you order standing up.



**Heather Yadon:** Coffee! I like the smell, but not the taste. By the time I make it taste good, all I'm drinking is cream and sugar.



**Neil Trammell:** Sushi and Indian food. Coconut curry mushroom soup is one of my nightmares!



**John Schwerdtfeger:** Jalapeno poppers for me.

## Alpine Cowboys Read and Play on tap for next week

On Monday, June 17 from 11 a.m. - 12 p.m., the Alpine Cowboys will host Read & Play; a free program for children at Kokernot Field. Limited spots are available. Your child will be assigned to a baseball player to read their book(s) in the stands at Kokernot. After 20 minutes of reading, players and children will go on the field to play catch. Sign up online through our Facebook page or go by Ellyson Abstract.

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

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**June 14 Terlingua Elementary Artist Cohort**, 6 p.m. at the Chili Pepper Restaurant, join Kaci Kothmann and Stephanie Welland for an organizational meeting to schedule guest artists for the Terlingua CSD elementary students. For more information contact Stephanie at [swelland@terlinguacsdsd.com](mailto:swelland@terlinguacsdsd.com) or Kaci at 325-456-5983.

**June 14, 21, and 28 TinkerCad Open Lab**, 10 a.m. to Noon each Friday in June at the Alpine Public Library. Come learn the basics of 3D design and make models of your ideas.

**June 15 Bicycle Rodeo**, 9 a.m. to Noon at Sul Ross entrance 2. Learn the ABCs of bicycle safety with the Alpine Police Department and TxDOT. All ages are welcome.

**June 15 Summertime Smoothies and Stories**, 2 p.m. at JUGO, 208 W. Holland for ages 6 and up. Partnering with Alpine Public Library.



**June 15 Birding for Beginners**, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center.

**June 15 Fort Davis National Historic Site Summer Program Series**, 6 p.m. to 7 p.m. at the Amphitheater. Join Park interpreters as they share tales from the old days. Bring water, hats, and cushions for the benches, and in case of bad weather, the series will be held inside the interpretive center.

**June 17-20 Colors and Plants: Crafts and Activities**, 9 a.m. to Noon. For more information contact [kirstenmoody2003@yahoo.com](mailto:kirstenmoody2003@yahoo.com)

**June 18 and 25 Adventure**

**Begins at APL**, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. for ages 6-12. Each session begins with 30 minutes of playful exercise, followed by a popside break, and ends with themed reading and activities.

**June 19 and 26 Cubelets**, 9:30 a.m. to 11 a.m. at the Alpine Public Library. Build robots that spin, squeak, and sing.

**June 24-28 First Baptist Church of Alpine Vacation Bible School**, 8:30 to Noon for ages 3 through completed 5th grade. To register go to [http://www.fbc.alpine.com/vacation\\_bible\\_school](http://www.fbc.alpine.com/vacation_bible_school)

**July 8-12 Alpine Summer Music School: Music of the Middle Ages**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Kids 7-12, teens 13-17. For more information visit <https://www.alpineschoolofmusic.com/summer-school-i>

**July 27 Viva Big Bend Kid's Show with Mr. Will**, 11 a.m. at the Alpine Visitor's Center. All ages are welcome. Free show.

### ONGOING EVENTS

**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or

[aa-intergroup.org](http://aa-intergroup.org).

**Alpine Lions Club meeting**, noon Tuesdays at the BBT conference room, 5th St. and Brown St.

**American Legion Post 79 meeting**, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.

**American Legion Auxiliary meeting**, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.

**Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place**, 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101 W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.

**Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting**, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.

**Big Bend Community Choral rehearsals**, on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at [Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [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 the Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x301.

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

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

# Merritt finds rewards in rodeo

BY TED HARBIN

Contributor

What is the best part of Matt Merritt's job?

His answer is short, yet poignant: "It's the reward of seeing joy in people," he said.

Merritt is a rodeo entertainer and clown, and he returns to the West of the Pecos Rodeo, set for 8 p.m. Wednesday, June 26-Saturday, June 29, at Buck Jackson Arena in Pecos. It will be a chance for him to reconnect with the fans who welcomed him a year ago while also bringing bliss to many others who arrive for the four-day event.

"Rodeo is the last affordable sport or venue of any kind, and families get to come and experience just the real joy of watching what we do," said Merritt, originally from northern Louisiana but now living in North Carolina. "Where I'm from, rodeo was like any other sport like baseball, football or basketball.

"It wasn't crazy or different or weird, so my buddies rode bulls, and I dabbled in steer riding and chute-dogging when I was a little kid."

It didn't take long for him to find his calling, though.

"I was pretty young when I realized I wanted to do the clown thing," he said. "I didn't do the whole transition from bullfighter or that I was a bull rider or a bronc rider. I've just wanted to be a clown my whole life."

He's pretty good at it. He's been nominated as PRCA Clown of the Year, and he's been one of the featured entertainers for the PBR. He brings a fresh approach to his craft, carrying a longstanding tradition to the next level.

"My comedy is definitely off the hip," Merritt said. "I have gimmicks that I use, but typically what I'm saying and what I'm doing is off the cuff."

"I tried telling jokes I found on the internet. They're funny, and they have a punch line. I had a car act, and I had a dog that dug holes and did all these things. I realized that as soon as I started those acts that people would kind of turn me off because they had a phone in their hand, and they knew there was a joke coming. So, I just started shooting from the hip."

Fans love it, especially those that understand rodeo's history in Pecos.

"Matt was a huge hit last year," said Anthony Lucia, the event's



**Matt Merritt is a renowned rodeo clown who is recognized as one of the very best in the sport.**

Photo by Robby Freeman

emcee. "Matt is an untraditional clown, and he brings a whole different personality to a rodeo in a west Texas town. They are rodeo people, and Matt works his butt off to make sure they're having fun. He comes up with new and different things. I'm so blessed, because

he makes my job simple."

Their work together is anything but easy, though. Both men work hard at their crafts, and it shows in the product. When working the "World's First Rodeo," there's more than history at stake; it's an honor they understand.

"It's like getting to play at Yankee Stadium for baseball players who get called up to the Major Leagues," Merritt said. "It's just the coolest thing I get to do, and it definitely goes on my resume."

Events like the West of the Pecos Rodeo are about making memories, and that's a big deal of his job. He hopes that young rodeo fans will recall years later something he did or said. There are bits and pieces of his own youth that pop up, and those are the things he considers when he jogs onto the dirt each night.

"It's like the kid that hits the home run, and he remembers the emotion of his dad clapping in the stands and stuff like that," he said. "I'm going for that approach: Just leave a memory and give something they can remember."

Merritt hits the home run more often than not, and his place in the memories of rodeo fans won't go away any time soon

## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Sloan. Sloan was picked up as a stray with her sister Lassie. They were a bit leery of people, to begin with, and although still a little shy, they came around and enjoyed socializing with other dogs in a play group and receiving love and attention.

Sloan is working on her leash-walking skills, is treat-motivated, and loves her toys.

Sloan can still be a little shy with new people but loves the attention once she gets it. She is still working on leash walking but is picking it up, she is still a puppy after all. She does need some training but what better time to do

some puppy training than during the summer. She loves treats and toys so training should be fun for you and her.

Come meet Sloan today at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter 2900 Old Marathon Hwy Alpine, TX 79830. Catahoula Leopard Dogs are an American breed originating in Louisiana. They are good family dogs, affectionate, loyal, and gentle. They are a working/hunting breed and require daily exercise to maintain emotional and mental balance. Consistency is the key to training this beautiful puppy. 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, June 25, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. We receive a portion of beverage sales during that time.

Come have a treat with your pet at our Four Paws Ice Cream Social! We will have complimentary frozen dog treats and Scoops will have a Pawppin' Punch special for the two-legged folks on Saturday, June 29 from 12 p.m. to 2 p.m.

Look for us at the courthouse square on July 4.

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.

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HOSPITAL • FROM 1

told the board that there were no unusual findings as well as that they had earned more interest on their investment accounts this year. Ruddock also mentioned that next year they would want to list any leases on their books, such as copiers or office locations. The only real difference in this year's audit from last year's was the addition of the USDA Grant that the board was working with.

The next item on the agenda was the resignation of Executive Director J.D. Newsome. Newsome had taken a position overseas, and his last day with BBRHD was June 1. Members of the board and staff that were on hand thanked him for what a great job he'd done since he took

the position and that everyone was going to miss working with him. Newsome commented, "This is the best team I've ever worked with, and I have full confidence that the board will continue going forward and do well."

After accepting Newsome's resignation, the board adjourned into executive session at 5:31 p.m. to discuss the hiring of his replacement. At one point they called Lynette Brehm who works at BBRHD into the executive session for a short while, and she then returned to the main room. The board reconvened into regular session at 6:21 p.m. where a motion was made and seconded to appoint Lynette Brehm as the new executive director.

The next item on the agenda was a discussion about the Medical

Enhancement Grants for 2025 that are distributed to organizations in the area that meet the qualifications of the board's mission statement. Newsome suggested that the board might consider forming a committee to vet applications and determine specific criteria that applicants should meet. After some discussion, Regan Reed suggested that everything inside and outside the grant process be consistent with each entity that submits a request for grant money. This item was tabled until the next meeting.

The next major item on the agenda was an ask from Alpine ISD requesting funding for a mental health counselor to serve AISD students and families. Alpine ISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart said,

"We have a current counselor employed at Alpine Elementary who has completed her coursework for her LPC (licensed professional counselor), but before she can become a fully licensed LPC, she must log 3,000 hours of counseling under the direction of a licensed practitioner. We are fortunate to have an LPC that works with the school district, but if Mrs. Hendryx was able to become licensed this would add a full-time employee to the district that held an LPC certification. Unfortunately, these clinical hours must be done on weekends or after regular job hours and there must be a location where she can gain these hours. Our ask is that the BBRHD help fund these hours and our ask is \$35,000."

Board members discussed back and forth about the serious need for mental health counseling in the Big Bend region. After quite a bit of discussion, Regan Reed commented, "I believe this would be better to come to us as a written proposal and during the time in the fall when we get ready to accept applications for our Medical Enhancement Grants." Newsome said, "At this point in our fiscal year we are overextended for our Medical Enhancement Grants, and they won't be available again until October. Reed added, "I just believe that this needs to be a more formal proposal before this amount of funding is awarded." Reed then made the motion to deny the funding to AISD and the motion was seconded by Dr. Laura Portillo.

The motion passed unanimously.

The board then elected officers for the June 2024 to May 2025 fiscal year. All officers remained as they currently were.

Last on the agenda was a discussion about the PCHS extended-hours clinic in Presidio. It was noted that the clinic was not going to be open for those extended hours due to a staffing issue. The clinic in Terlingua was having a very positive result and had been in operation for six weeks one day a week. The next step was to be open two days a week and to find a suitable, permanent location. Currently, the clinic is being run out of the Terlingua Fire and EMS building.

The board then scheduled their next meeting for June 27 at 5 p.m.

COUNCIL • FROM 1

gun sales at the Big Bend Gun and Knife Show. The resolution was presented for the agenda by the newly elected councilor for Ward 1, Regan Stone.

Most of the comments on this agenda item were in favor of supporting the Lions Club and its annual gun and knife show and against the action item 11E resolution. Alpine resident and Ward 2 member Cynthia Salas said, "This is not the city's responsibility to enforce laws already in place by both the state and federal government. The city needs to keep their focus on infrastructure and city issues and stay in their lane." Another citizen, John Simpson from Ward I stated "I feel that this resolution is an embarrassment. There

are plenty of law enforcement here to keep people safe and there is no reason to bring an issue to light that is not needed here. Focus on fixing potholes and other city issues." Cathy English, also a resident in Ward I said, "Approving this will only drive a wedge between the council and the community."

After public comment, the council moved on to a public hearing of citizen views regarding the sale of a partially developed and utilized alleyway with funds going towards street improvements if later approved and the public hearing to obtain citizen views regarding a special use permit for a short-term rental to be established by Stanley Vaughn Grisham at 1607 N. 7th Street in Alpine.

There were no comments on the first hearing, but

*This resolution is an embarrassment. There are plenty of law enforcement here to keep people safe and there is no reason to bring an issue to light that is not needed here. Focus on fixing potholes and other city issues. — John Simpson*

there was a comment about the second hearing on the short-term rental.

Next on the agenda was a proclamation honoring K-9 Officer Artus whose handler was Officer Kettani. Kettani spoke at length about Artus, what a great dog he was to work with, and how much she missed him, as he has now passed on. The proclamation was presented by the mayor and Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim.

In other news, Alpine City Mayor Eaves thanked everyone for all the help during the downtown structure fire and noted that there were ongoing efforts in the community to raise funds to help out the businesses that were destroyed in the fire. She also noted that this year's 4th of July festivities will be held at the Brewster County Courthouse for the first time since 1976.

Alpine City Manager Antrim reminded everyone of the Bicycle Rodeo that is being put on at Sul Ross State University by the Alpine Police Department and TxDOT. She also reported that the city offices will be closed on June 19 and that the Alpine Farmer's Market has now been moved to the Alpine Visitor's Center.

Changes to the posted agenda were entertained and Ward 5 City Councilman Rick Stephens made

the motion to make action item 11E a time-sensitive item, which only moves the item up for consideration earlier on the agenda. After consideration and thanking the citizens for coming and speaking at the meeting, Ward 1 Councilor Stone made a motion to withdraw action item 11E from the agenda. Withdrawing an item requires a motion, a second, and a majority vote. The motion died for lack of a second.

In other news, all consent agenda items were approved by the council except for item A, which was the approval of May 14, 2024, Special Meeting Minutes. This item was removed.

Of the 10 action items on the agenda set for approval, nine of them were approved unanimously, with the sole exception being action item 11E, which died without a motion or a second from anyone on the council.

Finally, reports were heard from the Mayor and the Alpine City Manager.

Mayor Eaves commented that after hearing from such a large group of local citizens earlier in the meeting, it is obvious that as a council and as a city we should keep our eye on the ball on what is important

such as infrastructure and water issues.

In the city manager report, Antrim told the council that the city pool is tentatively scheduled to open to the public tomorrow, June 14. She went on to say that the reason for the delay was that this year, unlike the previous year, they drained the entire pool. This allowed them to make repairs and paint the pool that were needed. Also, the delay was caused by a lack of lifeguards. Although the city had partnered with Alpine ISD to try and recruit lifeguards for the summer, out of the applicants before the school year ended there were only three certified lifeguards. "We reached out again to the public and the school asking for applicants and explained that they could become certified fairly easily and quickly," Antrim said. In the second group of applicants, there was also a small number of certified applicants but most of them were working on completing their certification as of this meeting in order to be ready for the opening of the pool.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:15 p.m. and the next regularly scheduled meeting of the Alpine City Council is set for 5:30 p.m. on Tuesday, June 18.

Form 50-786

Please consult with legal counsel before using this form.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET

The Alpine Independent School District Board of Trustees (name of school district)

will hold a public meeting at 5:30pm June 27, 2024 (time, date, year)

in AISD Admin Board Room 704 W. Sul Ross Ave (name of room, building, physical location)

Alpine, TX (city, state)

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year's Budget

The applicable percentage increase or decrease (or difference) in the amount budgeted in the preceding fiscal year and the amount budgeted for the fiscal year that begins during the current tax year is indicated for each of the following expenditure categories:

Table with 2 columns: Category and Percentage Change. Rows include Maintenance and operations (4.04% increase), Debt service (1.55% increase), and Total expenditures (4.31% increase).

\*projected

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DEBATE • FROM 1

Income." The national policy debate selection committee is careful to propose topics in which a diversity of cases can be created, and where both Aff. and Neg. have equal ground to work with. Creating "the box" of evidence for the topic can be a lot of work, and students need to be familiar with almost every angle of the topic if they expect to compete well at the district meet.

Every debate season in Texas culminates in the spring with one tournament. Chavez states, "Ultimately every debater's goal is to compete at the state level, with thoughts that are original to themselves as they adapt to strong arguments and situations resulting in an intense cognitive clash." Competing at the UIL State Debate Championship requires placing first or second at the district meet out of any number of teams from schools in the area.

"Despite this previous year being my first on the debate team, I enjoyed the experience of competing in meets and traveling to Austin to watch my teammates compete at the state level," says Zane Wash, a CX debater. "I felt like I learned a lot, and I am excited to continue to learn and improve for this upcoming season."

— Zane Walsh, CX Debater

Taking place over two days at the UT Austin college campus, the state tournament includes the best debaters from across Texas. Alpine has an extensive history of State CX qualifiers, most recently, Zane Billings, Dominique Morales, Ayleen Adame-Ramirez, Hatfield Cason, and Christopher Craver.

Despite the many challenges and stresses of debate, it's something AHS students look forward to every year. Coach Chavez and AISD CFO Chris Va-

lenzuela, who still helps out when he can, make sure the trips are filled with fun, coffee stops, laughs, and intellectual rigor. "Despite this previous year being my first on the debate team, I enjoyed the experience of competing in meets and traveling to Austin to watch my teammates compete at the state level," says Zane Wash, a CX debater. "I felt like I learned a lot, and I am excited to continue to learn and improve for this upcoming season."

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# LOOKING BACK

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June 4, 1998

The Lone Star Land Steward Awards were recently announced for the Trans-Pecos Mountain and Basin region. From left, pictured is Joseph Fitzsimons, Chairman of Private Lands Advisory Board; Barbara Korn, Pakenham Ranch; Robert Korn, Pakenham Ranch; Lee Bass, Chairman TPW Commission; Rocky Dean, Dean Ranch Co.; Alan Korn, Pakenham Ranch; and Andrew Sansom, Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director.



June 4, 1998

Local artist Georgia Waller will exhibit a body of work entitled "Nuevo Geo" at the Museum of the Big Bend. Her work will be on display from June 6 to June 28. The museum is open Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday from 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. Admission is free.

June 11, 1998

Looking to beat the heat this summer you can take an hour's drive to the small hamlet of Toyahvale



and visit the spring-fed pool at Balmorhea State Park. This pool, fed by the San Soloman Springs is the largest of its kind in the world and is right here in our backyard to enjoy.

# Cherry tree issues most likely wasp-like borers

Dear Neil: My beautiful Yoshino cherry tree has a gummy or jelly-like sap oozing from its trunk. The tree is about five years old. I've also noticed little sprouts emerging from its exposed roots. Is this some type of canker? What is wrong with my cherry tree? It's a beauty each spring and I really want to protect it.

Google "peach tree borers photos" and I think you'll find many examples of images that look like your tree's trunk. It's a problem for peaches, plums, apricots, and cherries, among other stone fruit trees. The wasp-like adult moth lays her eggs on the bark of the trunk near the ground line. The eggs hatch and the borers, once inside the trunk, tunnel around through the tissues. Sap flows out and congeals at the surface. You may be able to run a flexible wire ("soft" paper clip, for example) up into the tunnels to eliminate them. Sprays applied to the trunk help, but our borer-preventive insecticides were removed from the consumer market some years ago. I'd suggest you do some reading on university entomology and horticulture websites

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
 by neil sperry

for other controls.  
**Dear Neil: I planted a 'Wonderful' pomegranate 47 years ago. I'm glad I wasn't counting on it for fruit because, in those 47 years, I've had no fruit at all. Not one. Some years I've had nice flowers, but last year, I didn't even have flowers. It's beside a garden. I wonder if it's getting too much water.**

This thing called "the Internet" brings me questions from all over. I don't know where you are, so I'm going to have to answer generically. The farther east you go in Texas the less likely you'll be to get good crops from pomegranates. They really do better with the somewhat cooler nights and low humidities of West Texas. You also need to be sure



that you actually have a 'Wonderful' plant. There are ornamental varieties of pomegranates that are spectacular bloomers. Their flowers are somewhat larger, and they have half again as many petals as 'Wonderful'. As for no flowers at all last year, that had to have been due to cold damage. Pomegranates have been hurt very badly by winter temperatures three of the past four winters. I would say that I hope things turn around for you, but after 47 years, I guess you and I both realize the odds are against you.

**Dear Neil: Can I dig a hole in a clay ground area, amend the soil with sandy loam and small rock, and then plant my small Monterey oak?**

Let me answer by making a statement I always

make with shade trees: You need to choose a shade tree that will be satisfied with the native soil you have because it's impractical to change out enough soil to accommodate a large mature shade tree. From that standpoint, yes, you can dig the hole as wide and deep as necessary. But I wouldn't backfill it with anything other than the soil that just came out of it. And be sure a Monterey oak is winter hardy where you are. Again, I don't know where you live, but they froze badly across much of Texas in February 2021. Then again, so did many other plants. Just do your homework.

**Dear Neil: Wow! My hydrangeas did wonderfully this year - better than they ever have. I did nothing different. I want them to do this**

well every year. What do you suggest?

Pray for a cool, moist spring. Beyond that, keep them watered properly. Fertilize them with a high-nitrogen, acidic plant food as soon as they finish blooming, and do any corrective pruning that might be needed so that they'll have ample time to regrow before the next season.

**Dear Neil: We laid St. Augustine down three years ago. It seemed to have taken well, but this year we are seeing this issue. What is going on, and what can we do to revive the grass?**

I guess there could have been take-all root rot in these areas earlier this spring, or maybe a gray leaf spot last summer,

but I'd give it a 98% chance of being not enough sunlight. That issue, in tandem with three bad cold spells in the past four winters and two really bad droughts all combined to hurt St. Augustine badly. St. Augustine requires 6 or 7 hours of direct sunlight daily to prosper. These spaces look like they might not get that much. It even happens after trees leaf out better one spring than the last. Look at your lawn closely to see if the worst thinning is where the shade is the heaviest.

*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.*

## TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**ACROSS**

1 "\_\_\_ Texas" by Jimmie Rogers

5 \_\_\_smith drummer Joey Kramer has lived in Texas

6 ABC affiliate in San Antonio

7 tall Italian volcano

8 TXism: "never \_\_\_ in the glow of a neon light"

17 Greenville road in Dallas, e.g. (abbr.)

18 actor/comedian in Texas-based 1992 "Sidekicks" (2 wds.)

21 TX Buddy Holly's "That'll \_\_\_ the Day"

22 Astros & Rangers get three an inning

23 TXism: "too lazy to \_\_\_ flies"

24 "\_\_\_ Lake in Martin County in Jasper County on U.S. 96"

29 Texas-based insur. co. for the military

31 TX-born actress, Robin (init.)

32 a type of Texas tycoon (2 wds.)

34 TX Jordan Spieth won 2015 U.S. \_\_\_

35 dir. from Elgin to Yoakum

36 some RVs

37 "It's \_\_\_!"

38 "gotta \_\_\_ with the punches"

39 fix a mistake? (3 wds.)

41 defamation

42 OJ's judge, Lance

43 TXism: "wipe the \_\_\_ clean" (erase)

44 this TX-born Alvin was a noted dancer

45 Mavericks rival, the Pelicans (abbr.)

46 TXism: "windy"

47 stomach issue caused by stress

48 TXism: "she \_\_\_ him like a hot horseshoe"

**DOWN**

1 TXism: "\_\_\_ to rope him" (large man)

2 cheerful and jolly

3 easternmost city

4 in Fisher County on highway 70

9 TXism: "dainty as \_\_\_ bride"

10 TXism: "\_\_\_ lick" (none)

11 TXism: "does a wet dog stink?"

12 this Tom was a Traveling Wilbury with TX Roy (init.)

13 TXism: "she threw a \_\_\_ fit"

14 TXism for "I declare" (2 wds.)

15 UT was 2015 \_\_\_ football champ

16 TXism: \_\_\_ half a mind to" (inclined)

19 "\_\_\_, sage, rosemary & thyme"

20 TX "\_\_\_ Twins" sang on Lawrence Welk show

22 TX Larry McMurtry was able to \_\_\_ many other authors

24 init. of Houston's Olajuwon before he was Hakeem

25 TXism: "\_\_\_ out" (left quickly)

26 Austin PBS station

27 upcoming series for TX William Jackson Harper: "\_\_\_ Full" (Netflix)

28 "\_\_\_ rest" (buried)

29 big farm buildings

30 "put \_\_\_ shut up"

33 teacher labor union

34 instrument in the Dallas Symphony

35 TXism: "\_\_\_ as a judge in court"

37 branch of an artery

38 TXism: "\_\_\_ up" (very angry)

40 early Texas attacks: Indian \_\_\_

41 TXism: "walking dandruff"

44 Europe mountains

47 "night owl" (2 wds.)

49 in Young County on highway 79

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# Sports

## Cason honored as Coach of the Year

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Early mornings, trips to Europe, late nights, and many hours on the road are just a few of the things Alpine High School cross country and head girl's track and field coach has been up to in the past year. Cason also teaches history at AHS and her trip to Europe in the summer of 2023 along with fellow teacher Mrs. Parson, was one way she was able to bring personal, real-life experience to her students in the classroom.

Cason also brings her experience to the runners she coaches, as this is her seventh year as a coach and she will begin her fifth year as the head girls coach this next school year. This experience is what earned her the Texas High School Coaches Association Regional Coach of the Year for 2023-2024 for Track and Field 3A Girls, Region IV.

The AHS girls' track and field team has been one of the powerhouses of the school's athletic programs. Clinching district, area, and regional



Coach Cory Cason is pictured here with her son Hatfield Cason after a track meet earlier in the year.

titles the past few years, along with a state bid relay team last year, Cason has been the driving force behind it all.

Ali Maroney, a recent AHS graduate, and track athlete speaks highly of Cason. "Coach Cason was an amazing coach. She was one of the few

coaches who cared about student-athletes and taught us that there was more to sports than just winning. She was able to motivate her athletes to compete at the highest level and never gave up on helping us reach our goals on or off the track." Mia Morris, also a

recent graduate had high praises for her coach. "Being able to be coached by Coach Cason has truly been a blessing and an honor. I was proud to be a part of a team led by such an incredible coach. She pushed all

See CASON • 9

## All-Star baseball game features Alpine alum

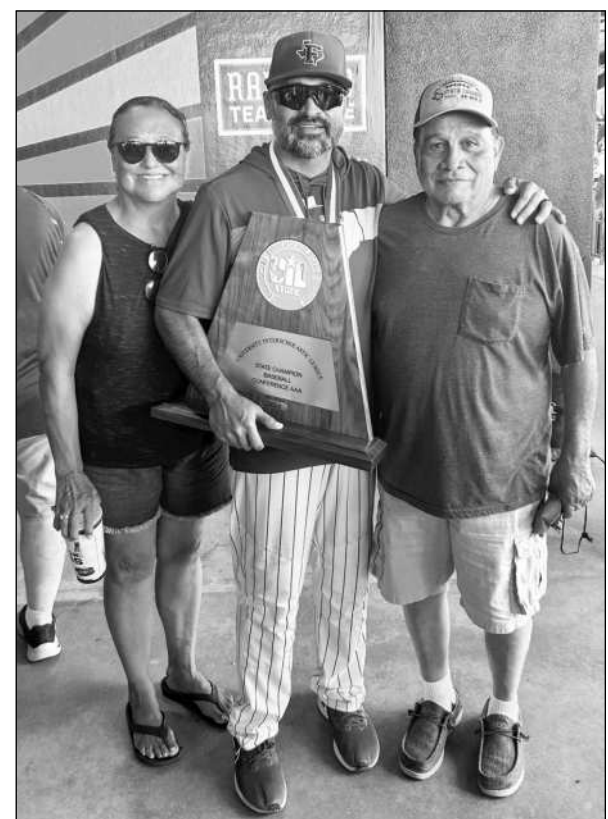
This year's 46th Annual Texas High School Baseball Coaches Association All-Star game is set for this coming Saturday, June 15 in Round Rock. The game will be played at Dell Diamond, home of the Round Rock Express, an affiliate of the Texas Rangers.

This year's game features former Alpine High School and Sul Ross State University graduate Tony Pallanez as the honorary coach.

After graduating high school, Pallanez enrolled at Ranger Ju-

nior College where he played baseball for two years before transferring to Sul Ross to receive his teaching degree in 1973. Pallanez spent 40 years teaching history, 30 of those years as a coach, and was the first head baseball coach at Greenwood High School when their baseball program began in 1992. There will be two games played on Saturday, with the 5A and 6A teams playing one game and the 2A, 3A, and 4A playing the other game.

## Former Alpine Buck wins 3A baseball State Championship



Ben Gallego (center) is pictured here with his parents Linda (left) and B.J. (right) showing off the UIL trophy won by the State Champion Franklin Lions.

Ben Gallego, son of B.J. and Linda Gallego and a 1994 graduate of Alpine High School coached in the Class 3A baseball State Championship on June 8 in Round Rock. Gallego, an assistant coach for the Franklin Lions,

helped lead the team to a 35-5 record, and their first-ever state baseball championship. The Lions defeated Gunter 5-4 in the semi-finals and Brock 7-4 in the final. Gallego was a member

See GALLEGO • 9



2024 Alpine Cowboys Baseball Team

Photo by Julie Meyer

## Cowboys ride high, face first loss in emotional week

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN  
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys, a powerhouse in the Pecos League, maintained their impressive winning streak, racking up victories against the Austin Weirdos and Roswell Invaders before experiencing their first taste of defeat in a hard-fought series against the Garden City Wind. The week was a rollercoaster of emotions, marked by both triumphant victo-

ries and a heartbreaking loss, all while honoring the memory of a fallen teammate.

The Cowboys kicked off the week with a commanding 19-3 win over the Austin Weirdos at Kokernot Field. Trey Kretzler and Humberto Vela showcased their power at the plate with home runs, while Vela also secured the win on the mound with an impressive pitching performance. The team

then traveled to Roswell, where their bats remained on fire. The Cowboys dominated the Invaders in back-to-back offensive displays, winning 13-7 and 18-8. Hunter Reid emerged as the winning pitcher in the second game, backed by a remarkable 3-for-6 performance from Drake Angeron.

The team returned to Kokernot Field for a highly anticipated three-game series against the

Garden City Wind. The series was imbued with special significance, as it coincided with the one-year anniversary of the tragic passing of Cowboys pitcher Jared Strait.

In the first game, Brayde Hirai delivered a masterful pitching performance, stifling the Wind's offense and allowing just one run in a 6-1 victory. The Cowboys displayed their

See COWBOYS • 9

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ADAYNA GARCIA

Adayna is a multi sport athlete that helped lead this year's tennis team to victory as well as served as an amazing hitter on the volleyball court.

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# Cheerleaders attend camp



Alpine High School cheerleaders attended the NCA cheerleading camp at Texas Tech last week where they earned a spirit stick and two superior ribbons.

Courtesy Photo

# Recent AHS graduate and local veterinarian's grandson qualify for THSR state finals

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

Recent Alpine High School Graduate Clancey Newman has qualified for the Texas High School Rodeo state finals Region II to be held in Abilene this week. Newman was set to ride on Tuesday night and will also ride on Thursday. The finals can be watched on the Cowboy Channel through Saturday. Britton Belcher, the grandson of local Alpine veterinarian Dr. Ray Allen, and his wife Terry Jean Allen also qualified in the team roping event.

The state rodeo finals are an annual, week-long event featuring high school students from across Texas and the surrounding states who compete against the top cowboys and cowgirls from their regions. Numerous awards, scholarships, and the opportunity

to represent the state of Texas at the National High School Finals Rodeo held in July in Rock-springs, WY are up for grabs this week.

Contestants compete in rodeos throughout the year in one of the 10 regions in Texas, where the top 10 competitors at the last regional level rodeo are announced and are given the opportunity to represent their region at the state finals.

Newman is a three-time state-qualifying saddle bronc rider.

Rodeo performances, as well as other events held from June 6-15, are open to the public each morning and afternoon, with shuttle services being offered on the Taylor County Expo Center grounds, and tickets sold at the gates. All schedule updates will be posted to the THSRA Facebook and Instagram pages



Clancey Newman is seen here in the third-place ride that qualified him for a bid at this week's Texas High School Rodeo Finals in Abilene.

Courtesy photo

throughout the week.

For additional information visit [www.thsra.org](http://www.thsra.org)

or contact Holly DeLaune at [holly@firebrand-marketing.com](mailto:holly@firebrand-marketing.com).

# SRSU basketball camp fast approaching

Sul Ross women's head basketball coach E.J. Lee Smith would like to remind the area youth basketball players that her summer basketball camp is right around the corner.

The day camp is for ages seven to 14 and will take place Monday through Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to 12 p.m. June 24 to 27. Registration will be Monday, June 24 from 7:45 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. and walk-ins are welcome but Coach Smith asks that those interested let her know so that she can hire staff and prepare. The cost is \$100 per person, which includes a camp fee, awards, a T-shirt, and prizes. Snacks and bottled water will be provided daily.

The elite camp is scheduled for Saturday

and Sunday, July 6-7 for players in grades 9-12. Registration takes place from 1:30 p.m. to 2 p.m. on Saturday, July 6. The camp runs from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. each day. The cost is \$150 for an on-campus experience which includes two meals and a room for one night, while off-campus is \$100. The cost includes a camp fee, awards, a T-shirt, and prizes. Snacks and bottled water will be provided. The deadline to apply is Saturday, June 15.

Campers may register online at <https://srlobos.com/sports/2021/8/27/hometown-tickets-page.aspx> and for more information they may contact coach Smith at [ej.smith@sulross.edu](mailto:ej.smith@sulross.edu) or call 318-372-5203.

## Alpine Sports Summer Training Schedule

Grades 7-12

AHS Field House Weight Room

Week one: June 10-13, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Week two: June 17-20, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Week three: June 24-27, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Week four: July 15-18, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Week five: July 24-25, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

Week six: July 29-Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

## GALLEGO • FROM 8

of the 1994 state-finalist team that lost to Hooks 4-2 in the first round. He returned to the state tournament nearly 30 years later to the exact date. Gallego said, "It's been a fun ride. All we did in Alpine was play sports. We were fortunate to have great coaches that treated us well and once I was in junior high and high school, I knew this was the direction I wanted to go. Thanks to the di-

rection I received from coaches like Coach Leyva, Coach Pallanez, Coach Chavarria, and Coach Overton, they were able to steer me toward the success I've had today. This has been 30 years in the making and to return with this group of kids as a coach is special." He and the Lions also won a state championship in football in 2021 and 2022.

## CASON • FROM 8

of us to lead with dedication and compete with passion. She has also helped open doors for me to compete at the collegiate level both in cross country and track and field. She made being a Lady Buck athlete something I am very proud of and will never forget," exclaimed Morris.

Cason was congratulated within minutes of being awarded the recognition by AISD Athletic Director Andy Smith as well

as AISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart. "I had actually forgotten about the nomination and was incredibly surprised to receive the honor. I was grateful for Coach Andy Smith's nomination," Cason said. "West Texas is pretty far removed from the rest of the state. Coaches are doing great work out here with our athletes and it is satisfying when someone receives recognition. It draws attention to our

program, coaches, and our dedicated athletes."

Cason says one of the best things about coaching track and field is the comradery that develops among the coaches and with the athletes. "There are a lot of athletes, both boys and girls, as well as the Alpine track and field coaching staff that I don't get to work with until spring. When we all get together, it makes for an exciting and

eventful season," Cason added.

Cason wants each of her athletes to know that she respects them for their commitment to their sport. "Track and field is not an easy sport. It requires the girls to put themselves under pressure both mentally and physically in challenging situations. I respect each of them for being willing to do that," concluded Cason.

## COWBOYS • FROM 8

offensive firepower in the second game, winning 12-9. However, the team's defense uncharacteristically sputtered in the third game, committing five errors that ultimately contributed to an 8-7 loss. This marked the Cowboys' first defeat of the season.

Coach Persky acknowledged the emotional weight of the series, noting that the team played with a lot of heart in the first two games, but some unforced errors in the third game proved costly.

Despite the loss, the Cowboys displayed remarkable resilience and

individual brilliance throughout the week. Hirai's pitching performance in the first game against the Wind was a standout moment, demonstrating his composure and skill on the mound. Veterans James Prockish and Josh Rego continued to be key contributors on offense, consistently delivering clutch hits and driving in runs.

The week was not only about baseball but also about honoring the memory of Jared Strait. The Cowboys paid tribute to their fallen teammate with a pregame ceremony before the second game against the

Wind. Strait's family was in attendance, and his father, Jim, threw out the ceremonial first pitch. It was a poignant moment that reminded everyone of Strait's lasting impact on the team and the community.

The Cowboys, now with a record of 12 wins and one loss, are determined to bounce back from their first defeat. They will face the Pecos Bills in a crucial five-game series at Kokernot Field.

"We're looking to bounce back, continue to play our style of baseball which has been working, and hopefully add some

more games to the win call," Persky said. A lot of good stuff across the board for us. This team is resilient, and we're confident we can learn from our mistakes and come back even stronger."

The upcoming home game against the Pecos Bills presents an opportunity for the Cowboys to turn the page and focus on what lies ahead. The team can look to channel their emotions into a focused and determined performance, playing with the same level of intensity and execution that has propelled them to a strong start to the season. A victory over the

Bills would be a significant step forward for the Cowboys as they look to solidify their position at the top of the division.

## Restaurant Guide

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**COCINERO:** Beef-Chicken-Shrimp  
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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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# Five new deputies on board for BCSO



The Brewster County Sheriff's Office brought five new deputies on board this week. Brewster County Sheriff Ronny Dodson administered the oath of office to Elias Salcido, Aaron Lara, Tyler Thomas, Shane Connor, and Rebekah Hicks. These new deputies will fill both full-time and reserve positions as needed and will undergo a thorough field training program before they embark on solo patrol.

Courtesy photo

## SENIOR Spotlight

### MATEO SOLIS

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I participated in band and golf during my four years of high school, baseball as a player during my sophomore year, and as a manager during my junior and senior years. I also participated in academic UIL.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite moment from the last four years is when I was elected class president in my sophomore year. The experience caused me to become more confident and outspoken and I am very grateful for that.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite coach would have to be Coach Dominguez. He's always in a great mood no matter the circumstances and motivates you to the best of your ability.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
After high school, I plan to attend either Texas Tech or UT Austin where I will study to become a medical physician. I know God has big plans for me and through the support of my friends and family, I can do anything I set my mind to through God.

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## Devotional Page

### Three Distances You Should Consider

BY COLEMAN REIDLING  
First Baptist Church, Alpine

Growing up, I remember my dad was an excellent carpenter. He made me a playset, a hockey stick, and lots of other "custom" stuff. He used to say, "I measure twice and cut once." In other words, a carpenter's measurements are vital to a successful cut.

Have you ever thought about a successful life in terms of measurements? I had not until recently, but the following three distances ensure that your life here on earth is well lived.

The first distance has been called "The farthest distance one can travel." That distance is about 18 inches, the distance from one's head to one's heart. For example, I can know in my head that my habits are harmful, but until what I know in my head "connects" down to my heart, there will be no change. Spiritually, plenty of people know information about Jesus, the Bible, and Christianity. However, far fewer people let that information "trickle down" to their hearts. Once it does, then a transformation of one's mind, attitudes, and actions follows. This is my story. I grew up with a head full of information about Jesus due to my upbringing, but it was not until I repented of my sin and trusted Jesus with my everything that heart-felt transformation began (Prov. 4:23, Col. 3:15, Romans 12:1-3).

The second measurement is "The most land one

needs." This distance came to me from a short story by Leo Tolstoy. In saying the following, I'm sure my rancher buddies will call me a "hippie." However, this measurement is true. Here it goes: How much land does one person need? From head to toe, about six feet. In other words, we take nothing with us when we die. I understand that you may need land to make a living, but we cannot miss that one day, when we die, we will take none of it with us. In the end, only what we have shared and entrusted to others will matter. So, steward your resources with a generous heart (Luke 12:13-21).

The third and final measurement is "The length of time you'll have to live with your decision for or against Christ" – Eternity. We all make choices. All choices have consequences. But not all choices are equal in weight. The most significant choice you and I can make is whether we will accept Jesus as Lord, Savior, and Friend. Jesus once asked Peter, "Who do you say I am?" Jesus still asks us this question today. Peter's answer determined his eternity. Your answer does as well. Please do not put off dealing with this eternally significant question. Acknowledge your brokenness apart from Jesus, receive Jesus' love and grace, and then follow Him with reckless abandon. As David Platt says, "Write God a blank check." Life is a gift, but only when we yield ourselves completely to Jesus does life really get fun.

May God lead you as you consider these three measurements required to live life fully alive.

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# Making a Tex-Mex favorite keto-friendly

If I were to take a poll or place a bet, I would guess that most people out here in West Texas like a good plate of enchiladas. I mean, they're right up there with tacos as being one of the best Mexican food options there is.

Unfortunately, if you are trying to cut those carbs out of your diet, enchiladas are not the way to go. It's always the tortillas that get you, even though enchiladas use corn tortillas and not flour. There are still usually a whopping 26 grams in two corn tortillas.

But what if I told you that I've figured out a way to make enchiladas without tortillas, and the most minimal amount of carbs possible and they're still delicious?

It can be done using cottage cheese wraps. That's right, the viral TikTok video recipe using cottage cheese and eggs makes a complete sheet pan of the wrap that can be cut into quarters and used in place of tortillas. Granted, I will say that the texture is a bit different, but not so much that you won't enjoy this version of enchiladas. In fact, they also use less salt. Because of the high salt content of the cottage cheese,



the enchilada sauce that you would normally salt fairly liberally for flavor requires much less. The cottage cheese also gives this version a better flavor I believe.

So, what are we talking about as far as the nutritional value of these tortilla replacements? Well, they are around 155 calories for the entire wrap, give you 18 grams of protein, and are a bit high in cholesterol due primarily to the eggs, coming in with 172 mg, but add 256 mg of potassium, 264 IU of vitamin A, 143 mg calcium, one milligram of iron and one of fiber. The sodium, as I mentioned is fairly high, with 485 mg, and they have two grams of saturated fat, one gram of polyunsaturated fat, and two grams of mono-unsaturated fat. And as for the carbs, well the

entire sheet comes in at 10 grams.

Compare those numbers to the 13 grams of carbs in one tortilla, only 53 mg of potassium, and 1.6 grams of protein. While the fat content is lower, 0.8 grams total, and no cholesterol, they do add 0.2 grams of sugar and the fiber is about the same.

Now you're probably thinking, well some of those numbers in the wrap are so high in comparison, especially the sodium and the cholesterol content, but the point of keto is to remove sugar and starches (carb bombs) and focus on protein and vegetables.

For my sauce, my go-to is always the Bueno frozen red chile puree that you buy in the freezer section. And instead of using cheddar cheese, I used monterey jack because it isn't as greasy.

While I like to add ground beef to mine, you can stick with cheese if you wish. I just like the flavor and texture that is added when you add beef to the mix. As for the carb load for the cheese, you're looking at a whopping 0.9 grams per cup and there is zero in a pound of ground beef.

Suffice it to say, this cottage cheese option

has allowed me to bring enchiladas back into my life from time to time,

without worrying about breaking the keto bank. Try it out and see if this

will work for your household too. I bet you will be pleasantly surprised.



## KETO-FRIENDLY ENCHILADAS

### INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup cottage cheese
- 2 eggs
- 1 small container of Bueno frozen red chile puree
- ½ pound ground beef
- 1 to 1 ½ cups monterey jack cheese
- Salt and pepper to taste
- ½ teaspoon onion powder
- ½ teaspoon oregano
- ½ teaspoon cumin
- ½ teaspoon garlic powder
- Water as needed
- 1 tablespoon vegetable or olive oil
- 1 tablespoon coconut flour (4 g carbs)

### DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 350 degrees
- Using a blender or food processor, add one cup of cottage cheese two eggs, and any spices besides salt that you choose or none if that is your preference.
- Puree the cottage cheese and eggs until the mixture is smooth and even in consistency.
- Pour the mixture onto a sheet pan lined with parchment paper (this is a must) and spread evenly.
- Bake at 350 for 20 to 25 minutes, or until done. Remove from oven and let cool completely.
- While the wraps are baking, brown the hamburger meat until well cooked,

adding salt and pepper to taste. Drain and set aside.

In another skillet, add the oil and flour and brown slightly over medium heat. Once the flour mixture (roux) becomes a light golden brown, add in the thawed chile puree and mix well until the consistency is smooth and there are no lumps of flour.

Add water to the chile sauce as needed to thin to the desired consistency.

Add onion powder, oregano, garlic, and cumin, and mix well. More than ½ teaspoon of any of these can be used until you reach the desired flavor. Add salt in moderation.

Mix well and bring to a simmering boil, reduce heat, and simmer for about 20 minutes.

Remove the cooled cheese wraps and cut them into four equal squares.

Add the browned hamburger to the middle of the wraps, roll them as you would tortillas, and place them in a baking dish.

Once the chile sauce is cooked, pour onto the wraps and cover well.

Sprinkle the cheese on top of the entire dish and place in the oven for around 20 minutes or until the cheese is melted and bubbly.

Remove from oven, let cool slightly, and serve.

ALPINE'S GALLERY NIGHT, INC. PRESENTS

# SAVING THE ARTS

IN ALPINE, TX



**MUSIC | SILENT AUCTION | FAJITAS**

**SATURDAY, JUNE 29<sup>TH</sup>**  
**4:00PM - 10:00PM**  
**FAJITA PLATE....\$20.00**

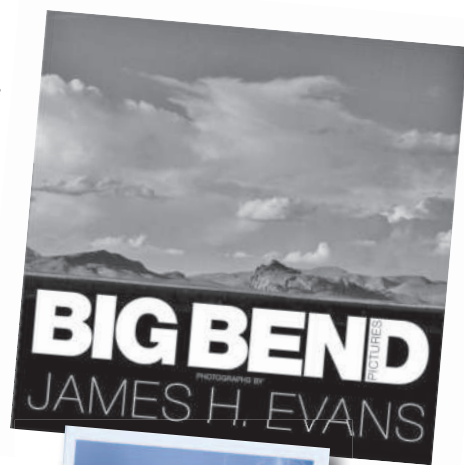
## AMERICAN LEGION

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ALL PROCEEDS GO DIRECTLY TO THE GALLERY ON THE SQUARE ARTISTS THAT LOST EVERYTHING IN THE HOLLAND AVE. FIRE IN MAY 2024.

**SAVE THE DATE!**

Photographer  
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