

## County approves new roads

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Brewster County Commissioners Court held its regular meeting on Tuesday, July 23, at 9:30 a.m. Commissioner Pct. 4 Mo Morrow was not in attendance.

The first item of business was the approval of the minutes from the previous meeting held on July 9. The minutes were approved unanimously.

In the county judge report, Brewster County Judge Henington told the court that the first round of the budget for 2025 would require a special meeting for a budget workshop. This meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, July 30, at 9:30 a.m.

Next on the agenda was the review and discussion to add two proposed new members to the Brewster County Historical Commission. Julie Childs from Big Bend National Park and Phillip Carey from Alpine were unanimously

See COUNTY • 6

## INSIDE



FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2024 . . . . .9.02"  
July . . . . .4.80"



### 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.



## Master songwriters descend on Marathon

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The three-day Marathon Songwriters Festival is set to kick off once again August 8-10 in Marathon at the Gage Hotel and its properties. This event is the creation of Drew Kennedy who heads up the songwriting talent, bringing "a celebration of song and story in Far West Texas."

This year's line-up includes Kennedy, Josh Grider, Walt Wilkins, Kat Higgins, David Hodges, Melissa Fuller, and Davis

Naish. These talented lyricists perform in small, intimate settings such as the Gage Hotel's dance court, the patio at the Brick Vault Brewery and Barbecue, as well as the Gage Gardens. Performances include solo sets as well as collaborations, and even a DJ set by Josh Grider as he spins some of his favorite vinyls. Each year a raffle is held to raise money to directly benefit the town

See MASTER • 6



Songwriter John Baumann entertains the crowd on the patio at the Brick Vault Brewery and Barbecue in Marathon at last year's Marathon Songwriters Festival.

Photo by Joh Covington

## Local talent shines during music festival



The Calamity Creek String Band performed last Thursday evening at The Ritchey as part of the many acts that were a part of Viva Big Bend. Pictured are David Keller, Sam Cason, and Mateo.

Photo by Kylie Maroney

## Alpine ISD School Board tackles academic ratings

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine Independent School District (AISD) board of trustees held its regularly scheduled meeting last Thursday, July 25 at 5:30 p.m. in the school administration building. Single Member District-2 Representative Joe Portillo was absent.

After the meeting was called to order, local Boy Scouts Max Cramer and Cain Vidal led the pledges to the flag. Attending a local government meeting is one of the requirements the scouts need to complete a citizenship badge.

The first item on the agenda was the review and approval of the District Improvement Plan for the 2024-2025 school year. After a brief discussion of the goals, objectives, findings, and conclusions, a motion was

made by board trustee Mary McCallister with a second by board trustee Jimmy Morris to approve the plan as presented. This agenda item passed unanimously.

Next on the agenda was the athletic report given by AISD Superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart in place of AISD Athletic Director Andy Smith, who was detained at another meeting but later joined the proceedings.

Rinehart gave a brief synopsis of the report, telling the board about the new UIL reclassifications for state playoff games for the sports of volleyball, basketball, baseball, and softball. "This reclassification is based on our enrollment numbers that were submitted in October 2023. Our 3A conference will take the top four teams and advance to the playoffs. The two advancing schools with the largest

attendance from October 2023 will be bracketed into two divisions, division I and division II. Both divisions will play for state championships. Football is a bit different than the other sports. We are in district 2-3A for football, and our enrollment numbers were 303, right in the middle of our district. We fall into the 3A division II with our enrollment because the numbers for this division are between 254 and 368. This includes 100 schools. The teams we would face for football are Odessa Compass, Crane, and Anthony. For the other sports, Odessa Compass is not on the list, but Presidio, Kermit, Tornillo, and possibly the charter school IDEA Mesa Hills from El Paso as well as Anthony would be our challengers," Rinehart said.

Rinehart also mentioned that in Coach

Smith's report, he gave a big shout-out to Felipe Fierro, Derek, and Devin Rojo for their dedication to the Alpine 7on7 this summer as well as the parents and boys who participated. "The boys not only qualified for the state tournament, but their record at the tournament was 4-2. They did a great job representing Alpine," Rinehart added.

The next order of business was the approval of the consent agenda items, which included the minutes from the regular meeting held on June 18 and from the special meeting held on June 27. A motion was made by board trustee Dr. Adrian Billings with the amendment to the regular meeting minutes, adding that the pledge of allegiance was led by the Boy Scouts. A second was made by McCallister, and the consent agenda was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the annual approval of the cafeteria meal prices for the 2024-2025 school year. Rinehart told the board that this was their annual approval and that while all paid prices had increased 50 cents from last year, the reduced prices stayed the same. Breakfasts at all campuses were priced at \$2.25 for paid and 30 cents for reduced. Lunches at the middle school and the elementary school were \$3.25 for paid and 40 cents for reduced and at the high school lunches were \$3.50 for paid and the reduced price was the same as the other campuses. Breakfast and lunch pricing for adults who were non-employees of the district was set at \$3.25 and \$4.50 respectively, while employee prices were set at \$3.00 and \$4.25.

See AISD • 6

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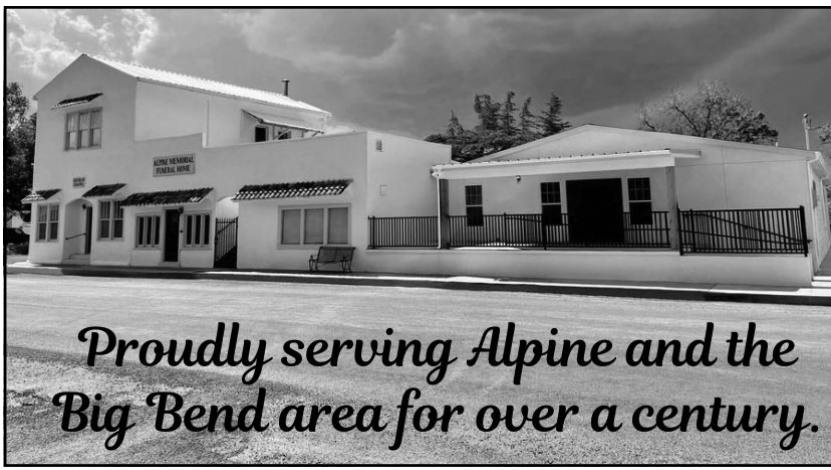
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## OBITUARIES

### Delpha Ann Rodriguez Molinar



July 1, 1958 – July 26, 2024

“I give you a new commandment: love one another. As I have loved you, so you also should love one another.” John 13:34

It is with deep sadness and heavy hearts that we announce that one of God’s most precious daughters and our beloved wife, mother, nana/gramma, sister, daughter, aunt, and friend has been welcomed into His Heavenly Kingdom.

Delpha was born July 1, 1958, in Alpine to Maria Del Carmen “Nonie” Espinosa Rodriguez and Louis “Wicho” Burgess Rodriguez. She spent her formative years in Alpine having attended Our Lady of Peace Catholic School before attending Alpine public schools.

Delpha married her loving husband of over 40 years Ruben Molinar, in 1983 where she took up residence in Alpine

for the remainder of her years. Her legacy is deeply rooted in Alpine where she served as director of Brewster County Industries, Director of the Sunshine House, and the Director of the Alpine Community Center. Additionally, she was also very active at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church, Catholic Daughters, Pilot Club, SRSU theatre department, and many other community organizations.

However, most knew Delpha for her amazing skill in her home business as a seamstress and tailor. She never looked

at sewing as a job because it was her joy and passion. If you are doing what you love, you never work a day in your life. Whether you were a client for 30 years or 30 minutes, she welcomed you with a smile and provided you with the best possible work she could from hemming a pair of pants to making your wedding dress, there was no job too big or too small she didn’t give 100% of herself to.

Delpha is survived by her loving husband Ruben M. Molinar of Alpine, daughter Adrienne D. Ramos of Rosenberg, son Anthony R. DeLaCerde of Rosenberg, grandchildren Angela Mason, Abby Mason, Michael DeLaCerde, Avery DeLaCerde, C. James Ramos, Jonathan DeLaCerde, Gabriel DeLaCerde, and Evan DeLaCerde. She is also survived by great-grandchildren Bryce Mason, Madelynn Hall, Ber-

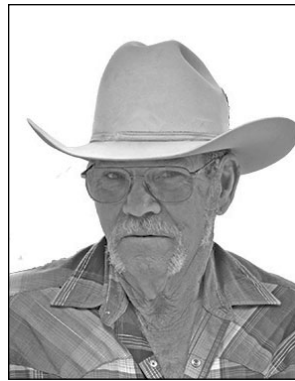
lin Mason, and Marlee Mason. She adored her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren and felt very blessed to live long enough to have them in her life and her in theirs.

She was welcomed into His Kingdom by her mother and father, sister, and nephew with loving and open arms to watch over us all for the remainder of our days. She is so loved and will be deeply missed by so many.

We cry because it’s over, and smile and laugh because we had you. Lived life your way, even if it all ended way too soon. In time, we will heal, but we will always remember you!

The family, in accordance with her wishes, will have a small, private graveside service at Holy Angels Cemetery in Alpine.

### Robert Garland Sims



Bob dedicated 42 years to his local and national communi-

Robert “Bob” Garland Sims, 78, passed away peacefully on July 17 surrounded by family at his home in Harper. He was born to Robert Walker and Pauline Sims on January 7, 1946, in Alpine. He married Patricia Airheart on June 6, 1970, at Dixon, Wyoming, and shared 54 life-filled years together.

ties through the USDA Wildlife Services program. “If you enjoy what you do, you never work a day in your life,” he often said, “and I never worked a day.”

Bob is survived by his loving wife, Patty; son, Robert E. and Jackie of Comfort; son, Jody and wife Molly of Harper; daughter, Crystal [Ceynowa] and husband Scott of Harper;

three grandchildren, Eleanor, Robert T., and Megan, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Bob is preceded in death by his parents and sister, Mary McFadin.

He will be laid to rest in Harper. A celebration of life will be hosted at a later date.

Funeral arrangements are under the care of Wright’s Funeral Parlor, Kerrville.

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## Cancer nonprofit to host Survivor and Scoops celebration

Midland nonprofit, Permian Basin Gifts of Hope has decided to host a day for all cancer survivors to celebrate their journeys and has partnered with local Alpine business Scoops Coffee & Pastries to host a celebration event for cancer fighters, survivors, and their families.

Gifts of Hope Executive Director Clint Dickson said, “This

event is a way for cancer fighters and survivors to connect with one another, but also celebrate their fight with their families. We also want to let everyone in the Tri-County area know they have a resource should they ever receive the devastating diagnosis of cancer.”

The event will be held at the Hope House at 2006 W. Tennessee Ave in Midland, on August

11, from 2 p.m. – 4 p.m. There will be a local cancer survivor sharing her journey, refreshments, music, and ribbon tying for all the different types of cancer.

For more information on Survivor & Scoops Celebration contact Clint Dickson at 432-218-8714 ext.2 or by email at clint@giftsofhopemidland.org or see our Facebook page at “GiftsOfHopeMidland.”

## TxDOT plans construction for State Highway 118

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Texas Department of Transportation has issued an alert for traffic traveling on SH 118 from the Jeff Davis County line to the north side of Avenue E in downtown Alpine.

Construction crews

will begin a surfacing and roadway rehabilitation program scheduled to begin on Monday, August 5.

Roadwork will include milling, asphalt overlay, new pavement markings, signs, metal beam guard fence replacement, and new curb ramps.

Crews will be working both day and night, and TxDOT asked that drivers please follow posted signage and flaggers during the construction.

This project is projected to be completed by the end of the summer of 2025.

## Boil Water Notice Rescinded July 24, 2024

On July 17, 2024, the Texas Commission on Environmental Quality required the Marathon Water Supply and Sewer Service Corporation public water system, TX 0220013, to issue a Boil Water Notice to inform customers, individuals, or employees that due to conditions which occurred recently in the public water system, the water from this public water system was required to be boiled prior to use for drinking water or human consumption purposes.

The public water system has taken the necessary corrective actions to restore the quality of the water distributed by this public water system used for drinking water or human consumption purposes and has provided TCEQ with laboratory test results that indicate that the water no longer requires boiling prior to use as of July 24, 2024.

**Your water is safe for use.**

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. Your water has been tested and is safe to consume. We greatly appreciate your patience and understanding during this time.

Thank you,

Bernice Martin and Becky Garcia  
Marathon WSC

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## Fire destroys striping truck



The remains of the highway striping truck that caught fire last Thursday evening sit in ruins as nothing but a burnt-out shell.

Photo courtesy of Alpine Police Department

BY KARA GERBERT  
 Managing Editor

Last Thursday evening around 5:30 p.m., multiple agencies, including the Alpine Police Department, the Brewster County Sheriff's Office, and the Alpine Volun-

teer Fire Department, were called to the scene of a vehicle fire on West Highway 90 around the intersection of FM 1703. According to information from the Alpine Police Department, the driver of the highway striping truck had pulled over due to a high heat alarm.

When the driver disembarked from the vehicle, he noticed flames near the rear of the truck. By the time authorities arrived on the scene, the truck was completely engulfed in flames, which ended in a total loss of the vehicle. No injuries were reported



## Training brings ideas and skills to Alpine ISD classrooms

Members of the staff from Alpine Elementary School spent time in San Antonio last week for a Capturing Kids' Hearts training that was focused on transforming classrooms into high-achieving centers for learning. These teachers learned how to teach their students self-management as well as team-building skills. Funding for the training came from the Effective Schools Framework grant received by Alpine ISD.

Courtesy photo

## Dancing the day away

Local kids hit the dance floor at the pavilion at the Alpine Visitor Center on Thursday to cut a rug to the vocal stylings of local artist Doug Moreland, one of the many acts performing during Viva Big Bend.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



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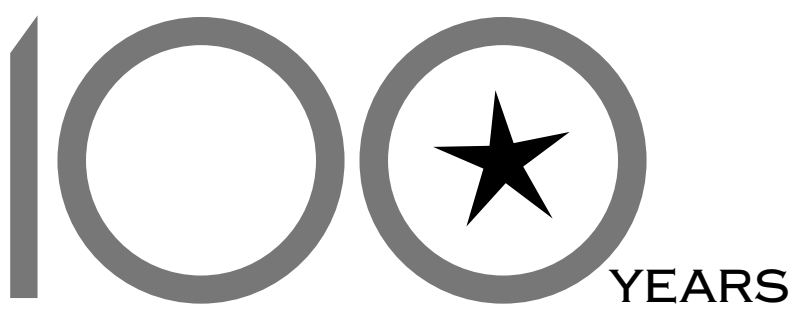
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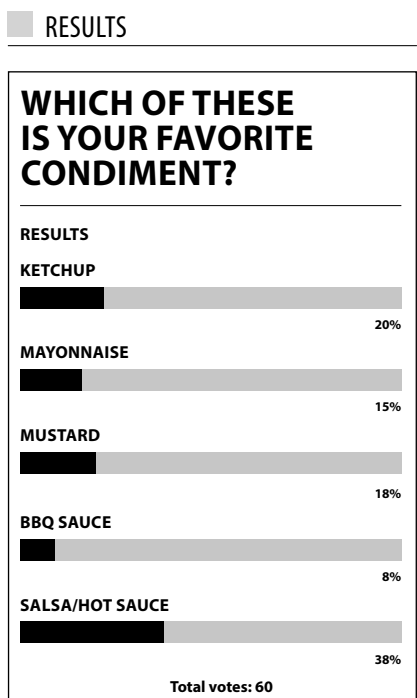
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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL



THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:  
**If you could live in any of these times in history, which would it be?**

- Bronze Age- B.C. 3300-1200
- Dark Ages-A.D. 500-1000
- Crusades- A.D. 1096-1270
- Renaissance- A.D. 1425-1600
- Late Modern- A.D. 1750-1945
- Contemporary- A.D. 1945 to present

Vote for this week's poll online at:  
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## LETTERS

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

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**Translating a Honk..**

1. Nice left turn Idiot!!
2. Nice right turn Idiot!!
3. Move it Moron!!
4. I'm 43 seconds behind schedule!!
5. That's an IMPORTED bumper, jerk!!
6. You're blocking my cellphone SIGNAL!!!

**The City Slicker:**

**The Bumpkin:**

1. Hey, Ear!!

HONK HONK HONK

## State Park Chronicles

Jump into adventure at Texas' largest state park

BY LAYLA SPURLOCK  
 Park Ranger-Interpreter

I first came to the Big Bend region in the summer of 2008 on a family vacation. I remember it being deathly hot and I vowed to never return. Who would have thought that just 13 years later I find myself back in the region as a park ranger at Big Bend Ranch State Park. I have come to love this landscape and the wonders that lie within it. When visitors think of the region the national park comes to mind with the huge canyon walls of Santa Elena or the Chisos Mountains rising steeply across the landscape. Hidden away is 315,000 acres of breathtaking beauty. Big Bend Ranch State Park is the largest state park in Texas. In fact, you could fit every other

state park into Big Bend Ranch, and over half of the park would still be empty. Around every bend is an adventure calling your name. Texas Parks and Wildlife purchased the ranch in 1988 and fully opened it to the public in 2007. You could spend a lifetime exploring the park without even scratching the surface. The park offers opportunities for hiking, backpacking, camping, mountain biking, rafting, 4x4 driving, stargazing, and horseback riding. If you are spending one day in the park, I would recommend taking a drive along the river road (FM 170); the dramatic scenery has been designated a Top 10 scenic drive by National Geographic. Along the river road, Closed Canyon is a 1.4 mi out-and-back hike through a slot canyon with towering

cliff walls, or take a 1.1-mile loop down by the river and around unique rock formations. Finally, wrap up your day by exploring over 500 million years of history at the Barton Warnock Visitor Center (located one mile north of Lajitas) or walk in the footsteps of those before us by traveling through the halls of Fort Leaton State Historic Site (located five miles east of Presidio). If you are spending multiple days in the area and feeling truly adventurous, drive into the interior of the park. It offers a unique sense of solitude, and everywhere you look the views are guaranteed to be awe-inspiring. Summers can be dangerously hot in the park. Often it feels like 120 F+. To ensure you have a safe trip please follow the tips below.



The hoodoos (right) are a common sight at BBRSP along FM 170 between Lajitas and Presidio

Photo by Matt Walter

1. Avoid strenuous activity from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.
  2. Stay hydrated. We recommend one liter of water per hour of recreation and eating plenty of salty snacks.
  3. Wear breathable, long-sleeved layers and a wide-brimmed hat.
  4. Apply sunscreen and a cool bandana around your neck.
- We want to invite you to the unique programs our rangers host to help you discover the magic of Big Bend Ranch State Park. Every month we offer star parties that showcase the wonder of the park's night skies. We also offer programs related to black bear conservation efforts, habitat restoration, river ecology, and the history of the park. To learn more about the park and upcoming programs please call one of our front country visitor centers at (432) 424-3327 or (432) 229-3613. We hope to see you in the park soon!

## One sentence to describe our life

"I'm going to finish my book of columns this year." — I said that. Which means I really have to do it now

Reviewing columns, you've written about people off and on for most of your life brings to mind some that stand out more than others. Like one I penned about a Naples resident while at The Monitor. During my first newspaper job. The date on it was May 13, 1976. Somewhere among the collections of good advice and old sayings, there is one admonition that Andrew J. Young of Naples has apparently followed throughout his life. "Keep a song in your heart." When I visited him recently, he showed me songbooks beside his bed marked with page numbers on the front. Selected pages reveal their significance where credits read "Copyright 1953 by Stamps Quartet Music Co., Inc. Words and Music by Andrew J. Young." A piece of letterhead stationery in a scrapbook announced Andrew J. Young — teacher, scoring for orchestra, arranging, songs, anthems, and choral pieces, composer, and editor. Born in Marietta, 82 years ago, Young said he was a farm boy until he was nearly 23. "I was raised on the farm," he said. But when I left it—I left it."

Music has been his life's work. "Been playin' the piano since I was five years old," he said matter-of-factly. "My mother sat me down in her lap and started me out just like she did my sister. Made me play five days a week, all the time I was at home."



LEON ALDRIDGE  
 Guest Columnist

Then leaning closer with a gleam in his eye, Young added, "I hated it. Thought it was something for girls only, you know, kind of sissy." "In 1917, I went off to the war. Wasn't quite 23 years old," Young remembered. "They gathered up several thousand of us and sent us to England. I had signed up for the Air Corps, so they put me in a group that trained us the basics of flyin' an airplane." "They flew 'Jenny's' back in those days," he recalled thoughtfully. "Didn't even have parachutes. Came home after Armistice Day and haven't been in one since." Young's thoughts drifted. He gazed, pointing toward the sky with his cane. "See that jet goin' across the sky?" Bringing his thoughts closer to earth, he continued, "I'm gonna fly in one of them someday, just to see what it's like." While his love has been mu-

sic, his labor has been a brick and plaster mason. Young said he's done quite a bit of work in the area, including the David Granbury Memorial Hospital at Naples and the school building and rock fence at the James Bowie School at Simms. "Mr. Andrew," as he is known by almost everyone, is probably best remembered for conducting the old singing schools that used to be a way of life in north-east Texas. Three-week affairs. Eighteen days, eight hours a day of the science of music. "I started teaching singing schools before the war," Young said. "Taught them all through the years. Taught 57 in Cass County alone. More than anyone living or dead." "You know, there's joy in takin' someone who can't even sing ... never even thought about carryin' a tune and teachin' them about music," he said. "Day before yesterday, I was in Wyninegar's (drug store)," Young laughed. "This fellow came up to me and said, 'I think I know who I'm talkin' to. You taught me in a singing school at Rocky Branch in 1915.' And I told him he was right, except it was 1916. I remembered it be-

cause I taught the one at Rocky Branch right before I went into the war." After working in California, Young said came back to Naples. "Heard that there was a lot of work goin' on in Texarkana. So, I moved over there and wound up stayin' several years." "The seventh day of August last year, I was brought to Naples and put in the hospital with pneumonia. Didn't know anyone or anything for 27 days. I was brought from the hospital to here at Redbud (nursing home) and have been here ever since. "With the help of the folks here and above," Young added, pointing his cane upward, "I have gained my strength back and can play the piano again and walk town every day." Still active in piano playing, "Mr. Andrew plays for various activities at Redbud. He maintains the pianos and keeps them in tune. In addition, he advertises actively for piano repairs and tuning work. If everyone were given one sentence to describe their life, Andrew J. Young could have done no better when he said, "Singing and playin' the piano ... it's been my life." — Contact Leon Aldridge at [leonaldridge@gmail.com](mailto:leonaldridge@gmail.com). Other Aldridge columns are archived at [leonaldridge.com](http://leonaldridge.com)

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Roman Empire, regions, creation of money that was worth less, or worth nothing, social instability, rampant immorality, and assassination. You don't have to look hard to find existing parallels in the USA today, with the most worrisome being the many Americans, like Nero, who only fiddle around while America burns. To identify the players who would allow America to fall it's best to begin within the U.S. Democrat Regime, then search for RINOS who assist in the destructive agendas of those Democrat players. With all this in mind, we should acknowledge there are still many Americans who really care about what happens to the USA. We can only pray they aren't too late to do something about the many self-serving players. God Bless America. James R. Le Blanc Fort Davis, Texas

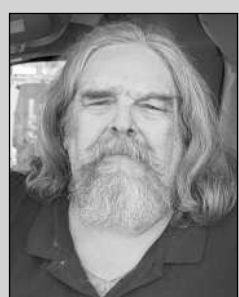


# Heard on the STREET

*Why don't Alpine restaurants have regular business hours?*



**Brenner Burgess:** It's a laid-back town.



**Woody Davis:** I was wondering about that. When I come down, they're either closing, or they're closed.



**Belen Losoya:** That's a good question. I have no idea.



**Sergio Rodriguez:** It's because of bad business hours. In Mexico, Mondays and Thursdays are bad days for restaurants. Also, the afternoon is for the siesta. But bars are open all day.



**Winter Sol:** I don't blame them. I understand not everyone here wants to work it's a constant revolving door of workers.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

**August 1 Alpine Public Library,** 10-11 a.m. Toddler Time and 4-5:30 p.m. Diamond Painting.

**August 2 Alpine Public Library,** 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. Tinker-cad Open Lab for ages 7-12.

**August 2 First Friday Song Swap,** 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. at Far West Guitars 114 N. 6th Street.

**August 6 Alpine Public Library,** 3-5 p.m. Summer Reading Program for ages 6-12.

**August 8 Marathon Songwriters Festival,** at the Gage Hotel. Visit <https://www.marathonsongs.com> for more information.



**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 Choral Rehearsals,** on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at [alegria@sulross.edu](mailto: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. Tues-

days-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.



*Music lovers enjoy the shade*

Tents, tables, and chairs were set up in the parking lot of Kishmish Plaza for music lovers of all ages to enjoy the free shows of Viva Big Bend.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## Locals usher in festival



Local musicians Bill Palmer and Wayne Sutton kicked off the Viva Big Bend weekend of music last Wednesday night at The Starlight Theatre in Terlingua.

Photo by Shawn Turvey

## Farm store serenades for Viva Big Bend



Emilie Klepper performs outside the Texas Farm Store Friday afternoon during Viva Big Bend. Klepper was joined by drummer Chris Rivera, Josh Baca on the squeezebox, and Will Dupuy on the upright bass.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

## PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Tank. Tank came into the shelter with his brother Tigger when they were found running loose. They had a history of escaping from a yard that was not adapted to contain them properly. They are doing well at the shelter and have not attempted to escape, but they want to be with people, not shut out in a yard, and left to their own devices.

Tank is a loveable big baby who doesn't realize how big and powerful he is. He is a 95-pound hunk of love who wants to be by your side. He does pull when being leash walked, he is very strong and could use more training on a leash. He would make a great companion dog for an individual that he could spend his time with, or a family with teens.

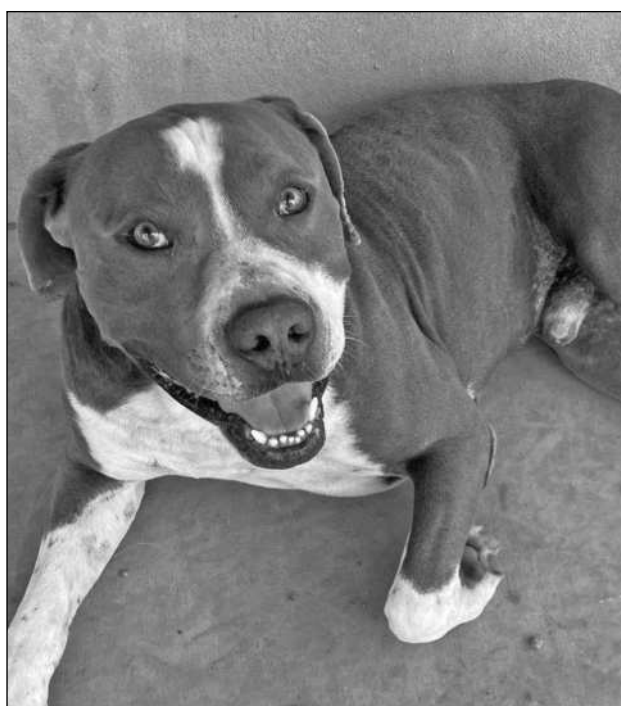
Remember, a dog is a 10 to 15-year commitment to a relationship, to care for this pet to the best of your ability which includes providing a safe and secure environment, exercise, and mental and emotional stimulation. Think long-term about what you can provide before adopting a pet.

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.

Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store accepts good quality, used items for resale. All proceeds help our Pet Food Pantry, adoption programs, and general operations.

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 Stuffed on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno cheese 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

## Coverage to live the life you want

- Auto Insurance
- Business Insurance
- Home Insurance



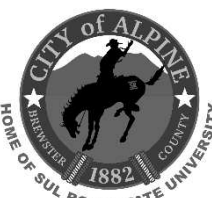
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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT CITY COUNCIL PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AT **5:30 P.M. ON TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024** REGARDING THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEM:

**CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN: 2025-2029 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PLAN.**

**RESOLUTION 2024-08-04:** RESOLUTION AMENDING APPENDIX B: BUILDING SERVICE FEES; SETTING THE RATES AND FEES FOR CITY BUILDING SERVICES FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2024-2025.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, AUGUST 6, 2024, AT 5:30 P.M.** IN CITY COUNCIL CHAMBERS LOCATED AT 803 WEST HOLLAND AVENUE TO HEAR CITIZEN VIEWS AND COMMENTS CONCERNING THE PROPOSED CHANGES. COPIES OF THE PROPOSED UPDATES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO [CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM](mailto:CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM). QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

COUNTY • FROM 1

approved as new members.

In other business, 911 GIS Coordinator Kayse Muratori brought before commissioners the request to shorten Horned Toad Hill road due to the fact that there is no legal easement beyond the last property owner living on the road. Judge Henington made a motion to accept the request to shorten the road, and the motion received a second from Commissioner Pct. 2 Sara Colando. The motion passed unanimously.

Another item brought before commissioners was the addition of four new roads located in the "Cielo Vista Ranch" area of Terlingua Ranch. Muratori noted, "All four of these roadways grant legal easement to all properties within this subdivision."

This item was also unanimously approved by the court.

The next agenda item was a report from the new Road and Bridge Supervisor Johnny Sal-

cido. The report included information on the hauling of more material to Wild Cherry Road for completion as well as upkeep of Post Park in Marathon. Salcido also told the court that his department had been mowing right of ways, doing some blade work on Mills Road and Bengé Road thanks to some rain the area has received, and that they were working on preventive maintenance of two maintainers.

The next item of business was a report from the Brewster County Emergency Management Coordinator James Etchison. Etchison told commissioners that he had been gone a lot recently, but his absence involved multiple trainings. One of the recent trainings was fire inspector school in College Station. "I learned a lot, and as part of what I learned, I have been looking at local restaurants and their fire safety protocols. The restaurants I've been to have received an informal inspection. I'm giv-

ing them 30 days to improve on the items that are important before I return for a formal inspection," Etchison stated.

Etchison also noted that all of the county fire extinguishers had been updated and were all working.

Judge Henington also remarked during Etchison's report about the fire school that is taking place down in Terlingua on the weekends. "This is going really well, and we have a few of our guys attending this training. I would ideally like to see something like this up in Alpine next year," Henington said.

Next on the agenda was a report from the treasurer's office. Brewster County Treasurer Julie Morton told the court that so far this year, the county revenue was sitting at \$6,180,000 with expenditures coming in at around \$5 million. Property tax collection as of June 30 still lacked 4% for total collection, and the year-to-date sales tax collection was \$757,000. The hotel-

motel tax collection was over a million, and according to Morton, there would likely be a surplus in that budget line item at the end of the year. "Unless the tourism department goes on a spending spree, I expect to have money left over in this budget line," Morton said. Expenditures for the hotel-motel tax budget came in just under \$600,000 for the year as of June 30.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the payment of invoices from the auditor's office as well as \$11,000 in line-item transfers. In separate motions, both the invoices and the line-item transfers were approved unanimously. The official financial report was also unanimously approved.

The final item of business was a report from the Executive Director of Tourism Robert Alvarez. Alvarez reported to the board that his employees would be set up on Wednesday as well as Friday at the Starlight and at the Gage for the

Viva Big Bend event.

"Also, that Saturday evening, the second game of the double-header that the Alpine Cowboys are playing at Kokernot Field will be Big Bend night and we will be giving out swag at the game, taking advantage of all the visitors in town as well as the locals to promote Big Bend," Alvarez said.

Alvarez also told the court that the marketing committee had completed their roughly \$ 1.8 million budget, to which Henington responded, "This is a bit late. Ideally, we should have had this in our hands already since we will address the 2025 budget for the county next week. Please relay this to your marketing committee."

Alvarez mentioned that he and his employees would be attending the TACVB conference in Austin on August 20-23 as well.

Earlier in the meeting, a brief conversation was held about the renovations on the old jail in Marathon. Alvarez stat-

ed, "Since HOT funds can be spent on historical preservation, I would really like to see the tourism council spend at least \$100,000 on this historic jail. It is a really cool piece of Marathon history, and I would like my council to be a part of preserving it for visitors to the area and the citizens of Marathon."

Alvarez also had two business items that needed approval from the court. First was a national parks guide put out by USA Today each year and a full radio ad campaign in the Dallas- Fort Worth area that runs the entire month of October during the State Fair of Texas.

Both tourism items were approved unanimously by the court with motions by Judge Henington and seconds from Colando.

The next regular meeting of the Brewster County Commissioners is scheduled for August 13 at 9:30 a.m.

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A motion was made by board trustee McCallister with a second from board trustee Haley Babb to accept the cafeteria pricing as presented. The motion was approved unanimously.

In other news, the board approved and accepted the quotes for both the renewal of insurance coverage through TASB Risk Management Fund as well as the student insurance coverage through National Health Insurance Company. The TASB Risk Management Fund covers all the buildings as well as the school vehicles, while the student insurance coverage will cover those students who may become injured on school property or while involved in a school activity such as a sports injury. Both agenda items were approved unanimously after a motion from McCallister and a second by Babb.

The board also approved the Region 18 Service Center programs, the student code of conduct, an addition of an academic course titled General Employability Skills for the Life Skills students, as well as the

interlocal agreement for the provision of law enforcement services with Brewster County.

The next item of business was a lengthy discussion about the local policy on academic achievement class rankings, particularly with the discrepancies in grading for advanced courses, with advanced and dual credit courses weighted as advanced and receiving 10 points, while honors courses locally designated would receive five points. Regular courses are uncategorized and would receive zero additional points.

Rinehart told the board that AISD has set that limit at a top grade achievable at 100. "Students who enroll in the dual credit courses may come back from Sul Ross with a grade of 118 or even a letter grade. With an A+ for a letter grade, that still only actually calculates on our scale as a 98. Dual-credit courses receive an extra 10 points that count towards the student's GPA, so a student who receives higher than a 100 from the professor would still only receive the 10 points, even if they made a grade of 118 or higher. Students whose professors send in a letter grade, if they receive an

A+, on our scale it is a 98, so a student with a number grade of 118 would end up with 110 points while a student with a 98 would only end up with 108 points. Even if they were taking the same class but with different professors, that's not fair or consistent to a student who still performed at the top," said Rinehart. Alpine High School principal Jarrett Vickers told the board that he and the new AHS counselor Amy White plan to meet with officials from Sul Ross to address this discrepancy to see if they can find a solution that would work for both schools.

It was recommended that a change to the policy begin with the class of 2027 since none of these students has yet been enrolled in dual-credit courses. The classes of 2025 and 2026 would remain under the current policy due to the fact that they have already completed dual-credit courses. The policy stated, "The district shall cap unweighted numerical semester and the final grade for dual cred courses at 100 prior to adding the weighted points; therefore, the highest grade used in the calculation of class rank shall be 110.


For students in the graduating classes of 2025 and 2026, a student must earn a final grade of A or B (100-80) in a dual credit course to have the weighted points added to the semester grades. Beginning with the graduating class of 2027, a student must earn a final grade of A, B, or C (100-70) in a dual-credit course to have weighted points added to the semester grades. The district shall record unweighted numerical grades on student transcripts." More discussion ensued about ranking the valedictorian, the salutatorian, and tiebreakers if students carried the same criteria. The motion was entertained and made by McCallister with a second from Babb to approve the changes to the local policy on academic achievement. The motion passed unanimously.

Finally, the board heard a few updates from Rinehart during her report before moving into executive session at 7:46 p.m. The next regular meeting of the AISD board of trustees is scheduled for Wednesday, August 21, at 5:30 p.m.



Alpine ISD School Board .

Courtesy photo

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of Marathon that hosts the event. Organizations such as the Marathon Public Library and the Marathon Volunteer Fire Department are just a couple of the ways the town has benefitted from the festival.

Kennedy, Grider, and Wilkins were all a part of last year's event, but this year the festival has some new faces.

Canadian Kat Higgins grew up singing Irish folk music and became a part of the family band in her teens, touring with them full-time and having some success on Canadian country radio. Higgins's songwriting drew her to Nashville where she's penned songs for Kenny Chesney, Cody Johnson, and Carrie Underwood just to name a few. Higgins celebrated her first number-one song on country radio with Kenny Chesney's "Knowing You." The song was also nominated for ACM Song of the Year. Her second num-

ber one, "The Painter," sung by Cody Johnson, was also nominated for the ACM Song of the Year. Currently, Higgins is working on her own album that is being produced by Chesney and Buddy Cannon.

Next in the lineup this year is David Hodges. Hodges is a multi-platinum, Grammy, and BMI award-winning songwriter and record producer as well as a founding member of the band Evanescence. His songwriting hits span two decades with hit singles such as "Bring Me To Life" and "My Immortal." He's also written Christina Perri's "A Thousand Years" for the Twilight soundtrack, "Atlas Falls" by Shinedown, and "Afterglow" by Ed Sheeran. Touted as one of the most sought-after, multi-genre songwriters in the world, he's also written for Keith Urban, Blink 182, Weezer, Dan+Say, Avril Lavigne, Jason Mraz, and more.


Melissa Fuller is no stranger to success her-

self. Moving to Nashville by way of Wyoming, Fuller has written work for artists such as Sara Evans, Walker Hays, MORGXN, and Lindsay Ell. Her background vocals have been featured on shows such as Saturday Night Live, Colbert, Late Night with Seth Myers, The Kelly Clarkson Show, and CMT Artists of the Year along with songs featured in ad campaigns for Xbox, FIFA World Cup, Songland, and America's Got Talent. After writing for others, Fuller released an EP, titled Whippoorwill, of her favorite unrecorded songs, and is working on a new solo project as well as several collaborations.


Last, but certainly not least is Davis Naish. Originally from Nashville, Naish calls Los Angeles home and has music in his blood. Naish's dad, Phil Naish is a producer, and Naish learned the art of production from him. Naish signed his first publishing deal in 2016 and then would later

join a production house formed by his mentor David Hodges. In 2021 he joined Kasey Truman at The Stable Music/Kobalt. Naish produces and writes across multiple genres including pop, sync, and country. Some of his collaborations include Eric Church, Lee Brice, Sam McPherson, Zolita, and Forest Blakk. He's also had music featured on TV shows, including Grey's Anatomy, The Rookie, Station 19, Lucifer, and many others.

As he stated last year, Kennedy said of the festival, "My goal with this festival is to keep it small, because that is the allure of the area. Keep the wild places wild, and the unknown relatively unknown." This year's all-star lineup is one for the books and is sure to inspire music lovers of all ages. For more information and to purchase tickets visit [www.marathon-songs.com](http://www.marathon-songs.com)

**SENIOR Spotlight**  
  
**CLANCY NEWMAN**

<b>In what activities did you participate in high school?</b> I am involved in High School Rodeo, Football, and FFA	<b>What was your favorite moment in the last four years?</b> Getting to play for the Alpine Fightin' Bucks
<b>Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?</b> I really enjoyed Mrs. Crump, because she's always happy and in a good mood and willing to help you with anything	<b>What are your plans after high school?</b> I am going to college rodeo and earn my degree and become a millionaire someday!

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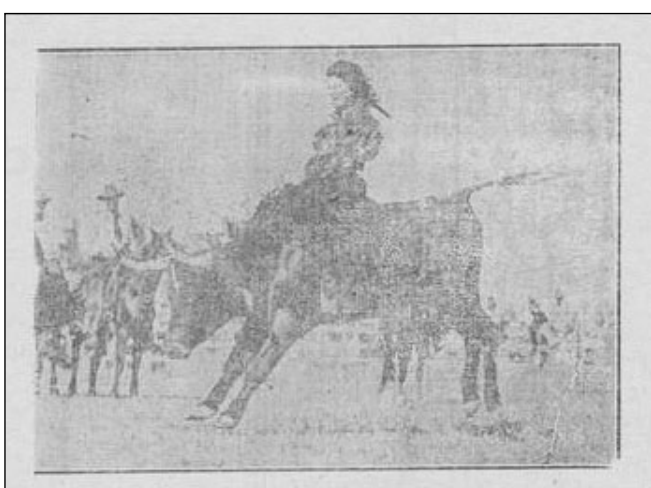
**LOOKING BACK**  
 Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY



August 11, 1921

Alpine's Presbyterian church welcomes new pastor Rev. J. A. McMillan. Parishioners say that the church was comfortably filled for his first sermon.



August 31, 1900  
 The engagement of Queen Wilhelmina of The Netherlands has been announced by the Lokal Anzeiger. The queen is set to wed Prince Frederick Adolf of Mecklenburg-Schwerin. The queen took the throne in 1890



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

August 9, 1923

The second annual Old Settlers and Cowboys Round-Up will take place Aug. 29-30. J.D. Jackson, the event's general chairman, urges every Old Settler and Stockman in Brewster County to come out for the event. He also encourages them to invite their peers from outside the area and wants everyone to know there will be a barbecue as part of the festivities.



August 18, 1921

Major John Garfield Emery of Grand Rapids, Mich., has been unanimously elected as the national commander of the American Legion during an executive committee meeting held in Indianapolis. Major Emery saw significant action as he was with the first group of Americans sent to France during the war.

**Melons need lots of room to sprawl at ground level**

Dear Neil: This is my first time to plant watermelon seeds. The vines have climbed my fence. Should I gently remove the vines and set the melons down on the ground or leave them alone?

Leave them alone this time. Rig up some kind of cradle out of an old pillowcase to take some of the weight off their stems, but otherwise don't try to move them. That would never succeed. In the future, plant them where they can sprawl far and wide. Melons need lots of room.

Dear Neil: Which varieties of double altheas do best? I have nice purple single ones I rooted from cuttings from my mom's house before we sold it. How should they be trained to grow bushier?

Every time I look at a list of varieties of altheas (roses-of-Sharon) I see several new names. I really do think you'll do well

**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
 by neil sperry

with any of them as long as you give them highly organic soil, full sun (but not against a reflective wall), and consistent soil moisture. The only problem I've seen any of them encounter has been cotton root rot in alkaline soils. I'd suggest you shop now while nurseries have good supplies of plants in bloom.

As to training them, if you want your cutting-grown plants to become bushier, the main secret is to prune out their straight-growing shoots to encourage side branching. That's

something you do from the time you put up the cuttings from the rooting bed. You could do so now if you haven't already.

Dear Neil: This red oak shades about 25 percent of my house. I recently noticed these small holes. Should I be worried about them?

Yes. You should have a certified arborist check your tree out carefully. These are holes caused by some type of insect, most likely a species of borer. The tree is probably under some type of challenge, and the dark bark you can see in several spots is a good clue. You want the professional help of a person who carries the credentials of the International Society of Arboriculture.

Dear Neil: What would have caused the bark on our oak tree to fall off? What type of borers, if that indeed is what caused it? What can we do?

I'm going to send you, too, to an I.S.A. certified arborist. Someone needs to see more than just these ultra-close-up photos of your tree. From my standpoint, I see very dry bark/wood just above the chunk that is falling out of the trunk. That makes me wonder if there might be active decay within the trunk. That would account for the blackened, wet-looking wood. I'm not sure I see any borers. Maybe I could convince myself there are a few holes in the upper right, but they don't concern me as much as the evidence of decay. Also, is that a girdling root that is stretched across the trunk at right angles? Initially, I thought it was part of the fallen bark, but I believe it may be a major part of the dieback. It looks like it has forced its way into the growth of the trunk. It needs to come out. Let your certified arborist look at it first.



**ACROSS**  
 1 book by TX game hunter Buck: "Bring 'em \_\_\_ Alive"  
 5 TXism: "liquid \_\_\_" (perfume)  
 6 on the Gulf  
 7 Fort Worth's Cullen was found not guilty in death of this Farr  
 8 Heisman winner Brown from Dallas  
 9 Kelvin Martin left Cowboys in 1993 for this Seattle team  
 17 hair cutting action  
 19 racetracks have to pay \_\_\_ fees  
 21 popular "emergency" TV show  
 22 this actor Busey was TX Buddy Holly  
 23 TXism: "couldn't find hide \_\_\_ hair of him"  
 24 TX Charlie Dunn was first to put \_\_\_ roses on boots  
 30 publication: Texas Farm & \_\_\_  
 34 Green Bay Packers' home state (abbr.)  
 35 TX Armstrong was stripped of his \_\_\_ France titles  
 36 TX outlaw booty  
 37 TXism: "counts his money with \_\_\_ measure" (rich)  
 39 TXism: "\_\_\_ as a coyote with a rubber chicken"  
 43 cheerleader cries  
 44 former U.S. Congressman, Ortiz

**DOWN**  
 1 bomb explosions  
 2 state capital  
 3 Texas-based Blue Bell products are richer & \_\_\_  
 4 Abilene FM radio  
 9 Oliver Hardy's "pardner" (init.)  
 10 San Jacinto battle lasted \_\_\_ min.  
 11 TXism: "fits like sardines in \_\_\_"  
 12 TXism: "skedaddle out of \_\_\_"  
 13 "\_\_\_ you can"  
 14 TX-born jockey Shoemaker (init.)  
 15 TXism for relatives road equipment not seen in South Texas (2 wds.)  
 18 flavor of 3-down: \_\_\_ cream  
 20 past winning Miami QB Bob  
 24 TXism: "keep \_\_\_ under your hat"  
 25 approving head bob  
 26 former Astro outfielder, Gonzalez (1990-95)  
 27 fire crime  
 28 in Lubbock County on U.S. 82  
 29 expel a foreigner from the country  
 31 state buildings are \_\_\_-smoking  
 32 Bowie's Alamo bed  
 33 aircraft hard to detect by radar  
 38 Goddess of Liberty atop Texas Capitol is aluminum  
 40 after lunch (abbr.)  
 41 TX V.T. Hamlin's comic: "Alley \_\_\_"  
 42 TXism: "got the \_\_\_" (clumsy)  
 49 "cement pond"  
 51 sarcastic insult  
 52 an "Achy Breaky" Cyrus (init.)  
 57 noted 1960s UT linebacker, Tommy  
 58 Denton's historic hardware store (now closed)

**TEXAS CROSSWORD**  
 by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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**BARGAINS OF THE MONTH**

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- DURACELL® POWER BOOST AAA Batteries E 137 898, 899 **8.99**
- YOUR CHOICE Duracell® 8-pk. AA or AAA Alkaline Batteries E 137 898, 899 **11.99**
- YOUR CHOICE Sterilite® 76 qt. or 19 gal. Modular Stacking Storage Box # 121 902, 909 **11.99** (SAVE 40% OR MORE)
- YOUR CHOICE Jobe's® 15-pk. Deciduous or Evergreen Fertilizer Spikes I 841 478, 480 **10.99**
- SAVE 40% OR MORE Folding Platform Hand Truck T 232 844 **39.99**
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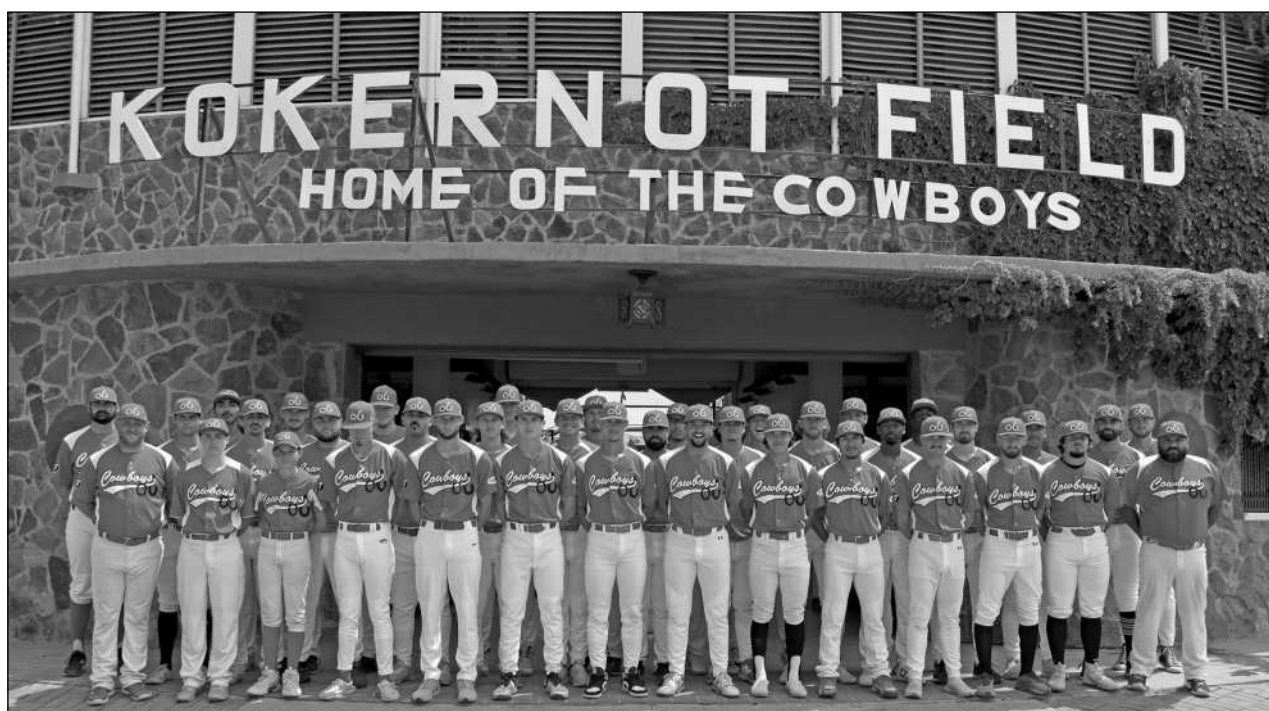
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# Sports

## Alpine Cowboys secure home-field advantage for playoffs after historic season



The Alpine Cowboys are the Mountain Division South Champions!

BY TRISTIAN BARRAGAN  
Contributor

The Alpine Cowboys capped off an extraordinary week of baseball, solidifying their dominance in the Pecos League with a series of impressive victories. Their remarkable performance not only secured them a record-breaking 45-4 season but also clinched home-field advantage for the upcoming playoffs. The Cowboys also finished the regular season as the Mountain Division South Champions.

The week began on Monday, July 22 with a game against the Roswell Invaders at Joe Bauman

Stadium, which was suspended at the bottom of the fifth inning with the Cowboys leading 10-1. The game resumed on Tuesday at Kokernot Field and concluded with a decisive 12-1 victory for the Cowboys.

Later that day, the Cowboys continued their winning streak by defeating the Invaders 5-1. Kacey Cheek was stellar on the mound, pitching six innings with six strikeouts and allowing only five hits. Offensively, Taylor Darden went 3-5, leading the team at the plate.

Wednesday saw the Cowboys in a high-scoring affair, outslug-

ging the Invaders 19-12. Brayde Hirai secured the win, while Josh Rego and Hirai himself contributed significantly at the plate.

On Thursday, July 25, the Cowboys faced the Pecos Bills and emerged victorious with a 7-4 win. Tyler Reistetter pitched two strong innings, and John Tuttle's 2-4 performance at the plate was crucial for the win. The following day, in a dominant display, the Cowboys crushed the Pecos Bills 21-3 at Cyclone Ballparks. Humberto Vela pitched five solid innings, and Drew Bayard led the offense.

The week continued with a doubleheader

on Saturday, July 27, at Kokernot Field. The Cowboys won the first game 7-3, with Dom Spinoso and Brendan May being key players, and the second game 11-3, where Spencer Persky and John Tuttle shone.

The week concluded on Sunday, July 28, with a 9-0 shutout against the Pecos Bills. Brayde Hirai pitched two innings with two strikeouts, allowing no earned runs, and Johnny Medina led the team at the plate.

The Alpine Cowboys finished the season with a 45-4 record, the best in league history. Head

See COWBOYS • 9

Photo by Julie Myers

## Former Lobo is living the dream

BY PETER DINDINGER  
Contributor

It can be a grind playing in the independent professional Pecos League.

For Peyton Kennard, a former Sul Ross State catcher, he's been taking advantage of every opportunity.

As of mid-July, Kennard has played in nine games with the Alpine Cowboys while he has put together a .429 average with 15 hits, four doubles, and 12 runs batted in.

The numbers are solid enough to make Kennard a member of the Pecos League all-star team.

Alpine boasted 11 all-stars, the most of any team in the mountain division. Manager Sean Persky will be at the helm of the south squad for the fourth time in the last five seasons.

This summer's all-star game took place in Santa Fe, New Mexico, at Fort Marcy Park on Sunday, July 14.

"I'm honestly really excited. It is nice to be recognized for success at times," said Kennard about being named an all-star.

Kennard got off to a hot start, going 7 for 12 with two doubles and three RBI. He went 3 for 4 with two doubles and an RBI in his debut against the Pecos Bills back on May 30.

In his next two plate

appearances, he drove in three runs as he went 4 for 7 with two doubles against the Santa Fe Fuego and Tucson Saguaros.

Kennard had a breakout game against the Fuego where he belted two home runs and drove in six runs to finish 4 for 5 to help the Cowboys to a dominating 28-4 win.

This past spring, he wrapped up his collegiate career at Sul Ross State.

Kennard hit five home runs and tallied 25 RBI for the Lobos as he played and started in 34 games. He also recorded 31 hits and six doubles with a bat-

See DREAM • 9



Peyten Kennard, former Sul Ross Lobo, stands at-bat as an Alpine Cowboy

Photo by Julie Meyer

## SRSU Rodeo continues to build a strong team

The Sul Ross State University Rodeo team continues to make strides, both in rodeo and academically. Under the direction of coach C.J. Aragon, the team has had 37 students graduate in the past two years, with several of them still competing professionally in their respective events and doing well.

"With graduation, we have lost a lot of talent, but the numbers are up for this next season. We have a good balance of junior college transfers and incoming freshmen for the team," Aragon told the Avalanche.

Aragon said he spent more time on the road this year recruiting than he had in the past, but that the students he has inspired to come on board are quite impressive. His returning group is also a tough group of competitors. According to Aragon, the team has been returning most of last season's competitors despite those who graduated, as many are returning to work on their master's degrees. The biggest issue the team faced last season was injuries.

This year, the team has around eight members who could see themselves at the College National Finals if they can stay healthy and keep competing at



Kallen Johnson competes at this year's College National Finals Rodeo in tie-down roping.

Courtesy photo

the level they're currently maintaining.

Oregon cowboy Garrett Blackwell is a junior bareback rider

who finished ninth in the region; however, he has four contenders in front of him who are ranked in the top 20

in the world standings. "Garrett made huge improvements from his

See RODEO • 9

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

**#11 LOGAN SMITH**  
Running Back / Linebacker / Kick Returner

Odessa Compass Game  
30 carries for 257 Yards Rushing and 4 Rushing Touchdowns.  
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**DREAM • FROM 8**

ting average of .263. He earned American Southwest Conference Co-Hitter of the Week honors after he went 7 for 12 with four home runs and eight RBI during a three-game sweep of Hardin-Simmons back in March. The biggest adjustment from college to the independent leagues has been seeing harder pitching. “Honestly, it’s just trusting in myself, staying in the moment and not adding too much pressure,” Kennard said. “It’s a hard game to play. If you can stay calm, you’ll be a lot more successful doing that.” The Cowboys were 34-3, the

best record in the Pecos League with a 13-game lead over Tucson in the south division by the middle of July. Alpine started off the year 12-0. The franchise made history when it won 16 games in a row, setting a new club record. It definitely seems like a Pecos League title is within grasp this season, which is something the Cowboys haven’t achieved since the 2019 and 2012 seasons. “It’s very refreshing. In college, we didn’t have that many great seasons. It was still fun. I enjoyed my time at Sul Ross, but obviously winning makes everything better,” Kennard said. “The vibes and mood are better in the locker room. I think

it’s good for the town. It brings more fans out for us.” Coming out of college, Kennard was fortunate enough to already be in Alpine compared to his teammates who made long treks from New York, Indiana, Florida, Idaho, Washington, and California. Since spring training started in mid-May, the Cowboys have been on the field every day which can be a taxing experience for a player straight out of college. Kennard is all about living in the moment. “When I do get my opportunity is when I focus on trusting myself,” he added. “I know I’m good enough to be here. I trust myself to get the job done, so I

just have to prove it. “I’m very fortunate. Not a lot of guys get this opportunity. This was probably one of the greatest things in my career that has ever happened to me. To be able to play at this level was a dream come true.” Climbing the ladder of professional baseball is a hard journey, especially when the starting line is in the Pecos League. Only a handful of Pecos League players have been able to make it to the show. Jon Edwards, a pitcher who had a short stint with the Cowboys in 2011, rose through the minor leagues to eventually play with the Texas Rangers in 2014. Yermin Mercedes, a power-hitting catcher and third base-

man, went from hitting 15 home runs in the Pecos League with the former White Sands Pupfish in 2014 to becoming an everyday starter with the Chicago White Sox in 2021. For Kennard, he plans on playing the game for as long as he can. “I know it’s going to be challenging to get there. I just have to keep playing my game of baseball,” he said. “As of right now, I’m going to continue playing until I can’t. The dreams are still there.” The Cowboys ended their regular season with a record of 45-4, clinching the title of Mountain Division South Champions.

**RODEO • FROM 8**

freshman and sophomore years. He has been doing well at rodeos all summer, and we’re excited to see how much progress he’ll make this year,” said Aragon. Cameron Haumea, a junior from Honolulu, Hawaii, and Zane Cline, a sophomore from Yeso, New Mexico, chose to spend the summer in Alpine practicing. “Both Cameron and Zane have had a lot of success this summer at PRCA rodeos in the Southwest. They’ve both put in a lot of work practicing and have improved a lot this summer. They will be contenders in the fall,” Aragon stated. Amarillo cowboy Kallen Johnson is a graduate student and the defending Southwest Region champion tie-down roper. According to Aragon, he’s proven he can win in the highly competitive Southwest Region, and he believes he will once again be a contender for that title. Canadian cowboy Tanner Skene is a senior from Prince Albert, Saskatchewan. “When Tanner’s been healthy, he has been a contender in the bull riding for the Southwest Region. He’s spent the last two years

battling injuries, but this summer has been good for him while competing at the professional level. He looks good to carry this momentum over to the college arena,” Aragon said. Skene is also a two-time NIRA Scholar All-American. For the women’s team, Aragon says he has two standouts currently. More Canadians have joined the Sul Ross team. Cowgirl Kasha Borsy, a freshman from High River, Alberta, is a highly touted recruit who should immediately contribute to the women’s team in several events. And last, but certainly not least, Falyn Thomson, a junior from Longview, Alberta is a junior college transfer that finished fifth in the nation in the breakaway roping at the CNFR in June. “Thomson will bring leadership and a winning attitude to the Sul Ross Women’s Rodeo team,” Aragon says. All in all, Aragon is looking forward to a productive 2024-2025 rodeo season, with a strong group of returning members as well as the talented up-and-comers looking to make a statement in the Southwest region college rodeo circuit.

**COWBOYS • FROM 8**

Coach Sean Persky reflected on the historic season, saying, “So, games last week finished off the year really strong. Finished with a 45 and 4 record for the best record in league history. So, that was pretty cool, and we’re looking into it to see if it’s the best winning percentage in professional baseball history.” The Cowboys also celebrated individual achievements, including veteran outfielder Drake Angeron setting both the franchise’s all-time stolen base record and the single-season stolen base record with 78 stolen bases. With their first-round bye, the Cowboys will start the playoffs at home on August 1 or 2, depending on the outcome of the wild card round between Tucson and Roswell. Coach Persky expressed confidence in his team’s momentum, saying, “As long as we can keep doing what we’ve been doing, in terms of having

the momentum going our way, guys continuing to play their style of baseball, working hard, and, you know, having the pitching staff be extremely dialed in, and limiting what opposing teams are able to do offensively, things have been going well for us. Just got to be able to capitalize with runners in scoring position for us offensively, and no one in the league could beat us.” The Alpine Cowboys will face either Tucson or Roswell in the best-of-three series for the Mountain Division South Championship. The winners will then compete for the Mountain Division title, and ultimately, the Pecos League Championship. With a record-breaking season and home-field advantage, the Alpine Cowboys are poised for a deep playoff run. Fans can look forward to thrilling playoff action starting this week at Kokernot Field in Alpine. Go Support your hometown team: The Alpine Cowboys!

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE**

The \_\_\_\_\_ Terlingua Common School District \_\_\_\_\_ will hold a public meeting at \_\_\_\_\_ 6:00 PM on August 14, 2024 \_\_\_\_\_ in \_\_\_\_\_ the Big Bend High School Room \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ 550 Roadrunner Circle, Terlingua, TX 79852 \_\_\_\_\_. **The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district’s budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.**

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

<b>Maintenance Tax</b>	\$	<u>0.66920</u>	/	\$100 (Proposed rate for maintenance and operations)
<b>School Debt Service Tax</b>	\$	<u>0.0</u>	/	\$100 (proposed rate to pay bonded indebtedness)
<b>Approved by Local Voters</b>				

---

**Comparison of Proposed Budget with Last Year’s Budget**

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

Maintenance and operations	<u>2.05</u>	% increase	or	_____	% (decrease)
Debt service	<u>n/a</u>	% increase	or	<u>n/a</u>	% (decrease)
Total expenditures	<u>2.05</u>	% increase	or	_____	% (decrease)

---

**Total Appraised Value and Total Taxable Value (as calculated under Tax Code Section 26.04)**

	<b>Preceding Tax Year</b>	<b>Current Tax Year</b>
Total appraised value* of all property	\$ <u>213,806,790</u>	\$ <u>187,155,581</u>
Total appraised value* of new property**	\$ <u>9,426,341</u>	\$ <u>6,948,751</u>
Total taxable value*** of all property	\$ <u>189,558,040</u>	\$ <u>158,868,051</u>
Total taxable value*** of new property**	\$ <u>9,108,774</u>	\$ <u>6,816,946</u>

\* “Appraised value” is the amount shown on the appraisal roll and defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(8).  
\*\* “New property” is defined by Tax Code Section 26.012(17).  
\*\*\* “Taxable value” is defined by Tax Code Section 1.04(10).

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**Bonded Indebtedness**

Total amount of outstanding and unpaid bonded indebtedness\* \$ 0.0

\* Outstanding principal.

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50-280 (Rev. 4-22/6) (Back)

**Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year’s Rates**

	<b>Maintenance &amp; Operations</b>	<b>Interest &amp; Sinking Fund*</b>	<b>Total</b>	<b>Local Revenue Per Student</b>	<b>State Revenue Per Student</b>
<b>Last Year’s Rate</b>	\$ 0.66920	\$ 0.0 *	\$ 0.66920	\$ 9,577	\$ 5,164
<b>Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance &amp; Operations Revenue &amp; Pay Debt Service</b>	\$ 0.67147	\$ 0.0 *	\$ 0.67147	\$ 10,180	\$ 4,561
<b>Proposed Rate</b>	\$ 0.66690	\$ 0.0 *	\$ 0.66690	\$ 10,287	\$ 4,884

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

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**Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year’s Levy on Average Residence**

	<b>Last Year</b>	<b>This Year</b>
Average Market Value of Residences	\$ 119,586	\$ 138,316
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$ 54,617	\$ 29,097
Last Year’s Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$ 0.66920	\$ 0.66920
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$ 365.50	\$ 194.71
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (170.79)

**Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.**

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**Notice of Voter-Approval Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is 0.66920. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the voter-approval rate of 0.66920.**

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**Fund Balances**

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operations Fund Balance(s)	\$ 2,014,300
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$ 0.0

A school district may not increase the district’s maintenance and operations tax rate to create a surplus in maintenance and operations tax revenue for the purpose of paying the district’s debt service.

---

Visit [Texas.gov/PropertyTaxes](https://www.texas.gov/PropertyTaxes) to find a link to your local property tax database on which you can easily access information regarding your property taxes, including information about proposed tax rates and scheduled public hearings of each entity that taxes your property.

The 86th Texas Legislature modified the manner in which the voter-approval tax rate is calculated to limit the rate of growth of property taxes in the state.

# 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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**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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**EMAIL** - Send your Classified Ads to the Alpine Avalanche by email at shelly.maroney@alpineavalanche.com.

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of George H. Pitlik, Deceased**, were issued on July 23, 2024, under Docket No. PR03171, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Janet Ann Stewart.


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

Representative,  
Estate of George H. Pitlik, Deceased  
c/o Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney at Law  
LAW OFFICE OF ELIZABETH J. LEWIS, PLLC  
P.O. Box 101  
Marathon, Texas 79842

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

DATED July 27, 2024

Janet Ann Stewart

By:   
Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Representative



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# In honor of the 33rd Olympiad: Host a French-inspired watch-party menu

The games of the 33rd Olympiad are well underway in Paris, France, this week, with the opening ceremonies kicking off this year's Summer Games this past Friday. And what better way to celebrate our U.S. athletes at home than an Olympic watch party.

With the games being held in France, creating a menu with some French foods is in keeping with the theme.

True to French tradition, the people of that country take everything up a notch whether it be fashion or the pursuit of edible bliss. Their style of cooking uses just that much more butter, cream, cheese, or just more flavor than others. They do everything in search of the pinnacle of decadence, and this is true in this irresistible food. We're talking about a Croq Monsieur.

While the name of this French delight sounds



## HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

super fancy and complicated, it really is quite simple. So, don't let the name deter you. Hit that kitchen as hard as an offensive run by LeBron James or a 1500-meter freestyle event like Katie Ledecky. Overcome your fear of failure by focusing on the unbelievable flavor you'll enjoy once this dish is at the finish line.

Let's discuss the Croq Monsieur. What is it, you ask? Well, it's nothing more than an over-the-top hot ham and cheese sandwich. What we mean



Croq Monsieur

by over the top is that not only does it add a Bechamel or mornay sauce, but it can use multiple types of cheese. In other words, this ham and cheese sandwich is much more than the two main ingredients thrown

into some basic bread.

While there are many other traditional dishes one might consider for your Olympic watch party, sandwiches, in the French tradition, are a great way to go.

Courtesy photos

## CROQ MONSIEUR

### INGREDIENTS

- Bechamel:**  
 ½ cup milk  
 ½ cup heavy cream  
 1 ½ tablespoons unsalted butter  
 1 ½ tablespoons flour  
 ¼ teaspoon salt  
 Pinch of white pepper  
 1/8 teaspoon nutmeg
- Sandwich:**  
 4 slices sourdough bread  
 8 slices Swiss or gruyere cheese  
 4 ounces ham slices  
 1 tablespoon Dijon mustard  
**Topping:**  
 ½ cup gruyere cheese  
 3 tablespoons parmesan

### DIRECTIONS

- Bechamel sauce:**  
 Heat the milk and cream in a saucepan until just hot.  
 In another pan, make the roux by melting the butter then adding in the flour and cooking over low heat for around three minutes to cook out the raw flour taste. Don't let it become golden, you want it to be white.  
 Add half the hot milk mixture while stirring constantly, to make the sauce lump free. Once the milk

is incorporated add the rest of the milk and mix until combined.

Cook, stirring constantly until the mixture is thick enough to spread like peanut butter. Once it's thickened, remove it from stove and set aside.

### To assemble:

Spread the untoasted sourdough bread with the bechamel sauce.

Place two slices of cheese on top, folding as needed to make them fit. Spread Dijon mustard on top of the cheese.

Layer on ham and spread more Dijon on top of the ham.

Add another layer of cheese and spread bechamel on the other piece of bread.

### Close the sandwich.

Using melted butter, pan fry the sandwich in the skillet and then place the sandwich on a tray and slather with the remaining bechamel sauce.

Sprinkle the sandwich with gruyere and then parmesan cheese.

Place in a preheated 400-degree oven and bake for 15 minutes then switch to the broiler setting for three minutes.

Remove from oven and serve.

# Devotional Page

## Prayers and Acts of Love

BY LANA COVINGTON

First Christian Church, Alpine

I enjoy living in a remote area, but I also like to keep in touch with what people are thinking outside my little corner. Fortunately, through various kinds of media, I can do that. One way is to read articles that are posted by news and social media. Some of the most interesting things I learn are not in the article itself but in the comments that people make about the article.

I was reading an article the other day about the recent tornado in Valley View, and someone had posted, "Pray Valley View." It is not uncommon to see that phrase in the material posted by my Facebook friends. Most of them share my belief in the power of prayer and frequently ask for prayer or pledge to pray when there is a need. But not everyone shares that belief. In response to calls for prayer, they comment such things as, "Don't pray. It's a waste of time. Send money." Someone said, "I would rather see 10 people helping with the clean-up than 100 people wringing their hands and praying." Such responses to calls to prayer are not at all uncommon, and I began to wonder why people have come to the belief that prayer does no good and that those who pray neglect to take any action to help people. Has their observation and

experiences of Christians brought them to these conclusions?

Jesus is a model for both prayer and acts of love. He often left the disciples to be alone and pray; and He performed acts of love through His compassion, healing, miracles, and, finally, His death on the cross.

Philippians 4:6 – 7 tells us to approach God in prayer, not with wringing hands, but with thanksgiving: "Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." Ephesians 2:10 tells us that God has work for us to do: "For we are what he has made us, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." It is not a matter of doing one or the other but of doing both. My hope is that both prayer and acts of love are the way of life for you and me. Then, perhaps people will see that the prayers, instead of being a waste of time, are powerful (Matthew 5:16); and perhaps they will see our acts of love and glorify our Father in heaven (James 5:16).

Finally, I want to commend our little part of the world for its response to the recent fire downtown. We have both prayed and acted, and the results have been amazing. Let's keep it up. Amen.

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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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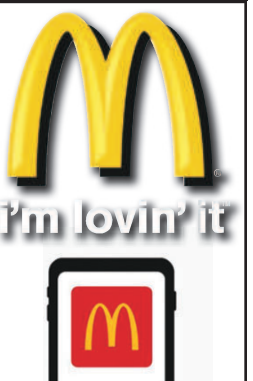


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## The Starlight kicks off Viva Big Bend



Wednesday night's headline Keegan McInroe, kicked off the Viva Big Bend weekend at The Starlight in the Terlingua Ghosttown. McInroe is just one of over 60 musical artists who performed for the annual music festival over the weekend.

*Photo by Shawn Turvey*

## Howling at the moon



The wooden carving of a wolf, made by Fort Davis artist Doug Moreland, is aligned perfectly as part of the new dark skies mural painted by Monty Welt and Chris Ruggia next to the Alpine Visitor's Center. The mural was presented Thursday afternoon during Viva Big Bend as part of the many event spaces hosting music in Alpine.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

## Alpine's Viva kicks off at Kishmish



The opening show in Alpine hit the stage at 1 p.m., Thursday afternoon, in front of Kishmish Plaza, this year's Viva Big Bend box office location. Always an Alpine favorite, Grupo Alegre entertained an afternoon crowd with their mariachi stylings.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

## Alpine Visitor Center hosts weekend music



Visitors and locals alike congregated at the Alpine Visitor Center this past weekend to listen to some of the musical acts that performed during the Viva Big Bend music festival.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

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