

## City council addresses water billing concerns

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine City Council held its regularly scheduled meeting last Tuesday, July 16 at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers. Ward 3 Councilman Darin Nance and Ward 5 Councilman Rick Stephens were absent.

During the public hearing portion of the meeting, the second and final reading to obtain citizens views and comments on ordinance 2024-07-02 approving a rezoning application 2024-06-01, amending the official zoning map of the city by rezoning the property located at 1003 E. Gallego from R4 mobile home district to C-1 neighborhood commercial district.

See BILLING • 6

## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024 . . . . .8.86"  
July . . . . .4.64"



**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.**



## After the ashes: Ivey looks to the future

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

What was once the cornerstone of the downtown Alpine business district now sits in charred ruins. The majority of the 100 block of West Holland Avenue, lost to the devastating fire on May 26 sits in question to its future.

The owner of the property, Bill Ivey recently spoke with the Avalanche about where he and his family go from here.

“The family and I are still in shock and mourning. My office was in that

building, my personal art collection was in that building, and all of the window décor that Ivey’s Emporium used during the holiday season for many years was lost during the fire. While everyone talks about five businesses that were lost, in truth there were six. Those businesses paid rent, and that was a part of my livelihood that is now gone. So, I lost my business also,” Ivey said.

Due to government red tape, Ivey is in a holding pattern as far as clean-up

See IVEY • 6



The Ivey boys grew up in the business that their dad opened in the former Forchheimer building when he purchased the property in 1999. Now lost to the tragic fire, this part of their legacy sits in question. Pictured are Zane, Bill, Cody, and Levi Ivey in the Terlingua Ghosttown Cemetery that Bill still owns

Courtesy photo

## ANRS exes highlight the next generation



Hallie Wood, pictured here, participated in the ANRS Exes reunion barrel racing competition this past Sunday morning at the Sul Ross SALE Arena. This was just one of the many fundraising events held by the organization to help fund Sul Ross rodeo and agriculture scholarships.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## Brewster County EMC takes on multiple roles

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Six months ago, the torch for the Brewster County Emergency Management (EMC) position exchanged hands. James Etchison, who was also recently named as the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department Chief took over the reins of the position from Stephanie Elmore. The Avalanche recently spoke with Etchison about his new positions, and what makes him confident in his new roles.

“I’ve always had an urge to help and protect. From military to law enforcement, I wanted to do more. Becoming the new EMC

allows me the freedom to make a difference and improve not only firefighter safety but also safety in the community and surrounding businesses,” said Etchison. Etchison made his way in the world by leaving California in 1997, where he said he never looked back after joining the military. He’s been stationed overseas and stateside and has quickly adapted to this area of far West Texas and made Alpine his home.

Etchison applied for the salaried position and took over after Elmore left to join the U.S. Marshall Service. He says his biggest challenge and learning



**Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator James Etchison**

curve thus far is finding the time to train and better himself while also allowing time to continue the duties of being the EMC. The work-life balance is challenging.

When asked what in his background, including previous employ-

ment aids in helping him fulfill this position, Etchison listed several things. “Leading soldiers into battle and returning unharmed is a big one. Fire is the same entity. You are fighting an enemy that doesn’t play fair. While overseas, many opportunities presented themselves for me to become certified and trained in many aspects of First Aid, leadership, law enforcement, and even operational command. All of these combined are great tools to bring to this position,” he stated.

Etchison also commented on the interconnection between being the EMC and his newly

appointed position as the AVFD Chief. “The interconnection is a fine line from taking care of not only the community, but also the men and women who work long hours, put themselves in harm’s way, and strive to better themselves. And doing it all for free. Being able to ensure that the firefighters are safe and have good running equipment and vehicles so they can perform their job of keeping the community safe is important. It is a hard act to juggle, but very rewarding too,” Etchison remarked.

Etchison’s many du-

See EMC • 6

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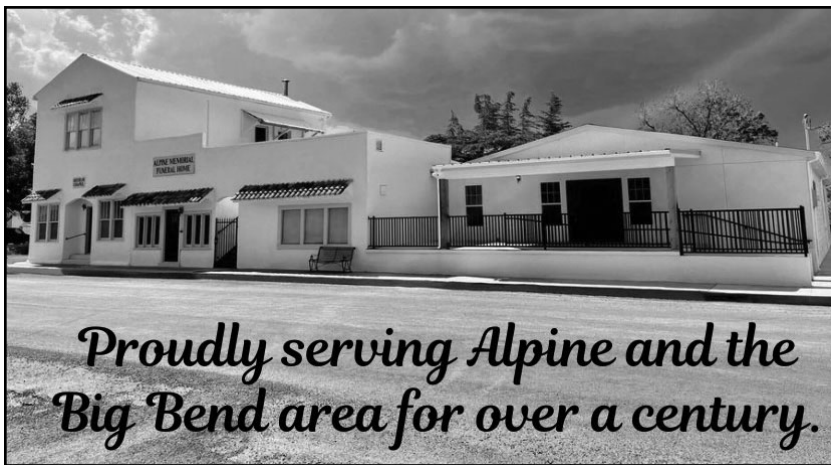
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## OBITUARIES

### Edward Ronald Marcin

Edward Ronald Marcin, of Austin, died Tuesday, June 18 at the age of 93. Ed was born in Chicago, Illinois, on July 30, 1930, to Edward L. Marcin and Alexandra "Olga" Sadowski.

In 1976, Edward received his PhD in Business Administration. He taught at DePaul University, the University of Dallas, and Georgia



College, before retiring from Sul Ross State University in Alpine in

2001.

Edward was preceded in death by his parents; his wife Dolores; his sister Sandra Prather; and his daughter-in-law Kathy. He is survived by three sons: Edward, Jr.; Michael and daughter-in-law Christine; and Thomas and daughter-in-law Elaine; seven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. A loving husband, father, and grandfather, his

memory will live on.

Visitation July 26 from 5:30-8:30 p.m. at Weed-Corley-Fish Funeral Home, Lakeway with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7 p.m. Funeral Mass July 27 at 11 a.m. at Emmaus Catholic Church, Lakeway.

Memorial contributions can be made to the St. Vincent de Paul Society or Emmaus Catholic Church.

## John Everett Benson: Final Marks

Sometimes it is personal. We meet people who are often friends for ages who mark our lives, and sometimes we meet people who are only passing through, but who will also leave a mark. Such was John Benson, a carver of stone.

I met John when I was the museum's project manager for the construction of the new Dallas Museum of (Fine) Art. That word "fine" becomes important to the story soon. As the museum's project manager, I was one of a team of four entities responsible for the project: the museum; the City of Dallas, our financial partner in the enterprise; J.W. Bateson, the construction management company responsible for the physical process; and the architect Edward Larrabee Barnes and his team.

Certain processes within the larger construction were the responsibility of the museum, and one of those was the carving of the name of the museum over the three major entrances and the inscription on the interior surface of the cornerstone. This is how I met John Benson, owner of the John Stevens Shop in Newport, Rhode Island, one of the oldest continuously operating businesses in the United States, founded in 1705.



**FIDDLER'S GREEN**  
by Larry Francell

In an age of computers and machines where so much is done by mechanical process, John was an artisan who believed in craftsmanship and the beauty of working by hand once stating, "Hand-carved letters have a subtlety, a vital quality absent in mechanical work." One of his mallets used to drive his chisels was inscribed "By hammer & hand," a belief he carried through his career. While the Vietnam Memorial with its thousands of names was inscribed by machine, the only way for that to happen, at the apex of the memorial John hand carved the dates, "1959" and "1975," leaving his mark by hammer and hand on one of our most iconic memorials.

As project manager I technically did not work for the museum but rather the building committee of the board of trustees, reporting to the director of

the museum and the chair of the committee. As such I was invited to all building committee meetings, mostly to sit in the corner and take notes. At the time it was the Dallas Museum of Fine Art, the "fine" used to distinguish a more aesthetic and selective approach to collecting.

The process John Benson used was to lay out what was to be cut full size on tracing paper and then transfer that to the surface to be cut. Proper proportion was critical, and "Dallas Museum of Fine Art" just did not fit over the museum entrances. John would not compromise, so what to do? To this point, the public was not aware that we had a stone cutter of John's reputation on the project. The building committee met, and the decision was to drop the word "fine" from the name.

To do so was considered potentially problematic from a public relations standpoint, so the word would go out that the name change was to broaden the scope of the collections and modernize the museum as it moved to downtown Dallas and a new facility. Both the art and architecture critics for the Dallas Morning News bought the story while cloth. John went to work, and the museum had a new name and new initials, the

DMA.

While most of the public did not know John Benson, most of us know his work. He was specifically chosen by Jacqueline Kennedy to design and carve the inscriptions on the Kennedy Memorial at Arlington National Cemetery. His inscriptions on the Franklin Roosevelt Memorial include twenty-two quotations hand carved. Many public and private buildings, gravestones, and memorials have been touched by John's hammer and hand. One of my prized possessions is a Vermont slate paperweight inscribed with my initials and finished in gold leaf. John Benson, Godspeed.

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## NEWSPAPER/RADIO NOTICE

Marathon WSC repaired a broken water line on Tuesday, July 16, 2024.

Due to low distribution levels, we ask that our customers South of Highway 90, to boil their water until we have received our lab samples showing 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 to the people South of Highway 90. Please let friends, neighbors, and family know.

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 a water line break repair, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality has required the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Service Corp. public water system to notify customers South of Highway 90 to boil their water prior to consumption (e.g., washing hands/face, brushing teeth, drinking, etc) immediately following resumed water service on 07/16/24. Children, seniors, and persons with weakened immune systems are particularly vulnerable to harmful bacteria, and all customers should follow these 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 Becky Garcia or Bernice Martin at the Marathon WSC Office. 432 386-4229.

## Vacation Bible School to be held at Hillside Baptist

**Hillside Baptist Church of Alpine** will host their annual Vacation Bible School at the Kokernot Park Pavilion from July 29 to August 1. Each day will begin at 9 a.m. and will feature Bible stories, music, puppet shows, games, and snacks. Sessions will end at 11:30 a.m. each day, except Thursday, when a short program will take place at the park pavilion at 11:30 a.m. with snacks for everyone. Please call Karen McGuire for more information at 432-386-3071.

### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The **Alpine Housing Authority (AHA)** will hold a **Public Meeting**

Date: September 25, 2024

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: 1024 North 5th Street  
Alpine, Texas 79830

The Alpine Housing Authority will hold a **Public Meeting** on **Wednesday, September 25, 2024 at 5:30 PM** at 1024 North 5th Street, Alpine, Texas, to receive comments on the **2025 to 2029, FIVE Year Action Plan & Annual Plan Documents** outlining Capital Expenditure to be completed. All documents will be on display at the office of the Housing Authority, 1024 North 5th Street, Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8AM to 5PM (closed during noon hour).

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## Blackwell School formally established as 430th National Park

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

In a press release from 23rd District of Texas Congressman Tony Gonzales' office on July 17 of last week, the Department of the Interior formally established the Blackwell School National Historic Site in Marfa as the 430th National Park.

In 2022, Congressman Tony Gonzales (TX-23) along with U.S. Senators John Cornyn (R-Texas), and Alex Padilla (D-California), authored legislation for the Blackwell School National Historic Site and signed it into law. Thanks to this legislation, it allowed the National Park Service to be

directed to establish the Blackwell School as a national park site.

"The Blackwell School in Marfa is a pillar of our Mexican American history. Today's designation comes after a year of thoughtful work to ensure that the stories and memories of Blackwell students are remembered for generations to come," said Congressman Tony Gonzales.

"This is the beginning of an exciting chapter for Marfa, as this site will support economic development and bring new visitors to West Texas to experience a rich piece of Texas' history. Thank you to the National Parks Conservation As-

sociation, Blackwell School Alliance, Blackwell School alumni, and Senators John Cornyn and Alex Padilla for your partnership in establishing the Blackwell School as the newest national park site."

From 1909 to 1965, the Blackwell School served as the only school for children of Mexican descent in Marfa. The school was listed on the National Register of Historic Places and met the qualifications to become a National Historic Site in 2019. The Blackwell School National Park Site is one of the few national park sites designated to celebrate Latino history and culture in the United States.



## ANRS raises record funds for scholarships

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

Last weekend, the ANRS and Rodeo Exes Association at Sul Ross held their annual reunion where they put on team ropings, domino tournaments, a golf tournament, a poker tournament, a silent auction, and other rodeo events for the children of the alumni.

All these events raise money for scholarships for Sul Ross rodeo and agriculture students. The association also takes in donations from alumni members, and this event always brings in a big crowd. After a final count, this year's events and donations raised \$66,000 towards scholarships for deserving ANRS students.



ANRS alumni participate in this past Sunday's golf tournament benefitting scholarships for deserving current and prospective students of the ANRS program and SRSU rodeo team.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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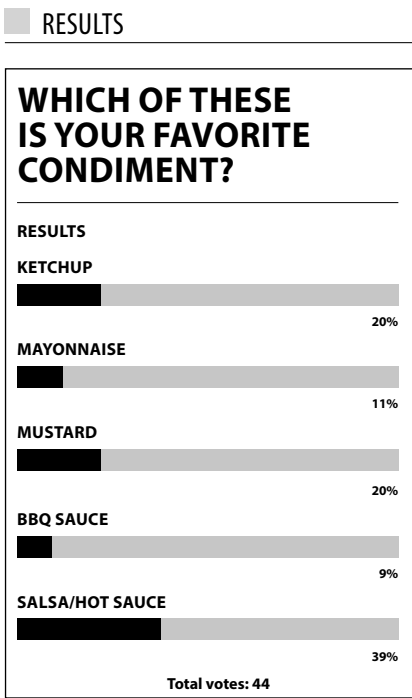


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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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**Which of these is your favorite condiment?**

- Ketchup
- Mayonnaise
- Mustard
- BBQ Sauce
- Salsa/Hot Sauce

Vote for this week's poll online at: [www.AlpineAvalanche.com](http://www.AlpineAvalanche.com)

## LETTERS

Send us your letters. Please include your name, address and phone number for verification purposes. Only your name and city will be published. Letters should be no more than 300 words. Letters become the property of the Alpine Avalanche and may be edited prior to publication for spelling and grammatical errors, clarity and length. Ad hominem attacks will not be accepted. Letters that include profanity or libel will not be printed. Send your letters to [kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com](mailto:kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com) by noon Monday for consideration.

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# BOONIEVILLE



## SRSU faculty, staff contribute to community

Did you know that Sul Ross State University employs over 250 faculty and staff – folks who shop, buy homes, and pay taxes – on the campus in Alpine?

In addition to our student population of nearly 900 (and growing) that either live on campus or in the city, they help to invigorate our community and support our local economy, creating a relationship that benefits both the institution and our Alpine businesses. Their contributions span a wide array of initiatives, from educational outreach and economic development to cultural enrichment and social services. These efforts not only enhance the university's impact but also foster a sense of unity and mutual growth within the community.

One of the most significant ways faculty and staff support the community is through educational outreach programs. Professors and educators often volunteer their time to teach classes, give lectures, and offer workshops in our public schools or at the library.

These activities help raise the educational aspirations of our youth, providing them with knowledge and inspiration that extend beyond the traditional classroom setting. For instance, faculty from the university's science departments might conduct hands-on experiments and demonstrations for high school students, sparking an interest in STEM fields.

Additionally, we often host public lectures and seminars that are open to anyone, like those at the SRSU Small Business Development Center. By making these resources accessible, our faculty and staff help to cultivate a well-informed and engaged community. These sessions provide invaluable guidance for small business owners and entrepreneurs, equipping them with the skills necessary to succeed in a competitive market.

Sul Ross State's Career Services department also



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ  
 Sul Ross president

works closely with local employers to create internship and job placement opportunities for students, ensuring that the local economy benefits from a steady influx of well-educated and skilled workers.

In fact, approximately 197 students work either on campus or at many of our local businesses.

Cultural enrichment is another area where the university's faculty and staff make a profound impact. Sul Ross often serves as a cultural hub, hosting art exhibits, musical performances, theater productions, and film screenings that are open to the public. These events provide Alpine with opportunities to enrich their lives and broaden their horizons – an unusual experience in a place as rural and remote as we are here.

Faculty members from the Department of Visual and Performing Arts frequently collaborate with local organizations to bring these events to life.

For example, a professor of music might organize a community choir or the theater program might host a summer camp, which was the case last week on campus. These collaborations not only showcase local talent but also create a vibrant cultural scene that attracts visitors and enhances our quality of life, and that of our students.

Under the guidance of our Office of Civic Engagement, students might work on projects ranging from environmental cleanups to voter registration to food drives. These projects not only address pressing local issues but also instill a sense of civic responsibility in our Lobos. Our student organizations and athletes volunteer in the community providing over 1,300 hours of support every year.

We want to be good neighbors and Sul Ross State University is forever grateful for the support of Alpine and all of West Texas.

## Simple principles that worked

*"Grandmas hold our tiny hands for just a little while but hold our hearts forever."* — Unknown

It was a simple principle. And it worked.

The little red plastic car had a magnet in it. Another magnet was molded in the hand-held piece shaped to fit two fingers. Two tiny fingers.

"Remember how I showed you," I recall her telling me. "Do it the way you're supposed to, and it will work."

I sighed and tried it again. The way she had told me to do it in the beginning. And just like magic, when I waved my hand over the toy car, it rolled across the tabletop. Propelled by the scientific principle of opposing magnetic fields.

My dad's mom spent a lot of time with children. Her grandchildren, the neighbor's children, and anybody's children who came to her house.

She had lots of practice. She did it most of her life. Born in 1905 and married at age fifteen, she was raising my father by the time she was 18.

My father was adopted by his brother and his wife in 1924 when he was not yet a year old.

The couple my dad knew only as mother and dad were biologically his aunt and uncle. My sisters and I knew them as grandmother and granddaddy. However, the family relationship would not have been any different by any other names. Nor could the love have ever been any stronger.

Raising kids and running a household was all that Granny ever knew. In her 88 years, she never had an employer and never drew a paycheck. But she worked seven days a week, loving her family, raising her child, and (to hear her tell it) helping raise other children—hers, her neighbors, her friends.

Nobody knows to what degree she actually "raised" them. But if she ever wiped their noses, fixed them a meal, refereed a disagreement, or helped get them back on the "straight and narrow," she laid claim to some part or parcel of their raising.

She was just that way. She helped where she was needed, giving of herself and what little she and my grandfather had to



LEON ALDRIDGE  
 Guest Columnist

offer.

And it wasn't necessarily a question of need. Most of "Granny's kids" had good homes. They simply enjoyed visiting hers because of the warmth and love they found there.

I was fortunate. I had loving parents. But I was "twice blessed." I had her for a grandmother.

During my childhood, she sometimes crafted toys from spoons, paper, string, and other improvised household items.

On rare occasions, we also frequented the toy store on Main Street next to the post office to splurge for a model kit.

That could be where the toy car I found myself playing with again last week came from. I just remembered it stayed in "my drawer" in her chifforobe. The same bottom drawer where some of my father's old toys aged with mine.

As I grew from toy cars to real ones, she continued to help "raise me," offering advice, solicited and otherwise, on navigating the perils of adulthood while enjoying the happiness of a life well lived.

When I decided to buy my

first car at age 14, I told her all about a used 1951 Chevy I found, sharing with her my experience of going to the bank with my father to learn about financing. She promptly warned me about the evils of borrowing money. That it was better to "save up to buy what I wanted."

"I raised your father better than that," she added with a scowl.

She then pulled her "pocketbook" from its hiding place in the closet and gave me the money to buy the car. But only after making it plain that I was to make payments every week when I got paid at my new after-school job at Beall's Department Store.

"You can just pay me," she said. That way, "You don't have to pay any interest."

The toy car still works perfectly when I play with it. Employing time-tested scientific principles just like it did all those years ago.

I try it every now and then, just to think about her. Recalling philosophies about the happiness of a life well lived. Ideas from a century ago.

But still time-tested simple principles that work.

## CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

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 202-224-2934

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 185 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
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# Heard on the STREET

What is your claim to fame?



**Lacy Warren:**  
My claim to fame is that I am a fifth-generation student from my family to attend Sul Ross.



**Matt Walter:**  
My claim to fame is that I towed Jimmy Buffet into port once after the halcyon on his sailboat broke. Then my boat crew and I got to sit with him at his table and eat and drink for free at his bar in Key West for the next two nights.



**Twila Hardaway:**  
My claim to fame is that I was a twirler in high school, so I was known as "Twila the Twirler."



**Luna Barrett:**  
My claim to fame is that my short-term rental property Casa Luna is a famous launch point for turkey vultures all over Terlingua and is also home to a pair of ravens.



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

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

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**July 23-August 2 (Tuesdays) Summer Reading Program**, 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. at Alpine Public Library for ages 6-12. Each session begins with 30 minutes of playful exercise followed by a popsicle break followed by themed reading and activities.

**July 24-27 Viva Big Bend July 26 Travel Talk at Alpine Public Library**, 7 p.m. Phil and Gabi O'Shaughnessy will discuss the running of a safari lodge in Africa. The talk is titled "Botswana: A Different Life: Running a Safari Lodge Along the Banks of the Chobe River." This talk is free of charge.

**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.

**July 27-28 Free Movie Showing**, 3 p.m. at the First Assembly of God in Alpine. The movie is "Blood on the Mountain", and they will provide popcorn and bottled water. All are invited.

**August 9-10 Big Bend Ranch Rodeo**

**August 10 CDRI BBQ and Fundraiser**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Chihuahuan Desert Nature Center.

## 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 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](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc).

**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 x 301.

**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.

# PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Rufus. Rufus was found running loose in the City of Alpine. No one claimed Rufus and then about a week later, he became very ill with parvovirus. He went to the vet, was treated, and survived.

He has since become a staff favorite with his happy-go-lucky, goofy personality. He loves every human and wants to be your friend and companion. He would make a great family pet or hiking, camping, and adventure partner.

His experience with being on the street and falling ill underlines the importance of vaccinations, deworming, spaying and neutering, and taking proper care and responsibility for your pet and household members. Parvo can easily kill a susceptible pet and is preventable with proper vaccinations.

Consider volunteering to walk dogs or give play time to the puppies or cats at the shelter.

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

Join us for Yappy Hour at Alcove Social (the Old Saddle Club) on Tuesday, July 30, from 4 p.m. to 8 p.m. We receive a percentage



of the proceeds.

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.

## Restaurant Guide

\$6 a week gets you a spot in our restaurant guide [www.alpineavalanche.com](http://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

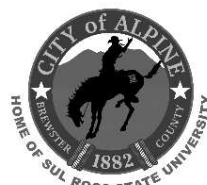
CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas-Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries-Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce-Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney

**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

[www.alpineavalanche.com](http://www.alpineavalanche.com)

## Big Bend Regional Hospital District Medical Enhancement Grants

BBRHD is now accepting grant proposals for the Fall FY2025 Medical Enhancement Grant program. The deadline to apply for funding will be on August 30, 2024 for the fall grant cycle. Brewster and Presidio County entities providing healthcare or other related services, consistent with the mission and objectives of the Hospital District may be eligible to apply. The grant application package and additional information are available at [www.bigbendhealth.org](http://www.bigbendhealth.org) or call 432-837-7051.



## NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

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

**ORDINANCE 2024-07-02:** AN ORDINANCE APPROVING REZONE APPLICATION 2024-06-01; AMENDING THE OFFICIAL ZONING MAP OF THE CITY BY REZONING THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 1003 E. GALLEGU AND LEGALLY DESCRIBED AS 0.5 ACRES, MORE OR LESS, LYING IN BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS, LOT TEN (10), THE W 1/2 OF LOT NINE (9), TWO (2) AND THE W 1/2 OF LOT THREE (3), EXCEPT THE NORTH 20 VARAS OF LOTS ONE (1), TWO (2) AND THE W 1/3 OF THREE (3), IN BLOCK THIRTY-THREE (33) HANCOCK ADDITION SOUTH OF THE RAILROAD, ACCORDING TO THE MAP/PLAT ON OF SAID ADDITION FILED IN PLAT ENVELOPE NO. 112, BREWSTER COUNTY PLAT RECORDS; REZONING THE SUBJECT PROPERTY FROM R-4 MOBILE HOME DISTRICT TO C-1 NEIGHBORHOOD COMMERCIAL DISTRICT.

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



## YANESSA WELCH

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**

I've participated in UIL, FFA, One Act, and color guard.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**

My favorite teacher was Mrs. Crump because of how she never gave up on a student.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**

My favorite moment was my sophomore year homecoming bonfire.

**What are your plans after high school?**

My plans are to join the Air Force and become a weather engineer.

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**IVEY • FROM 1**

is concerned. He is unable to even sift through what was there until an asbestos report is completed and then apparently, he has been further restricted due to a local structural report that has been required by the city from a licensed engineer.

But, as Ivey told us, there is no looking back. "I don't dwell on what was. The building is gone. None of us can change that. All I can do now is look towards the future and take things one day

at a time," he said.

"If there is a bright light in this tragedy, it is how the Alpine community rallied around those businesses and artists and collected money and fundraised for them. This is the Alpine that I was born and raised in. Everyone coming together to help each other out," Ivey stated.

Twenty-five years ago, when Ivey bought the property, his vision was to create a space for five other businesses besides his own, to establish his version of what he called 'Mayberry' for the

downtown area of Alpine. "I was approached by government entities when I first bought the property who wanted to rent the spaces for offices. I turned them down. That was not why I bought the property, to begin with. I purchased it in hopes of helping to create an area of economic development for the town I grew up in and love. While the money from the rent from a government entity would have been great, I wasn't looking to make money that way. I was choosey on who I rented to

because I wanted visitors as well as locals to have a place to shop that was community oriented and locally owned," Ivey remarked.

Ivey says the worst part of losing the property was all of the history and the memories. "I had fixtures in that store, even after Vintage Antiques and Snazzy Things moved in that were from the old Lajitas Trading Post where I grew up. There were also fixtures from the Marathon Drugstore when it was open as well as Kerr Mercantile in Sanderson.

I had articles and such that were in my office detailing not only the business but also the Terlingua Ghost-town that I was saving for my boys. This just wasn't my business, this was the legacy I was leaving to my children, and that is what is the most heartbreaking for all of us," Ivey commented.

As Ivey looks back on the 25 years of business, he says it was a great, positive experience not only for his family but also for the community. He is unsure where he goes from here as far as

what the property becomes once clean-up is able to proceed, but he does know it is forward and without regret.

"I have had folks give me some great ideas. I've heard everything from a complete rebuild which the family and I are unable to do, to selling it, to turning it into a park or plaza, to low-cost housing options, and even a spot for food trucks. At this point, the future of the property is still uncertain, and all we can do is take it one day at a time to see where it goes," Ivey declared.

**BILLING • FROM 1**

There were no comments received.

The next item on the agenda was an announcement from Alpine City Mayor Catherine Eaves on issues concerning water billing. Eaves said that she had been contacted by residents in the Carpenter Addition of Alpine asking if their council representative would help them with water billing questions. The residents asked for video tutorials or some sort of workshop from the billing supervisor to be posted online. "I've spoken with the City Manager, Megan Antrim, regarding this, and she and the water billing supervisor are working on coming up with something to help residents understand how their utility bills are calculated," Eaves said.

Antrim said, "Our water billing supervisor and I have discussed this, and we will be creating something to add to the city website that will benefit all residents of the city, not just those

who are requesting this from the Carpenter Addition."

During the council member announcement portion of the meeting, Ward 1 Councilman Reagan Stone commented on the water billing since residents in the Carpenter Addition fall into his Ward. "I know that there are still some water billing issues, which I believe began around April of the year. I've had residents reach out to me about this, so I went on a fact-finding mission to see what problems were occurring. If you do have an error, please reach out to the billing supervisor Carmen, and you can then request a re-read of your water meter, and we can get to the bottom of whatever is going on," said Stone.

Announcements from the Alpine City Manager, Megan Antrim included the mention of Saturday's monthly community cleanup. Antrim also mentioned that there was a good crowd of visitors to Alpine this past weekend due to the annual Sul Ross ANRS Exes Reunion taking

place. "If you had a chance, I hope you went out to the RAS facility at the East end of town and watched some of their roping and rodeo events. These events are fundraisers for scholarships and are fun to watch," Antrim stated. Antrim also reminded the council and members of the audience that Viva Big Bend, the annual four-day music festival, was set to begin Wednesday, July 24, and continue through the weekend.

Chris Ruggia, Alpine's Director of Tourism told the council that wristbands could be purchased online and that they could be picked up at Kishmish Plaza which is where the Viva Big Bend box office was this year.

Next on the agenda were changes to the posted agenda, whether postponed, withdrawn, or items on the consent agenda to be removed for separate discussion, or action items added to the agenda. The only item on the agenda to be changed was action item 10D, which was postponed in the last meeting by Ward 5 Council-

man Rick Stephens until the August 6 council meeting.

A motion was entertained and made by Ward 2 Councilor Eva Olivas with a second from Ward 4 Councilor Lucy Escovedo. The motion passed unanimously.

There were eight items on the consent agenda listed for approval during this meeting including the approval of special meeting minutes from June 11, regular meeting minutes from July 2, approval of the fiscal year 2024-2025 boards, commissions, and committees, as well as the approval and appointment of Iris De Leon to place six on the Parks and Recreation Board, and Kirsten Moody to place three on the Hotel Occupancy Tax Committee. Also, up for approval on the consent agenda were the FY 2023-2024 second-quarter investment report and the FY 2023-2024 third-quarter investment report as well as the approval of payment to Bojorquez Law Firm for the June 2024 billing summary. A motion

was made by Councilor Olivas with a second by Councilor Stone. The consent agenda was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda were brief reports from Alpine City Secretary Geoffrey Calderon and Director of Tourism, Chris Ruggia. Calderon briefly explained to the council about the quarterly summaries as well as the monthly summaries of what is taking place as far as meetings and financials. Calderon said, "These will all be posted on the city website, and I plan to post monthly reports going forward for all committees as well as council meetings. That way everyone who would like to reference anything can. I welcome anyone from the public to reach out to me if they have any questions."

Ruggia then gave the council a brief rundown of collections and visitations from three revenue sources that contribute to Alpine. First, he mentioned the sales tax, then the short-term rentals, and finally the hotels and the trends that he was seeing from

the past several years, noting that while sales tax was trending higher and STRs were volatile but trending quite high revenue-wise, hotel revenue, and occupation was trending slightly downward.

Alpine City Manager Antrim noted that there was a large spike in sales tax figures in February of 2022, and told the council that this was an anomaly and not normal, but that a local business had paid a large sum of sales tax that was overdue during that time.

In other business, the council also discussed and amended some wording on the city charter that they had sent to the city attorney to look at and finally, the council approved all of the action items on the agenda except for 10D which will be addressed at the next regular city council meeting.

The next regular meeting of the Alpine City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, August 6 at 5:30 p.m.

**EMC • FROM 1**

ties as the EMC include balancing his time between the Terlingua as well as the Marathon Fire Department, and the Alpine Fire Department, and ensuring that the county has what it needs to take on any event that transpires. "From a potential hazardous spill to a train derailment, we need to be prepared and ready. It's important to build relationships with everyone in the area from TXDOT to the Alpine Water Department to ensure that we all stay connected and informed so that the best possible outcome is reached in the worst scenarios," he said.

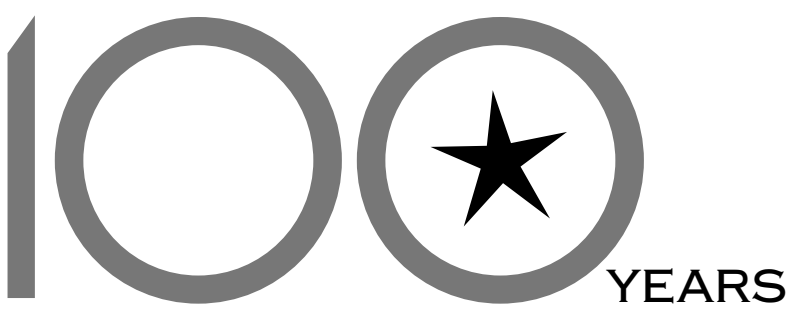
Etchison has experience dealing with disas-

ters such as tsunamis in Korea, hard freezes in Germany, to hurricane relief such as Hurricane Harvey in Houston. He also has performed search and recovery operations at Ground Zero just to list a few of his qualifications and accomplishments.

"I want to ensure

that something that big doesn't occur in Brewster County. We may be the largest county in Texas, but we are small in population, and I want to ensure that all 9,000 plus residents are safe knowing that they are being watched over and taken care of," Etchison added

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**LOOKING BACK**  
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AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY



July 19, 1946 (Above)

Hallett Lawrence of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma has been secured by the USO Salvation Army club to not only tune the club's piano but to also entertain the servicemen one night a week. Lawrence plays everything from the classics to boogie-woogie and does everything by ear and by touch because he is blind. He has also taught his wife, pictured here with him to tune pianos also.



July 19, 1946 (Right)  
Capt. Marvin C. Kay, commanding officer of the State Guard units in Alpine has announced that former Air Force Lt. Fritz Bill Weyerts has agreed to take command of the National Guard unit tentatively allotted to Alpine. Weyerts will hold the rank of captain in the new unit. Weyerts is currently employed at the Alpine Post Office.



Photos courtesy of the Archives of the Big Bend at the Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and the Portal of Texas.

July 28, 1946 (Left)

Dr. E. H. Westmoreland and Dr. Perry F. Webb will speak at this year's Paisano Baptist Encampment. Westmoreland is the pastor of the South Main Baptist Church in Houston and Webb is the pastor of the First Baptist Church in San Antonio. Attendees should be prepared for rousing sermons from these two distinguished clergymen.

July 25, 1918

(Far right photo)

Richard "Dick" Dudley is running for the Texas State Senate. Dudley responded to a raid on John Neville's ranch that resulted in his son being killed and his cattle driven to Mexico by border bandits. He stopped tending to his personal affairs, went to a conference in Van Horn of cattlemen, and then descended onto the state capital to present to the Texas governor what was really happening on the border. His quest was establishing a cowboy constabulary to protect the West Texas border from other raiding bandits.



**Glyphosate-only herbicide should take care of invasive vines**

Dear Neil: Is there anything I can use to kill off these unwanted vines (see photos) without harming my Asian jasmine?

That is a really impressive planting of Asian jasmine, and I can see why you would want to protect it. I believe you have Hall's honeysuckle, the wild form that has become naturalized (not a true native, but an invasive non-native). Everybody loves it when it blooms, and the birds love the fruit that follows the flowers, but that's where the problems begin.

What I'm going to tell you is not an actual recommendation. That's because this product is not actually labeled for use on Asian jasmine, but for 40 years landscape contractors have been using glyphosate sprays to kill bermudagrass in Asian jasmine plantings. They found out early on that it wouldn't kill the jasmine once it had taken on the dark green, leathery look by early summer. If this were my landscape,

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

I'd give that a try on one of the small outbreaks somewhere that wasn't especially noticeable. I'd buy a glyphosate-only herbicide in a ready-to-use formulation in a trigger-squeeze bottle. I'd try it on a couple of square feet of the vine. See if it kills the weed without harming the jasmine. If it works, then you could buy the more concentrated form (less expensive) and dilute and spray it. Just be sure you only buy a glyphosate-only product (no other herbicides mixed with it). Otherwise, you're going to be left with a lot of hand-digging of the weed.



Do all of this soon, before it spreads any further.

Dear Neil: We have a home property in East Texas where kudzu is threatening to cover entire yards - fences, even parts of houses. Is there any good way of controlling this stuff?

It's going to require a sustained effort, perhaps over years. Introduced from Asia to the South as a horticultural plant in the late 1800s, it didn't receive widespread plantings until the 1930s. The rest has become a leg-

end as it has clambered its way across the entire Gulf Coast. Its vines are tall, woody, and strong. If you try to dig it out, you'll have to go several inches down to get all of the root crowns. Trimming it won't be enough because it will just keep sending out new shoots. Cutting it back flush with the soil could eventually discourage big parts of it, but there probably would always be stems to resprout. Your best bet will be with foliar sprays combining glyphosate and triclopyr.

Bigger hardware stores and farm supply dealers will usually have these products. They are used both as foliar sprays for new growth in late spring, also for regrowth in late summer and in very early fall. Care must be taken not to spray up into the leaf canopies of trees and shrubs and not to allow the sprays to coat trunks, especially of young shade trees that still have green bark. When the kudzu is climbing large trees,

you'll want to cut the vine off at the ground and address the cut stumps.

If you'd like more information, Google "kudzu control in residential areas." I always include the word "university" in my searches to get the best information possible. For kudzu control, Alabama Extension and Auburn University have an excellent fact sheet by that exact name published on April 25, 2024. It is thorough and helpful.

**ACROSS**

- TXism: "if \_\_\_ rooster, he'll crow" (inevitable)
- gorillas
- TX Freddy Fender's "Wasted \_\_\_ and Wasted Nights"
- TX Bob Wills' "Take \_\_\_ Back to Tulsa"
- San Angelo is seat of \_\_\_ Green County
- TXism: "got as much \_\_\_ a hibernating bear" (idle)
- "Ben \_\_\_ Hospital" in Houston
- TX Audie Murphy 1955 film about his war exploits: "\_\_\_ \_\_\_ Back"
- TX Paula Prentiss film: "The \_\_\_ Henry Orin"
- TXism: "that's a fine how \_\_\_ do"
- people with no skin or hair pigment
- TXism: "beller"
- these are blue on the state flower
- TXism: "\_\_\_ a doornail"
- "Las \_\_\_ Wild-life Management" actress Taylor of Texas "Giant" (init.)
- Galveston got 15 inches in the "\_\_\_ Snow" of 1895
- TXism: "\_\_\_ got a prayer" (hopeless)
- TX Young Netflix series: "Cobra \_\_\_"

**DOWN**

- TXism: "if a hog \_\_\_ wings he'd be an eagle"
- agcy. that watches over the environ.
- Baylor County seat what GM operates in Arlington (2 wds.)
- some Texans ski here in New Mexico
- TXism: "strong enough \_\_\_"
- \_\_\_ (coffee)
- TXism: "\_\_\_ lap dog"
- most delicious
- cut off a branch
- Texas legal specialty: "oil \_\_\_"
- LBJ took \_\_\_ of office on Air Force One
- TX Nat who sang "Sweet Thang" (init.)
- TX Roy Orbison early group: "\_\_\_ Kings"
- TX Roy Orbison's "\_\_\_, Pretty Woman"
- \_\_\_ Kalb, TX is in Bowie County
- Nacogdoches is "The \_\_\_ in Texas"
- TXism: "a mess of" (2 wds.)
- 1967 hit: "I \_\_\_ Little Prayer"
- TXism: "he \_\_\_ to his own beat" (independent)
- a road Texans have to pay to drive on
- if your dog has \_\_\_, you're liable
- how to clean a bookshelf (2 wds.)
- \_\_\_ Smith County
- anno Domini abbr.
- TXism: "crooked as a dog's hind \_\_\_"
- ABC's Bret and \_\_\_ Maverick
- best possible
- father of TX singer Lefty Frizzell
- pots and \_\_\_
- unaccounted for soldiers (abbr.)
- TX-born singer Autry (init.)
- Texas' country noncommercial FM in Commerce
- "last year I kudn't spel engineer, now \_\_\_ won."
- TXism: "pushing up bluebonnets"
- TXism: "the real McCoy"
- rods and \_\_\_
- former Cowboy star, Emmitt (init.)

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# Sports

## Four Cowboys games rained out



Alpine ISD leases a charter bus to the Cowboys team for out-of-town games.

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN  
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys Professional Independent Baseball Team faced a challenging week with Mother Nature interrupting their schedule. Four consecutive games were rained out, leaving the Cowboys and their fans frustrated. However, a glimmer of hope emerged as the team finally hit the field on Monday, July 22.

The Cowboys' scheduled games against the Tucson Saguaros at Kino Sports Complex from Thursday, July 18, to Saturday, July 20, were all canceled due to rain. Sunday, July 21, saw yet another cancellation against the Roswell In-

vaders at Joe Bauman Stadium.

Despite these setbacks, the Cowboys showcased their resilience on Monday, July 22, when they took on the Roswell Invaders again at Joe Bauman Stadium. The game was suspended in the bottom of the fifth inning with Alpine leading 10-1 and two outs on the board. The game will resume on Tuesday, July 24, at 5 p.m. at Kokernot Field in Alpine.

In a brief interview, Cowboys' Head Coach Sean Persky explained the plan moving forward: "So we're going to pick up the game exactly where it left off. So, we're in the bottom of the fifth with two outs, up 10 to one over Ro-

swell. We'll play the full nine innings for that, and then the game that was more regularly scheduled for today will now be a seven-inning game. So, I guess you could say doubleheader, like half if you will."

The Cowboys, with a stellar record of 37-4, are currently four games ahead of Garden City. Coach Persky highlighted the significance of maintaining their winning streak: "As long as we keep winning through these next seven, eight games, then we'll have home-field advantage throughout playoffs, and we haven't had that since 2019. That'd be a really huge boost for us, especially if we continue playing the way we've

been playing and advance in playoffs."

Looking ahead, the Cowboys have a busy schedule with games planned every day through the rest of the week and into the weekend, provided the weather cooperates. The team and its supporters are hopeful that the weather will clear up, allowing the Cowboys to finish the regular season strong and secure a favorable position for the playoffs.

Stay tuned for more updates and coverage of the Alpine Cowboys' journey as they aim for glory in the playoffs. Let's show our support for the Alpine Cowboys as they push through the final stretch of the regular season!

*Courtesy photo*

## Lady Bucks gear up for 2024 volleyball season

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN  
Contributor

As the summer heat intensifies, so does the excitement surrounding the Alpine Lady Buck Volleyball team. With the 2024 season just around the corner, preparations are in full swing. Here's everything you need to know about the upcoming season.

### Important dates to remember

- Monday, June 29: High School Volleyball Parent Meeting at 6 PM in the AHS Cafeteria. This meeting is crucial for volleyball parents and players from grades 9 through 12.
- Monday, August 5: The first day of High School Volleyball practices kicks off.
- Friday, August 9: The Lady Bucks will have their first scrimmage at Andrews ISD.
- Saturday, August 10: Another scrimmage will take place at Midland Greenwood ISD.
- Tuesday, August 13: The first official AHS Volleyball games will be held at Fort Stockton in a dual match with Wink/Ft. Stockton.
- Tuesday, August 13: AMS volleyball practice



A Lady Buck volleyball player attempts a spike against an opponent last season.

*Avalanche photo*

**Alpine Sports Summer Training Schedule**  
GRADES 7-12  
AHS FIELD HOUSE WEIGHT ROOM  
Week six: July 29-Aug. 1, 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.

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**#8 JP VALENZUELA**  
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7 SOLO TACKLES  
2 ASSISTS

JP is a great leader in the secondary for the Fightin' Bucks. He always plays hard and has a great attitude.

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## Fightin' Bucks football to play commemorative game at Sul Ross

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks varsity football team will take on the Anthony Wildcats in the first district game of the season at Sul Ross' Jackson Field.

The game will take place on Friday, September 27 at 7 p.m. This will be the

only home game played at Sul Ross, and this year's game is to commemorate the many years Fightin' Buck Football was played at Jackson Field.

All Sul Ross students and faculty will receive free admission to the game with a valid school ID and the Bucks will honor their Alpine Middle School athletes prior to the game.

## Future ballers attend baseball camp



Area kids took to Kokernot Field last Tuesday morning to participate in the Alpine Cowboys' annual baseball camp. Participants worked on calisthenics, pitching, batting, and catching, and then followed it up with a water balloon fight against the team and lunch.

Courtesy photo

## Making the news



Annika Canaba, Sul Ross' new head volleyball coach is pictured here during an interview with Jensen Young of CBS7. The local news station out of Odessa interviewed both her and her dad and former head volleyball coach Troy Canaba, who has played a pivotal role in Annika's success.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Athletics

### Advertisement and Invitation for Bids

The City of Alpine will receive bids for the Wastewater Treatment Plant Improvements project until 4:00 PM on August 15, 2024 at 100 N. 13th St., Alpine, TX 79830. The bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at 4:00 PM on August 15, 2024 at 100 N. 13th St., Alpine, TX 79830.

Bids are invited for several items and quantities of work as follows: The project consists of the rehabilitation of Clarifier #1 and six (6) existing sludge drying beds. The replacement of mechanical and electrical equipment and concrete repairs are included for Clarifier #1. Replacing media, underdrain piping, and liner, and concrete ramp, runners, and walls repairs are included in the scope for the sludge drying beds.

Bid/Contract Documents, including Drawings and Technical Specifications are on file at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606.

Copies of the Bid/Contract Documents must be ordered online at [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Orders for Bid/Contract Documents may include hard copies for pick up, mail out, or digital download via [www.jacobmartin.com](http://www.jacobmartin.com). Upon verification of online payment, hard copies may be picked up at Jacob & Martin, LLC, located at 3465 Curry Lane, Abilene, Texas 79606. Cost for hard copies of the Bid/Contract Documents will be \$100.00 for 11x17 Plans or \$0.00 for Digital Download. Contractors must purchase a set of Bid/Contract Documents from Jacob & Martin, LLC to be considered a registered plan holder eligible to bid the project.

A bid bond in the amount of 5 percent of the bid issued by an acceptable surety shall be submitted with each bid [for those contracts that exceed \$100,000]. A certified check or bank draft payable to the City of Alpine or negotiable U.S. Government Bonds (as par value) may be submitted in lieu of the Bid Bond.

The project to be constructed will be financed with assistance from the American Rescue Plan Act and is subject to all applicable Federal and State laws and regulations. Attention is called to the fact that not less than, the federally determined prevailing (Davis-Bacon and Related Acts) wage rate, must be paid on this project. In addition, the successful bidder must ensure that employees and applicants for employment are not discriminated against because of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, or national origin. Adherence to the grant recipient's Section 3 Policy is required for all contracts and subcontracts.

SAM.gov registration is required to Bid. All contractors/subcontractors that are debarred, suspended, or otherwise excluded from or ineligible for participation on federal assistance programs may not undertake any activity in part or in full under this project. This will be verified upon receipt of bid and prior to the award. Minority Business Enterprises, Small Business Enterprises, and Women Business Enterprises, and Historically Underutilized Business firms are encouraged to submit bids.

The City of Alpine reserves the right to reject any or all bids or to waive any informalities in the bidding. Bids may be held by City of Alpine for a period not to exceed 60 days from the date of the bid opening for the purpose of reviewing the bids and investigating the bidder's qualifications prior to the contract award.

The lobbying certification must be submitted with the bid packet to be considered complete and responsive.

This project is being supported, in whole or in part, by federal award, to City of Alpine by the U.S. Department of the Treasury.

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City of Alpine Catherine Eaves, Mayor July 18<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>, 2024

## AHS Sports Meetings Schedules

For any questions contact Coach Smith at [arsmith@alpineisd.net](mailto:arsmith@alpineisd.net)

**JULY 29** — 6 p.m. Volleyball program meeting in the Alpine High School cafeteria

**JULY 30** — 6 p.m. Football parent meeting in the Alpine High School cafeteria

**JULY 31** — 10:30 a.m. AHS equipment pickup at AHS Field House for grades 9-10; 5:30 p.m. All Sports Booster Club meeting at AHS Library

**AUG. 1** — 6 p.m. Cross Country parent meeting at AHS Library

**AUG. 5** — First day of PRACTICE for AHS volleyball, cross country, and football

**AUG. 13** — First day of Alpine Middle School volleyball practice

**AUG. 14** — 7 p.m. MEET THE BUCKS at Buck Stadium (ALL fall sports for grades 7-12)

### LADY BUCKS • FROM 8

for middle school athletes begins on the first day of school.

• Wednesday, August 14: "Meet the Bucks" at Buck Stadium, showcasing all sports teams.

#### Exciting changes in the UIL playoff structure

For the upcoming season, the University Interscholastic League (UIL) has implemented new guidelines for playoff structures, impacting our 3A classification. Post-season playoffs will now split teams into Division I and Division II based on enrollment figures from October 2023.

Conference 1A: The top three teams from each district will advance to compete for a single state championship.

Conferences 2A to 6A: The top four teams from each district will advance, with the two schools with the largest enrollments bracketed into Division I, and the remaining two schools in Division II, each competing for separate state championships.

#### A word from

Coach Adrian Smith

"We are extremely excited to carry on the tradition and excellence of Lady Buck Volleyball heading into the 2024 season. New guidelines

### Sports Schedule

#### LADY BUCK VOLLEYBALL

**Aug. 9** Scrimmage vs Andrews (T) TBA

**Aug. 10** Scrimmage vs Midland Greenwood (T) TBA

**Aug. 13** Alpine vs Wink/Fort Stockton (FS) TBA

**Aug. 15-16** Best of the West Tourney-Wink TBA

**Aug. 20** Alpine vs Midland Trinity F @4:30 p.m. JV @5:30 p.m. V @6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 22-24** Nita Vannoy Tourney-San Angelo (Varsity only) TBA

#### FIGHTIN' BUCK FOOTBALL

**Aug. 15** Scrimmage vs McCamey (H) JV @ 6 p.m. V @ 7 p.m.

**Aug. 23** Scrimmage vs Pecos (T) JV @ 5 p.m. V @ 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 29** Midland Greenwood vs Alpine JV @ 6:30 p.m.

**Aug. 30** Wellington vs Alpine (in Abilene) V @ 7 p.m.

#### CROSS COUNTRY (TENTATIVE)

**Aug. 10** West of the Pecos (HS) @PecosHighSchool

**Aug. 16-17** Jim Ned Warpath Invitational (HS) @JimNed H.S.

**Aug. 24** Tall City Invitational (HS/MS) @Midland-Hogan Park

**Aug. 31** Crane Invitational @CraneGolfCourse

in the UIL have split our 3A classification, after playoffs begin, into big school and small school, based on enrollment numbers from the October 2023 snapshot. We are excited to compete in our new district realignment with Presidio, Kermit, Tornillo, and Anthony. All of these schools have great student-athletes and coaches. They will all be highly competitive and contested matches in district play. We look forward to our competition and having a great season of Lady Buck Volleyball."

The Lady Bucks were the undefeated district champions last season with an 8-0 record and

an overall record of 31-10. They also were the Bi-District champions, Area champions, and were regional quarterfinalists. The team also clinched the Best of the West tournament title and placed seventh out of 34 teams at the Nita Vannoy Invitational. They also received the American Volleyball Coaches Association Team Academic Honor Roll Award. Despite losing quite a few seniors to graduation, this season's team has six returning varsity players set to tackle the new district realignment. Stay tuned for more updates and coverage as the Alpine Lady Bucks embark on their 2024 volleyball journey.

# Avalanche Classifieds

**ERRORS** - Please check your ad the first day of publication. We are only responsible for the first incorrect insertion of any ad. Publisher's liability for damages resulting from errors in any advertising that it has agreed to publish shall be limited to the amount actually received by the publisher in consideration for its agreement to publish the advertisement in ques-

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**CANCELLATIONS** - All ads

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**ACCEPTANCE** - The publisher wants to do everything that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion

that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is not current.

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# Summertime means grillin' season

Summertime is the perfect time to get the fella or fellas of the house into cooking mode. While not every man is comfortable in the kitchen, most of them consider themselves the king of grill. What better way to have them cook dinner than to whip up some beautiful kababs.

The greatest thing about grilling kababs is that you can use your protein of choice, or you can just use vegetables by themselves. Better yet, make a combination of both and everyone will be happy. These are also great if you're limiting carbs or heavy or fatty foods.

The key to great kebabs is the marinade. Whether your kebabs feature beef, chicken, pork, or seafood, you want the marinade to be right. If you've ever had a protein that just was not quite right, it can likely



## HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

be blamed on the marinade.

My number one go-to ingredient for a beef, pork, or chicken kebab marinade is soy sauce. This salty, savory liquid easily infuses itself into the meat, giving it a delicious umami flavor that everyone is familiar with. And while we want our grillin' favorites to be restaurant-worthy, we don't want them to harbor a flavor profile that nobody is familiar with. Kebabs are more func-



## Honey Chicken Kebabs

Courtesy photo

tional than fancy, so keep that in mind when creating your marinade.

And what about your veggies? It is common to add onions, bell peppers, mushrooms, and zucchini or yellow squash. Cherry or grape tomatoes are a great addition also, and you can even use eggplant if you so desire.

Using multi-colored bell peppers is a great way to make your kebabs visually appealing, as is using red onions. These vegetables retain much of their color during grilling, so they look

much like they do prior to hitting the heat.

The other important thing to keep in mind when preparing your kebab ingredients is the length of time they spend in the marinade. The longer they are in the marinade, the more infused the ingredients become with the flavors and the better they will taste.

The next important aspect of kebabs is the skewers. You can easily find bamboo skewers at your local grocery store. They also make metal skewers, and either option will work. The important thing to remember with the bamboo skewers, however, is that they need to soak in water for at least half an hour or they can easily catch fire during the grilling process. A neat trick to use with these skewers is to use two of them per kebab. This keeps

### HONEY CHICKEN KABABS

Remove ¼ cup of the marinade to a small jar, seal and set aside to use while cooking.  
Add chicken, onions, bell peppers, and garlic to the marinade in the large bowl.  
Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for two hours or overnight.  
When ready to cook, preheat an outdoor grill for high heat and lightly oil the grate.  
Drain the marinade from the chicken and vegetables and discard.  
Thread the chicken and vegetables alternately onto the skewers.  
Place the kebabs on the preheated grill. Cook, turning frequently and brushing with the reserved marinade, until nicely browned on all sides and chicken is no longer pink in the center, about 12-15 minutes.  
Serve hot and enjoy!

**INGREDIENTS**  
For the marinade:  
1/3 cup honey  
1/3 cup soy sauce  
¼ cup vegetable oil  
¼ teaspoon black pepper  
Kebabs:  
8 skinless, boneless chicken breast halves cut into 1-inch pieces  
5 small onions, cut into 2-inch pieces  
2 medium bell pepper, cut into 2-inch pieces  
2 cloves of garlic  
12 bamboo skewers or as needed, soaked in water for 30 minutes.

**DIRECTIONS**  
For the marinade:  
Whisk the honey, soy sauce, oil, and black pepper together in a large glass bowl.

the kebabs from rolling all over the grill surface and allows them to cook more evenly.

The most difficult part of this satisfying meal is the prep work. There is considerable cutting involved, making sure that your vegetable portions and meat portions are not

too large or too small. Everything should also be cut up as evenly in size as possible for an even cook.

So, while summertime is still with us, grab your veggies and your meat of choice, and get to grilling those satisfying kebabs. Your family will thank you for it.

## Devotional Page

# Does God really love us?

BY PHILLIP FRANK

Redeemer Lutheran Church-Alpine

This very common question comes up often and in combination with this question: "If God is slow to anger, then why was His punishment so severe and long-lasting when man first sinned?"

Obviously, His punishment is long-lasting ... we are still seeing the effects of original sin today in each and every one of us, and in the world around us.

But was God's punishment too severe? I would argue the opposite – that His punishment was actually not severe enough.

To start, God created Adam from the dust of the earth and breathed life into him. (Genesis 2:7). And He created Eve from one of Adam's ribs. (Genesis 2:20-23). Making the mother and father of all humanity just mere creatures made from the dust.

God put Adam in the Garden of Eden to work and keep it. And God commanded Adam that he could eat from every tree in the garden, except for the tree of the knowledge of good and evil, "for in the day that you eat of it you shall surely die." (Genesis 2:15-17 ESV).

But the devil came along in the form of a serpent and deceived Eve by twisting God's Word, and "when the woman saw that the tree was good for food and that it was a delight to the eyes, and that the tree was to be desired to make one wise, she took of its fruit and ate, and she also gave some to her husband who was with her, and he ate." (Genesis 3:1-6 ESV).

But instead of dying that day, they lived another day ... and another ... and another ... until Adam lived a total of 930 years. (Genesis 5:5).

And although Adam and Eve were naked, God clothed them – not only in animal skins (Genesis 3:21) to cover the shame of their nakedness, but He also clothed them in His Grace and Mercy.

God took the severe punishment that SHOULD HAVE been directed completely onto Adam and Eve and all their offspring – us – and directed it at the devil. He said to the devil: "I will put enmity between you and the woman and between your offspring and her offspring; He shall bruise your head, and you shall bruise His heel." (Genesis 3:15 ESV).

The devil's offspring is only sin and death. Adam and Eve's offspring is the only begotten Son of God – Jesus Christ. Whom our Heavenly Father promised to them – and us – who would deliver us from all sin, death, and the devil on the cross.

"For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. For God did not send His Son into the world to condemn the world, but that the world through Him might be saved." (John 3:16-17 NKJV).

And even more, we can be sure that NOTHING can separate us from the love of God in Christ Jesus our Lord. (Romans 8:38).

Soli Deo Gloria!

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"If my people, which are called by My name, shall humble themselves, and pray, and seek my face, and turn from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven and will forgive their sin, and will heal their land." ~ 2 Chronicles 7:14

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**Acts 2: Verses 17-21**

**verse 17,** "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"

**verse 21,** "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

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## The song of summer

The Alpine High School Fightin' Buck Band kicked things off Monday morning in the band hall at AHS with the return of Mr. Chuck Wilson, who will lead the way this season for our Buck musicians.

*Courtesy photo*

## ANRS Exes hit the links for scholarships



Michael Cruz steps up to drive his ball towards the green as Darrell Lambert and J.J. Alvarado look on during Sunday's ANRS Exes annual golf tournament.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

## Recruitment and partnerships are a big part of success



Sul Ross rodeo coach C. J. Aragon talks up Sul Ross and their rodeo program and agriculture curriculum recently at this year's National High School Finals Rodeo College Fair. Aragon's recruitment skills and his dedication to his team's academics are a big part of his program's success. The team has recently partnered with Smarty Rodeo, a collegiate rodeo training program that will bring some new training equipment for this year's rodeo students.

*Courtesy photo*

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