

Feds speed up immigration cases

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The United States Attorney's Office for the Western District of Texas has recently released multiple statements on arrests and sentencing for federal criminals. An increase compared to normal.

Four arrests have recently occurred and are being prosecuted by attorneys in the Western District of Texas.

Jose Juan Garcia Tiro, a Mexican national with a violent criminal record according to the U.S. Attorney's Office was arrested in El Paso on criminal charges related to his alleged illegal re-entry into the United States.

Court documents determined upon his arrest that he was in the country illegally and had been removed previously in 2015. Garcia was previously convicted in Ocean, New Jersey and sentenced to eight years in prison

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INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

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



"Bring a shovel": County approves funding for new medical facility in South County

BY KERRY LAIRD
Correspondent

The Brewster County Commissioners met for a special meeting on Tuesday, All commissioners were present. Precinct 2 Commissioner Sara Colando praised a group from the Terlingua CSD school, which on February 1 won the 2025 El Paso First Tech Challenge League Championship in robotics, competing against 5A and 6A schools.

"I'm really proud of them," said Commissioner Colando. "They're a tiny school. They work together so well. It's great to see all the kids collaborate, strategize, and then change their strategy, showing



Brewster County Judge, Greg Henington

they can adapt. They're doing great." The meeting's highlight—and the reason a small group was in attendance—was the approval of funding for a portable health clinic in Study Butte. This much-anticipated initiative will provide residents with easier

access to essential healthcare services. "I'm real optimistic that...this thing will be here long after I'm gone, and all of us here are gone," said Judge Henington. "Pretty excited about that. I want to thank the Hospital District for y'all stepping up." According to Judge Henington, the portable health clinic will span roughly 500 square feet and include

soundproof rooms to maintain patient privacy. The facility will be leased to Hamilton Health Box under an initial five-year agreement, with Brewster County retaining ownership of the building. The project is expected to cost approximately \$200,000, which includes construction expenses and

See COUNTY • 6

Lady Bucks conquer in McCamey



The Lady Buck golf team was the undisputed champion at the McCamey Golf Invitational on Monday, with Colette Fowlkes placing first followed by Evelyn Smith placing second in individual play.

Photo courtesy of Sonia Ybarra

Hays named head football coach at Sul Ross State

Sul Ross State University has selected Lee Hays as the new head football coach. He was expected to begin in Alpine on February 15.

He replaces Barry Derrickson, who resigned last fall.

"I'm honored and humbled to accept the head coaching position here at Sul Ross. This isn't just about football—it's about developing young men of character, building a program founded on discipline, hard work, and team-first values," said Hays. "Our goal isn't just to win games but to create an environment where student-athletes can grow, learn, and become leaders both on and off the field. Together,

we'll build something special here—not just a team, but a brotherhood representing the best of this college and our community."

Hays got his coaching start at Texas A&M Kingsville, 1997-98. He oversaw the tight ends while helping the Javelinas to a 20-5 record, winning the Lone Star Conference title twice and qualifying for the NCAA Division II playoffs both seasons.

After a stint as the offensive line coach at West Texas A&M in 1999, he returned to Kingsville as the defen-



Sul Ross Head Football Coach, Lee Hays

sive line coach (2000) and the offensive line coach (2001-02), developing 13 All-LSC selections, winning two additional LSC championships, and making an appearance at the national semifinals in 2002.

He returned to Canyon as the offensive coordinator from 2003-05 and, after winning just seven games in the previous four seasons combined, helped the Buffaloes to a 10-2 record, their first conference championship since 1986, and a first-ever NCAA Division II playoff appearance — their best season

in 55 years.

In 2005, Hays' offense led the country in passing with an average of 363.8 yards per game, garnering 23 All-LSC selections, including three individual Lone Star Award winners.

He was hired as the offensive coordinator at Baylor in 2006 when the Bears averaged 23.6 points per game, their best mark since joining the Big 12 in 1996. He moved to the University of Houston in 2010, coaching the offensive line, and then to Tarleton State in 2011 as the offensive coordinator. The Texans averaged 32.1 points and nearly 400 offensive yards per game, doubling their win total from the year before.

From 2013-2016, he served as the offensive line coach at Texas Tech University. The Red Raiders ranked amongst the Top 10 in total offense all four years, appeared in two bowl games, had their first 1000-yard rusher since 1999, and signed the highest-ranked offensive line class in program history. Hays helped develop seven All-Big 12 selections, including Le-Raven Clark (two-time All-Big 12 First Team, 2015 Second Team All-American).

"We are excited to bring Lobo football into a new era with Coach Hays." Said Sul Ross Athletic Director Aman-

See COACH • 6

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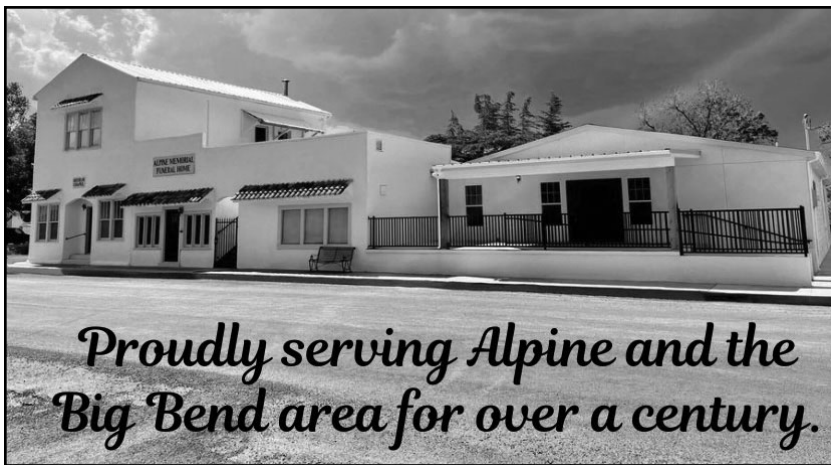
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OBITUARIES

June Mary Stein Smith

June was a person of enormous curiosity and creativity. Throughout her life, she created many works of art—from paintings to wall hangings to ceramics. She made furniture, and her home in Alpine is furnished with many of her works. As an older person, she learned how to use computers and create websites. She was always learning and expressing her newfound interests to her family.

She was born in San



Antonio in 1940 to Grace Theresa Cobb and Robert Martin Stein. Her formative years were mostly spent in Kerrville, where she attended Tivy High School, worked at the

main street drug store, and enjoyed the small-town life of the 1950s. After high school, she moved with her parents to Austin, where she won a local beauty contest, attended the University of Texas, and met Jimmy Ray Smith while the two of them lived at the same apartment complex – The Chateau Duval Apartments near the University. June and Jimmy were married in 1964. The couple moved to El Paso shortly thereafter, where their three children

were born. They moved to Alpine in 1976. June received her bachelor's degree in fine arts from Sul Ross State University in 1989.

June and Jimmy were married for 60 years and supported each other throughout their lives. June was the most beautiful woman in the world to Jimmy. June and Jimmy took their lives' greatest joy in their three children. In recent months, June grew a newfound fondness for the monarch butterfly and learned ev-

erything she could about them. She urged her children to look out for the butterfly after her death as it would be a sign of her continued presence in their lives.

June is preceded in death by her parents, Robert Martin Stein and Grace Theresa Cobb, and is survived by her husband, Jimmy Ray Smith; her sister, Shirley Barker; her children, Steven Ray Smith (and wife Neva), Gary Collin Smith (and wife Annie), and Kristy Lynn Smith, and her sev-

en grandchildren (in order of birth): Sebastian, Matthew, Ivy, Christopher, Kelsey, Scott, and Clay.

Donations may be made to Save Our Monarchs - www.saveourmonarchs.org.

Services will be held at Alpine Memorial Funeral Home. There will be a visitation on Saturday, February 22, beginning at 2 p.m., and a funeral service to follow at 3 p.m. Condolences and gifts may be left by visiting www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Ruben D. Melgoza

It is with great sadness that the family of Ruben D. Melgoza announces his passing to be with our Lord and Savior on February 14. He was born on June 30, 1942, in Brownsville to Victor and Catalina Melgoza. Ruben married the love of his life, Maria Elia Melgoza, on September 18, 1958, and they shared 67 beautiful years together.

He was preceded in death by his parents, four brothers, and one sister, his late son-in-laws, Andres Reyes Jr. and Inez Rios, and one grandchild. He is survived by his



wife, his three daughters, Nelda Reyes and Ruth Macias, and husband Joe and Pamela Melgoza, his sister Rosalinda Flores, his adored nephew Joel "Kenny" Melgoza and his wife Carolina, along with eight grandchildren and 27 great-grandchildren.

Ruben worked as a mechanic in Brewster and Terrell counties for eight years and then pursued his dream in law enforcement at Sul Ross State University as the first Hispanic chief. He also worked for the sheriff's department and then eventually migrated to the Alpine Police Department, where he was also appointed as the first Hispanic chief of police and held that position, serving a combined 21 years of service. In 1990, he relocated to San Antonio, where he served as an officer for Edgewood ISD for 20 years as a sergeant. Aside from his respected

career path, he was also a talented musician who played the saxophone and trumpet for the Rhythmaires. He had an ear for the keyboard or any instrument. Music was a big part of his passion, and even without an instrument in hand, his unique whistle would brighten up his surroundings along with his contagious laugh, smile, and sense of humor.

His warm love and wisdom he shared will forever echo in our hearts. We will carry his legacy in our actions, his laughter in our smiles, and his love as a compass on our life's journey. Thank you, Lord, for

this man who led, loved, and believed in God and family. Thank you, Jesus Christ!

End of watch: February 14, 2025, at 2:45 a.m.

Visitation will take place on Wednesday, February 26, from 5 to 7 p.m. in the Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Chapel, located at 209 W. Sul Ross Avenue. The recitation of the Holy

Rosary will take place at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church in Alpine at 9:30 a.m. on Thursday, February 27, with the funeral Mass beginning at 10 a.m.

Services have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home, and gifts and condolences may be left by visiting www.alpinememorialfuneralhome.com.

Fort Davis' Hernandez places in Fort Worth



Chelsea Hernandez of Fort Davis FFA earned a 9th-place ribbon for her Hampshire swine at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo.

Courtesy photo

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Alpine ISD recognizes TIA recipients



Alpine ISD honored 11 Teacher Incentive Allotment Designated Teachers on Friday morning. One teacher from the elementary school (Mrs. Jean Anne Fort), six teachers from the middle school (Tammy Hopkins, Rosalynn Larsen, Katy Matthews, Laura Lee Portillo, Casey Valenzuela, Susana Hernandez), and these four teachers from the high school (Kristyl Albertson Reyna, Renee Parson, Terri Pineda, and Michelle Ramos) received checks from the State of Texas in amounts of \$6,200 up to \$22,800 for recognized, exemplary, and master teacher designations.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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Texas Capital Highlights

Lawmaker calls for probe into \$95 million lottery jackpot

The Texas Lottery Commission and its former director are under scrutiny after they allegedly helped a single entity win a \$95 million Lotto Texas Jackpot, the Houston Chronicle reported.

Written testimony at a state legislative hearing last week from an attorney indicated an entity called Rook TX guaranteed it would win the jackpot by buying virtually every one of the nearly 26 million possible six-number combinations in the drawing, held in April 2023.

Houston lawyer Manfred Sternberg said that he represented clients victimized by a conspiracy between the lottery commission, former head Gary Grief, and online ticker vendor Lottery.com. He sent a 22-page letter outlining the allegations to multiple state officials, including Gov. Greg Abbott and Attorney General Ken Paxton.

“Our clients have been ignored by the State of Texas, and the State of Texas has been silent on investigating and prosecuting those responsible for serious crimes,” Sternberg wrote.

The allegations raised concern among members of the Senate Finance Committee, gathered to consider the commission’s budget.

“We just need to call in the Texas Rangers immediately,” said Sen. Lois Kolkhorst, R-Brenham.

NYSE and Nasdaq move next door to ‘Y’all Street’

The Texas Stock Exchange, which debuted in Dallas last June, has new neighbors: branches of the New York Stock Exchange and Nasdaq, which have moved from Chicago to the Dallas metroplex. The Dallas Morning News reported the two venerable exchanges apparently feel the heat of competition from the upstart stock exchange.

The TXSE began with \$120 million in backing, a fraction of those of the two older exchanges. The upstart exchange has clearly “rattled NYSE and NASDAQ,” said Kirti Sinha, a University of Texas-Dallas assistant professor of accounting.

The Texas exchange sees a major opportunity in the 10-state Southeast providing a potential pipeline of 14,000 sponsor-backed private companies. Texas is already home to more than 50 Fortune 500 companies. The state has the largest number of NYSE listings, and more than 200 Texas-based companies are listed on Nasdaq, which caters to tech companies.

All of this indicates the emergence of the Dallas-Fort Worth area as a major player in the financial stage, The News reported.

Lawmaker proposes seat belts on all school buses

A bill in the Texas Legislature would require Texas school districts to install seat belts on all school buses, the Austin Ameri-

can-Statesman reported. The measure comes after a collision between a concrete pump truck and a Hays County school bus last March killed a 5-year-old boy and a man driving behind the bus.

“We just believe that having them physically restrained in their seats would help minimize – mitigate – any potential harm to the children,” state Sen. José Menéndez, D-San Antonio, said. “It is just some common sense.”

A 2017 law requires seat belts on all newly purchased buses but not on buses purchased before that and still in service. District officials have blamed a lack of funding for not being able to retrofit seat belts on older buses.

Abbott back in D.C. seeking border reimbursement

The governor returned to Capitol Hill for the second time in eight days in his pursuit of \$11 billion from the federal government to cover the costs of Operation Lone Star along the Texas-Mexico border.

The News reported Abbott met with most of the Texas Republican congressional delegation as well as House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La.

Abbott’s initiatives include sending state troopers and the Texas National Guard to the border, stringing buoys in the Rio Grande and razor wire along the banks, and busing more than 100,000 migrants to Democratic-run cities over the past four years.

At least one Texas GOP congressman agrees.

“We think the people of Texas should be reimbursed for the money they’ve already spent and are spending to secure our borders,” Lance Gooden, R-Terrell, said.

Texas HHS employees fired for accessing sensitive data

Nine employees of the Texas Health and Human Services have been fired for accessing restricted data of Texans applying for programs offered by the agency, the Texas Standard reported. The employees were accessing the private information of people seeking to apply for Medicaid or assistance under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

About 60,000 people who applied or received assistance from June 2021 and December 2024 were affected. No arrests have been made to this point.

HHS Commissioner Cecilia Young was asked at a Senate finance committee hearing if it was true that more than 8,000 HHS employees had access to private information, according to The Texas Tribune.

“One thing I wanted to make clear is oftentimes when you hear someone breaching privacy it’s coming from the outside,” she said. “And in this case, sadly, it was actually coming from our employees.”

Chisos Basin Construction Projects Delayed until July

Some services in the Chisos Mountains to remain open through June.

Major construction projects to improve visitor services and critical infrastructure in the Chisos Basin area of the park are now expected to begin July 1. This is a slight delay from the originally estimated start date in May. The Chisos Basin Campground, Chisos Basin Visitor Center, and all trails will now remain fully open through June. The park concessioner Aramark is exploring options for extending some of its food and lodging services in the Chisos Basin—de-

tails to follow.

As work begins in July, the Chisos Basin area will be closed to visitor entry. This includes the Basin Road, lodging units, Basin Campground, restaurant, NPS visitor center, camper store, and trails within the Basin area. As major components are completed, park managers will assess which areas can be safely reopened to regular public access.

This work will ONLY affect the Chisos Basin area of Big Bend Nation-



Chisos Mountains Lodge.

al Park. **Big Bend National Park will remain OPEN year-round**, with over 800,000 acres of canyons, desert, historic sites, diverse wildlife, scenic drives, backcountry roads, and over 150 miles of hiking trails for

visitors from around the world to enjoy.

Images, timelines, maps, access updates, and the most up-to-date information on the Chisos Basin improvement projects can be found on the park’s website.

City sees multiple filings for open council seats

The May 3 general election will elect two positions to the Alpine City Council and the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees. The filing deadline was last Friday at 5 p.m.

As of Monday, the Avalanche received the news that Mary McCallister, incumbent for Single Member District 7 on the Alpine ISD Board of Trustees, will not run for re-election. Instead, Josh Cross will run for the Single Member District 7 seat unopposed.

Alisd Board of Trustees, Single Member District 5, currently held by incumbent Haley Babb, received no challengers as of Friday’s filing deadline. She will also run unopposed.

Elections for the Alpine City Council seats currently up for election are Ward 1 and Ward 3, currently held by incumbents Reagan Stone and Darin Nance. Three individuals have filed to run for office in Ward 1, including Andres “Andy” Ramos, Richard Portillo, and Austin Smith. Incumbent Reagan Stone did not file for re-election. In Ward 3, Robert Ruckes has filed for office and will run unopposed, as incumbent Darin Nance did not file for re-election.

In a correction sent by Lora Nussbaum, elections administrator for Brewster County and Alpine City Secretary

Geo Calderon, early voting begins on Tuesday, April 22, and continues through Friday, April 25. Early voting will resume on Monday, April 28, and conclude on Tuesday, April 29. Early voting hours are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day at the Alpine Civic Center.

On election day, the polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 3, at the City of Alpine council chambers.

Marathon’s first schoolhouse under restoration



At Marathon’s first schoolhouse that is currently undergoing a restoration process, as part of Marathon’s “Heart of Marathon” campaign, built in 1888, is made of adobe bricks, a time-honored building technique used in the area. This photo, courtesy of the Marathon Public Library, shows the original adobe walls.

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

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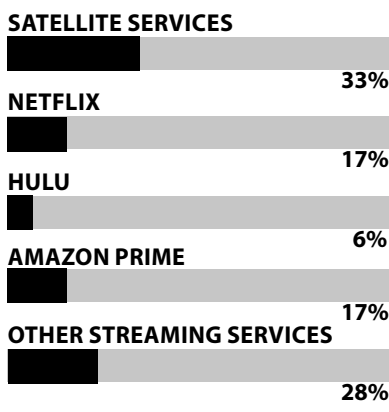
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WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE WAY TO WATCH TV?

RESULTS



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Send your letters to kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com by noon Monday for consideration.

STAFF



J.T. Maroney

Publisher

publisher@alpineavalanche.com

Kara Gerbert

Managing Editor

kara.gerbert@alpineavalanche.com

Kerry Laird

Sports Editor

Correspondent

laird@alpineavalanche.com

Shelley Maroney

Office Manager

shelley.maroney@alpineavalanche.com

432-837-3334

www.AlpineAvalanche.com

Facebook: Alpine Avalanche

ALPINE AVALANCHE (014 800) is published every Thursday morning at 704 E. Holland Ave., Alpine, TX 79830. Periodical postage paid at Alpine, TX.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Alpine Avalanche, P.O. Box 719, Alpine, TX 79831.

Subscription rates in Brewster, Jeff Davis and Presidio counties are \$42 per year, \$48 in-state and \$52 elsewhere.

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



Building the Future While Honoring the Past: BBT's Commitment to West Texas

For 65 years, BBT has been dedicated to keeping West Texas connected. What started in 1960 as a rural telephone provider has grown into a leading telecommunications company in the West Texas area, delivering high-speed internet and voice services to some of the most remote communities in Texas. BBT's recent acquisition of TDS customers in the Alpine and Fort Stockton markets has expanded our network to more than 8700 locations, including 2,700 new customers, reinforcing our commitment to providing high-quality telecommunications services across our area. On February 11, we marked another major milestone by successfully transitioning the last remaining Fort Stockton customers into the BBT network, ensuring they have access to faster, more reliable connectivity for their homes and businesses.

The next step for both Alpine and Fort Stockton migrated customers is to evaluate the most effective routes to re-grade to fiber optics. A number of these customers have already been moved to fiber, which is everyone's goal. The hybrid fiber coax network that TDS employed was released in 2013 and has limitations that a fiber optic medium does not possess. A steady upgrade to a "fiber to the home" network will provide the most scalability, resiliency, and future-proof solutions for our customers.

BBT's investment in fiber infrastructure is about building stronger communities. The recent acquisition of TDS customers in Alpine and Fort Stockton was a strategic step in our mission to provide better



RUSSELL "RUSTY" MOORE
COO Big Bend Telephone

service, local support, and long-term stability for West Texans.

BBT is continuously investing in diversifying the upstream network. There are currently three separate fiber paths available for internet access. Should one path be severed, the other two

pick up the traffic, so voice and broadband subscribers are unaffected. This same diversification is also extended to internal rings within the network as we continue to invest in further protection against potential service disruptions across our vast serving area.

For decades, we have focused on expanding broadband access where it's needed most. Through our fiber deployments, rural infrastructure projects, and customer-first service approach, we remain committed to brid-

ing the digital divide and ensuring that the communities we serve have the tools they need to grow and thrive.

As we celebrate 65 years of service, we reflect on our roots in rural communication while looking ahead to the future of connectivity in West Texas. The completion of the Alpine and Fort Stockton network migration is another step in that journey. We will continue to invest in the next generation of broadband technology to ensure that West Texas remains connected, competitive, and future-ready.

At BBT, we believe that a stronger network means a stronger community, and we are proud to serve as the foundation for growth, opportunity, and innovation.

For more information about our services and ongoing projects, visit bigbend.com or call 800-592-4781.

Helping Ensure Water Security for West Texas Communities

Sul Ross State University remains committed to serving our communities by educating students, convening experts, and providing technical expertise. Among the many challenges facing the Big Bend region—including rural health care, agriculture sustainability, and tourism—none is more vital than water security.

As Americans, most of us take water access for granted. Still, water security—the ability of a community to access safe water in sufficient quantities to meet its needs—is becoming increasingly critical.

With persistent drought conditions in West Texas, ensuring a reliable water supply is essential for both communities and industries that depend on water, such as ranching, farming, and tourism. Without strategic planning, these industries could face severe economic consequences.

At SRSU, we are actively working to develop solutions for these challenges for our region and the entire state. Last January, we hosted the "Water in the Desert" conference, attended by over 250 stakehold-

ers, including water experts, legislators, ranchers, and philanthropic foundations. The engagement was so strong that we committed to launching the West Texas Water Research Center, dedicated to providing science-based water conservation and planning solutions while also training the next generation of water professionals.

Although institutes of higher education are not known for moving quickly, we have made significant strides, including:

- Organizing a steering committee of key stakeholders to guide the center
- Securing a \$375,000 challenge grant from the Horizon Foundation
- Leveraging additional funding from the Meadows, Davidson, Shield Ayres, and Still Water foundations
- Initiating a nationwide search for a director
- Receiving over \$600,000 from the Department of Educa-



LOUIS A. HARVESON
Associate Provost of Research and Development

tion to hire two water specialists and develop a master's program in Water Resource Management

• Meeting with key legislative leaders about the water infrastructure plan for the 2025 legislative session and the role that SRSU could play

Beyond these efforts, the West Texas Water Research Center will engage in research that helps inform sustainable water use strategies. From studying aquifer recharge rates to exploring desalination technologies, we aim to equip policymakers with the best available science. Additionally, we plan to collaborate with landowners, municipalities, and conservation groups to develop innovative water conservation practices that benefit both urban and rural communities.

The timing of our efforts aligns with significant legislative momentum on water policy. The 89th Texas Legislature has made water security a priority. Gov. Greg Abbott has

designated water infrastructure investment as an emergency item, and Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick has included Senate Bill 7, focusing on increasing investments in Texas' water supply, among his top priorities.

To support the West Texas Water Research Center's long-term development, Sul Ross has submitted a funding request to the Legislature for \$1 million annually to fund education, research, and service initiatives. We are grateful for the interest and involvement of Sen. Charles Perry, chair of the Senate Committee on Water, Agriculture and Rural Affairs, and Sen. Cesar Blanco, who represents Sul Ross, a member of the same committee. Both attended our inaugural conference and are strong advocates for water security in West Texas.

Although we have more work ahead before officially launching the West Texas Water Research Center, we are committed to collaborating with our communities, legislators, landowners and conservation partners to ensure a secure water future for West Texas.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

NO to school vouchers

The Texas Senate held a hearing on SB 2 on Tuesday, January 28, regarding school vouchers. The committee members are proposing \$1B for 60,000 kids already in private schools and only \$3.85B for the 5.6 million kids in public schools. The breakdown of

these funds would be allocated as follows: \$16,667 per private school pupil with only \$686 per public school pupil. I pay school taxes, and the money from those taxes should go to the public schools, not to private schools. I have no opinion regarding private schools, but I feel very strongly that parents who choose to send their chil-

dren to private schools should pay for that expense, not Texas taxpayers. In Texas, the constitution does not state the government should support private schools; it states Texas is to support public schools. As a Texas constituent and taxpayer, I oppose a school voucher program. Period. If anyone reading this letter agrees with me,

please reach out to your State Senator, Governor Abbott, and Lt. Governor Dan Patrick.

FYI, most or all Republicans will vote for this bill, while all Democrats will vote against it because Democrats support public schools for Texans.

Thank you.
Norma Hackler, Austin

Hb 2171 Texas Our Texas

I am calling on the 89th Texas Legislature to pass HB 2171, which would require the playing of our state song, "Texas, Our Texas," after the national anthem at public K-12 sporting events.

The 41st Legislature adopted "Texas, Our Texas" as the official state song, written by English immigrant William J. Marsh. Many Texans may assume that public schools already play the state song, but this is not the case. If we are comfortable singing the national anthem, there should be

no controversy in also honoring our state with its anthem.

Since Texas became the 28th state in 1845, it has been home to a diverse population, including Germans, Czechs, Polish, and Tejanos. Texans have endured hardship and triumph together, from serving in every major war since the Texas Revolution to supporting one another in times of disaster, such as during Hurricane Harvey. Our state is home to booming industries, including companies like Oracle, Hewlett Packard, and Tesla. Texas also boasts the eighth largest economy in the world, and it does so with-

out taxing individuals based on income.

Beyond its economy, Texas is known for its natural beauty, from the vast landscapes of Big Bend to the towering trees of Sam Houston National Forest and the rugged cliffs of Palo Duro Canyon. "Friday Night Lights" are a beloved tradition, with schools across the state competing at the highest levels of athletic achievement.

I could continue to list the reasons why Texas deserves this recognition, just as we honor our nation. That's why it's important that we begin playing "Texas, Our Texas" start-

ing in the 2026-27 academic school year. Every member of the Texas Legislature who calls this state home and loves Texas must vote in favor of HB 2171. There is no reason a true Texan should oppose this bill.

As John Steinbeck once said, "Texas is a state of mind. Texas is an obsession. Above all, Texas is a nation in every sense of the word." The eyes of Texas are upon the 89th legislative session, and the state will be watching.

Logan Treadaway
Ennis, TX

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

Upcoming events

February at Davis Mountains State Park

February 24, Space is the Place, 8-9 p.m. at the Interpretive Center overflow parking lot. Bring your binoculars and a chair.

February 28, The Bewildering Barbary Sheep, 2-3 p.m. at the Amphitheater. Learn about this African exotic and the consequences of its rise to prominence in West Texas.

Saturdays, Art in the Park, 2 – 3 p.m. at the Interpretive Center.

February 22, Miles and Miles of Stars, 8-9 p.m. at the CCC Rock Lookout (far end of Skyline Drive). Join DMSP for a night of

constellation viewing, storytelling, and dark sky appreciation. Bring a chair and a red lamp flashlight.

February 20-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 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

February 22 Marathon Community Center Fish Fry, 6 p.m. at the Marathon Community Center 102 NE 2nd Street. Fes-

tivities begin with the meal, followed by the auction and dance to the music of Justin Trevino. For more information contact Ruben Ortega at 432-294-1096.

Ongoing Events

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

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

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

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

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

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

Big Bend Community 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, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchore.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., second Saturday of each month at 605 E. Ave F. All members are welcome.

ALPINE AVALANCHE
Heard on the STREET
The naming of the Gulf has become a salty debate. Should it be the Gulf of Mexico or Gulf of America?



Isla Velasco:
That is very controversial, but I'm true to my Mexican blood. I'm going to say Gulf of Mexico.



Elda Fuentez:
Gulf of Mexico



Roger Belding:
I like the idea of Gulf of the Americas. The Western Hemisphere is the American Hemisphere. That way, it covers everybody.



Allison Vidal:
Gulf of Mexico



Bucky Miller:
Gulf of America. Trump said it. That's what it is.

PBAF and Stillwater visit AES



Representatives from the Permian Basin Area Foundation and the Still Water Foundation were welcomed to Alpine Elementary School last week by Student Ambassadors and faculty and staff from Alpine ISD. The representatives took a tour of the school and the projects these two philanthropic foundations have helped fund.

Courtesy photo

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet all 14 dogs at the shelter!

This month, the Alpine Animal Services shelter is offering an adoption special of \$25, a steep discount from the regular rate of \$100. Alpine Animal Services is planning some maintenance on the kennels, and it would be helpful to them not to have as many dogs to move. It would certainly be helpful to the dogs that are waiting for their forever home. There is a nice mix of breeds, personalities, and ages to suit the needs of any household. All the pets are spayed, neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped.

There are multiple good reasons to consider a shelter pet; you are saving more than one life by making space for another animal in need; you are giving a second chance to a deserving animal, the unconditional love that you will receive, you get an opportunity to stay active, you destress and unwind with someone who will never judge you, and you will have a lifelong best friend.

Make Valentine's Month about helping our community. Contact Alpine Animal Services to volunteer to walk dogs, play with puppies 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 Caterery 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.

Stay tuned for our March fundraiser, Chili, Taters, and Tunes at the American Legion.

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.

Restaurant Guide

\$6 a week gets you a spot in our restaurant guide www.alpineavalanche.com



COCINERO: Beef-Chicken-Shrimp
STARTERS: Tortilla Soup Bowl-Jalapeno and Cilantro Soup-Bacon Wrapped Shrimp with Onion Jam and Pico de Gallo-Bacon Wrapped Asparagus-Tumbleweed Onion Rings with Spicy Serrano Ketchup-Alpine Black Bean & Chicken Nachos

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

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

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Dr. Joshua Pass - Optometrist
Dr. Brian Cherry - Optometrist

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VENUE CHANGE
BREWSTER COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING
ON APPLICATION FOR GROUNDWATER PRODUCTION PERMIT NO. GPP-014,
Lajitas Capital Partners
New Location: South Brewster County Emergency Response Center
23250 FM 170 Terlingua, TX 79852
Original posting: Alpine Avalanche, January 30, 2025 Edition
Date and Time remain the same: Thursday, February 20, 2025 at nine o'clock (9:00 a.m.)

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COUNTY • FROM 1

essential infrastructure needs like septic, electricity, and water connections.

Judge Henington said this investment underscores the county's commitment to improving healthcare access in Study Butte and nearby communities.

As he described the portable health clinic, he couldn't help but inject a bit of humor into its striking design. Its bright red exterior and sky-bound design promise to make it not just a building but a beacon of health in the Study Butte/Ter-

lingua area—hard to miss, even in the vast expanse of Brewster County.

Raising his hands above his head for emphasis, he added with a grin, "Just to give everybody an idea, it's got a high-top metal façade on it. It's going to stand out. It's going to be red. Just FYI."

Precinct 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega made the motion to approve the funding, and Commissioner Colando seconded it. The commissioners unanimously approved the funding.

The small audience's excitement about the

approval of the long-awaited medical facility in South County brought smiles to the commissioners' faces.

"Bring a shovel," said Commissioner Colando, alluding to the community effort and participation that has gone into the development of the project.

The commissioner's court also unanimously approved a letter of engagement with Singleton, Clark & Company for the 2023 fiscal year outside audit. The agreement, totaling \$90,000, outlines the scope of the audit, which will include a

thorough examination of the county's financial statements.

This includes governmental and business-type activities, component units, major funds, aggregate remaining fund information, and necessary disclosures. The audit will cover the fiscal year ending September 30, 2023, ensuring compliance and transparency in the county's financial operations.

Also on the agenda, the court unanimously approved two actions related to the 2025-2026 Texas Community Development Block Grant (TxCDBG) pro-

gram. First, the court accepted a proposed agreement with Public Management, Inc., for administrative services, ensuring expertise in application preparation and program administration.

Second, commissioners approved the scoring committee's recommendations for engineering services. Judge Henington said both measures are essential for retaining qualified consultants to assist the county in applying for and managing the TxCDBG Community Development Fund, administered by the Texas Department

of Agriculture.

In a lighthearted moment, Judge Henington admitted he didn't realize the court needed to approve the acceptance of free money, but the commissioners wasted no time unanimously accepting a \$4,000 donation from the Chili Appreciation Society International (CASI) on behalf of Brewster County.

The next Brewster County Commissioners Court regular meeting will be Tuesday, February 25, at 9:30 a.m. in Alpine at the Brewster County Courthouse.

FEDS • FROM 1

for sexual assault of a prepubescent minor.

The U.S. Attorney's Office charged Garcia Tiro with one count of illegal re-entry in a hearing on February 10 and he was ordered detained without bond. If convicted, Garcia Tiro faces up to 10 years in prison and a federal district court judge will determine any sentence after considering the U.S. Sentencing Guidelines and other statutory factors.

This case is being investigated by the U.S. Border Patrol and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Patricia Aguayo.

A Honduran national, Melvin Armando Funes-Canales was also arrested recently for illegal re-entry. Funes-Canales had been deported six times and was located within the Williamson County jail in July of last year, where he'd been detained for alleged possession of an illegal substance.

The U.S. Attorney's Office reported that an investigation revealed Funes-Canales had been previously removed in October 2020 and deported on five other occasions. He was also previously convicted of burglary, grand theft, and illegal re-entry and faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted for this crime. This case is being investigated by Immigration and Cus-

toms Enforcement and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Harding.

Ruben Tinoco-Jaimes, a Mexican national and convicted felon, was also arrested for illegal re-entry in Austin. According to the U.S. Attorney's Office court documents, Tinoco-Jaimes was located in the Travis County jail in October 2024 and taken into federal custody on February 7 of this year. Tinoco-Jaimes was previously removed from the U.S. to Mexico after being convicted in December 2017 for possession of cocaine and sentenced to 37 months in federal prison. He is charged with illegal re-entry and faces up to 10 years in prison if convicted.

Immigration and Customs Enforcement is investigating the case and Assistant U.S. Attorney Matt Harding is prosecuting the case.

Closer to home, four individuals have been arrested on criminal charges for harboring illegal aliens in two El Paso hotels. Yair Alejandro Aguilar-Flores, Angel Eduardo Carrillo-Carrillo, Jorge Alfredo Lopez-Acevedo, and Jesus David Reyes-Villagran are charged with bringing in and transporting aliens. Surveillance by the U.S. border Patrol's Ysleta Station observed a vehicle with temporary plates that had been observed at various other

hotels that were known for harboring undocumented citizens.

Agents also allegedly observed three other individuals departing from one of the motel rooms and entering a separate vehicle with temporary plates.

The driver, Aguilar-Flores, admitted to being a Mexican national living in the U.S. illegally and the two individuals with him, Carrillo-Carrillo and Lopez-Acevedo, were also determined to be illegally in the United States. All three were arrested and acknowledged that additional undocumented noncitizens were inside the motel room.

The agents located seven more undocumented citizens whom they also arrested. As they were concluding their investigation, they observed the driver of the first vehicle returning to the motel and approaching the room where the migrants were arrested.

Jesus Davis Reyes-Villagran, allegedly admitted to the agents that the motel room was his and that he was returning from dropping off five other undocumented citizens at another El Paso hotel. If convicted, all four face up to 10 years in prison. The case is being investigated by the U.S. Border Patrol and prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Sean Wang.

Edible aquifers



Seventh graders at Alpine Middle School discovered how surface pollutants contaminate groundwater in their science class last week. The students constructed these edible aquifers, which they then were able to eat.

Courtesy photo

AMS students learn from student teacher



A Sul Ross Student Teacher helps seventh grade science students learn about the permeability of different types of soil.

Courtesy photo

COACH • FROM 1

da Workman. "His experience in DI, DII, the Lone Star Conference, and Texas high school football are invaluable to our student-athletes and coaches. I would like to thank the search committee for assisting in this process."

Hays comes to Alpine from Lubbock-Cooper High School (2018-24) where he was the offensive line coach and assistant offensive coordinator. Over the last four years, he helped the Pirates to the most wins and playoff games in school history.

He has a Bachelor of Science in Kinesiology from Texas A&M Kingsville and a Master of Interdisciplinary Studies from West Texas A&M.

Originally from Del Rio, Hays and his wife, Roxanne, have two children – Cade and Shanlee.



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LOOKING BACK

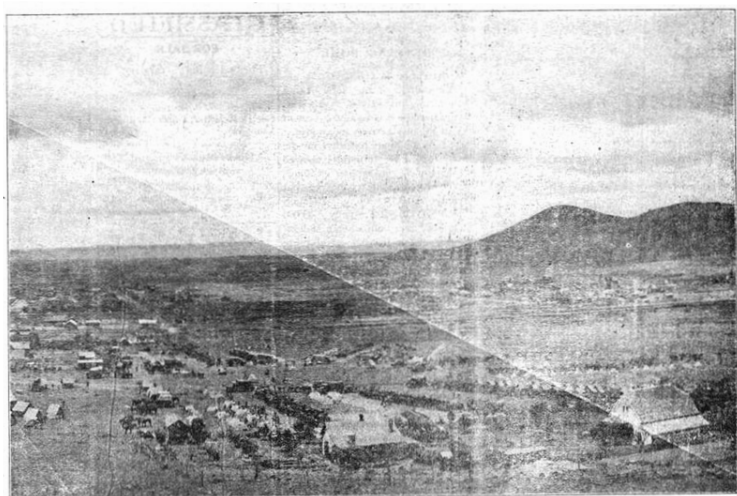
Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

February 7, 1918

February 27, 1948

February 24, 1921



The above shows Alpine in its "best bib and tucker" on the occasion of the "home coming" of the Brewster county soldier boys, when thousands of visitors were guests of the city and Uncle Sam's boys were camped here to help in the jollification. The picture shows only a small portion of the city, but gives the readers some idea of the Alpine valley in which the city nestles, and furnishes proof that Alpine has a right to arrogate to itself the honor of being indeed the "Roof Garden of the World."

PRESBYTERIANS HAVE A NEW PASTOR

Rev. H. J. Reemtsma

After almost a year of irregular services and without a pastor, the Presbyterian Church will again resume regular weekly meetings. They have secured the services of Rev. H. J. Reemtsma to be their pastor. Rev. Reemtsma comes to Alpine from a charge at Elizabeth, Ill. He is a young man of 24, less than a year out of Seminary. Mr. Reemtsma was born in Marion Jct., South Dakota, Sept. 16, 1893. He secured his public and high school education there. He then went to Dubuque College and Seminary, securing his A. B. degree at 19 years of age. He served one year as principal of the Essex, Montana public schools. During his summer vacations he served Mission fields at Bernis, South Dakota, and Reading, Minn., and the First Presbyterian Church of Leipsic, Ohio. Mr. Reemtsma also has an older brother in the ministry. It was through the solicitation of Dr. Barma, formerly of Dallas, and now of Dubuque Iowa, well-known to many in Alpine that Mr. Reemtsma came to Alpine to engage in the work.

It is hoped that all Presbyterians, as well as those who have no church-home in Alpine will become regular attendants at the First Presbyterian church.

The services will be as follows:
10 o'clock Sunday School.
11 o'clock Preaching Services.
Subject: "I am not Ashamed."
7:15. Evening Preaching, Services. Subject: The Man Who Made a Mistake.

Gifted Violinist Here Next Week

Philip Williams, gifted violinist who will appear here next Thursday night, March 4, at 8 p. m. in Sul Ross auditorium under the sponsorship of Big Bend Municipal Concert Assn. is no long-haired, one-track minded being! It is said that his music has a greater appeal to the every-day world than that of any other artist on the concert stage today.

Those who know Mr. Williams say that this is so because he not only lives "in" but lives "with" the work-a-day world. His hobbies are earthy. He is a crack shot with the pistol and the holder of many championships. In the Air Corps during the war, Philip Williams taught thousands of American airmen the use of small arms. And he is equally at home with a rod and reel!

An assiduous student of every school of musical thought, Mr. Williams possesses a repertoire of utmost breadth. Every major concerto and sonata of both the romantic and modern periods have been performed by him and his programs are highly cultivated examples of balance, unity and contrast.

Mr. Williams has the unique distinction of being called upon at a moment's notice—and without rehearsal—to play such prodigious works as the Beethoven and Brahms concerti, with orchestra, and receiving enthusiastic praise for his flawless technical skill and his polished style in each.

Philip Williams' program here will include works by Kreisler, Spalding, Bloch, Rimsky-Korsakoff and Debussy. Mr. Williams will also play the great "Concerto in E Minor" by Mendelssohn.

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

Cane much easier to remove than bamboo

Dear Neil, do you have an organic suggestion for removing the cane in my backyard? I'm about to start a major re-landscaping effort and must get rid of the cane first.

If the plants' leaves are two inches wide and 10 or 15 inches long, that would be cane. But if they are one inch wide and only four or five inches long, that's bamboo. Cane can be dug out when the soil is moist. It may require a second pass through the area to remove all of it, or you could rototill and remove all the stubble. Bamboo is a much more difficult problem. I'll assume you do, indeed, have a cane. But if it turns out to be bamboo, you'll probably want to hire a landscape contractor with a front-end scoop to remove it manually. Herbicides won't work effectively.

Dear Neil, we are moving to another part of town this fall. Two years ago, I planted two peaches and one plum tree. Could I dig them up, put them back into pots,

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

and hold them until we move?

In truth, yes, but in practicality, I'd not recommend it. They have gotten established in their current homes and uprooting them after two years would be a big setback. Leave them with the house and start with new trees this time next year. They would be hurt so much by the lost roots and by having to struggle in pots through the summer that new trees would put you light years ahead. Save the effort.

Dear Neil, we have been delighted with our compacta nandinas planted eight or ten years

ago. They have made a nice, solid bed 30 inches tall across a slope in our landscape. I have a similar spot in the back of our property, and I'm wondering if I can dig and divide new plants from our old planting rather than having to spend several hundred dollars on 5-gallon pots.

Absolutely. I've done exactly that thing in our landscape on several occasions. To do so, you'll want to work on an obscure part of the existing planting. Use a sharpshooter spade to dig and divide the clumps of plants. You're almost going to be dealing with them like you would a bed of perennials like day-lilies or iris. Dig a clump out and set it down on the ground. Slice through it with the sharpshooter to cut the portions into softball-sized or slightly larger pieces. Pull or cut them apart and plant them into the new bed on 10- or 12-inch centers in a checker-board pattern. You'll have a few lanky stems sticking up out of each clump.



Cut those back close to the ground. They will send up new shoots, and it's those new shoots that will grow together to form a solid mass of stems.

As a follow-up comment, the proper way to prune established nandinas is to cut the oldest, tallest canes back late each winter. I normally trim 40 to 50 percent of my plants' tallest stems each year, keeping the plantings neat and compact.

Dear Neil, think of the bees when you recommend weedkillers.

I have — many times over my 55-year career of helping gardeners in the Lone Star state. Let me explain my feelings. First and foremost, we would all starve if it weren't for bees. They are a critical cog in our food chain, so we must do everything we can

to protect them. That said, most of the plants that some would call "weeds" in our lawns only flower for a week or two — not very long compared to cultivated pollinators we can plant in masses in our flowerbeds and landscaping. Plus, well-maintained turf has the other side benefits of cooling our surroundings and providing recreational space for our pets and families. It's an individual choice. In most

of the cases where I'm recommending weedkillers, it's because someone has asked how to eliminate a plant they don't want. If a person prefers to leave the plants untouched to bloom in their yards, that's up to them and, in some cases, their cities or HOAs.

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

- actress Cyd Charisse was born in Texas as _____
- Ellice Finklea
- October birthstone
- a chamber in "Longhorn Cavern State Park"
- TXism: "___ ___ hombre" (mean)
- oldest Catholic parish in Texas? (3 wds.)
- A New Deal agcy. builder of Disneyland Paris (2 wds.)
- theory of relativity developer (init.)
- smooth-talker
- TXism: "unnecessary as axle ___ on a jackrabbit"
- TXism: "___ ___ small town gossip"
- slim, skinny
- hay for a horse
- TX George Strait's "I've Come ___ Expect It from You"
- well planned (2 wds.)
- newest version of Brooks & Dunn "___ Moon" has TX Musgrave's ___-o'-shanter
- Texan Julia Germain and this sister were successfully rescued from the Comanches
- provided by Texas ranches
- TXism: "___ ___ spell" (stay and visit)

DOWN

- TXism "she'd have to stand up twice ___" (skinny)
- TX George Jones' "The Window ___" (1960)
- Port ____, Texas in Parker County on FM 1187
- used fireplace again
- TXism: "dead ___"
- Martin of 1973 "Badlands" with TX Sissy Spacek
- TX George Strait's "You Look ___ Good in Love"
- TXism: "fast as a prairie file with ___ wind"
- prolonged conflict between Texas clans
- dir. from New Braunfels to Pleasanton
- sculpture or painting
- TX Buddy Holly married Maria ___ Santiago
- pink flamingo, e.g. (2 wds.)
- needed for 48-across (2 wds.)
- Gov. Hogg's only daughter
- neither's sidekick terminate
- destruction
- spherical body
- TXism: "it'll ___ in a pinch"
- TX-born Kate Capshaw began her career on "The ___ Night"
- police car warning
- pre-owned car
- a nucleic acid abbr.
- money and property owned at death
- naval person who does clerical work
- TX Freddy Fender was born Baldemar ___
- ___ Worth (abbr.)
- ___, San Antone!"
- soft drink
- election day (abbr.)
- TXism: "would jerk tears from ___ eye" (sad film)
- "we're going ___ little horse tradin'"
- "I ___ my age"
- this Kleberg managed King Ranch
- first moonwalker, Armstrong
- the cowboy ___ bandanna around his neck
- TXism for "to fish" (3 wds.)
- push or pull a thing
- TXism: "___ ___ soul" (no one)
- soothsayer
- caramel custard
- Texas astronaut, White
- Mexican actor, Novarro, was a "Latin Lover"

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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Sports

Bucks baseball powers up preseason with Fort Stockton doubleheader

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

Forget the groundhog—nothing announces the approach of spring quite like the crisp ping of an aluminum bat connecting with the taught leather of a baseball, heralding warmer days ahead. Alpine Bucks baseball took to the field Friday in Fort Stockton for its first preseason matchup, a doubleheader against the Panthers.

The boys of summer are back and looking for a strong season at the plate behind the bats of junior A.J. Llanez and sophomore Josh Solis, who look to continue their dominance at the dish.

Senior David Valenzuela gave the Bucks a strong start on the mound in game one, setting the tone for the night, during which each of the Bucks' pitchers would see a lot of innings on the bump.

The doubleheader fea-

tured varsity in game one and junior varsity in game two. Fort Stockton had already played a scrimmage Friday night before facing Alpine, so they had a bit of an advantage in live game time. That didn't matter to the Bucks, who came out to swing the bat.

Being a preseason night, the games had a casual feel. The officials did not keep score, and the seven-inning limit was more of a suggestion in game two.

Even ol' blue behind the plate seemed to nod off, completely missing that Fort Stockton's game-two pitcher wasn't coming set in the windup, which should have been a balk. Head Coach Adam Llanez called it from the dugout a few times, but it didn't do much to keep the umps awake to the illegal motion.

Nevertheless, good hitting kept ducks on the pond and runners crossing the plate inning after

inning. The Bucks varsity match-up against the Panthers in bracket play Thursday, February 20, at 7 p.m. when they enter the Comanche Tournament in Fort Stockton. We'll have the full tournament schedule for the Bucks next week.

With nearly 100 wins under his belt, Coach Llanez has built a reputation as a championship-caliber coach. In past seasons, he led the Alpine Bucks deep into the playoffs. With a keen eye for detail and a commitment to excellence, Llanez has a track record of guiding his teams through high-stakes games and into the postseason.

As the Bucks gear up for a run this year, Llanez's goal is clear: to bring his team back to that level of postseason success, where every game feels like a battle for a championship.

With that mindset, Coach Llanez approached

the scrimmage with a sharp focus on his varsity players, carefully evaluating their performance. Despite a few minor setbacks, he was generally pleased with what he saw, especially on the mound and in the fundamentals of the game.

"For the most part, I'm watching varsity guys and what they're doing and if they're doing everything right," said Coach Llanez. "They did pretty good for the most part. I felt like we competed on the mound pretty well today—just a couple of bumps here and there.

"As far as their play, their approaches to the plate, their base running—it's pretty solid."

After game one, Coach Llanez gathered the team for a quick huddle on the knee. He used his years of coaching experience to break down what went right and what needed improvement.

It wasn't all about the wins and losses—it was about pushing each player to get better and keep grinding through the tough spots. Coach Llanez has seen it all before, and he knows a thing or two about how the game teaches lessons in every inning. He didn't just focus on the mistakes; he reminded them that improvement is a process, and every step forward counts.

He ended with a prophetic vision to carry the young men into the season: "I promise you: You will get better."

The Bucks played the first game of the regular season Monday in Pecos. It was a tough outing for the Bucks, who lost 0-9.

Bucks baseball is on the road until mid-March when they face Monahans on March 11 and then McCamey on March 14 on home turf at Kokernot Field.

Plan on making the short



Coach Adam Llanez is pictured encouraging his players as they battle it out on the diamond.

Courtesy Photo

drive to Fort Stockton for day one of the Comanche Tournament today if you get the chance. The Bucks face Compass Academy at 2 p.m. and Fort Stockton at 7 p.m. For day two of the tournament (tomorrow), they play Reagan County at 9 a.m. and Midland Classical Academy at 10:30 a.m.

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Lady Bucks stay strong in preseason scrimmages, face tough teams in opening games

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Lady Bucks hit the diamond, ready to play. They kick off their preseason with two weekends of competitive scrimmages that tested their skills and resilience before playing some tough teams to open the season.

On Saturday, February 1, the team traveled to Midland for a triple-game showdown against Sweetwater, Odessa Compass, and Midland Christian. They started

the day with a nail-biter against Sweetwater, edging out a 2-1 victory in a game dominated by defense.

The Lady Bucks stayed locked in at the plate, making solid contact and staying aggressive on the base paths to manufacture runs.

"That was a solid defensive game on both sides, but I was pleased with our focus and bats," said Head Coach Chris Virdell. "We were putting the ball in play and were very aggressive on the bases."



Freshman Kacy Hawkins dives to try and beat a throw during Alpine's tournament opener in College Station, where the Lady Bucks edged Belton 3-2. Hawkins has sparked the offense with a double, posting a .333 slugging percentage to start the season.

Courtesy photo

Next up was Odessa Compass, a first-year program that struggled to keep up with the Lady

Bucks' momentum. The bats came alive, and the team cruised to a commanding 14-1 win.

The final matchup of the day was a showdown against Midland Christian. Both teams brought their A-game defensively, keeping the scoreboard blank for most of the game.

Midland Christian broke through with a three-run inning, taking advantage of a few throwing errors. But the Lady Bucks weren't about to go down without a fight.

In the final inning, junior Kody Hawkins stepped up and sent a two-run bomb over the fence, closing the gap and giving the team something to build on as they look ahead.

"The Midland Christian scrimmage was a good test for our team," said Coach Virdell. "We were able to get qual-

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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

KEALIE REAGAN, AHS JUNIOR

Kealie and her partner recently placed first in Girls Doubles at the Monahans Sandhills Tennis Tournament on February 6th. She shows up to every practice and every meet with nothing but positivity and shows constant support for her teammates.

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ity scrimmages in. I was very pleased with the overall play, and it gives a great opportunity to get a good look at a lot of things to work on.”

The following weekend, on February 8, the Lady Bucks faced another challenge in a scrimmage against Fort Stockton in Alpine. The game was a back-and-forth battle, with the Lady Bucks taking the lead early, then falling behind before rallying late in the game for a 6-8 win.

Down 6-3 in the middle of the fourth inning, sophomore Alyn Gutierrez showed poise at the plate on a full count to draw a walk and get on base with one out.

Despite being thrown out at first, freshman Aaliyah Garcia advanced Gutierrez to second with a dribbler down the third-base line, setting up a big at-bat for senior Jaycee Portillo.

With two outs on a 2-2 count, Portillo smashed one to right-center to drive in Gutierrez and bring the Lady Bucks within two runs of a tie. Fort Stockton walked another batter, but a force out at third ended the inning.

The Lady Bucks declawed the Lady Panthers in the top of the fifth with a smart infield double play and an “oops” moment in base running by Fort Stockton when ju-

nior Emily Sweat caught the runner in no man’s land, throwing her out at first.

Ready to bring home the win, the Lady Bucks put runners on first and second to start the fifth and final inning of the game. Fort Stockton’s pitching seemed to fall apart. Senior Rikki Vega hit a line drive up the middle for an RBI.

Sophomore Taryn Hardin tied the game with a hit to centerfield, scoring Sweat. Then Gutierrez loaded the bases after being hit by a pitch. Next at the plate, Garcia was also hit, which drove in the run that gave Alpine the lead.

Portillo returned to the plate for what would be the nail in the coffin for the Lady Panthers, driving another RBI on a groundout RBI to make the score 6-8.

“Our scrimmage with Fort Stockton was a great test for us,” said Coach Virdell. “I like that we were up, then got behind, then came back to win it. We needed that adversity before we started regular gameplay. Our focus was straight ahead, and the girls kept battling.”

With preseason scrimmages over, the Lady Bucks are gearing up for what promises to be an exciting season. They’re adjusting, tightening their game, and preparing to bring the heat this spring. “We are excited about

the girls and the program growth so far and look forward to an exciting season,” said Coach Virdell.

Tuesday, the Lady Bucks played their first double header of the regular season on the road against non-district opponent Monahans. Alpine struggled to bring players home, falling to Monahans 2-11 and 2-10.

The Lady Bucks traveled to College Station over the weekend of February 13-15 for the National Fastpitch Coaches Association Texas Lead-off Classic Tournament, a premiere tournament for top high school programs.

Alpine went 1-7 in the tournament, beating Belton High School, a 6A school, on day one of the tournament 3-2. They also put up big numbers against Clear Lake High School (Houston), another 6A school, but ultimately fell in that game 12-8.

The Lady Bucks traveled to Andrews Tuesday but were unable to bring home any runners, losing the game 0-10.

The Lady Bucks play in the Concho Classic Tournament this weekend in San Angelo, February 20-22. They face Stamford in game one tomorrow at noon. The next chance to catch the team at home will be Friday, March 7, when they play Big Spring.

NOTICE OF SALE

THE STATE OF TEXAS § BY VIRTUE OF AN ORDER
 § OF SALE
 §
 COUNTY OF BREWSTER § DATED: January 31, 2025

and issued pursuant to a judgment decree of the District Court, 394th Judicial District, of Brewster County, Texas, by the District Clerk on said date, and to me directed and delivered as Sheriff of said County, I have on the 3rd day of February, 2025, seized, levied upon, and will on the first Tuesday in March, 2025, the same being the 4th day of said month, at the Courthouse door, of said County in the City of Alpine, beginning at 2:00 o'clock p.m., on said day, proceed to sell for cash to the highest bidder all the right, title and interest of the defendants in such suit to the following described real estate levied upon as the property of said defendants, the same lying and being situated in the County of Brewster and the State of Texas, to-wit:

CAUSE NO. 2015-01-B10173-A-TAX, A/K/A CVB10173A; BREWSTER COUNTY, ET AL V. LOW, LEON R.

TRACT 1: R11994

The West 30.56 Feet (W/30.56') of Lot Three (3), Lot Four (4), Lot Five (5), The East 70 Feet (E/70') of Lot Six (6), Lot Seven (7) and Lot Eight (8), all in Block Thirty-Five (35), Original Town Addition of Alpine, Brewster County, Texas; being more particularly described by metes and bounds referred to in the Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 282, Page 3 of the Official Public Records of Brewster County, Texas; such description being incorporated herein by reference.

CAUSE NO. TXB22308; ALPINE INDEPENDENT SCHOOL DISTRICT vs. REBECCA L. LOVE

TRACT 1: R19245

Tract “N”, 5.25 acres, more or less, according to the West Double Diamond Subdivision Plat, Brewster County, Texas; being that property more particularly described in a General Warranty Deed recorded in Volume 348, Page 816 of the Deed Records in Brewster County, Texas.

or upon the written request of said defendants or their attorney, a sufficient portion thereof to satisfy said judgment, interest, penalties, and costs; subject, however to the right of redemption by the defendants or any person having an interest therein, to redeem said property, or their interest therein, in the manner provided by law, and subject to any other and further rights to which the defendants or anyone interested therein may be entitled, under the provisions of law. Said sale to be made by me to satisfy the judgment rendered in the above styled and numbered cause, together with interest, penalties and costs of suit, and the proceeds of said sale to be applied to the satisfaction thereof, and the remainder, if any, to be applied as the law directs.

I have appointed the following as agent to conduct the sale, to-wit:

Perdue, Brandon, Fielder, Collins & Mott, L.L.P.
 Attorneys at Law
 2500 N. Big Spring St., Ste. D
 Midland, Texas 79705
 (432) 522-2427

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At the time the sale begins, all bidders at the sale must be registered with the above named agent conducting the sale and be eligible to bid according to the Property Tax Code.

Dated at Alpine, Brewster County, Texas, this 3rd day of February, 2025.

/s/ Ronny Dodson
 RONNY DODSON
 SHERIFF, BREWSTER COUNTY

Tennis tackles Lamesa, Monahans

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

The Alpine Bucks tennis team traveled to Monahans on Tuesday, February 11, for a tri-meet with Monahans and Lamesa high schools. Both the varsity and JV teams had the opportunity to get in some volley and service experience.

Coach Lauren Martinez said that this was a great experience for all of the players. “This meet allowed our players the opportunity to practice against some great 3A

and 4A players. We were able to get everyone out on the courts, playing both singles and doubles. This allowed us to establish which players excel with partners or on their own, so that we can adjust going forward,” Martinez stated.

The teams represented Alpine High School with pride and are looking forward to getting back on the courts in the near future. The Alpine varsity players will travel to Clint on February 21-22 for another tri-meet, the Lower Valley Invitation-

al. The Bucks will hit the courts against Clint, San Elizario, and Fabens High School. Play begins at 8 a.m. MST.

The following week, Thursday, February 27, the JV team will play in the Comanche Classic in Fort Stockton. Play begins at 8 a.m. at Fort Stockton High School and the varsity will travel to Fort Hancock on Friday, February 28 – March 1 to play in the Mustang Tournament at Fort Hancock High School, with play beginning at 8 a.m. MST.

Powerlifters bring home hardware



The AHS Powerlifting team took home some top individual finishes along with personal bests. Three of the girls’ team members brought back two third place finishes and a fourth-place finish in their respective weight classes. These included Naida Morris, third-place, Vianney Santos, third-place, and Hope Dominguez, fourth place.

AHS Powerlifters are back row: Naida Morris, Hope Dominguez, Vianney Santos, Destiny Salguero, Kacey Hawkins, Roxell Adams, and Trinity Vega. Front row: Fulton Ryan, Arturo Santos, and Landon Velasco. Also pictured are Coach Jerry Dominguez and Assistant Coach Jackson Yezak.

Courtesy photo

Lady Bucks Softball Schedule

Date	Location	Varsity	JV
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.

*District Play

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

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NOTICE TO ALL PERSONS HAVING CLAIMS AGAINST THE ESTATE OF PAUL VICTOR LOEFFLER, DECEASED

Notice is hereby given that original Letters of Administration for the Estate of Paul Victor Loeffler, Deceased, were issued on January 28, 2025, in Cause No. PR03187, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to Evelyn Mae Bramblett Loeffler.

Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: Representative, Estate of Paul Victor Loeffler, Deceased, c/o Andrew Murr, Murr Law Office, P.L.L.C., P.O. Box 125, Junction, Texas 76849.

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: February 13, 2025.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Murr
State Bar No. 24041552
MURR LAW OFFICE, P.L.L.C.
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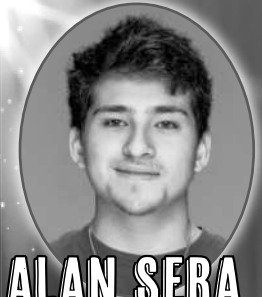
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Gray places in Fort Worth



Fort Davis FFA showman Colten Gray brought home a 10th place finish at the Fort Worth Stock Show and Rodeo with his cross-bred swine.

Courtesy photo

ALAN SERA

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in football, robotics, and graphic design.


Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
Coach Dominguez and Coach Valenzuela were my favorites because they are always looking out for the students, and they always try and

lift you up.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
When I was on the football team, we all went to the pool to have fun.

What are your plans after high school?
I plan to go to a trade school in El Paso to learn about HVAC.

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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

Complacency

BY SCOTT HUCKABY
Big Bend Bible Fellowship

Things seem to have returned to "normal" since Covid and general prosperity can lull us into complacency that all is well. But what Covid showed us is that things can change very quickly. And we are living in a time of potentially dramatic changes.

When answering questions about the signs of His return, Jesus listed several things, including wars, earthquakes, famines, and even pestilences (pandemics) in Matthew 24. We have always had these things in history, so what makes them signs is that they will be like birth pangs, increasing in frequency and intensity.

One could rationalize that we are not seeing wars like the world wars of the last century. Still, Jesus also said that "rumors of wars" would be increasing. There are multiple hot spots around the world that could easily erupt into a greater conflict, even involving nuclear weapons.

Besides the growing potential for war, there are many other indications that we are close to the end of the Church Age when God will resume working through Israel: the preservation of the Jewish culture despite the centuries-old Diaspora, the Jews returning to their homeland, the restoration of the Hebrew language, the success of Israel in war, and the growing worldwide antisemitism all fulfill Bible prophecy.

We also have the trend of nations yielding national sovereignty to global authorities, the technology being in place for the Mark of the Beast, and a desire to force an evolutionary "improvement" in humans (transhumanism). Many will dismiss these trends as just conspiracy theories. Still, a little honest investigation and critical thinking will reveal that these are more than just theories. Many of the Covid "conspiracy theories" were eventually proven to be true.

God is using today's trends to set the stage for the return of Jesus, who will fix what humanity has messed up. The transition from our current Age of Grace to the new Kingdom Age will be the worst time of tribulation in history, per Matthew 24:21. But there is good news: Jesus has promised to rescue His people before this terrible transition takes place in Rev 3:10.

This must all sound pretty fantastic to those unfamiliar with Bible prophecy. Nonetheless, it is what God's Word says. It is easy to be complacent that what God has revealed is for another time or that this is all subject to different interpretations. Surely, if these prophecies were relevant to us today, then church leaders would be warning us every week. But such "scaffolding" is also prophesied in 2 Peter 3:1-3.

Now is not a time for God's people to be complacent. As Jesus said in John 9:4, "I must work the works of Him who sent Me while it is day; the night is coming when no one can work."

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WEST TEXAS ROUNDUP


ABSTRACT AND TITLE



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Hearty winter soup for those chilly evenings

Despite afternoon temperatures being in the mid to high 70s in the Last Frontier lately, we're technically still in the midst of winter. As most of us know, the south, and Texas in particular, does its own thing when it comes to seasonal weather. One day, we may be 80 degrees, and the next, we may not reach 50, but despite Mother Nature's fickleness, our nights are still cool enough for a piping hot bowl of soup.

This hearty, Italian-style winter soup is just the right thing for those searching for a comfort food. With its onion, garlic, Italian sausage, celery, carrots, rice, and other savory spices, it doesn't disappoint.

This simple recipe allows for any other vegetables one may want to add besides the mirepoix (celery, onions, and carrots). Veggies such as



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

spinach and leeks, or even mushrooms, are great additions since all of these are in keeping with that winter-hardy ideal.

The only real downside to this delicious soup is the cooking time. This isn't a quick and fast soup. Instead, it takes time to simmer and merge all these layers of flavor, so it packs a hearty punch. But don't take it from me. Grab your ingredients, whip up a batch, and see how this hearty winter soup soothes your soul.



Italian-Style Winter Soup

Courtesy photo

ITALIAN-STYLE WINTER SOUP	
INGREDIENTS	until tender.
Two tablespoons of olive oil	Add the minced garlic and stir, making sure it doesn't burn.
Three garlic cloves, minced	Add in the sliced sausage, browning well on all sides for about five minutes.
1/4 cup chopped onion	Add the chicken stock, oregano, basil, and parsley.
1/4 cup chopped celery	Bring to a boil, reduce heat to low, and simmer for one hour.
1/4 cup chopped carrots	Add rice and simmer for another 30 minutes.
Four (3.5 ounces) links of Italian sausage, sliced	Add heavy cream, stirring well.
Eight cups of chicken stock	Remove from heat and let soup rest briefly before serving.
One teaspoon dried oregano	Add salt and pepper to taste if desired.
One tablespoon of dried basil	Note: The amount of uncooked white rice has been reduced from two cups to make the soup brothier.
1/4 cup chopped fresh parsley	
2/3 cup uncooked white rice	
1/2 cup heavy cream	
Salt and pepper to taste	
DIRECTIONS	
In a large pot, over medium heat, heat olive oil.	
Add the mirepoix and cook, stirring, for three minutes or	

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Maroney wins 9th in class



Alpine's Kylie Maroney placed 9th at last week's San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo with her market goat.

Courtesy photo

Matthews places in San Antonio



Rynn Matthews brought home an 8th-place win last week at the San Antonio Livestock Show and Rodeo with her market goat.

Courtesy photo

Seniors receive direct admission to SRSU



Seventy Alpine High School seniors received certificates on Tuesday morning in a ceremony notifying them of their direct admission to Sul Ross State University. Earlier in the year, many of these same students received direct admission to the University of Texas Permian Basin, in a multi-school collaboration between universities and Alpine ISD that helps simplify the admission process for high school seniors looking to further their education after high school graduation.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



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