

Commissioners establish broadband committee

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioner's Court held its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 11. In the absence of Brewster County Judge Greg Henington, the meeting was conducted by Pct. 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega.

After the call to order and the approval of minutes from the previous regular meeting and special meeting, the commissioner for Pct. 1, Jim Westermann noted that citizens were appreciative of the installation of a water gauge at the low water crossing located on the road that leads to Los Ranchos Estates.

The next item up for business was the approval of the establishment of the broadband committee. Information received from the Rio Grande Council of Governments informed the court that Brewster was

See BROADBAND • 6

INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024. 2.06"
June. 0.04"



Burn Ban ON

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



School board discusses test scores, accepts donations, makes employee decisions

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees met for its regularly scheduled meeting on Tuesday, June 18 at 5:30 p.m. Single Member District 5 board member Haley Babb was absent.

After the meeting was called to order, Boy Scout Troop 41 led the board in the pledge of allegiance to both the

U.S. and Texas flags. The boys attended the meeting as part of a requirement to fulfill a citizenship badge that required a community meeting.

The first item up for discussion and action was the review and consideration of the district innovation plan. This plan allows the district to opt out of some of the state requirements as charter schools do. It

covers teacher certification, counselors, class size, and the DAEP classes that the state requires elementary and secondary students to be separated, thus requiring the district to hire two instructors instead of one. This item passed unanimously.

The next item of business was reports from



Eddie Natera, Board President

See SCHOOL • 6

Alpine ISD's football camp a success



A large number of local students came out to participate in Alpine ISD's football camp held at Buck Stadium last week. These young athletes were taken through their paces with stretches, and skills drills by the Alpine coaching staff under the direction of Athletic Director Andy Smith.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Marathon ISD student speaks at Smithsonian

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Marathon's soon to be eighth grader Keller Barlow set about the task of competing in the Regional History Fair at Sul Ross with boundless enthusiasm, never realizing where it all would end. According to Marathon ISD superintendent Dr. Ivonne Durant, "Keller's passion for his subject was obvious to the other contestants from Marathon," as they gathered in their library to give one another feedback.

According to Du-

rant, Barlow came out beaming after his presentation at the regional competition.

"They loved my project! They asked a lot of questions, and I know I did well," remarked Barlow.

After the regional competition, Barlow continued to polish his piece, both the exhibit as well as his presentation. Barlow kept in mind the competition he was facing at the state level but was confident he would make it all the way to nationals.

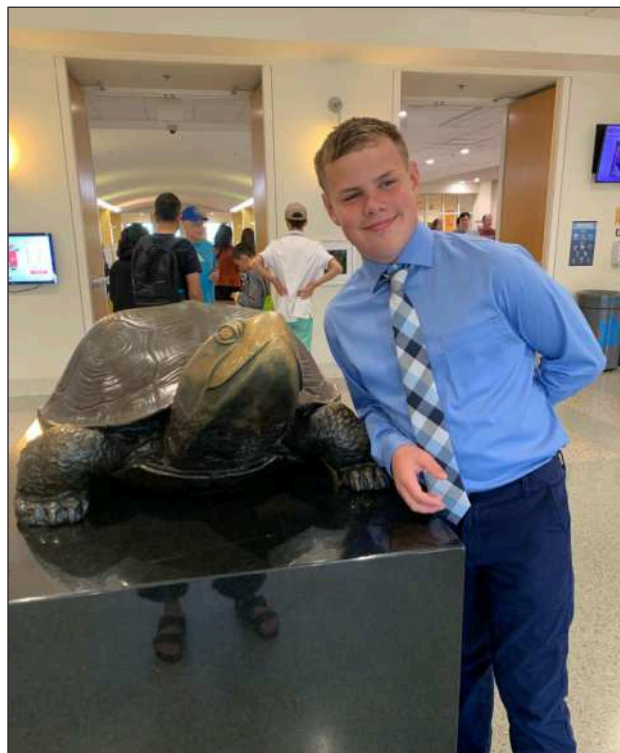
Barlow was not wrong in his predic-

tion.

During the state competition, Barlow received the First Place Maritime Award as well as the First Place Junior Division exhibit titled "Through the Eyes of Nimitz- Battle of Midway, a Turning Point in WWII."

His presentation and first-place wins at the state level propelled him to the national stage where he competed at the National History Fair. In addition to the national competition, Barlow

See MARATHON • 6



Keller Barlow, a student from Marathon was recently invited to speak and present his History Fair project at the National History Museum of American History. Barlow is pictured here in Washington, D.C. where he participated in the National History Fair

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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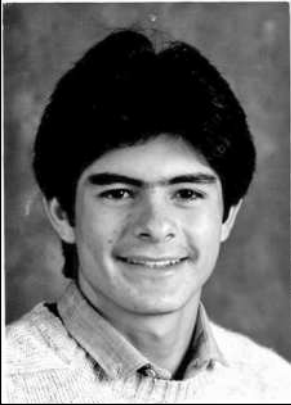
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OBITUARIES

Joe Kenneth Losoya

With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of our beloved Joe Kenneth "Kenny" Losoya, who departed this world on June 9 at the age of 56. Kenny was born on May 5, 1968, in Alpine to Joe and Tina Losoya.



Kenny was the bright light of the family, bringing joy, tears of laughter, and most of all, being the center of unconditional love. He touched lives with his radiant character and left an indelible mark on the hearts of all who knew him. He had a passion for traveling with his parents while drinking his favorite chocolate shake and listening to music. He loved to watch sports, especially football.

Kenny attended Catholic school during his primary education in Alpine and continued his intermediate education in Presidio. He completed his four years at Alpine High School, receiving his diploma. During his senior year in 1986, Kenny enlisted in the Army National Guard, where he reported to monthly drills and was assigned to Basic Training camp upon graduation. Two days before his 18th birthday and three weeks shy of graduation, he was involved in a vehicle accident and suffered a traumatic head injury. With a heart of courage and a disposition to fight, Kenny overcame many physical challenges to survive.

Kenny is preceded in death by his beloved mother, Tina Garcia Losoya; his aunt, Rosa Waters Garcia;

his grandparents Eldefonso Garcia, Abel, and Anita Losoya; his uncle Leo Losoya; and his cousin Michael Losoya.

Kenny leaves behind a legacy of love and strength. Those left to cherish his memory are his father Joe Losoya, his siblings Robert (Cindy) Losoya from Ft. Stockton, Dina Jo Marquez (Glenn) from Marfa, and Kevin (Ruby) Losoya from Alpine; and his maternal grandmother, Ernesta Garcia. He is also survived by his best friend, David "Gis" Vega.

Nephews and nieces are Amanda, LeeAnn, Reanna, Kenneth, Leandra, Karina, Amory, Alec, Mason, and Mayah. Great-niece and great-nephews: Nora Martina, Reese, and Jason.

Aunts and uncles are Abel (Isabel) Losoya, Ruben (Josie) Losoya, Poncho (Rosa) Garcia, Eddie (Maria) Garcia, Elia (Oscar) Gonzales, Eva (Michael) Arriola, and Loli Garcia.

Cousins are Ruben Jr.,

Johnny, Evelyn, Brenda, Darrell, Richard, Abel, Oscar Michael, Christopher, Jackie, and Jason.

Visitation took place at the Alpine Memorial Funeral Home chapel from 3-5 p.m. on Thursday, June 13 at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue in Alpine. The recitation of the most Holy Rosary took place at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine beginning at 7 p.m. on Thursday, June 13.

The funeral Mass for Kenny took place at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church at 10 a.m. on Friday, June 14 with interment at Holy Angels Cemetery thereafter.

Pallbearers were Kevin Losoya, David Vega, Jason Garcia, Abel Losoya, Richard Losoya, and Darrell Losoya. Honorary Pallbearers are Kenneth Losoya, Mason Losoya, Glenn Marquez, and Oscar Michael Gonzales.


Funeral services were entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Weekend stabbing victim airlifted to El Paso

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

According to a press release issued by Captain Felipe Fierro of the Alpine Police Department, this past Sunday morning, June 16, Alpine Police officers were dispatched to Big Bend Regional Medical Center regarding a 21-year-old male who suffered multiple stab wounds. After speaking to the victim, Elijah Gongora

of Medina and a student at Sul Ross, it was discovered that the incident occurred in the 2000 block of Peach Tree Circle. Officers identified the suspect as a 16-year-old male juvenile who is awaiting proceedings at this time. The male victim was airlifted to an El Paso hospital where he was being treated and expected to be released. This investigation is ongoing and no further information is available at this time.



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Abigail Portillo Munoz

Abigail Portillo "Abby" Muñoz, 59, a loving spouse, devoted mother, and cherished grandmother sadly passed away on Wednesday, June 12 after a courageous battle with ovarian cancer.



Weatherford, following the Mass.

Born on February 12, 1965, in Alpine to Ruben and Susie Portillo, Abby lived a life filled with love, service, and adventure.

During her school years in Alpine, Abby was active in athletics and worked at the Big Bend Regional Hospital. After graduating from Alpine High School, she enlisted in the United States Marine Corps, where she was stationed at Camp Pendleton. It was

there she met her husband, Louie Muñoz. Abby's dedication and excellence in her military career earned her numerous awards and set a high standard for all.

Abby excelled in many aspects of life. She took on numerous volunteer roles supporting her children's athletics, owned a successful business, traveled widely, loved attending rock concerts, and her Cowboys' games, adored her pups and proudly upheld her Portillo heritage. Above all, she was a fun and nurturing grandmother, mother, wife, and sister.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ruben and Jesusita (Susie) Portillo; grandparents, Rafael and Francisca Navarrete, Salvador and Eliza Hernandez, Florentino "Tino" Portillo; her broth-

er, Danny Chavarria; and nephew, Patrick "Trey" Ward.

She is survived by her husband, Louie Muñoz; daughters, Melissa (Kenneth), and Olivia; son, Louie, Jr. (Sierra); stepdaughter, Antoinette (Chad); grandsons, Harvey, Nikola, and Leo; granddaughters, Avery, and another expected in October. Abby is also survived by her siblings, Joann, Jessica, Michael (Yvonne), and Ester; along with numerous nephews, nieces, cousins, and friends.

Abigail's life was a testament to love, dedication, and strength. Her memory will forever be treasured by all who knew and loved her.

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Terlingua firefighters complete instructor course



Ben Eubanks (left) and Tony Drewry (right) pictured with Terlingua Fire and EMS Chief Susan Martin recently completed their Fire Fighter Instructor I course that was held at the Crockett County Fire and EMS facilities. This week-long course prepared Eubanks and Drewry on how to create and modify lesson plans, instructional material delivery, as well as PowerPoint presentations and exam writing to better serve TFEMS firefighters in their continued education.

Courtesy photo



Marathon WSC has planned a water main repair for Tuesday, June 25, 2024. It is likely that the entire community of Marathon will be without water during that repair.

Immediately, when water service is resumed, we will be required to boil water for consumption. Continue to boil water until our lab samples show that our water is safe and TCEQ issues a rescind notice to the 'Boil Water Notice.'

For further instruction, please, review the public notices posted in Marathon, as well as the mailed notices for further instructions. Please let friends, neighbors, and family know so that all can be prepared.

Any questions and concerns please contact the Marathon WSC Office. 432 386-4229

Thank you for your patience, understanding, and cooperation.

MWSC
Management

Boil Water Notice for Community Public Water Systems

Due to planned main water line repair, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has required the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Service, Corporation/TX0220013 to notify all customers to boil their water prior to consumption (e.g., washing hands/face, brushing teeth, drinking, etc). Children, seniors, and persons with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable to harmful bacteria, and all customers should follow directions.

To ensure destruction of all harmful bacteria and other microbes, water for drinking, cooking, and ice making should be boiled and cooled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes. The water should be brought to a vigorous rolling boil and then boiled for two minutes.

In lieu of boiling, individuals may purchase bottled water or obtain water from some other suitable source for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

When it is no longer necessary to boil the water, the public water system officials will notify customers that the water is safe for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

Once the boil water notice is no longer in effect, the public water system will issue a notice to customers that rescinds the boil water notice in a manner similar to this notice.

Please share this information with all the other people who drink this water, especially those who may not have received this notice directly (for example, people in apartments, nursing homes, schools, and businesses). You can do this by posting this notice in a public place or distributing copies by hand or mail.

If you have questions concerning this matter, you may contact Bernice Martin or Rebecca Garcia at 432-386-4229, 808 N. Avenue H, Marathon, TX 79842.



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Big Bend Materials passes the baton



The Alpine Ambassadors held a ribbon cutting last Wednesday for Big Bend Materials, LLC. The business, formerly owned and operated by Herman Acosta Sr. on the left is being taken over by his son, Herman Acosta Jr. (middle). Herman Sr. will continue to be a part of the business going forward.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Alpine's July 4 activities set for the Brewster County courthouse

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

This year's July 4 activities will be held on the grounds of the Brewster County courthouse. This celebration has not been held here since 1976 and will kick off with the parade line-up beginning at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, July 4.

The parade begins at 10:30 a.m. at the Alpine Civic Center and games and booths at the courthouse will open at the

same time.

At 11:15 a.m., our National Anthem along with a welcome from the City of Alpine and Brewster County officials on the courthouse steps will begin the day of celebration and will continue throughout the day until 3:30 p.m.

Entertainment will be provided by the Big Bend Community Band, a petting zoo hosted by Wasserman Wranch, Al Haney will perform on the saxophone, as well as perfor-

mances of patriotic songs from the First Christian Church of Alpine, a performance by the Sul Ross cast of Robin Hood, and music by Rick Ruiz and Wind.

There will also be fun skill races, a car show, and a tug-of-war featuring the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department as well as a hot dog eating contest.

At noon, there will be a BBQ chicken lunch at the American Legion followed by a recreation of a town picture in front of the

courthouse at 1:30 p.m.

The Alpine Cowboys will take the field for their annual July 4 game at 2:30 p.m. at historic Kokernot Field for game one of a doubleheader against the Austin Weirdos.

From 9 p.m. to midnight, the American Legion will host the Bucket of Bullets Band for a dance, and at 10 p.m. the annual fireworks show at Kokernot Park will begin, and is sponsored this year by the American Legion Big Bend Post #79.

The coolest 4th of July weekend slated for Fort Davis

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

A weekend full of fun is on tap for residents and visitors to Fort Davis this upcoming Independence Day. Fort Davis begins their celebration on Thursday, July 4, and will conclude the weekend of fun with vendors at the courthouse on Sunday, July 7 in the morning and in the afternoon, they will close it all out with an 1880s baseball game at the Fort Davis National Historic Site.

On Thursday, beginning at 8 a.m., the Coolest 5K run begins at Jeff Davis County Park. There will also be vendors on hand at the Jeff Davis County courthouse all day long. The evening ends with fireworks set to begin at 9:45 p.m. that evening at the Jeff Davis County Park.

On Friday, July 5, vendors will be on hand at the courthouse once again and will continue through the weekend.

At 11 a.m. on Friday, there will be live music on the courthouse lawn by Bucket O' Bullets Band, followed by Border Blasters at 2 p.m. At 4 p.m., Tumbleweed Smith will put on his One-Man

Show, and at 7 p.m., join Doug Moreland for his Family Barn Dance where tickets will be available at the door.

Saturday, July 6 begins at 7:30 a.m. with a pancake breakfast, followed by the hometown parade down the main street at 10 a.m. At 10:30 a.m. the antique car show will begin, and a BBQ lunch will be served by JDC Livestock Association beginning at 11 a.m.

A pet pageant will also be on tap beginning at 11:30 a.m., followed by the pie contest at noon, and live music on the courthouse lawn will begin once again with Hall's Last Call at 12:30 p.m.

Tumbleweed Smith will do a repeat of his Friday show at 2 p.m. which will also coincide with a cake walk as well as live music from Rick Ruiz. At 5 p.m., more live music by Neil Trammell, and at 8 p.m., Jody Nix will take the stage to close out the night. DJ Julian will also be set up all weekend, along with food booths, games, for an all-around good time.

Book release from local artist named BBNP Artist in Residence

From 1-3 p.m. on Saturday, June 29, Front Street Books in Alpine will host a celebration of the release of "American Black Bears: New Neighbors in the Big Bend", a new booklet of illustrations, information, and activities from local artist Chris Ruggia.

Ruggia's wildlife artwork actively engages with scientific research into the lives and behaviors of desert animals, and he has been awarded a residency later

this summer in Big Bend National Parks' 2024 Artist in Residence program.

The book event will begin with a discussion on the current status of black bears in the region from experts who contributed to the book's content. Retired Big Bend National Park Wildlife Biologist Raymond Skiles and Borderlands Research Institute graduate assistants Matthew Hewitt, Nicole Dickan, and Caitlin Camp will share their research and experienc-

es with the event audience.

For the second hour of the event, Ruggia will be making his popular "5-minute drawings" of the animal of your choice. Due to time constraints, only 12 drawings will be available.

To support the community response to the Memorial Day weekend fire in downtown Alpine, 100% of event proceeds from the book and 5-minute drawings will be donated to the Historic Alpine Fire Relief Fund.

Friends of the Post announce July 4 celebration

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

The Friends of the Post in Marathon have announced their Independence Day celebration.

Festivities will begin Saturday, July 6 at 10 a.m. with an All-School Reunion and parade downtown. This is followed by more of the All-School Reunion with a lunch and brisket plate sale at noon at Post Park.

Later that evening, the annual Post dance begins at 8 p.m. and continues until midnight with Marathon's own Craig Carter and the Spur of the Moment Band. Food vendors will also be available on-site during the dance. Marathon invites one and all to bring their lawn chairs and coolers and celebrate our nation's independence.

Two-vehicle accident sends five to hospital

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

A two-vehicle accident on Hwy 67 outside of Presidio sent five persons to Big Bend Regional Medical Center Sunday morning.

According to information relayed by the Presidio County Sheriff's Office, at approximately 10 a.m. Sunday morning, a two-vehicle accident that occurred just north of the town of Presidio required multiple ambulances. After triage was performed on the victims, members of the Presidio EMS, Presidio

County Sheriff's Office, U.S. Border Patrol, and U.S. Customs and Border Protection who responded to the scene were able to intercept the less critical patients in patrol units and put together a crew for another ambulance to transport the victims to the hospital. The highway was closed due to the extreme nature of the accident. The City of Presidio Police Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, and TxDOT were also on the scene to help with traffic control and the accident at hand. No other information is available at this time.



Two-vehicle accident Sunday morning outside Presidio sends five to the hospital

Courtesy Photo

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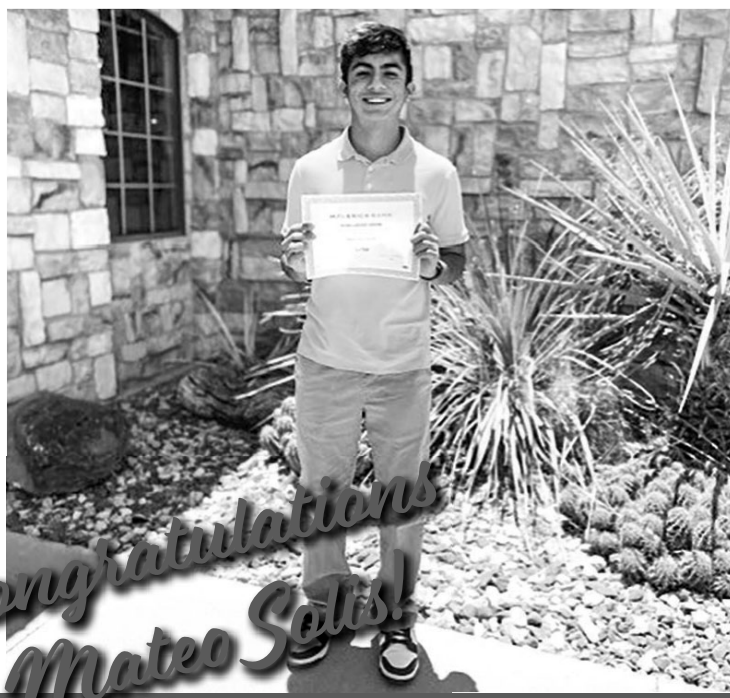
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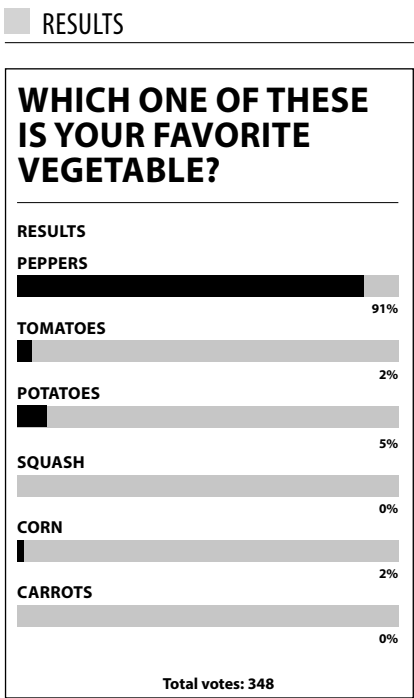
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Opinions

ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:
Which one of these is your favorite vegetable?

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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 by noon Monday for consideration.

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Research opportunities vital for small universities like Sul Ross

While large universities often dominate the headlines with their expansive research budgets and groundbreaking discoveries, the role of research in smaller universities is equally vital, albeit in different and nuanced ways.

Research at Sul Ross State University embodies a commitment to knowledge creation and dissemination. It allows our faculty to remain at the forefront of their disciplines, continually pushing the boundaries of what is known and understood. This not only enhances the academic environment but also enriches the educational experience of our students. Faculty engaged in research bring fresh insights and cutting-edge developments into the classroom, making learning a dynamic and evolving process. This integration of research and teaching ensures that our students receive an education that is both comprehensive and current.

Moreover, research at a small university fosters a close-knit academic com-

munity. Our size allows for a unique level of collaboration and mentorship that is often harder to achieve at larger institutions. Students have the opportunity to work closely with faculty members on research projects, even at the undergraduate level, gaining hands-on experience and developing critical thinking skills that are invaluable in their future careers. This personalized approach to research mentorship helps to cultivate a new generation of scholars and professionals who are well-prepared to contribute to their fields.

SRSU is currently managing millions of dollars in research grants from Texas Parks & Wildlife, the National Science Foundation, the American Chemical Society, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Texas Department of Transportation, the National Park Service, and more.

Research also plays a crucial role in the univer-



BERNIE CANTENS
 EXECUTIVE VICE PRESIDENT AND PROVOST

sity's ability to attract and retain talented faculty and students. Faculty members are often drawn to institutions that support and value their research endeavors. By providing resources, funding, and time for research, we demonstrate our commitment to academic excellence and intellectual growth. Similarly, prospective students are increasingly looking for institutions where they can engage in meaningful research from the outset of their academic careers. Highlighting our research initiatives and successes helps to distinguish us in a competitive higher education landscape.

Another significant aspect of research at a small university is its impact on the local community. Our research projects often address regional issues and challenges, providing tangible benefits to the communities we serve.

For example, the Borderlands Research Institute

announced the receipt of seed funding last week for a new water research center as a result of the "Water in the Desert" conference held in January. The center will focus on establishing research priorities and will provide guidance to local municipalities, agencies, and other stakeholders.

Funding for research can be a challenge, particularly for smaller universities with limited resources. However, this challenge also presents an opportunity for innovation and collaboration. We actively seek out partnerships with industry, government, and other educational institutions to support our research efforts.

These collaborations not only provide necessary funding but also create interdisciplinary research opportunities that can lead to groundbreaking discoveries. We are committed to continuing to support our faculty in advancing their research projects, especially those with a student-faculty research component.

Prioritizing men's health: The importance of preventative care

Tough, fearless, unflappable—these are the words that describe the superheroes of the world. However, these tough exteriors do not always bode well for health.



DR. DAVID NITSCHMANN

Unfortunately, most men steer clear of the doctor until symptoms become concerning. According to a survey by The Cleveland Clinic, only 60% of men go for a yearly routine checkup, and 40% wait until something is seriously wrong.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 13.2% of men aged 18 and over are in fair or poor health. Contribut-

ing factors include 30.9% of men who have five or more drinks in one day and 40.6% of men who have obesity.

June is National Men's Health Month, a time to remind men to prioritize their health and, hopefully, avoid problems down the road.

"Delaying or neglecting symptoms can lead to serious health consequences," explained Dr. David Nitschmann, a member of the medical staff at Big Bend Regional Medical Center. "When patients come for routine preventive visits, we can address preventable issues, like uncontrolled blood

pressure and diabetes, before they become more serious."

Here are some tips to help men get their health back on track:

- **Get Routine Checkups:** Men should visit their primary care provider annually for a physical or wellness check. These appointments help monitor key health indicators like blood pressure, cholesterol, glucose, and weight, allowing for early detection and treatment of potential issues.

- **Eat Healthy:** Choose vegetables, fruits, whole grains, high-fiber foods, and lean protein sources. Limit foods high in saturated and trans fats and avoid foods with added sugar and sodium.

- **Stay Active:** Any activity is better than no activity.

Stay motivated by choosing physical activities you enjoy.

- **Quit Smoking:** Smoking increases the risk of cancer, heart and lung disease, and other smoking-related illnesses.

- **Reduce or Eliminate Alcohol Consumption:** Even low levels of alcohol use (less than one drink per day) can increase the risk of certain cancers and chronic diseases.

- **Manage Stress:** Chronic stress is harmful and can lead to conditions like heart disease, obesity, high blood pressure, and depression.

Small changes can make a difference in preventable health problems and encourage early detection and treatment of disease among men.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A Big Thank You!

As a result of the surprising and life-changing fire, I would like to thank, first and foremost, God for His continued presence, guidance, and blessings throughout all of this. He is so good! I would also like to thank Mr. and Mrs. Sandra Kor-

teland for allowing me to utilize their fully furnished, vacant salon temporarily for free; we need more people like them with a good heart. They have enabled me to get back to work quickly. My gratitude goes out to the many people who have gifted, donated, and given

me much-needed products, beauty tools, and funds to restart Eva's Salon. Of special note are the following: Alpine Historical Association (AHA), Bea Leyva, Fred Ramirez, and Javelinas on Holland. If I have accidentally omitted an organization, business, or someone's

name, please forgive me and know that your contribution IS genuinely appreciated. May God bless each and every one of you with many blessings!

Sincerely,
 Eva Lucrecia Olivas
 Eva's Salon owner for 23 years and counting.



Heard on the STREET

What was the last movie you watched in the theater?



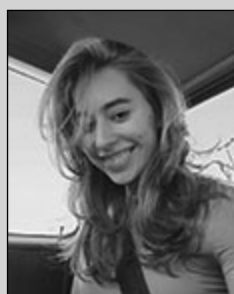
Conrad Galindo: It was Oppenheimer on iMax



Felipe Fierro: The Long Game was the last movie I watched in the theater.



Shera Welch: The last movie I watched in the theater was Maverick



Jody Covington: The last movie I watched was the Barbie movie.



Heath Daniel: The last movie I watched in a theater was the Super Mario movie in early 2023.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

June 21 and 28 Tinker-Cad 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 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 popsicle break, and ends with themed reading and activities.

June 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



July 4 Alpine High School Class Reunion, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Kokernot Park, former students from the 1970s will meet. Bring drinks and a picnic and catch up with old friends.

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.alpineschoolof-music.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.

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 Chorale 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, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

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

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

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine

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

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

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

Hike with Homeless Dogs, 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.

Locals take part in bicycle rodeo



Local John Ellsbury took part in this past Saturday's bicycle rodeo put on by the Alpine Police Department and TxDOT on the Sul Ross campus. Ellsbury once owned a local bicycle repair shop.

Courtesy photo

Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission adopts new mountain lion regulations

The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission approved regulations banning canned hunts and implementing trapping standards for mountain lions during its May meeting. These changes are the first in more than 50 years regarding the management of mountain lions in Texas and move the state toward more modern hunting and trapping standards.

"The passage of these regulations is an important step toward better management of mountain lions in the state," said Richard Heilbrun, Wildlife Diversity Program Director. "The regulations support ethical hunting and trapping practices while continuing to provide flexibility for landowners to manage mountain lions."

The Commission unanimously voted to approve the measure, which included the banning of canned hunts, meaning the capture and later release of a mountain lion for the purpose of hunting or pursuing with hounds.

After concerns were raised that some mountain lions are left to perish in traps, which many consider to be inhumane

and potentially damaging to the reputation of trapping, a 36-hour trapping standard was also adopted. This regulation ensures that live lions are not kept in traps or snares for more than 36 hours.

The initial proposed regulation during the March Commission meeting included an exemption to the 36-hour trapping standard for snares fitted with a breakaway device. The proposed regulation was modified in response to public feedback received during the comment period to remove the breakaway device exemption and replace it with a blanket exemption for snares set vertically with a maximum loop size of 10 inches or less.

Consequently, if a mountain lion is inadvertently captured in a snare set vertically with a loop that cannot exceed 10 inches in diameter, the 36-hour requirement does not apply.

Mountain lions are relatively uncommon, secretive animals. In Texas, mountain lions are primarily found in the Trans-Pecos, the brushlands of South Texas, and the western Hill Country.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Brenda. Brenda was surrendered to the shelter with her sister Shadow. Brenda is outgoing and sociable and enjoys her naps and affection. She has a glorious long-haired tortoiseshell coat and deserves to be the diva in your life.

Besides the striking appearance of the tortoiseshell kitty, they are often known for their distinct personalities. It is not a breed of cat, but a coat color pattern. They are almost always female. Male tortoiseshell cats are very rare and usually sterile.

Torties are known for being intelligent, cu-

rious, and sometimes sassy. In Japan, they are considered good luck and are believed to bring good fortune to their owners. Come meet your good luck charm, Brenda.

Before committing to becoming a cat owner, consider the fact that they can live 15 to 20 years and that you are their love match and caretaker, and take that responsibility seriously.

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 4th!

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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SCHOOL • FROM 1

all three campus principals. Mr. Curtis Wubbena told the board that Alpine Elementary recently hosted students from all three campuses for a 10-day summer school. He also told the board that AES plans to have a two-day academic jump-start for incoming third and fourth graders with the focus being on reading and language arts “constructed response.” This means that the students will have two days of instruction on what type of questions the STAAR test asks that require a complete sentence answer.

Alpine Middle School principal Mrs. Judith Pardo-Alferez told the board that 53 middle schoolers attended the 10-day summer school program held at the elementary school. Pardo-Alferez

also mentioned that some of her fifth-grade teachers will be attending both Eureka (math) and Amplify (reading) training in Fort Stockton. She also mentioned that her sixth through eighth-grade teachers would be training with the Carnegie instructional material for math instead of Eureka. “We are using the Carnegie math material so that by eighth grade, the students will be able to take the advanced math courses such as algebra to prepare them for high school,” Pardo-Alferez stated.

Mr. Jarrett Vickers, principal at Alpine High School told the board in his report that he had received the preliminary STAAR scores. He also said that students who did not pass portions of the STAAR test were in remediation and re-testing this week. Vickers

was also happy to report that AHS scored above regional and state averages on all 15 metrics of the STAAR test.

Next on the agenda was the acceptance of multiple donations. Two donations, the Stillwater Foundation through the Permian Basin Area Foundation and Skelton’s Runway were the only two donations not from the Alpine Buck Boosters organization. The Stillwater Foundation donated \$25,000 to Alpine ISD to develop post-secondary pathways. Skelton’s Runway was the donor for the youth football camp t-shirts, which almost 100 local kids attended.

The Alpine Buck Boosters asked the athletic department about what needs they had and were able to donate funds for each sport needing equipment. For cross country,

they donated money for flags and new pole vault poles. They also provided funds for two tents to give the runners shade during meets. They provided funds to the football team for a chute, as well as funding for the boys’ basketball team to purchase a history board. The volleyball team will receive new volleyballs, and the middle school volleyball teams will be able to purchase new uniforms. The softball team had money donated for a pitching machine and the golf team was provided money to buy golf carts. The final donation from the Buck Boosters was money for the athletic training department for a new water cow.

State assessment scores for the district as well as the state in general revealed that math was of concern. In the district, grades third, fifth, and

seventh were the lowest as far as math score percentages.

Alpine ISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart told the board about the metrics on each campus.

At the elementary school, those students outperformed students statewide on two of the 12 metrics. “The largest growth we saw at the elementary level was in fourth-grade reading. It was up 15% overall,” said Rinehart.

At the middle school, the focus was on math, yet the students still outperformed the statewide average on 21 of the 23 metrics required by the state. The eighth grade outperformed the whole state average both in reading and math and did very well in science. There was a 15% increase in reading for the eighth-grade students.

Alpine High School, as Vickers mentioned in his report, outperformed the state on all 15 metrics required.

Next, Rinehart reviewed a brief, one-sheet projected budget for the upcoming school year. The board is scheduled to meet next Thursday for a budget workshop that will include more details.

Finally, after a closed session, the board accepted the resignation of Mr. George Hazlehurst, Emma Campos, and Angelique Gonzales. The board also approved the hiring of Liz Carrasco, a speech-language pathologist assistant for the 588 Co-Op and Mr. Chuck Wilson returned as band director at AHS.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees is scheduled for July 17 at 5:30 p.m.

Marathon VFD members receive certifications



The Marathon Volunteer Fire Department’s Chief Brad Wilson and Firefighter Heath Daniel both received their Fire Fighter Instructor I certifications in Ozona recently allowing them to produce internal training for MVFD along with community outreach training planned for the future. Pictured is Chief Brad Wilson giving instructions on fire extinguishers.

Courtesy photo

MARATHON • FROM 1

and his project were invited to go beyond the scope of the National History Fair to the Smithsonian Institution. The largest collection of museums in the world.

According to Durant, “He worked his magic from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Smithsonian National Museum for American History. There he shared his vision of this turning point with all who would listen.” Among those many listeners were two National Board of Trustees who insisted on interacting with Barlow.

Durant shared that

not only was this a great honor to represent Marathon ISD and the state of Texas, but it was a great opportunity for Barlow as well. “He met and competed with 3,000 students from all over the United States and other countries. This honor was important not only for Marathon ISD but especially for Keller, because he represents the first student to be a part of the Smithsonian National Museum of American History.” Barlow and his project is the second project to go to the National History Fair from Marathon ISD.

Still no cameras in court?

In the 1970s, I wrote a series of newspaper editorials against the strong trend in the legal community to ban any kind of cameras from courtrooms. Today, we are following two high-profile cases, and they still are banning cameras in the courtrooms.

This all got started in 1935 in the trial of Bruno Richard Hauptmann for the kidnapping and murder of the small child of aviation pioneer Charles Lindberg. Back then, the only way to

take still pictures indoors was with a flashbulb, and media crowded around the defendant and created pandemonium. To be sure, they did disrupt the trial and were a serious distraction to the jury who had to decide Hauptmann’s fate.

Today, we can quietly take pictures and even movies with a simple cell



Jim Street

phone. Cameras could be hidden somewhere in the courtroom, and nobody would even know they were there.

I argued 50 years ago that the U.S. Constitution demands that defendants have a right to a “speedy and public” trial. The word “public” is there for a reason. Our entire concept is that the public is sov-

ereign, not the government, and having the public watch our trials is the best way to ensure there is no funny business, and that the officers of the court act within the law and with propriety.

Thus, all courtrooms are built with seating for the public so anyone who wants to watch or needs to cover the trial in the media has a way to do so.

Today, there is no way the population of even a small city could fit into the courtroom audience, let alone the

8 million or so who live in New York City. Cameras in the courtroom would let anyone who wants or needs to watch the proceedings do so.

And there is another issue in the air right now. Attorney General Merrick Garland agreed to release a transcript of Robert Hur’s questioning of President Biden but not the recording. Trump’s side argued that the transcript was edited to eliminate things like “uh” and the like and those

expressions, pauses, and others could tell something about the attitude of an interviewer or subject as well as the tone of voice, which will not be revealed in a transcript. They can tell a lot to those who know what to look for. Reading a transcript is not the same as watching it happen.

Cameras and recording devices should be allowed in all trials. That’s the only way to provide what the Constitution requires, a “public” trial.

BROADBAND • FROM 1

one of six Texas counties in this area, including El Paso County, Hudspeth, Culberson, Presidio, and Jeff Davis, and that at no cost to the county, once a broadband committee was established, the county could apply for a technical assistance grant. The county would need a certificate to apply for the grant, with the minimum requirements of the committee formed requiring an elected official as well as a community leader. A motion was made by Pct. 1 Commissioner Westermann to create a committee and a second was made by Pct. 2 Commissioner Sara Colando. The motion passed unanimously.

The next item of business was to discuss and act on items for salvage, sale, donation, or disposal. The first item on the list consisted of radio equipment located in the Alpine Emergency Operations Center that was no longer in use. According to the agenda it was recommended it be donated to the Big Bend Amateur Radio Club.

Some discussion about the legality of donating ensued before a motion to approve was made by Westermann followed by a second from Pct. 4 Commissioner Mo Morrow. The item was approved unanimously. Also under this agenda item was some electronic equipment that had been stored in the basement of the tax assessor’s office and would be disposed of via a third-party vendor or auction. This item was also approved unanimously with a motion by Colando and a second by Morrow.

In other business, the court reviewed and discussed the replat of the West half of Block 26 Anderson Addition in Marathon. Pct. 3 Commissioner Ortega told the court that the owner wanted to break the property up into four equal sections to allow for four new buildings. “It is an acre of land there and the owner wants it separated into four different lots. There is already water and sewer set up for residential use there,” Ortega said. A motion

to approve was made by Morrow and a second by Colando. The motion passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a presentation by the county’s TAC (Texas Association of Counties) representative concerning their health insurance. An overview of what it was costing and information on the volunteer benefits for dental and vision through MetLife was discussed also, as it being the most economical for the county rather than using the TAC insurance, whose rates were 10% higher. The change in rates overall for 2025 was an increase of 1.5%. The county does have low claim rates, so this helped keep the average renewal rate affordable compared to if their claim rates were higher. The renewal date for the county health insurance is June 28. Commissioner Colando made a motion to approve the 2025 renewal rates and the motion was seconded by Commissioner Westermann. The motion passed unanimously.

Road and Bridge Superintendent Frenchie Causey gave his report to the court which included information on his department’s help hooking up the new generator at the jail, hauling metal to the Marathon landfill, blading roads in the McElroy edition as well as Los Ranchos, where they also installed the flood gauge mentioned earlier in the meeting by Commissioner Westermann. Causey also reported that his department had added concrete powder to North County Road in the southern portion of the county as well as using emulsion on Cemetery Road, West Fort Davis, and Loma Del Norte.

After the road and bridge report, Commissioner Ortega noted that due to the recent tornado that hit Sanderson, Marathon was addressing the large siren at the fire station that was not working. A local electrician took a look at it and determined that it was not the electrical issue they originally believed it was, but the siren ran

on DC and needed to be supplied by batteries and a trickle charger. Ortega told the court they were planning to purchase a few marine batteries and the local expert would not charge for his services to get the siren working again.

Finally, the court approved the bills that were paid for June in the amount of \$124,678.78. A motion was made by Colando with a second from Morrow and Ortega abstained.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for June 25 at 9:30 a.m.

Restaurant Guide
 \$6 a week gets you a spot in our restaurant guide
www.alpineavalanche.com
REATA RESTAURANT
COCINERO: Beef-Chicken-Shrimp
STARTERS: Tortilla Soup Bowl-Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup-Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo-Bacon Wrapped Asparagus-Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup-Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

 CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers Carne 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

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

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LOOKING BACK

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

Alpine Avalanche



June 18, 1998

Amarillo-based band The Groobees are a regular sight at local drinking hole The Railroad Blues. Led by lead singer Susan Gibson, this group entertains crowds with their own version of pop-like folk music.



June 18, 1998

The Amtgard Group from Alpine spends time working out at Kokernot Park recreating ancient battles. The group even accepts out-of-town visitors, such as this visitor from Finland, Antti at left to participate in their mock battles.

June 25, 1998

The Alpine City Council received a check from Billy Roberts of the Southwest Texas Municipal Gas Corporation in the amount of \$200,000 from the sales of the gas transmission lines in Alpine and Marfa. Pictured, from left are Roberts, councilor Edith Taylor, Mayor Paul Weyerts, and councilor Frank Cargo.



June 25, 1998

Crews from the City of Alpine are hard at work, putting in long-awaited sidewalks and ramps on Holland Avenue to make the downtown area more accessible for the physically challenged.



Use of pliers, file can prepare Texas mountain laurel seeds for germination

Dear Neil: I think you addressed this a year or two ago here, but I didn't save the column. I have Texas mountain laurel seeds I would like to grow. Do I soak them or scar them?

You need to "scarify" them. That's a name given to mechanically breaking through their outer, rock-hard seed coats. I use a pair of pliers and carefully place one seed in them at a time. Then with my other hand, I use a three-cornered file to cut through the seed coat. As soon as I see the creamy yellow embryonic tissue, I stop. When I've done all the seeds, I soak them overnight and plant them into 4-inch pots the next morning. I use lightweight potting soil to get them started, and each pot gets one seed inserted about one inch deep. Water the potting soil and put the flat filled with pots out in the sun. Almost all of them will germinate, and they'll do so quickly.

Dear Neil: I have two live oak trees in my front yard. Both were damaged by the February 2021 cold. One of them looks really bad in its lower trunk. Is it "doomed?" It is as green as normal at the top. It's about 50 years old. What should I do? See the photos attached.

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry

I can see why you're concerned. That is substantial bark loss. However, the canopy of foliage is better than many live oaks that were hurt by the cold. I'd get a certified arborist on site to examine the trunk closely. It's possible that there is a good bit of healing from this "radial shake." (That's the name given to this bark loss that resulted from the prolonged and extreme cold.) As long as the canopy stays relatively full the tree is making progress. It's when it begins to thin month by month that you need to worry. Other than routine care of watering and modest feeding, there is nothing you can do to help it along. The arborist would know if it presents any risk of falling.

Dear Neil: We replaced a portion of our Asian jasmine that winter had killed, but now we have a very fine grass growing

in it. Is there any kind of weedkiller that will kill the grass without killing the jasmine?

Yes, there is. But the last time I checked, what I'm about to mention was not listed on the product's label, so I cannot legally recommend it to you. I will merely tell you that I have seen hundreds of landscape contractors over dozens of years use this way of getting bermudagrass out of Asian jasmine beds when they thought they were going to have to start over completely. Please understand that this is merely an observation and not a recommendation. You assume all the risk. It is to use a glyphosate-only herbicide to spot-treat the weed grass. Glyphosates are grass killers. They do not seem to harm mature Asian jasmine once its leaves have turned dark green and leathery. Your plants may still be too immature. You would have to be careful to avoid products that contain glyphosate in combination with other herbicides because those other weedkillers most definitely would kill the jasmine. That's why I pointed out that the contractors use specifically "glyphosate-only products" and at the recommended rates for killing bermuda. I have also used this on several occa-



sions with excellent results and without any damage to my jasmine. But again, you assume the risk. You might try a small area first to be sure you like the results. (Note: verify that the weed is a grass and not a sedge. A Texas Certified Nursery Professional can assist in that identification.)

Dear Neil: I just read your article about wrapping the trunk of my new Autumn Blaze maple. You answered my question! But now I wonder if I need to change it every so often. Does it stretch with growth?

I use the specialty product, a paper tree wrap, that does stretch with the thickening of the trunk. Plastic wraps that clasp around trunks also expand as the trunk grows, so they would be fine as well. The reality is that you won't have the wrap in place for more than a couple of years, so it

won't be a long-term issue.

Dear Neil: I have three 4-year-old crape myrtles in my backyard. Last year they were full of blooms, but this year only one has flowers. They are in a part of the yard that remained really wet this spring. They also have a powdery substance on their leaves. What should I be doing?

I'm part of an organization that has planted more than 30,000 crape myrtles in one Texas city, and I can tell you from that experience that their bloom dates vary by several weeks, both variety by variety, also from year to year. If these are all the same variety, then it probably would be something environmental, and poorly draining soils would be as good a guess

as any. This year's rainy spring and early summer have delayed their bloom by several weeks. Also, if you topped them in any way (never a good plan), that will also delay flowering by as much as six or seven weeks. I would be more concerned about how much new growth they are putting out. If they're growing vigorously, you'll be just fine. As for the powder, that's powdery mildew. It is disfiguring, but it rarely does major damage to the plants. It's "original factory equipment" with older types of crape myrtles. It will soon abate.

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 TX Tommy Lee film: "Eyes of Laura _____"
- 5 TXism: "chew _____ awhile" (ponder)
- 6 San Antonio "Road-runners" univ.
- 7 classic western: "High _____" (1952)
- 8 basic cable net.
- 9 "it don't _____ up" (makes no sense)
- 12 seat of Callahan County on I-20
- 17 position of Texas legend Nolan Ryan
- 19 TXism: "got as much chance as _____ in a packing plant"
- 21 TXism: "_____ a goose"
- 22 apprehended
- 23 popular TV dog
- 28 Monahans _____ hills State Park
- 29 TX Joe Don Baker film: "Cape _____"
- 30 one name for the earliest country in Texas
- 31 Cowboys won _____ Bowl five times
- 35 TX-born Keyes book "Scarlett O'_____ Younger Sister"
- 36 TXism: "three _____ wind" (drunk)
- 42 large hairy spider
- 44 Karmann _____ (old Volkswagens)
- 46 melons grown in the Rio Grande Valley
- 48 Cowboys hated foe

- 49 Assoc. Press TV News (APTN) bought this internat'l agcy. in 1999
- 50 large tub
- 51 poker stakes
- 52 dir. from Andrews to Cross Plains
- 53 Dallas and Houston have _____ transit
- 54 Rio Grande in Mexico: "Rio Bravo del _____"
- 56 "neither's" sidekick

DOWN

- 1 seat of Titus County (2 wds.)
- 2 San _____, TX
- 3 Italian rice dishes
- 4 Marsh, creator of the "Cadillac Ranch," for short
- 9 TXism: "active as a fox in _____ house"
- 10 TXism: "he was around when the _____ sick" (old)
- 11 physicians (abbr.)
- 12 legally prohibit
- 13 TXism: "nervous _____ frying pan"
- 14 TXism: "let _____" (leave it alone)

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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- 15 singer McEntire from Texas' northern neighbor
- 16 _____ Park, Texas
- 18 southern states gov. in Civil War
- 20 ave. or st., e.g.
- 23 Chris _____ Doux is in the "Texas Trail Hall of Fame"
- 24 Texas cosmetics founder Mary Kay
- 25 expectorated
- 26 _____ T. Hughes swore in LBJ on Air Force One in 1963
- 27 TXism: "get your ducks _____"
- 28 Austin univ.
- 33 Xbox competitor (abbr.)
- 34 martian? (abbr.)
- 36 pigpen
- 37 Paul Newman 1963 film about Texas
- 38 7-_____ (Texas convenience store)
- 39 TXism: "_____ the unvarnished truth"
- 40 Texas Southern sprinter Jim who won 1968 Gold
- 41 TXism: "_____ high on the hog" (rich)
- 43 Rangers drafted this Robb in 1987
- 45 Jeremy Pena pos. with the Astros
- 47 this promotes the growth of muscles
- 48 TXism: "boring as a fishing trip with a _____ warden"
- 55 TX ZZ Top breakthrough album: "_____ Hombres"

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Sports

Alpine Cowboys dominate Pecos Bills in sweep



The Alpine Cowboys defense confers on the mound in their recent series matchup against the Pecos Bills. Photo by Julie Meyer

Team looks ahead to tough Tucson matchup

BY TRISTIAN BARAGAN
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys continued their scorching start to the season, sweeping their Pecos Bills counterparts in all five games played last week. This dominant stretch extends their record to a league-leading 17-1, putting them firmly in control of the Mountain Division. However, Head Coach Sean Persky remains focused on improvement.

"It was a good series from our pitching staff," Persky acknowledged. "Offensively, we need to create more scoring opportunities and put pressure on the defense." — Sean Persky, Alpine Cowboys head coach

"Offensively, we need to create more scoring opportunities and put pressure on the defense."

pitching staff proved to be the bedrock of their success against the Pecos Bills. In the first game of the doubleheader on June 15, Dieterich Guertzgen delivered a masterful performance, shutting out the Bills over five innings while allowing only a single walk. Brendan May continued the trend on June 16, limiting the Bills' offense to just one earned run over five innings.

the Cowboys secure their first doubleheader sweep of the season. The first game was a tight affair, with the Cowboys edging out the Bills 2-0. The second game saw a more offensive display, with the Cowboys prevailing 6-3.

While Coach Persky seeks more consistent offensive production, the bats did come alive in spurts throughout the week. Josh Rego remained a force at the plate, going 5-for-11 with a home run and three RBIs. Other hitters like Taylor Darden and Jacob Medina also chipped in with key hits and RBIs.

Bittersweet Farewells: Kretzler and Petri Move Up. In a move that both excites and saddens the Cowboys' faithful, standout players Tommy

Kretzler and Kyle Petri were promoted to the prestigious New England Knockouts of the Frontier League. Both players had been instrumental in the Cowboys' success. Kretzler, in particular, earned praise from Coach Persky for his consistent performance.

With the Pecos Bills vanquished, the Cowboys now set their sights on a much stiffer challenge: the Tucson Saguaros. Currently boasting a record of 14-6, Tucson is the Cowboys' biggest divisional threat according to Persky. "This is gonna be our biggest division opponent this year," Persky said, sizing up the upcoming challenge. "We've got a few games against them

See DOMINATE • 9

Bucks get in summer workouts



Many of the Alpine Buck boys' student-athletes are hard at work in the weight room getting ready for the fall sports season at Alpine ISD. Courtesy photo

AHS cheerleader receives medal at NCA camp



Alpine Buck cheerleader Alyssa Duenez recently received a medal for All-American Cheerleader for 2024-2025 during the recent National Cheerleading Association camp held at Texas Tech University in Lubbock. Courtesy photo

Canaba, Llanez chosen for Black and Gold Sports All-Star game



Recent Alpine High School graduate and multi-sport athlete Jace Canaba along with AHS head baseball coach Robert Llanez were selected to play in the Black and Gold Sports All-Star game this past Saturday at Christensen Stadium in Midland. Canaba was selected to the Gold team, which was coached by Llanez, and pitched as well as played in the outfield during the game. Courtesy photo

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

ZARIAH GALVAN

Zariah is a multi-sport athlete and an up-coming powerhouse on the field and on the Volleyball Court. The Fightin' Lady Bucks look to have a great 24-25 season with her help.

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Lady Bucks hard at work



Alpine Lady Bucks are putting in their time in the gym this summer, working on strength and conditioning for the upcoming sports season.

Courtesy photo

Getting support from mom



Clancey Newman takes a moment to get his picture taken with his mom as he readies himself for the Texas High School Rodeo Association finals in Abilene last week.

Courtesy photo

Alpine resident competes in international weightlifting competition



Alpine resident Kurt Mannchen recently competed in the Masters Pan Am Olympic Weightlifting competition held in Costa Rica from May 30 through June 2. Mannchen lifted in the 75-79 age group weighing in the 73-kilo call, where he came in second place and received a silver medal.

Courtesy photo

Alpine Sports Summer Training Schedule

GRADES 7-12

AHS FIELD HOUSE WEIGHT ROOM

- 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.

www.alpineavalanche.com

Cowboys hold Read and Play for area youth



The Alpine Cowboys took time out of their morning on Monday to sit down with area students and allow them to read to them. After their reading time, the players and young readers took to the field for a little catch.

Courtesy photo

DOMINATE • FROM 8

down the stretch of June and beginning of July, so the standings right now say it's gonna come down to us and them for the top spot in the Mountain Division South. Obviously, there's a lot of baseball left to be played, and things can change, but on paper, this is our biggest challenge thus far." Perky continued. "Our guys are eager to play someone

new after facing the Bills repeatedly. Having a very solid team like Tucson come in is gonna be a lot of fun. It's going to be some good baseball."

With both teams boasting impressive records and hungry for a win, the upcoming matchup is sure to be electric. The Cowboys will look to maintain their dominance and solidify their lead in the division, while the Tucson Saguaros will be determined to

prove themselves as the true force in the Mountain Division South.

The Cowboys will host the Tucson Saguaros for a single game on June 18 before heading to Tucson for a crucial three-game series starting on June 20. With both teams well-rested and hungry for a win, baseball fans can expect an electrifying matchup that will have major implications for the rest of the season.

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District VI 4-H holds horse show



Dakota McCarthy from Brewster County stands with her mare in the five-year and older category at last Friday's District VI 4-H horse show held at the Sul Ross SALE Arena.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

SENIOR Spotlight



BRODIE HALE

In what activities did you participate in high school?
During the past three years of high school, I participated in band, jazz band, history fair, National Honor Society, UIL, prom committee, and student council.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
My favorite teacher has been Mrs. Parson. I always look forward to going to her class. She always jokes with us and makes us smile.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
I can't think of just one moment I enjoyed the most. I loved all of my junior year. There have been so many moments I enjoyed with my friends that I will never forget! There are too many good memories to pick just one.

What are your plans after high school?
After high school, I plan to attend Texas Tech and study criminology to become a forensic investigator.

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Devotional Page

God's patience and generosity

BY REV. BILL COTMAN
First Presbyterian Church of Alpine

In the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve hide from God after they have eaten from the tree they were told to avoid. When God asks Adam about it, he does what many of us do, he starts blaming others: God and Eve! "It was that woman, the one you gave me; she made me eat it!" When God turns to Eve, she blames the serpent, there's no one else in the story. But despite their sins, God continued to love them.

Have you ever noticed that no matter how much of a mess we make of our lives, God never gives up on us? In the Biblical story of Samuel, God is again patiently waiting to help us pick up the pieces. The people persistently complained about needing a king. Samuel's sons are a mess, and the people don't see them as good prospects for leadership. Samuel's sons didn't love God's people the way their father did; they were only out for themselves. Like many folks today, they did not care about the people they were supposed to be serving. Unethical behavior at the highest levels has been around for a very long time; it didn't just start in our lifetime.

Some people complain just to be complaining, but these people had plenty to complain about. They were worried about their future, and their children's future. Old Samuel, had been a good leader, but his

sons were not like him. The people wanted a king; other nations had kings and graduating from judges to kings would elevate their status with their neighbors. Even though God knew the people would make a mess of things by insisting on a king; God allowed Samuel and his people to sort it out by themselves.

This is free will, where God gives us room to maneuver; we can choose our own way. God decided from the beginning not to control us like puppets. Samuel was probably ready for God to take over, but he knew worrying didn't help. He trusted God; he had faith & prayed. God says, "Relax, Samuel; this is not about you, it's about me. I've dealt with this before; it's me they're attacking". God doesn't intervene. God knows that having a king won't solve anything and tells Samuel to warn the people that kings have a way of being selfish and messing things up; and may not be any better than Samuel's rotten sons. But God tells Samuel, "If they still want a king, I'll work with them"; and that's exactly what God does. God never gives up on them even though they insist on their own way. Samuel warns them that it's not going to be perfect with a king, but they insist. Like a loving parent who gives their children room to grow and make mistakes, God gives them what they ask for knowing that kings make a mess of things; this shows the generosity of God.

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Wrap up and beat the heat



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

favorite grab-and-go meal location. Recently, however, after a conversation with my publisher about sandwiches and wraps made by someone else, I was pushed to create my own wraps at the office for lunch.

So, armed with a pocket of cash and a vague idea, I set off to the local grocers to find all the fixins' for our wraps. I picked up cucumbers, an orange bell pepper, baby spinach, a couple of tomatoes, some deli-sliced peppered turkey, sliced pepper jack cheese, bacon aioli, and a sweet and spicy sauce made by Tabasco along with some low-carb wraps.

Getting to work once back at the office, I sliced up the cucumbers, tomatoes, and bell peppers to add to our wraps. Making one of each, one with the aioli and one with the sweet and spicy sauce, I added a small portion of all the veggies on top of the

turkey and cheese.

Needless to say, it was a hit. Not only was it filling, but it was light and didn't weigh you down like a heavy meal might. Later in the week, I did the same, but this time with ham and regular jack cheese. While both versions of the sauce were good, my publisher and I both agreed that the bacon aioli stole the show. And why wouldn't it? It's made with bacon.

Therefore, while it's common to find wraps these days on several menus or even pre-made at the local grocers, if you're thinking about something light, refreshing, and filling, try making your own. You might just surprise yourself at how much better your own is even compared to those you get at a restaurant.

If the last few days are any indication, then summer is in fact here in the last frontier. And I don't know about you, but the last thing I want to do is heat up a kitchen in search of a tasty meal. Not to mention, that heavy foods in the summer don't sit well with most folks.

So, one of the best ways I've discovered this summer is to whip up some tasty wraps.

Rarely do I leave the office for an actual lunch hour. Most days I'll run grab something at the grocery store or grab a salad at my fa-



Spinach and turkey wrap.

Courtesy photo

SPINACH TURKEY WRAPS

INGREDIENTS

- 1 bag or container of baby spinach
- 1-2 bell peppers, or your pepper of choice, sliced into strips
- 1 small cucumber, peeled and sliced into lengthwise portions
- 1-2 Roma tomatoes, sliced into strips and de-seeded
- 1 package of pepper jack cheese slices or a cheese of your choice
- 1 package of #2 sliced turkey, pepper, smoked, or roasted from your local deli
- 1 package of low-carb tortilla wraps, or specialty wraps if you choose
- 1 bottle of bacon aioli, sweet and spicy sauce, or other sauce of choice, including but not limited to mayonnaise and mustard or even a salad

DRESSING.

DIRECTIONS

- Slice all vegetables before assembling the wrap.
- Lay your wrap of choice onto a plate and add a small amount of your sauce of choice.
- Add a small amount of spinach, followed by the turkey and the cheese.
- Lay a couple of slices of each of the vegetables on top of the turkey and cheese.
- Roll tightly from one side, making sure the vegetables are lengthwise when rolling.
- Once the wrap is rolled up, cut it into two parts in the middle on the diagonal.
- Serve by themselves or with chips or French fries and enjoy.

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