

## City and AISD call for May election

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The City of Alpine and the Alpine ISD have called for a general election to be held on May 3. The candidate filing period is now open and will remain open until Friday, February 14, at 5 p.m.

Interested parties who want to file for a position on the Alpine City Council may contact city secretary Geoffrey Calderon at 432-837-3301 or stop by 803 W. Holland Avenue to pick up a packet.

Those parties interested in filing for a position on the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees may contact Marsha Roach at 432-837-7700 or stop by 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue to pick up a packet.

The two seats open for the May election for the Alpine City Council are Wards 1 and 3, which Reagan Stone and Darin Nance currently hold.

The two seats open for the May election for the Alpine ISD Board

See ELECTION • 6

## INSIDE



## FEATURED

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### Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2025. . . . .0.00"  
January. . . . .0.00"



### 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.



## Alpine Council tackles key issues, hits pause on land sale

BY KERRY LAIRD  
Correspondent

The Alpine City Council met Tuesday, January 21, in the city council chambers for its regular meeting, with all members present.

The meeting drew a significantly smaller audience compared to the January 7 meeting, which had a packed house to discuss the proposed sale of a

five-acre city-owned property at N. 16th and Brown Streets to Michael and Lynn McCarson.

The property is currently zoned R2, allowing duplex development. The existing plat dates back to the 1970s and consists of 80 lots.

McCarson proposed



Megan Antrim-Alpine City Manager

a replat to consolidate the property into 10 lots and offered to purchase city-owned streets within the property to facilitate the replat. Council concerns arose over whether this would hinder access to utilities, waste collection, and emergency services, as Ol-

ive Street would become the sole access point.

Ward 3 Councilor Darin Nance expressed the need to retain Avenue C as a public right-of-way to maintain access across the property.

"I'm in agreement with him, especially from a safety perspective," said Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim.

After discussion, the

council voted unanimously to postpone the sale of the property, allowing time to meet with the purchaser and ensure clarification and adequate access through Avenue C.

The council then approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 74 of the Alpine Code of Ordinances concerning parks and recreation.

See COUNCIL • 6

## Practice not limited by weather



Despite the chilly temperatures, Sul Ross Rodeo Team members utilize the Smarty Rodeo equipment during practice. The men here are practicing their bulldogging techniques using the horse saver and a dummy steer to hone their technique before they take on the live animals.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Rodeo Team

## AISD extends superintendent contract, accepts resignations

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

The Alpine ISD Board of Trustees held its first meeting of the new year on Wednesday, January 22, at 5:30 p.m. at the high school band hall. Single Member District 2, Joe Portillo, was absent.

After the call to order and verification of compliance with the Open Meetings Act, principals from the elementary and middle schools presented the board members with gifts to show their hard work. The board then recessed for their meal, which generally occurs during the executive session of each meeting. Wednesday's meal is a January tradition, catered by Doug Fox and served by a few of his students.

After the meal, the board reconvened for

the open meeting at 6:35 p.m. and heard from Alpine ISD CFO Chris Valenzuela. Valenzuela gave his monthly report, noting several line items affected by last month's taxing issue

due to a CAD mistake. It was also noted that Alpine ISD did not pay the fourth quarter CAD payment, which is usually paid because the district received a refund from the CAD that was roughly equal to their payment amount. This was a result of the previous taxing issue that occurred last month.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the consent items from last month's meeting. Single Member District 6 Dr. Adrian Billings



Dr. Michelle Rinehart, AISD Superintendent

made a motion, followed by a second from Single Member District 7 Mary McCallister. The motion was approved unanimously.

Following the financial report and consent items, the board approved the addition of Micella Salcido for authorized access to the West Texas National Bank accounts and safety deposit boxes. Salcido has been assisting Valenzuela in cleaning up accounts and working on grants for the district's auditors.

"She has been a great asset and jumped in from day one. Micella is a fast learner, and I'm grateful to have her," Valenzuela said.

McCallister motioned to approve,

followed by a second from Single Member District 5 Haley Babb. The motion was approved unanimously.

Next on the agenda was a call for the general election in May. The two seats up for election are Single Member District 5 and Single Member District 7, currently held by Haley Babb and Mary McCallister.

Marsha Roach, secretary to the superintendent, told the board that if no one else filed for the seats, the board could cancel the election in March and save the money it would be spending on renting the equipment from the county's elections office.

Billings motioned to approve the order calling for a general election followed by a second from Single Member District 4 Jim-

my Morris. The motion was unanimously approved.

The following three agenda items are renewed each January. Item one was the review, consideration, and approval of the 2025-2026 West Texas Food Service Cooperative Interlocal Agreement. After a motion and a second from McCallister and Babb, it was unanimously approved.

The second agenda item was to review and consider renewing the 2025 Membership in Walsh, Gallegos' Retainer Program. This is the district's long-standing legal team. This agenda item was unanimously approved after a motion and a second from Babb and McCallister.

See AISD • 6

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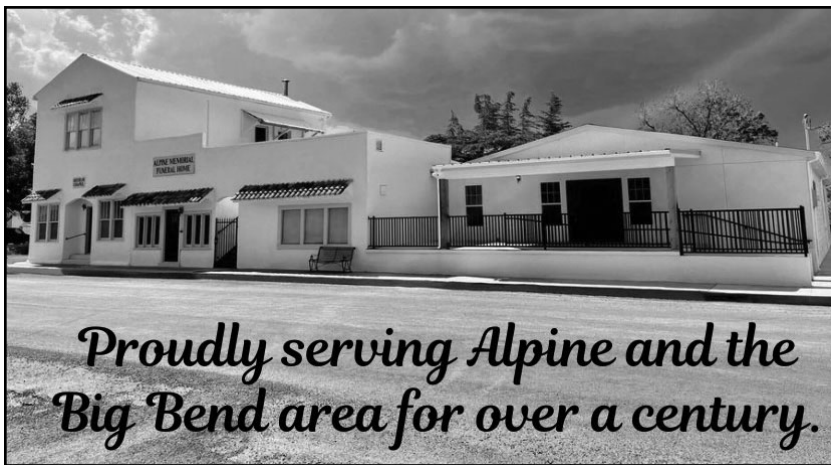
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## OBITUARIES

### Joyce Fay Lockhart Wildenthal (1937–2025)

Joyce Fay Lockhart Wildenthal, 87, died peacefully asleep in her rural home near Williamston, Michigan, on January 7. She was in declining health for many years. She had a long career as a biological laboratory technician and manager at Michigan State University (MSU) in East Lansing and a lifelong love for science.

Joyce was an excellent student who graduated third in her 1955 Alpine High School class. She spent the first twenty years of her life in Alpine, a small town in the Big Bend region of West Texas. She earned her Bachelor of Arts in 1959 from the University of Texas in Austin while also taking some classes at Sul Ross State College (now University) in Alpine.

She received her Master of Arts in Zoology in 1963 from the University of Kansas, focusing on ornithology, and her Master of Science in Resource Development in 1989 from MSU. Her first master's thesis, *Structure in Primary Song of the Mockingbird* (*Mimus polyglottos*), was published in the scientific journal *The Auk* in 1965.

In word and deed, Joyce supported civil rights and equal treatment for people of all races and creeds. As a high school senior, in solidarity with a Black Latina friend and classmate, she and other students refused racially segregated housing at a Girls State meeting until the adult organizers allowed their classmate to stay with them. She refused to join a university sorority to which she was invited when she learned it excluded Jewish and non-White students. She supported women's equality, reproductive freedom, and — far in advance of prevailing views — equal treatment of all people



without regard to sexual or gender identity. She became a political progressive and a strong supporter of the Democratic Party.

During Joyce's career at MSU in medical research and soil microbiology for more than thirty years, she found great satisfaction in working with graduate students and scientists from around the world. For many, she was their introduction to American life and culture. She helped them find housing and childcare, helped them navigate bureaucracies, and even provided emergency supplies of pots, pans, and dishes.

Her fascination with science was combined with a deep love for the beauty of nature, birdwatching, organic gardening, camping, swimming, and hiking. She was committed to conserving a sustainable environment. She loved horses, dogs, cats, and other animals. Family members laughingly recall that as a young girl, she liked to pretend she was a horse. She inspired similar love of animals, plants, and nature in her children, grandchildren, and others.

Joyce was married (1957–76) to Bryan Hobson Wildenthal (1937–2021), whom she met at Alpine High School and with whom she had three children. They eventually settled in Michigan, later divorced, and remained friends. She also had a relationship with a later life partner until his death and a continuing loving relationship with his children.

Joyce loved music from

an early age, playing piano and flute and developing a particular talent for singing. This fueled her scientific fascination with bird songs. She once sang the title role in a community production of the opera *Carmen*. For many years, she enjoyed singing with the Steiner Chorale, a vocal ensemble in the Lansing area of Michigan. While attending Unitarian Universalist (UU) congregations in several states, she especially enjoyed the musical celebrations and sang in one UU choir.

She loved books, plays, and theatre, including the works attributed to the author known as Shakespeare. In the summer of 1956, in Alpine, she and Hobson acted together in a college production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, both in drag: she as King Oberon and he as Thisbe in the "play within a play."

Joyce's mother, Lora Bell Kunze Lockhart (1909–98), was born in Minnesota and was a musician and homemaker deeply involved in community service. Her father, William Edgar "Bill" Lockhart Jr., M.D. (1908–87), born in Texas, was a physician for more than fifty years who also served as a local elected official and, during World War II, in the U.S. Army Medical Corps. Their civic, medical, musical, and intellectual activities and interests profoundly influenced Joyce. She was also very close to her maternal grandparents, Gus and Maude Kunze, who lived with them for most of Joyce's childhood and deeply influenced her outlook on life.

Joyce's parents arrived in Alpine in 1936. On June 7, 1937, she was born in a hospital in San Antonio since there was then no maternity hospital in Alpine. Her father opened the Lockhart Clinic-Hospital in 1946, which later be-

came his medical clinic and the family residence. Joyce returned to visit there as often as she could for the rest of her life.

Joyce became very interested in genealogy, researching her Scottish (Lockhart and McCutcheon) ancestry and the German (Wildenthal) ancestry of her children. A highlight of her retirement years was attending the 2005 joint meeting in Scotland of the American and Scottish Lockhart Clan societies with her sister Mary Bell, son Bryan, and childhood friend Joanna Cowell.

Joyce was a beloved matriarch and friend to countless people connected by

genes, marriage, or simply love.

She is survived by her daughter Rebecca Ann "Becky" Wildenthal (primary caregiver for the last fourteen years); son Bryan Hobson Wildenthal II (and husband Ashish); daughter Lora Joyce Wildenthal (and husband Carl); sisters Lora Lee "Lolly" Lockhart and Mary Bell Lockhart; grandson James Hewson Jr. (and wife Alley); grandson Justin Hewson (and wife Lara); granddaughter Vera Caldwell; four great-grandchildren; niece Shelly Beard Wright (and husband David), nephew Taylor Woodruff (and wife Nichole), niece Amy

Beard, and many more beloved family members and friends, including her good friend Penny Tiedgen (who provided indispensable caregiving help for the last twelve years). She was predeceased by her brother William Edgar "Bill" Lockhart III (1943–2007).

Joyce's children believe she would be honored best by sharing memories of her life, helping others and "paying forward" whatever good fortune you have, being thoughtful and involved in civic life, and (as the saying goes) "practicing random kindness and senseless acts of beauty."

*Thank You!*

*The family of Rebeca C. Portillo wishes to express our heartfelt gratitude for your kindness, comforting words and shared memories of Rebeca. It has brought us peace and appreciation. Thank you for the flowers, food and outpouring of love and support during this difficult time. Especially to the wonderful staff of the McCamey Convalescent Home. The love and kindness our mother received will always be remembered and appreciated.*

*God Bless all of you. The Portillo Family*

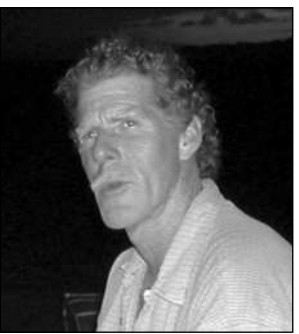
### Memorial for Ross Burlingrity

Ross Burling, a lifelong resident of Alpine, Texas passed away on January 8, 2025. A Memorial Service will be held to celebrate his life on Monday, February 10 at 10 a.m. at the American Legion in Alpine. The service will be conducted by Pastor Martha Bumpas of the Presbyterian Church of Marfa.

### Clyde Thad Curry

Clyde Thad Curry, a former resident of Marathon, left this world on January 4, 2025, at 72 years old. Clyde was born in Fairfax, Virginia, on November 21, 1952. He is survived by his brother, James Curry, three sisters, Nancy King, Bett Biddleman, and Catherine Curry, his son, Luke Warren Curry, and dear friends Ray Santos, Guil Jones, and Clint Roberts.

As a self-taught architect and imaginative builder, his first undertaking in Marathon was the restoration of the Hargus House. He then began construction of the award-winning Santa Fe-style strawbale home that he completed in 1998. He was the architect of all the original vaults, domes, and fantasy of Eve's Gar-



den Bed and Breakfast. His last project was the transformation of a "tear down" into a beautiful home for a local resident.

He will be remembered for his bold and innovative architecture, a legacy of his creative mind and love of natural building. Peaceful dreams.....

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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, FEBRUARY 4, 2024 REGARDING FINAL READINGS OF THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEMS:

**ORDINANCE 2025-01-01:** AN ORDINANCE REPEALING ARTICLE III - WATER CONSERVATION PLAN AND ARTICLE IV - DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN OF CHAPTER 66 - NATURAL RESOURCES TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING AN UPDATED WATER CONSERVATION AND DROUGHT CONTINGENCY PLAN; ESTABLISHING CRITERIA FOR THE INITIATION AND TERMINATION OF DROUGHT RESPONSE STAGES; ESTABLISHING RESTRICTIONS ON CERTAIN WATER USES; ESTABLISHING PENALTIES FOR THE VIOLATION OF AND PROVISIONS FOR ENFORCEMENT OF THESE RESTRICTIONS; ESTABLISHING PROCEDURES FOR GRANTING VARIANCES; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; AND PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING CLAUSES: CUMULATIVE, PENALTY, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, PROPER NOTICE & MEETING, AND EFFECTIVE DATE.

**ORDINANCE 2024-01-02:** AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74 - PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE I - IN GENERAL, TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING AND ESTABLISHING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL CITY PARKS; PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMITTING PROCESSES FOR FESTIVALS, EVENTS, & ALCOHOL; PROVIDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UP TO A \$500 PENALTY PER OCCURRENCE FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE ORDINANCE; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT, ENACTMENT, REPEALER, PENALTY, SAVINGS, SEVERABILITY, PROPER NOTICE AND MEETING, AND EFFECTIVE DATE CLAUSES.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2025, 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 ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL LOCATED AT 100 N. 13TH STREET BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES ARE ALSO AVAILABLE BY EMAIL REQUEST TO CITY. SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT (432) 837-3301, OPTION 1.

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## Texas Capital Highlights

### \$1 billion for vouchers, \$5 billion for teachers?

Legislative budget writers are proposing nearly \$5 billion to increase teacher pay and \$1 billion to implement a school voucher program in the next biennium, the Austin American Statesman reported.

The voucher program also referred to as school choice, would provide public money for private schooling, a key priority for Gov. Greg Abbott that bitterly divided Republican lawmakers two years ago and failed to pass.

In addition, the funding would increase teachers' pay by \$4,000 and give teachers in rural school districts an additional \$6,000, according to a statement by Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick. The early release of budget drafts is a signal that both chambers are getting off to a fast start in laying out their spending priorities. Both the Senate and House are proposing an additional \$400 million for school safety.

The Senate budget measure also contains \$402 million to hire 567 new Department of Public Safety troopers and 159 related law enforcement personnel.

### RRC seeks \$100 million to fix leaky oil and gas wells

The cost and frequency of plugging leaking oil and gas wells has prompted the Texas Railroad Commission to request an additional \$100 million in funding to address the issue, according to the Houston Chronicle. If granted, that would increase the RRC's state-funded budget by about 75% for the current fiscal year.

The cost to plug wells gushing with contaminated water has risen dramatically. According to the Chronicle, the commission spent about \$13 million on two plugging projects last September. Fees and fines paid by the

oil and gas industry have in the past covered the costs of plugging wells, but the increased costs and complexity of plugging wells have largely outgrown the revenue being received.

"The 89th Legislature will thoroughly evaluate the commission's funding request and work with industry experts to better understand this compounding problem," Sen. Joan Huffman, R-Houston, and chairperson of the Senate Committee on Finance said in a statement.

The RRC should do more to hold operators accountable for plugging their own wells, according to the director of one watchdog organization.

"We have a robust oil and gas industry, the biggest in the country," Virginia Palacios, executive director of Commission Shift, said. "There's no reason why such a profitable industry shouldn't be able to pay for its own cleanup."

### Texans urged to report winter weather damages

Abbott is urging Texans affected by recent winter weather to report any property and agricultural damages to the Texas Division of Emergency Management's portal: [damage.tdem.texas.gov](http://damage.tdem.texas.gov).

"As communities begin the recovery process, I urge Texans to report damages to their homes or businesses or any agricultural losses through the iSTAT damage survey," Abbott said. "This will help the state determine if we qualify for federal assistance."

Winter storms recently brought considerable snowfall to South Texas and the Gulf Coast areas that rarely see the white stuff. Several storm-related deaths were reported in Austin and Houston.

The Far West Texas Summit held on January 17 and 18 brought over 200 interested community members together from all over the region, including Alpine, Fort Davis, Marfa, Marathon, Presidio, and Terlingua.

Saturday morning, the bucket sessions were led by professionals on community projects from a private consulting firm and members of the

Texas Downtown Association. The topics and information from the Saturday sessions will be aggregated by the steering committee led by Kirsten Moody of Alpine Community Projects and narrowed down into manageable headings so that the ideas behind improving our communities in the region can gain traction and become action.



The keynote speaker for the Far West Texas Summit on Friday, January 17, Doug Griffiths, is pictured here relaying the concepts of his book 13 Ways to Kill Your Community.

Courtesy photo

## Cowboy Poetry Gathering on the horizon

The Fifth Annual Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering is saddling up for another celebration of Western culture and artistry, taking place February 20-22 at Sul Ross State University in Alpine.

The event draws cowboy poets, musicians, and enthusiasts from across Texas and beyond each year. "It's such a privilege just to be present with this bunch from the cowboy life as they wrangle poetry and music born in the dust of their hard work with cattle and horses," says event producer Bob Saul.

The 2025 Gathering will feature a mix of returning favorite performers and exciting new talents or "soon-to-be favorites," honoring the traditions of the working cowboy through poetry, music, and storytelling. Event Co-Chair Kay Nowell, who has been involved with Cowboy Poetry since 1985, is eager to introduce the world of Cowboy Poetry to new attendees. "A Gathering is difficult to explain to someone. They have to experience it in order to quickly become devoted fans with a passion for this art form. Everyone is welcome around 'our campfire.'"

Bob Saul established The Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering in 2019. The Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering had retired after 33 years. "We formed a new nonprofit and moved forward with the same energy and spirit as before," Saul explains. "Again, this year, we'll have a historical event in Alpine with award-winning cowboy poets, singer-songwriters, and old-time cowboys."

The gathering will showcase a stellar lineup including Dale Burson, Craig Carter (with Zack Casey), Allan Chapman and Rodeo Kate, Juni Fisher, Patricia Frolander, Pipp Gillette (with Lloyd Wright), Jeff Gore, Skip Gorman, Amy Hale, R.W. Hampton, Kristyn Harris, Andy Hedges, Brenn Hill, Darrell Holden, Carson Houser, Randy Huston, Ross Knox,

John Lowell, Deanna McCall, Zack McGinn, Chuck Milner (with Hallie Milner), Roger Mills, John Moore, Terry Nash, Andy Nelson, Joel Nelson, Vess Quinlan, Brigid & Johnny Reedy, Kye Rieff, Randy Rieman, Jake Riley, Chris Ryden, Trinity Seely, Tom Sharpe, R.P. Smith, Jay Snider, Gail Steiger, Rod Taylor and Andy Wilkinson (with Emily Wilkinson).

Cowboy poet Andy Hedges, a longtime participant, reflects on the event's enduring charm: "Along with many others, I started going to Alpine for Cowboy Poetry 25 years ago. That tradition continues today with the Lone Star Cowboy Poetry Gathering. These days, it's like going to a re-



Cowboy poets and future wordsmiths alike try to stay warm by congregating around the fire during Saturday morning's chuckwagon breakfast at the Lonestar Cowboy Poetry Gathering.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

union. It's a time to see old and new friends and revel in our shared appreciation for the arts and culture of the working cowboy."

For more information, visit [lonestarcowboypoe.com](http://lonestarcowboypoe.com) for tickets, schedules, and event updates.

## Smoke in the Mountains receives award

Recently, the board members of the Smoke in the Mountains BBQ and Ribeye Shootout held each June in Fort Davis attended the 2024 Champions Barbecue Alliance Awards Banquet in Seguin.

The local event, still in its infancy, received 4th place out of 200+ events put on around the State of Texas and other states for the 2024 Event of the Year.

Founding member and President Jennifer Webster said, "What a huge accomplishment for the event being such a small, team-capped competition. Our event is 100 miles from nowhere in the beautiful mountains of Texas, and for only being our second year to hold the event, this is a great honor."

Webster continued, saying, "Our event would not succeed without our incredible board

members, sponsors, and volunteers."

This event "rolls smoke" into its third year on June 6-7 in Fort Davis. Registration for 65 teams will open on the event's website on February 2.

BBQ teams interested in registering for the event may visit [www.smokeinthemountains.com](http://www.smokeinthemountains.com).

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# Opinions

## ONLINE POLL

### THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:  
Which area of your life are you most focused on improving in 2025?

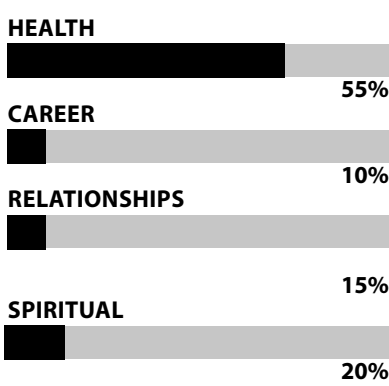
- Health
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- Spiritual

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

### RESULTS

WHICH AREA OF YOUR LIFE ARE YOU MOST FOCUSED ON IMPROVING IN 2025?

#### RESULTS



## 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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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation will be corrected when such occurs in this newspaper and is brought to the publisher's attention.



# BOONIEVILLE



## Heat Lamp Safety in Alpine

As temperatures continue to fluctuate, many residents are using heat lamps to protect livestock, pets, and crops. While heat lamps are an effective tool, it is crucial to use them safely to avoid the risk of fire or electrical hazards.

### Safety Tips for Using Heat Lamps:

**Proper Placement:** Ensure heat lamps are placed at least three feet away from any flammable materials, such as bedding, hay, or fabric.

**Inspect Wiring:** Check for frayed or damaged cords. Replace any worn-out or exposed wires to prevent electrical

shorts.  
**Stable Mounting:** Secure heat lamps properly to prevent them from falling over. Use appropriate hooks or fixtures designed for heat lamps.

**Avoid Overloading Circuits:** Plug heat lamps into outlets that can handle their wattage. To reduce the risk of overloading, avoid using multiple high-wattage lamps on the same circuit.

**Turn Off When Unattended:** If you're leaving the area, always turn off the heat lamp or use a timer to ensure



JAMES ETCHISON

Brewster Co EMC Fire Chief, AVFD

it doesn't stay on for extended periods.

### Emergency Preparedness:

- Keep a fire extinguisher in close proximity to areas where heat lamps are in use.
- Have an emergency plan in place and ensure all household members know how to respond in case of a fire.

Alpine Fire Department is looking to educate and give classes to the community to ensure the safety and protection of not only your home and property but also the safety of

your loved ones, pets, and livestock. Knowledge and education on proper warming methods can save many lives.

Also, be advised that the Alpine Fire Department will assist in installing smoke detectors. We can help you protect those close to you.

Stay safe and take necessary precautions to ensure the well-being of your animals and property.

For more safety tips, please get in touch with the Alpine Fire Department at (432)538-2106.

Stay warm, stay safe!  
*Respectfully,*  
Alpine Fire Chief James Etchison

## Car problems, common sense, and computers

"If your doctor's last name is Google, it's time to get a second opinion."

— **Toni Bernhard, author of "How to live with Chronic Pain and Illness: A Mindful Guide."**

It was past dark thirty. We were still 20 miles from home, driving and passing the time by doing what we all ultimately do sometime in life—talking about the weather, aches and pains, and doctor's appointments. Reassuring each other that age has nothing to do with any of it.

"What's this," I asked. Amber warning lights interrupted the peaceful glow of dim green dash lights.

"I don't know," my friend said. It was her car, but I was driving.

As I processed the situation, I tried offering assurance: "An amber check engine light, it's not red. That means have your car checked at your first opportunity. We're OK."

It sounded good. But it's funny how issues that seem minor in the light of day command a higher level of concern at night. Depending on how late at night and how many miles to home the GPS is reporting.

She searched the owner's manual for clues, looking for anything about a warning light with a tiny car symbol looking like a drunk driver

all over the road.

Stopped in the light of a convenience store afforded us time to convince each other that the odds were good for making it home without further incidents.

As I drove, I thought about diagnosing car problems back in the day when I was keeping my first car running. Getting me to classes, my after-school job, and cruising the Mount Pleasant main drag between the Dairy Queen on the north side and Bobby Joe's on the south side.

The sign on top of what we called Bobby Joe's read Dairy Mart or something similar. Nobody remembers that name. Our classmate's family owned it, so we referred to it as Bobby Joe's. And keeping your car running to get there was important.

But auto maintenance was easy then. Keep gas, oil, and tire pressure levels in range and listen for weird noises. Noises, not computers, usually provided a good clue regarding the nature of the problem.

Being young and fearless also added a notch to one's confidence level. A 60-mile road trip to the drag races in a worn-out but presentable 55 Chevy with a warmed-over Corvette motor I had owned for about two weeks?



LEON ALDRIDGE

Guest Columnist

No worries. Never mind that I knew nothing about the \$250 car. Other than it was wicked fast.

I had learned that the gas gauge and dash lights didn't work. No problem, though. I filled the tank with 29 cents a gallon high test, and we headed for Interstate 20 Raceway.

The daylight trip down was uneventful. Then, on the way home at about 10:30, neighbor and friend Ronald Rust asked, "How fast are we going?"

"I don't know," I replied. "Can't see the speedometer."

He leaned down, nose close to the dash. The only light glowing was the red high-beam indicator. "What's the top number on the speedometer," Ronald asked.

"Hunderd' and ten ... I think."

"Must be doin' 115 then. I can't see the needle."

"Naw," I scoffed. The car sounded good, but darkness began creating noises in my mind, so I backed off the accelerator. I still didn't think we were going that fast, but...

Noise and a little common sense made car care relatively easy in those days. Now, mechanical contrivances controlled by a myriad of computers and electronics

complicate common sense.

For instance, YouTube videos the next day offered head-scratching remedies. The drunk driver warning light indicated a problem in how the computer distributes power to the wheels. According to the video, the warning could be caused by improper tire pressure, potholes in the road, or a faulty gas cap.

Faulty gas cap? Yep, that's somehow in the same computer circuit as air pressure and potholes.

By the time I watched the video the next day, the warning lights had gone away as quickly as they had appeared—still gone as I conclude this missive. However, a trip to the dealership is planned for a professional second opinion with computer codes to suggest repairs or replacements.

"Wouldn't it be nice," my friend mused, "if we could be like cars."

I wasn't connecting the dots.

"You know. Just show up at the doctor's office for aches, pains, and illnesses. Let them check your computer codes, make a technical repair, or replace a faulty part, and you're good for another 10,000 miles."

I think she may be on to something.

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

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

### Interpreting the Constitution

It looks now like the issue of birthright citizenship will come before the U.S. Supreme Court, and that's a good thing because there is way too much misunderstanding about what the 14th Amendment says and what it does not say. And to think a Reagan-appointed judge does

not understand is also insane.

The first words of that amendment read: "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States ..."

Too many leave out the second phrase and claim that anyone born here is automatically a citizen, final period.

No, read that second phrase again: "... and subject to the jurisdiction thereof ..." No, a female can't sneak over the border in the middle of the night, have a baby, and take it back over the border, and that child is forever a U.S. citizen.

"Subject to the jurisdiction thereof" means at least one parent should be a U.S. citizen or

otherwise be subject to the laws of this country. In other words, not an illegal migrant.

Someone who snuck over the border from another country is not in any way subject to the laws of this country. Now, you can have the final period.

Jim Street, Alpine

### Thank you

I want to pass along a thank you to the wonderful people working in animal control and the animal shelter: Adrian, Sam, Jennifer, and maybe others. We had three dogs dumped in our

neighborhood in the Alpine Estates two weeks ago when the temperatures were below freezing. After much work, one dog was captured. The other two got the worst of a porcupine and quilled. Many cold nights

passed before a second dog was captured and given aid. As of this writing, the third dog is still unable to be brought in even though the above staff and kind neighbors have spent many hours to help this in-

jured dog. Please do not discard and neglect your pets this way. Abandoning a domestic animal that cannot survive our outdoor conditions is abusive and illegal. Be compassionate; there are other options

Bob Wuest, Alpine

# Heard on the STREET

What's your go-to breakfast?



**David Bustamante:** Cereal most days, maybe bacon and eggs if the chickens are happy.



**Rosario DeLao:** I eat oatmeal with blueberries.



**Ann Marie Hilscher:** A fried egg.



**Virginia Platt:** Overnight oats.



**Darrell Wood:** I don't eat breakfast.

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

**Upcoming events**  
**January at Davis Mountains State Park**  
**Mondays 7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Space is the Place** meet in the parking lot across from the interpretive center with your chair and binoculars to learn about our dark skies.

**Saturdays 2 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. Art in the Park** at the interpretive center and **7 p.m. to 8 p.m. Miles and Miles of Stars** at the CCC Rock Lookout. Bring a chair and flashlight (red light preferred).

**January 30-February 25 Big Bend Amateur Softball** Registration is now open for the 2025 season. The season opens April 1 and runs to the end of May, with practices beginning in March. Interested parties may register online at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/51346468729481> or contact Vice President Letty Carrillo



at 432-244-9678.

**February 5 Telescope Training: McDonald's Observatory is offering Telescope 101 workshops**, which will include a mix of classroom and hands-on instruction. Workshops are free for residents of Jeff Davis, Brewster, and Presidio counties. Interested parties may reserve a spot by visiting [mcdonaldobservatory.org/visitors/programs/telescopes-101](http://mcdonaldobservatory.org/visitors/programs/telescopes-101).

**February 15 Sweetheart Gala Benefit**, 6 p.m. to 1 a.m. at the Alpine Civic Center. Semi-

formal event with live music and will include cocktails, dinner, and a silent auction. Tickets are \$75, and persons interested in group rates or to RSVP may call 432-294-0886. Proceeds will benefit Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church for building repairs. All other questions may be directed to Gloria Gordon at the Church office 432-837-3304 or 432-386-6996.

**February 22 Sul Ross Scholarship Rodeo**, 2 p.m. at the S.A.L.E Arena. The Sul Ross Rodeo Team invites high school seniors and junior college transfers to compete in their third-annual scholarship rodeo. The rodeo will consist of all 10 NIRA events, and the top two places in each event will receive scholarships to Sul Ross State University. For more information, contact Rodeo Coach C.J. Aragon at [clint.aragon@sulross.edu](mailto:clint.aragon@sulross.edu)

**Ongoing Events**  
**Alcoholics Anonymous**, 502 E. Lockhart Ave. Schedules are

available on the front door. For more information, call 915-562-4081 or [aa-intergroup.org](http://aa-intergroup.org).

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

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

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

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

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

**Big Bend Community Choral rehearsals** on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200.

All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at [Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu](mailto:Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu), call 432-837-8216, or visit [bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc](http://bbchorale.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.

**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.

**VFW Post 7207**, 10 a.m., first Saturday of each month at 605 E. Ave F. All members are welcome.

## AHS UIL takes top spot



Alpine High School's UIL Academic Teams competed in Social Studies, and Current Events last Friday at the McCamey Invitational meet. Both teams took home first-place wins at the event. In front are Izabel Ortiz and Judith Frioux. In the back are Dylan Wang, Miguel Batres, Raul Renteria, and Evan Frioux.

Courtesy photo

## PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Luna! This sweet girl has been in the shelter for a while and is very deserving of a home to call her own. She enjoys pets and attention, is outgoing and playful, enjoys playgroup and wrestling with the other dogs, and loves to go on walks.

This girl could be your walking, hiking, or camping companion. American Pit Bull Terriers can make excellent family pets when raised and trained responsibly. They are known for their loyalty, affection, and willingness to please their owners. Like any other dog breed, they require early socialization, consistent training, and positive reinforcement to thrive in a family environment. Luna is spayed, vaccinated, microchipped, and ready to join a new household. Meet her today at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.

Alpine Animal Services can help you with your New Year's resolutions. Consider volunteering to walk dogs, play with pup-

pies in the yard, or interact with the cats. Thirty minutes of your day can make a huge difference to the shelter and the animals.

Call 432-837-2532 to donate, foster, or volunteer for the Alpine Humane Society. Support the Alpine Humane Society Thrift Store and Cattery with donated furnishings, décor, and household goods. It will soon be time for kitten fosters; we provide supplies and support, so come in and sign up to be a foster at the Thrift Store.

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, contact the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.

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**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALPINE ISD'S TEXAS ACADEMIC PERFORMANCE REPORT**

Alpine ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025 to discuss Alpine ISD's Texas Academic Performance Report (TAPR).

The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Alpine ISD Administration Building, located at 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas.

**NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS ALPINE ISD'S STATE FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY RATING**

Alpine ISD will hold a public meeting at 5:30 P.M. on Wednesday, February 19, 2025, to discuss Alpine ISD's rating on the Financial Integrity Rating System of Texas (FIRST) Report.

The meeting will be held in the Board Room of the Alpine ISD Administration Building located at 704 W. Sul Ross Avenue, Alpine, Texas.

Advertising really works!  
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 or visit us online at [www.alpineavalanche.com](http://www.alpineavalanche.com)

**AIISD • FROM 1**

The next agenda item was the review and consideration of consent for multiple representations by Walsh, Gallegos, Kyle, Robinson, and Roalson, P.C., related to the Rural Pathway Excellence Partnership Memorandum of Understanding.

Alpine ISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart explained this item. "Since we are entering into CTE agreements with both Marathon and Marfa ISD and both districts also use the same legal

services, the attorneys required that each partner (Marathon, Marfa, and Alpine) approve agreements to work on anything regarding these partnerships," Rinehart said.

McCallister moved to approve this agenda item, followed by Babb's second. The motion was approved unanimously.

The next item on the agenda was the consideration of the Public/Private Education Partnership between Alpine ISD and Fort Davis ISD. Rinehart told the board that she recom-

mended that this item be tabled until the next meeting, as the two districts were still negotiating the contract.

McCallister moved to approve, followed by Morris's second. The motion to table this item was unanimously approved.

The next order of business was the approval of three separate grants from the governor's office, totaling around \$160,000 for the district.

The first grant was the Criminal Justice Grant Program for FY2026, the second

was the Juvenile Justice and Truancy Prevention Grant Program for FY2026, and the third was the General Victim Assistance Grant Program for FY2026. All three were unanimously approved.

After a brief report from the superintendent, the board moved into executive session at 7:20 p.m. to deliberate employee resignations and retirements and the superintendent's recommendations for employee contracts for FY2024-2025.

After approximately

an hour of the executive session, Rinehart was excused so that the board could discuss her evaluation.

The board reconvened into an open session at 9:08 p.m. and took action on three resignations. The board unanimously approved the resignation of Alpine Elementary principal Curtis Wubbena, whose last day will be June 30. They also approved the resignations of Athletic Director and head football coach Andy Smith and his wife and head volleyball coach Adrian

Smith, whose last day will be February 7. Andy took a position as AD and head football coach with London ISD.

Finally, with a motion from McCallister and a second from Morris, the board approved extending Rinehart's contract to 2028. Following this approval, the board set the date for their next meeting, which is scheduled for February 19 at 5:30 p.m. at the Alpine ISD Administration building.

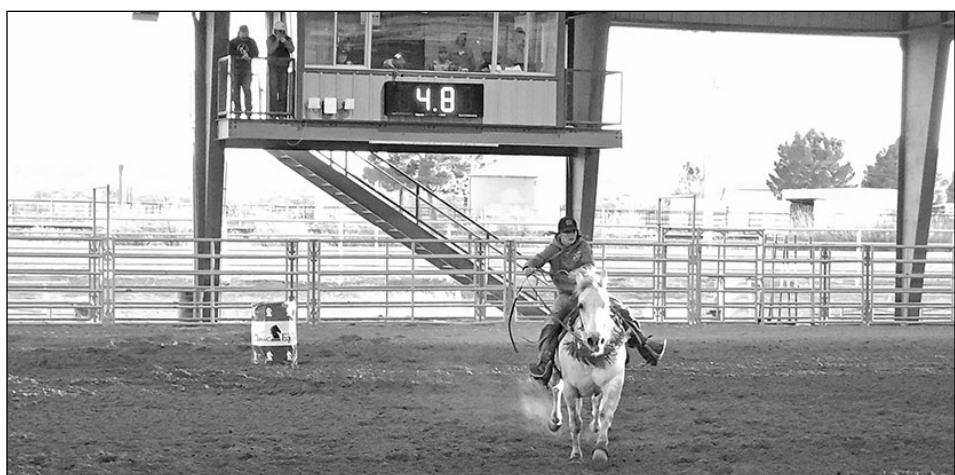
# Assistant coach getting' it done



Sul Ross Rodeo Assistant Coach Timmi Hutchings participated in the Friday Night Lights Jackpot roping and barrel race held at the SALE Arena last Friday night. Hutchings participated in the barrel racing and the breakaway roping seen here.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

## Jackpot winner



Sul Ross Rodeo barrel racer and breakaway roper Cierra Rimer competed in both events at last Friday night's Jackpot roping and barrel racing competition held by the Sul Ross Rodeo Team at the SALE Arena. Despite losing her reins in the middle of her run, Rimer had the best time in the barrel racing and won the event.

*Photo by Kara Gerbert*

**COUNCIL • FROM 1**

The ordinance introduces rules and regulations for city parks, including establishing permitting processes for festivals, events, and alcohol. Among other items, the ordinance would also extend park hours from 5 a.m. to 11 p.m.

While the council briefly discussed allowing alcohol consumption in parks, the motion to approve such provisions was rejected. Ward 1 Councilor Reagan Stone and Ward 4 Councilor Lucy Escovedo supported the motion, but the majority opposed it.

"If people want to drink, there are plenty of places for people who want to drink," said Ward 5 Councilor Rick Stephens. "Parks are for families."

Ultimately, the council approved the ordinance as written, keeping current alcohol restrictions in place yet allowing the consumption and possession of alcohol by special permit for festivals and events.

Antrim presented the FY 2024-2025 first-quarter investment report during the consent

agenda. During the quarter, the city earned \$51,056.20 in interest income and transferred \$10,000 from fire investment funds to support Alpine Emergency Services. The report highlights the city's financial management strategy, ensuring liquidity while meeting critical project obligations. She also unveiled the 2024 End-of-Year report, a new initiative aimed at increasing transparency and accountability.

This report summarizes the city's progress and achievements over the past year and will continue evolving as a key public communication tool.

Alpine City Mayor Catherine Eaves highlighted the Museum of the Big Bend's nomination for USA Today's Best Small Town Museum award. Currently ranked seventh out of ten nominees, the Museum encourages residents to vote daily to support its bid for the top spot. Voting is open until January 31 and can be accessed through the Museum's Facebook page.

Councilor Stephens provided an update

on efforts to protect the railroad bridge on Highway 90 from collisions with oversized vehicles. He is working closely with the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) to explore solutions, including a proposed laser sensor system.

The system would detect vehicles that exceed height limits and activate warning lights, alerting drivers to stop before reaching the bridge. Stephens plans to meet with TxDOT again in two weeks to continue discussions.

Finally, Antrim announced that the Alpine Police Department has received the U.S. Drug Enforcement Agency's High-Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas grant for the 20th consecutive year. This grant supports enhanced collaboration with federal agencies to improve border security and law enforcement operations.

The next regular city council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 4, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

**ELECTION • FROM 1**

of Trustees are Single Member District 5 and Single-Member District 7, which Haley Babb and Mary McCallister currently hold.

Early voting for the May 3 election will be held at the Alpine Civic Center, 801 W. Holland Avenue, on weekdays from April 22 through April 30 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

On election day, May 3, voters can elect candidates for the two available city council and school board seats in the City of Alpine Council Chambers between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. For more election information, contact the Brewster County Elections Administrator at 432-837-6230 or visit 203 N. 7th Street.

### BREWSTER COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATIONS FOR GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION PERMIT NOS. GPP-014

Notice is hereby given that on Thursday, February 20, 2025 commencing at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m. CDT), the Brewster County Groundwater Conservation District ("District") will conduct a public hearing and possibly take action on the following pending application, which has been deemed administratively complete:

- Applications by:
- Lajitas Capital Partners for a Groundwater Production Permit ("GPP"), assigned No. GPP-014, Well #1, 2, 5, 6, 60 acre-feet each annually.

which would authorize the applicants to produce groundwater in the District from unconfirmed minor aquifers in an amount not to exceed the amounts listed above annually for Irrigation use.

The General Manager of the District, Robbyn Hill ("General Manager"), has proposed issuance of a Groundwater Production Permit Nos. GPP-014, and the draft permit is available for public inspection by emailing [bcgwcd@gmail.com](mailto:bcgwcd@gmail.com). For a hard copy of the proposed permits, please contact Robbyn Hill (432) 244-6030.

The District will conduct a **PUBLIC HEARING** pursuant to its authority under Chapter 8827 of the Texas Special District Local Laws Code, Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code, and the District's Rules to consider action on Application No. GPP-014 and to provide interested members of the public an opportunity to appear and provide oral or written comments to the District regarding the proposed permit. The public hearing will be at the following location at the indicated date and time:

**Location: J.W. "Red" Patillo Community Center  
100 TX-118  
Study Butte, Tx**

**Date and Time: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.)**

The General Manager will recommend to the District's Board that it consider approving Application No. GPP-014 for the amounts listed above of production annually from unconfirmed minor aquifers under the terms and conditions set forth in the draft Groundwater Production Permit No. GPP-014.

Applicants and affected persons may request a contested case hearing on Application No. GPP-014 by submitting a request for contested case hearing in writing to the District. The request must be delivered to the District no later than 5:00 p.m. CDT on February 6, 2025, by email to [bcgwcd@gmail.com](mailto:bcgwcd@gmail.com), by USPS to PO BOX 465, Alpine, Texas or by scheduling hand delivery to the District Office by calling (432) 244-6030.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend the district hearing and who may need auxiliary aids or services, such as interpreters for persons who are deaf or hearing impaired, readers, large print, or braille, are requested to contact the General Manager, at (432) 244-6030, at least five (5) work days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made. Persons who desire the assistance of an interpreter in conjunction with their oral presentation at this meeting are also requested to contact General Manager at least five (5) days prior to the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

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# LOOKING BACK

## Alpine Avalanche

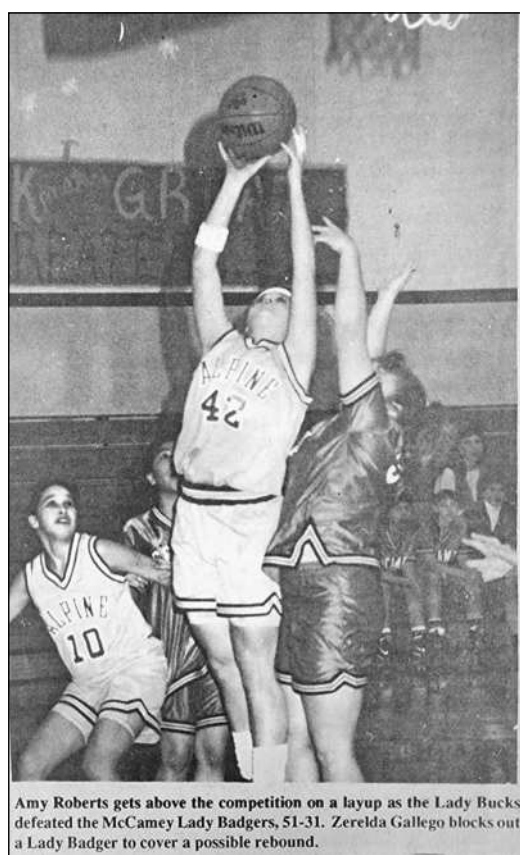
SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

January 6, 1994



Historic Alpine—Valadez Grocery, located on South 5th and West Murphy, operated in the same location for years before burning in 1943. This picture was taken in August, 1940, showing a well-stocked store and two proud owners, (from left), Tomás and Lito Valadez. Photo loaned by B.J. Gallego

January 6, 1994



Amy Roberts gets above the competition on a layup as the Lady Bucks defeated the McCamey Lady Badgers, 51-31. Zerelda Gallego blocks out a Lady Badger to cover a possible rebound.

January 20, 1994



The Sul Ross State University Archives of the Big Bend is attempting to identify the people in this photo of the Civil Air Patrol. Anyone who can provide identifications is asked to contact Melleta Bell, archivist, at 837-8127.

January 20, 1994

### Burns couple celebrate 25th Anniversary

Dale and Robbie Burns celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary on December 21, 1993 in the home of Wilcen S. Austin. The Reverend Ray Bullock assisted in the renewal of their commitment to each other, along with family and friends.

The Burns' were married in 1968 in Roswell, NM and lived in Roswell for a short time. They then moved to Tulia where Dale farmed for a corporation until August of 1973, when they moved to Alpine.

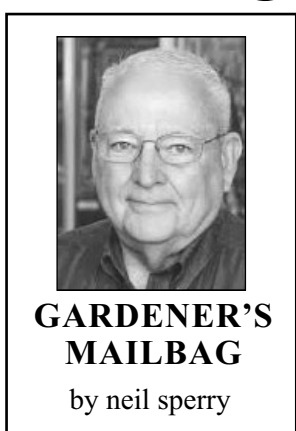
Dale is superintendent of grounds maintenance at Sul Ross State University and Robbie is a secretary for the local office of the Texas Department of Transportation. They have one daughter, Kayla Ann, age 12.



Photos from the Alpine Avalanche Archives at Archives of the Big Bend, Bryan Wildenthal Memorial Library and Portal of Texas.

## Mondo grass or English ivy are good groundcover for shaded areas

Dear Neil, Our neighbor has a large magnolia tree that casts very heavy shade into our yard. It has left us with a large bare area, and we've been unable to grow either turfgrass or hostas there. What groundcover would have the best chance of succeeding? The branches are up off the ground.



**GARDENER'S MAILBAG**  
by neil sperry

My personal choice for most of Texas would be regular mondo grass (not dwarf). Liriope is an excellent choice if you want something a little taller. Many people plant English ivy, and it, too, should be considered. Ask your favorite independent garden center manager to show you the options and suggest the best for your specific situation.

Dear Neil, The city will replace some water lines in the parkway in front of our sidewalk. I have a couple weeks' lead time. If I dig the bermudagrass sod

out this time of year, is there any chance it would survive being replanted three or four days later (their estimate of how long they'll need)?

With Bermuda, yes. St. Augustine and Zoysia would be much less likely. Bermuda is simply a really tough grass. Hopefully, the ground will be moist but not soggy. Use a square-bladed nursery spade (also known by plumbers as a "tile spade") to dig the sod out. Lay the spade almost flat on the ground to slice the sod with about one inch of good topsoil along with

the roots of the sod. Cut it into 12 x 18-inch pieces and set them over onto an out-of-the-way place on your front walk. You might need to water them lightly if it takes the city longer than expected. Once they are through and have filled the hole, rototill lightly to a depth of one to two inches and rake to a smooth planting bed. Take the pieces of sod and carefully lay them back in place. If they extend above the surrounding grade by a couple of inches, don't worry. The filled area will settle and compact until it all levels out. Water immediately after replanting. You may also want to roll the area lightly to smooth it after a week or two once you can begin to see if they are lumps, humps, and bumps.

Dear Neil, I planted broccoli plants last fall. They have made it through the winter and still provided us with some florets right



before the last couple of cold spells. Is there any chance the plants could rebound and be productive this spring?

Even if there were, it wouldn't be worth dedicating valuable garden space to them. Replace them with healthy, vigorous new transplants. Even if your old plants were to produce a few new florets, the new ones would run circles around them.

Dear Neil, Is it normal for ornamental grasses to thin out or

even die out over time? What can I do to slow that decline? I have Mexican feathergrass and maiden grass.

Most ornamental grasses, notably the two you mentioned, play out after several years. The clumps thin and die until you may have a large bed with no active plants left. That's why it's been my contention for many years that we should use the grasses

as accents, not as replacements for standard perennials and landscaping shrubs. Other than dividing and replanting with more of the types that you have, I don't know of any way to slow the thinning.

Have a question you'd like Neil to consider? E-mail him at mailbag@sperrygardens.com. Neil regrets that he cannot reply to questions individually.

- ACROSS**
- 1 Oldham County seat
  - 5 TXism: "got \_\_\_\_\_ of arrows in his quiver" (capable)
  - 6 African river
  - 7 TXism: "big biscuit \_\_\_\_\_ the pan" (boss)
  - 8 TXism: "limp as a dish \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 9 wanderers
  - 15 very small amount
  - 16 popular Texas beer bottles
  - 19 carries something heavy or awkward
  - 21 it's created by the Texas sun
  - 22 \_\_\_\_\_ Bend, TX in Kaufman County
  - 27 song by TX Henley's Eagles: "Life in the Fast \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 28 British dish: "\_\_\_\_\_ the hole"
  - 29 TX Meat Loaf album: "Bat Out \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 30 alternative energies: wind \_\_\_\_\_
  - 32 Astro's Jeremy Pena pos.
  - 33 what a tornado siren does
  - 36 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ lick off" (none)
  - 37 "give \_\_\_\_\_ rest" (stop talking)
  - 38 to corrupt morals
  - 39 TX Orbison posthumous hit (3 wds.)
  - 41 \_\_\_\_\_ beans are a major Texas crop
  - 42 TXism: "likely \_\_\_\_\_" (probable)

- 45 TXism: "six \_\_\_\_\_ half a dozen of the other"
  - 46 Texas tribe "Eyeish" was also known as this biblical "you"
  - 47 former governor, Richards
  - 49 Christmas venture: "\_\_\_\_\_ grandma's house"
  - 52 Texas river transports kids' game
  - 54 \_\_\_\_\_-friendly (not harmful to the environment)
  - 55 TXism: "\_\_\_\_\_ in cement" (permanent)
- DOWN**
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Alstyne, TX actor and UT alumnus, Wallach
  - 3 Phillistine giant downed by David
  - 4 Texas cowboy head covering (4 wds.)
  - 8 "Enchanted \_\_\_\_\_ State Natural Area"
  - 9 TXism: "plain as the \_\_\_\_\_"
  - 10 TX Willie's "\_\_\_\_\_ the Road Again"
  - 11 he owned Gilley's Club in Texas (init.)
  - 12 Texas has most of this mohair-producer in the U.S. (2 wds.)
  - 13 French explorer Sieur \_\_\_\_\_ Salle died in Texas
  - 14 as a plural, a great number or quantity
  - 15 TXism: "his porch light \_\_\_\_\_ burning" (friendly)
  - 16 licensed practical nurses (abbr.)
  - 17 soap opera "Dallas" character, Shepard
  - 18 perceived by the senses
  - 20 TXism: "still wet behind the \_\_\_\_\_"

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by Charley & Guy Orbison  
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# Sports

## AHS Cheer performs at State competition.

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

Before 2014, cheerleading was not considered a UIL-sanctioned sport. This meant no district, regional, area, or state titles to earn.

Once cheerleading was recognized under UIL rules, the competitive nature of what many likely believed to be just a way to pump up the crowd at another sporting event changed.

Unlike other UIL sporting events, cheer does not compete in weekly competitions. Instead, these athletes compete at different summer cheer camps to qualify for the state competition.

The UIL Spirit State Championships were recently held in Fort Worth January 16-18. In its 10th year, qualifying cheer teams from all over the State compete against each other in their practiced routines. Alpine High School's cheerleaders participated in the 3A Division II conference

against 51 different schools and came in 38th overall.

Cheer coach Linda Morris said, "Alpine has been to the state competition four times since cheer became a UIL-recognized sport, but we had not qualified for the state competition in about three years."

Morris said her cheerleaders work just as hard as other athletes involved in different sports. "We work on strength and conditioning because these athletes are required to be enrolled in athletics. We try to get in as much weightlifting time as possible, along with other training exercises such as tumbling, balance, and stunts," Morris stated. "Each individual on this team has dedicated themselves and had the drive to achieve the collective team goal of competing at the State level."

Morris also noted that any change in the group, such as one person missing, required the entire routine

to have to be changed. She also mentioned that if any team members don't have the desire to compete, the team will not get to compete.

Only one of the current AHS cheerleaders has participated in the state competition prior to this year. As a freshman, Ella Miranda, now a senior, participated in a state competition. Morris says Miranda is immersed in all levels of cheerleading, from the working out to the choreography to the planning of when and where they will be and with which sport they will be supporting, including pep rallies.

"Ella really enjoys all levels of the sport. She's become a great leader and enjoys planning the pep rallies, coming up with new ideas, and working at every aspect of cheer," Morris noted.

Participating at the state level is a good experience for cheerleaders who have never had it before. It allows them to immerse

themselves in the pressure, emotions, and expectations of that level of the sport and work towards a repeat of the experience in the future.

"This team began working together in March 2024 and competed in the summer cheer camp that allowed them to qualify for State. I am extremely proud that this team pushed themselves to compete at State because it can be difficult to find the time to work on their competition routine since so much of their time is dedicated to football games, volleyball games, and pep rallies in the fall. Almost all of them are involved in other sports or school activities, and they have to keep their grades up. I am very happy that they have a contest focused just on them, and they made a huge effort to get to this level of competition," remarked Morris.



**Fightin' Buck cheer competed at the State UIL Spirit Championship earlier this month and posed for a group photo after their competition. In back: AHS Cheer Coach Linda Morris, Alli Wofford, Sarah Natera, Jack Juett (flag runner), Nevaeh Carrasco, Ella Miranda, and Aliea Fierro. Middle row: Molly Garrett (flag runner), Lucille Fraser, Naida Morris, Abby Bruttomesso, and Hope Dominguez (flag runner). In front: Analia Adame, Gabriella Dominguez, and Karolina Castillo.**

Courtesy photo

## Lady Bucks bring the heat

15-4 blowout against Riverside sets tone for season

BY KERRY LAIRD  
Sports Editor

The Alpine Lady Bucks came out swinging in their first softball scrimmage of the season, traveling to El Paso to take on the Riverside Rangers on Saturday, January 25. It was a powerful start for the Lady Bucks, who delivered a statement win with a 15-4 rout of the 5A varsity squad.

"I was very pleased with the girls' overall play and aggressiveness," said Head Coach Chris Virdell. "That is definitely our style of play."

Facing Riverside for the first time since their 6-4 victory in Alpine last March, the Lady Bucks showed no signs of off-season rust. This year's matchup saw them firing on all cylinders, combining consistent bats, aggressive base running, and solid pitching to clinch the impressive win.

Kody Hawkins took the circle as the starting pitcher, holding Riverside in check for three innings before Taryn Hardin closed the scrimmage with another three strong innings. Both pitchers looked sharp in their first outing against live batters, a promising sign for the season ahead.

The Lady Bucks' offense was a force to be reckoned with, scoring an incredible 15 runs thanks to relentless consistency

at the plate.

Hawkins and Hardin made their presence felt on the mound and at the plate, each launching their first home runs of the year. With bats this hot, Alpine kept the pressure on Riverside's defense inning after inning.

"I would have liked to play some more small ball, but I really want the girls to have the opportunity to swing the bat," said Coach Virdell.

Aggressive base running added another layer to the Lady Bucks' attack. The team went an impressive 4-for-5 in stolen base attempts, showcasing their speed and ability to capitalize on scoring opportunities.

Catcher Zariah Galvan was a defensive standout, shutting down Riverside's own running game with two clutch putouts on steal attempts.

While the Lady Bucks delivered an impressive performance against Riverside, there's always room for improvement, and Coach Virdell pointed out areas for growth. Despite the dominating win, the team faced a few challenges with situational plays and defensive execution.

"We had a few mistakes on situational errors and miscues on thrown balls, so that will be a major focus this week," he said.



**Lady Bucks Kody Hawkins and Taryn Hardin each hit a home run this past Saturday when they took on El Paso Riverside.**

Courtesy photo

"We just haven't been able to work on every situation and what coverage we are in yet, but that's what scrimmages are for.

"It's always best to see things live, and it gave me a script for the upcoming practices."

The Lady Bucks' performance against Riverside sets the tone for what promises to be an exciting season. With pitching, hitting, and defense all clicking early, Alpine fans have plenty to look forward to as the Lady Bucks prepare to carry this momentum into their upcoming games.

The Lady Bucks are back on the road this Saturday, heading to Midland for a scrimmage against the Midland Christian Lady Mustangs, who fin-

ished with an impressive 22-7-2 record last season.

After that, the team will return home for their highly anticipated first scrimmage of the season in Alpine, a Highway 67 showdown against Fort Stockton. The Lady Bucks will be looking to bounce back after two narrow losses to the Panthers last year, making this matchup even more intense as they seek redemption.

"The further along we go with scrimmages, the more actual game planning we will do to prepare us for upcoming games," said Coach Virdell. "The game against Riverside was an exciting way to start off, and we're anxious for the next scrimmage."

### Fightin' Buck Basketball Schedule 2024-2025

#### DISTRICT 4-3A GAMES

Jan. 31 Presidio, AWAY  
9th 5:00 JV 6:30 V 8:00  
Feb. 4 Anthony, HOME  
9th \*\*6:30 JV \*\*5:00 V 8:00  
Feb. 7 Kermit, AWAY  
9th 5:00 JV 6:30 V 8:00  
Feb. 11 OPEN  
Feb. 17-18 Bi-District  
Feb. 24-28 Regional Semifinals  
Feb. 27-March 1 Regional Finals  
March 3-4 State Semifinals  
March 6-8 State Finals  
*\*Dates and times are subject to change.  
\*\*Games played at Alpine Middle School*

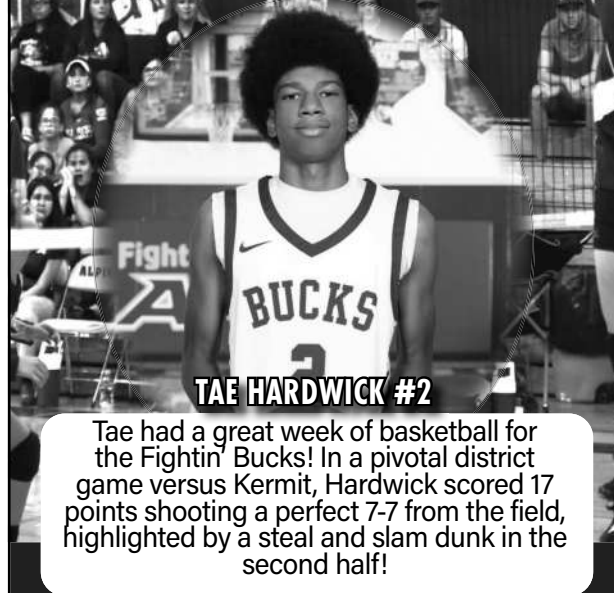
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-----  
CF Burger with Aged Cheddar Cheese on a Kaiser Roll-Fried Chile Relleno stuffed with Cream Cheese, Corn and Peppers Carne Asada with Reata's Cheese Enchiladas-Chicken Caesar Wrap with Hand Cut Fries-Tenderloin Tacos with Sundried Tomato Cream Sauce-Grilled Chicken Breast topped with Mango Chutney  
-----  
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Cup of Daily Soup  
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1/2 BLT Sandwich with Peppercorn Bacon

### ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



**TAE HARDWICK #2**

Tae had a great week of basketball for the Fightin' Bucks! In a pivotal district game versus Kermit, Hardwick scored 17 points shooting a perfect 7-7 from the field, highlighted by a steal and slam dunk in the second half!

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## Runnin' Bucks begin season in Lubbock

BY KARA GERBERT  
Managing Editor

A few members of the Alpine High School Runnin' Bucks hit the road to Lubbock this past weekend to compete in the Texas Tech Wes Kittley Indoor High School track meet. Six members of the girls' team and Hatfield Cason were on hand for this unique meet.

Seniors Cason and Danica Mulholland, as well as junior Emy Hernandez, made their second appearance at this annual meet. Runners Nevaeh Carrasco, Naida Morris, Molly Garrett, and Kylie Maroney had their first appearance at the indoor meet. This was

a different experience for our Bucks in comparison to their typical outdoor track and field schedule.

According to Alpine Track and Field head coach Cory Cason, this early season meet is geared mainly toward more seasoned athletes.

"This indoor meet is suited for more experienced athletes whose main focus is on cross country and or track. Because we don't compete in an indoor season, our athletes used this meet to get their racing legs under them and work on performing under pressure, all while competing against over 140 schools or club teams from all over the

state," Cason said.

This meet is used to help the Alpine team members gain confidence and experience on a 200M track for those aspiring to become collegiate athletes and run events unique to an indoor track.

Alpine's standout performances by this group of runners included Mulholland's 8.12 in the 60M and 27.28 in the 200M, and she also finished with an impressive second leg in the 4x400M relay.

Hernandez's final leg of the 4x400M relay and Cason's 21st place out of 60 in the 3000M were also notable. Carrasco, Morris, Garrett, and Maroney represented the Bucks well in an environment they were unaccustomed to.

"An indoor event like this for runners who have never competed in an indoor meet can be somewhat intimidating and stressful, but our girls and Hatfield held up well," said Cason.

Monday marked the first day of the official high school track and field season where these seven athletes will join with the rest of the team in preparing for this year's upcoming outdoor season.

The Runnin' Bucks will travel to Del Rio on Friday, February 14, for their first team meet of the season at the Queen City Relays.



Alpine Runnin' Bucks took a moment to pose for a photo outside the indoor track complex at Texas Tech University in Lubbock this past Saturday. Runners include Hatfield Cason, Nevaeh Carrasco, Danica Mulholland, Naida Morris, Emy Hernandez, Molly Garrett, and Kylie Maroney.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

## Hope in motion: Alpine senior balances sports, studies, and a future in nursing

BY KERRY LAIRD  
Sports Editor

Editor's note: This is part two of a two-part series

As her senior year unfolds at Alpine High School, Hope Dominguez continues to leave an indelible mark on her school and community. Known for her relentless determination and ability to excel in multiple sports, Hope embodies the spirit of a true student-athlete.

Hope's journey has been defined by challenges and triumphs, which she has faced with unwavering determination. But for Hope, her greatest inspiration has always been her family.

"My greatest motivation is my family and how much effort and love they have given me," she said. "One lesson my dad has taught me would have to be never to say, 'I can't.'"

Her father, Coach Jerry Dominguez, has seen

Hope's remarkable growth both as an athlete and a person. As a coach, he acknowledges the unique challenges of being a "coach's kid" and has encouraged Hope to maintain focus despite outside pressures.

"Put horse blinders on and strive for excellence," Jerry advised his daughter, urging her to stay dedicated and block out negativity. Hope has taken that advice to heart, excelling in every sport she's participated in and making her parents proud.

"She works hard, plays hard, and always has a team-first attitude," Jerry said. "It's been a pleasure watching Hope grow as an athlete and a person."

Hope also stands out for her ability to inspire those around her, a virtue her cross country coach Cory Cason picked up on while watching her develop as a state championship-caliber

runner.

"Hope can be counted on to thrive under stressful conditions," said Coach Cason. "While we all love to 'win,' the reality is that in most seasons, we measure success by the team's growth and how they support and encourage one another."

"In this aspect, Hope has always been the consummate teammate providing friendship, laughter, and joy to those around her."

As a senior, Hope has embraced her role as a leader, offering simple but powerful advice to younger athletes: "Always stay positive no matter the situation, and always put your best effort into everything you do."

Balancing athletics and academics has been a hallmark of Hope's high school career. She exemplifies discipline and commitment by maintaining a 3.8 GPA in dual-credit courses while participating in five sports

and pursuing a Certified Nursing Assistant (CNA) license.

Hope's mother, Monica Dominguez, admires her daughter's ability to handle a demanding schedule. Monica, a former coach and current educational diagnostician with the school district, shared examples of Hope's remarkable drive.

From competing at a Regional Cross Country meet in Lubbock and qualifying for State to traveling to Presidio to win a volleyball match—all within 24 hours—Hope's energy seems boundless.

More recently, Hope participated in the State Cheer competition in Fort Worth, returned to Alpine for a district basketball game, and woke up at 4 a.m. the next morning to travel to Fort Stockton for a powerlifting meet.

"When I ask her, she says she loves everything



Hope, with her game face on, gets ready for her opponents to serve up the volleyball.

Courtesy photo

she does, so it's worth it," Monica said. "Having that busy schedule has prepared her for the workload she'll incur in nursing school and as a nurse."

Hope's aspirations beyond high school include running cross country and track at Texas Lutheran University and pursuing a nursing career. Her passion for helping others and embracing new challenges solidified her de-

cision to enter the field. "I wanted to find a path where I could help others and give back to my community," Hope explained. "One day, my mom mentioned that my high school offered a Certified Nursing Assistant class. I thought I would try it and instantly fell in love with nursing. It's an amazing profession, and

See HOPE • 11

## Eighth graders place first in tourney



Alpine Middle School 8th-grade girls' basketball team took the top of the podium this past weekend at the AMS District Tournament.

Courtesy photo

## Fightin' Buck Baseball Schedule

|  | JV        | V      |
|--|-----------|--------|
| Feb. 7 Fort Stockton Scrimmage               | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 14 Monahans Scrimmage                   | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 17 Pecos <b>Away</b>                    | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Feb. 20-21 Comanche Tournament Fort Stockton | TBA       |        |
| Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Seminole Tournament           | TBA       |        |
| Feb. 28-Mar. 1 Wink <b>Away</b>              | 5 p.m.    |        |
| Mar. 7-8 Wink Tourney                        | TBA       |        |
| Mar. 7-8 Monahans JV Tourney                 | TBA       |        |
| Mar. 11 Monahans <b>HOME</b>                 | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 14 McCamey <b>HOME</b>                  | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 21 Anthony* <b>Away</b>                 | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 25 Presidio* <b>Away</b>                | 4:30 p.m. | 7 p.m. |
| Mar. 28 <b>OPEN</b>                          |           |        |

\*\*Dates and times are subject to change.

## Lady Bucks Softball Schedule

| Date                               | Location        | Varisty          | JV      |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|------------------|---------|
| Feb. 1 Midland Christian Scrimmage | Midland         | TBA              | TBA     |
| Feb. 8 Fort Stockton Scrimmage     | HOME            | 10 a.m.          | 12 p.m. |
| Feb. 11 Monahans                   | Monahans        | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |
| Feb. 13-15 NFCA Tournament         | College Station | TBA-varsity only |         |
| Feb. 18 Andrews                    | Andrews         | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |
| Feb. 20-22 Monahans JV Tournament  | Monahans        |                  | TBA     |
| Feb. 25 Fort Stockton              | Fort Stockton   | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |
| Feb. 27-Mar. 1 Fox Tournament      | El Paso         | TBA-varsity only |         |
| Mar. 4 Pecos                       | Pecos           | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |
| Mar. 7 Big Spring                  | HOME            | 4 p.m.           | 6 p.m.  |
| Mar. 8 Odessa High                 | HOME            | 12 p.m.          | 2 p.m.  |
| Mar. 11 Midland Legacy             | Midland         | 4 p.m.           | 6 p.m.  |
| Mar. 14 Anthony                    | Anthony         | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |
| Mar. 15 Midland Christian          | Midland         | 12 p.m.          | 2 p.m.  |
| Mar. 18 Presidio*                  | HOME            | 5 p.m.           | 7 p.m.  |

\*District Play

## Lady Buck Basketball Schedule 2024-2025

| Date   | JV   | V    |
|--|------|------|
| Jan. 31: Presidio, AWAY                                  | 5:00 | 6:30 |
| Feb. 4: Anthony, HOME                                    | 5:00 | 6:30 |
| Feb. 8: District Certification                           |      |      |
| Feb. 10-11: Bi-District                                  |      |      |
| Feb. 13-15: Area   |      |      |
| Feb. 17-18: Regional Semifinals                          |      |      |
| Feb. 20-22: Regional Finals/Optional Regional Tournament |      |      |
| Feb. 24-25: State Semifinals                             |      |      |

\*\*Dates and times are subject to change.

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## Notice to Creditors

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Testamentary for the Estate of Carolyn Ann Thomson, Deceased, were issued on January 14, 2025, under Docket No. PR03194, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Carolynn Cassitan Francisco.

Claims may be presented as follows:

Representative  
Estate of Carolynn Ann Thomson,  
Deceased  
c/o Julie Balovich, Attorney  
P.O. Box 385  
Alpine, Texas 79830

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: January 24, 2025  
Law Office of Julie M. Balovich PLLC

By: Julie M. Balovich  
Attorney for Carolynn Cassitan Francisco,  
Independent Executor of the Estate of  
Carolyn Ann Thomson.

## APPRAISAL REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS NEEDED



The Brewster County Appraisal District is seeking applications for the position of Appraisal Review Board member. The board meets numerous times primarily during the summer. Training is required to sit on the board. A daily rate of \$200 is paid for service.

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Applications will be accepted until February 28. The district judge appoints members from the applications received.



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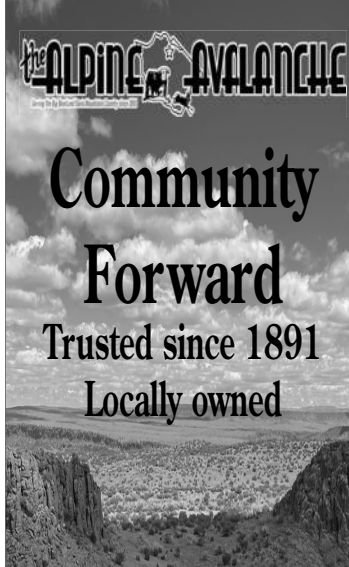


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I can't wait to see where my career in nursing takes me!"

Monica sees Hope's service to others as a hallmark of the young woman's ability to excel in the healthcare profession.

"Her positive attitude and selflessness towards others will definitely play a role in her career as a nurse," she said. "I believe Hope will be a great nurse because of the values she has learned. Hope is a hard worker and never lets a challenge set her back.

"She sets a goal and accomplishes it. She has always had that mindset, even as a little girl."

In a town where high school sports are deeply intertwined with community pride, Hope's journey

is a testament to hard work, heart, and the support of those who believe in her. As her final season as a high school athlete comes to a close, she is savoring every moment while leaving a legacy of leadership and inspiration.

"As I embark on these last few months of high school athletics, I am really excited to see what the rest of basketball, powerlifting, and track seasons hold," Hope shared.

When the final whistle blows on her high school career, Hope Dominguez will leave behind more than accolades—she'll leave a lasting impact on her teammates, coaches, and community.

**AMS 7th-graders runners up**



Alpine Middle School 7th-grade basketball girls took the runner-up spot in this past weekend's District tournament. The girls won their first game of the tournament against Presidio, defeating the Blue Devils 28-11. They were defeated by a single basket in overtime in their second game against the Kermit Yellowjackets, where they lost 26-28.

Courtesy photo

**SENIOR Spotlight**  
**VIRGINIA ACOSTA**

**In what activities did you participate in high school?**  
I am currently involved in Photography, Art, Band, and NHS.

**Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?**  
My favorite teacher is not really a teacher or a coach but is still a big part of the AHS staff. Jesse the bus driver has been a driver for as long as I can remember. I can never forget how in elementary school, during the winter, Jesse made everyone's day by giving out candy canes to the

students. He has cared so much for the students over the years and he still does to this day.

**What was your favorite moment in the last four years?**  
My favorite memory in the last four years has to be the band trips.

**What are your plans after high school?**  
My plans after high school is to continue with school and go to college at the University of North Texas to pursue my photography career.

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| <b>Feb. 22</b> Comanche Relays                 | Fort Stockton |
| <b>Feb. 28</b> Sandhills Relays                | Monahans      |
| <b>March 6</b> Wink Wildcat Relays             | Wink          |
| <b>March 14-15</b> San Angelo Relays (Varsity) | San Angelo    |
| <b>March 29</b> Fightin' Buck Relay            |               |

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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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**Devotional Page**  
**A NEW DAY – A NEW THING**

BY PASTOR MARK WILLIAMS

Grace Christian Fellowship

The New Year of 2025 has already begun. New resolutions have been made, and there is more access in this age and time.

Little do people realize that God, in the Bible, uses the same language to tell the world what He is going to do on His New Day. God announced by the prophet Isaiah:

(Isaiah 42:9) Behold, the former things are come to pass, and new things do I declare: before they spring forth I tell you of them.

And He did it. He would establish a new covenant with better promises.

(Hebrews 8:6) But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.

Jesus Christ would do it all on Calvary through His birth, life, death, burial, and resurrection. The church we see today in every place on the globe is a clear visual picture of Him doing what His resolution of that new day was. Remember: (Matthew 16:18) And I say also unto thee, That thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

Some may attend a large cathedral, and others a small congregation. There will be different names, but all will be included and covered in that one

title—"The Christian Faith." Christianity today is the largest faith in the world and growing. If Christ delays His coming for another hundred years, the church will only grow larger and stronger.

I realize the church is made with the new things that God has done.

(Acts 2:21) And it shall come to pass, that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved.

(John 14:17) Even the Spirit of truth; whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him: but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you.

(John 16:13) Howbeit when he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you into all truth: for he shall not speak of himself; but whatsoever he shall hear, that shall he speak: and he will shew you things to come.

THE SCRIPTURES POINT TO A NEW DAY: (Revelation 21:1) And I saw a new heaven and a new earth: for the first heaven and the first earth were passed away, and there was no more sea.

IN THE END: (John 14:3) And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also.

Will you receive Jesus today? Invite Him into your heart by confessing Him as Lord and believing God raised Jesus from the dead. (See Romans 10:9)

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**Ephesians 4: 31-32**  
"Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamor, and evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice; and be kind one to another, tender hearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you."

# WEST TEXAS ROUNDUP


## ABSTRACT AND TITLE



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## AHS current events team takes top honors



The dynamic duo brother and sister team of Evan and Judith Frioux along with their equally dazzling teammate, Miguel Batres, placed first in the UIL Current Events category at the McCamey Invitational meet on January 24.

Courtesy photo

## AMS band performs at All-Region



On January 24, seven AMS musicians performed in the Texas Region 6 All-Region Band from their earned chairs. These students, pictured with AMS Band Director Marina Azar are Eva Escuder, 7th-grade flute-honor band; Jayceline Vargas- 7th-grade baritone- baritone-symphonic band; Elisia Markin, 8th-grade Flute -honor band; Edison Wu 7th- grade tuba-symphonic band; Brody Warren 7th- grade baritone -symphonic band; David De La O 7th-grade clarinet -symphonic band, and Maximus Cramer 8th- grade Baritone -honor band. These musicians performed in the Crane HS Auditorium. They earned their chairs competing against over 700 students from 19 schools across West Texas.

Courtesy photo

## AHS CX Debate performs well in Wink



Last Thursday, the AHS CX Debate team competed in Wink and brought home a 1st-place and 3rd-place win. The team of Hatfield Cason and Sye Behan took the first-place win, while Zane Wash and Chris Cramer took third place. Ashlee Neil was an alternate.

Courtesy photo

## UIL Social Studies takes first place



The “Fab Four” team of Evan Frioux, Dylan Wang, Izabel Ortiz, and Raul Renteria ran away with a team first in Social Studies at the McCamey Invitational meet on Friday, January 24.

Courtesy photo

## Becoming a “carnivore” by trial and error

I’ve tried a few diets. They all have their strengths, but it is easy to become sidetracked in the pursuit of weight loss or just plain eating well. Because, let’s face it, all those delicious “bad foods” are delicious!

Discipline is a three-syllable word that determines if you are successful at most things in life, and a diet is no different. When it comes to “sticking to your guns” in terms of controlling what you put into your body, discipline is rule numero uno. The first step is saying no to that dessert, drinking unsweet tea instead of sweet tea(gross), or eating that bag of chips or other artificially contrived foodstuff. The next step is to make sure you drink plenty of water and stay away from those sodas.

And speaking of sodas, when you combine all the processed foods available, I’d bet that sodas are the number one bad-for-you winner, followed closely by anything containing artificial dyes and random chemical preservatives you can’t pronounce.

Let’s face it: When a can of Coca-Cola can remove the battery acid from your car battery, what do you think it’s doing to your body? I’m pretty sure I don’t have to draw that picture for you.

As a young child, Dr. Pepper was my go-to drink besides milk. I drank water occasionally, usually out of the yard hose after running around the neighborhood like a feral animal, but that was about the extent of my water consumption.

Once I hit the college circuit, my Dr. Pepper and beer intake increased, neither of which did me any fa-



### HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

vors. At one time, I was drinking six 32-ounce Dr. Peppers a day, plus a lot of beer. After a while, my body began its revolt. While I craved the sweet drink, I’d want to throw up each time I took a sip. I soon realized it was not my friend and immediately cut myself back. Eventually, I quit my old friend and substituted it for Diet Coke, which was no better. At some point, I realized that it wasn’t the sugar but the carbonation I craved.

Now that all my fun “vices” had turned on me like a communist regime, it made me question all the other bad food choices I’d been making over the years.

Most recently, because I’m mostly allowed cheese, I’ve turned to a low-carb lifestyle, doing my best to eliminate all those gut-killing, over-processed foods. I’ve eliminated rice, pasta, bread, and tortillas, except those labeled as keto. But I’ve questioned if they are really that low-carb. In an attempt to reduce even more wheat from my diet, I’ve been following these interesting carnivore diet substitutes for bread, tortillas, pasta, and anything resembling breading.

For example, making my own chicken nuggets. This is so simple and even better than any store-bought or fast-food chicken nugget I’ve ever had.



### Three-ingredient chicken nuggets

Photo by Kara Gerbert

All it takes is a little bit of chicken, an egg, and a little bit of cheese to make these pure protein nuggets. This is just a start to some of the most wonderful-sounding recipes packed full of protein and can be used in multiple ways, such as carnivore pasta, which can be cut into strips to resemble noodles and used as sheets to create delicious lasagna. Tortillas can even be made for tacos or enchiladas, using zero flour and corn. Surprisingly, the carnivore pasta and tortillas use pork panko, ground-up pork rinds, eggs, and cottage cheese. Simple, high protein, and low carbohydrate food allows the enjoyment of all those comforting foods that really do your body no good when you add processed components. But don’t leave out the veg-

gies, even if that doesn’t actually “compute” to define carnivore. Leafy greens and cruciferous veggies like cauliflower and broccoli are great for you, as are many others.

Don’t think I’m trying to convert anyone to my way of eating. I’m not. I am not a doctor or a nutritionist, but I know what makes my body happy without adding all the nasty options that weren’t making it happy. Despite some of these things taking a bit longer to make because there’s a bit of prep work and some outright cooking as opposed to heat and eat, these options really are much more satisfying than all those contrived pre-packaged foodstuffs we indulge in due to convenience. But don’t take my word for it. Try it out for yourself and see what you think.

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**3 INGREDIENT CARNIVORE CHICKEN NUGGETS**

**INGREDIENTS**  
One 12-ounce can of chicken or baked or rotisserie chicken  
One ounce of shredded parmesan cheese  
One egg

**DIRECTIONS**  
In a medium bowl, mix all three ingredients until well combined.  
Form the chicken mix into nuggets by hand, placing them onto parchment paper for a cookie sheet or air fryer.  
Preheat the air fryer to 375 degrees for three minutes if air frying.

To air fry, place the nuggets in the air fryer and cook for 10 minutes, turning once midway through.  
Eat and enjoy with your favorite sauce if desired; although they’re so good, no sauce is needed.

**OVEN DIRECTIONS**  
Preheat the oven to 425 degrees and bake for 12-15 minutes. Turn and bake another 8-10 minutes until both sides are golden brown, being careful not to burn.  
\*If you like your nuggets spicy, add Tabasco to the mixture.

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