

Spirits of the West returns for its 4th year

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

In its fourth year, the Spirits of the West Fest will take the stage on the Brewster County Courthouse lawn from April 25 to 26. Vendors from across Texas will be on hand to celebrate our state's iconic entrepreneurial spirit by showcasing small wineries, distilleries, and eateries, including some from our own backyard.

This year's festival will host over 40 business and organization vendors representing over 20 towns in Texas. On Friday, beginning at 4 p.m., Doug Moreland will kick things off, followed by the Scott Walker Band at 6:30 p.m., and Brodie Lane will close out the night beginning at 8:30 p.m.

See SPIRITS • 8

INSIDE



FEATURED

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Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

20251.75"
March1.75"



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.



AISD selects new principals

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Independent School District Board of Trustees held a special meeting on Wednesday, April 2, at noon to appoint two new principals to the district. Board president Eddie Natera was not present, vice-president Mary McCallister presided over the meeting. These appointments will fill the Alpine Elementary and Alpine High School positions.

In an executive session that lasted 43 minutes, the board reconvened to vote on the two positions' approval.

In the first action item on the agenda, AISD superintendent Dr. Michelle Rinehart recommended that the board hire current Alpine Elementary Assistant Principal Kelli Davies on a one-year probationary contract to fill the principal position for the 2025-2026 school year. Davies will replace Curtis Wubbena, who will retire at the end of this year.

A motion was made by Single Member District 6 board member Adrian Billings, followed by a second from Single Member District 2 board member Joe Portillo. The motion was approved 6-0.

In the second action item on the agenda, Rinehart recommended to the board that Luane Porter be hired as the principal of Alpine High School on a one-year probationary contract. Porter will replace current AHS principal Jarrett Vickers, the BB-RISE program's Regional Director. Portillo made a motion, with a second from Billings, to approve the contract for Porter. The motion passed 6-0.

The board then adjourned the special meeting, with a motion from Single Member District Member 4 Jimmy Morris and a second from Billings. Alpine Independent School District Board of Trustees' next regularly scheduled meeting is April 16 at 5:30 p.m.



Luane Porter and Kelli Davies were selected as the new principals for Alpine High School and Alpine Elementary School.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

AVFD gets new truck



The Alpine Volunteer Fire Department is the recipient of a new fire truck, thanks to a program of the Texas A&M Forest Service that donates used vehicles to volunteer fire departments. The AVFD moved their new truck into the station at last Wednesday's regular business meeting. On hand were junior firefighter Aiden Border, Gene Reeves, Jacob Goodman, Ryan Weyl, Robert Ruckes, Kiddo Campbell, Ethan Sullivan, Dawson Tello, Chief James Etchison, Larry Rodriguez, Madeleine Rodriguez, Guillermo Alvarado, Jeremiah Pearce, and Blake Marler. The bottom row is William Lunsford, Issac Lutz, Zach Davis, and Pixel, and Shelby Green is in the driver's seat.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Early voting just around the corner

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Early voting for the May 3 general election is just around the corner. Early voting begins Tuesday, April 22, and continues through Monday, April 28. The hours for early voting are 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., weekdays only. No polls are open on Saturday or Sunday during early voting, and ballots may be cast at the Alpine Civic Center.

In an earlier story, run on February 20, announce-



ing the May 3 election and the candidates, Alpine ISD announced two open positions on the Alpine ISD

Board of Trustees up for re-election. Alpine ISD canceled the elections for the open positions because Single Member District 5 incumbent Haley Babb had no challenger, and Single Member District 7 incumbent Mary McCallister did not run for re-election, leaving challenger Josh Cross the only name for that board seat, also running unopposed.

The Alpine City Council elections include three challengers for the Ward 1 seat and a single candi-

date for the Ward 3 seat. Neither Reagan Stone (Ward 1) nor Darin Nance (Ward 3) will run for re-election.

Challengers for Ward 1 include Andres "Andy" Ramos, Richard Portillo, and Austin Smith. Robert Ruckes is the lone candidate running unopposed for the Ward 3 position.

On election day, Saturday, May 3, voters in Wards 1 and 3 can cast their ballots at the City of Alpine council chambers from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

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OBITUARIES

Margaret Helen Blackman



Margaret Helen Blackman (nee Travland), beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and sister, passed away peacefully on March 11 at the age of 88 years old. Born on April 14, 1936, to Oscar Travland and Melba Harvey Travland, she was the oldest of five children. Margaret grew up in Beeville, where her father taught her how to fly an airplane and subsequently soloed on her 16th birthday. She attended Sul Ross State University, where she met John Nixon Blackman III. They married on December 22, 1956, and enjoyed a 66 year marriage, sharing many adventures

traveling the world and almost 40 years of teaching in Odessa, Valentine, Alpine, and the north slope of Alaska. Margaret and John retired to their Fort Davis home in 1994, hosting many family gatherings, including their annual family reunion every July 4th holiday. Margaret loved her

backyard and spent many hours creating a beautiful green space behind her home. She also loved to sew and craft creative items to gift them to others. She frequently shared fond memories of her time with students, both in class and at the piano. She leaves behind many friends, including those who were part of the local Pokeno group and some who enjoyed making personalized cards. She was a long-time member of the Fort Davis United Methodist Church. Margaret is preceded in death by her parents, Melba Harvey Travland and Oscar Travland, her husband John Nixon Blackman III, her son John Nixon Blackman IV, brother Lawrence Travland (Mary), and brother Oscar Nance Travland (Patty). She is survived by her brother, Lewis Travland (Charlotte) and sister, Patricia Hodgens, sons Mark Blackman and Matthew Blackman (Melanie), eight grandchildren and twenty great-grandchildren, and more students than we can count. A memorial service will be held in Fort Davis in early July to allow her family and friends to attend.

New archeological find in Big Bend

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor



This image shows the dig site within the cave where the ancient artifacts were found.

Photo courtesy of Center for Big Bend Studies

A recent archeological dig in Big Bend has uncovered an almost completely intact hunting kit, that archeologists believe could indicate human settlement occurred in the region earlier than previously thought. Found inside a remote cave in Big Bend National Park, the Center for Big Bend Studies Director Bryon Schroeder believes this new find can be applied to other dig sites within the Big Bend region.

The hunting kit, while not entirely complete, does contain almost all of the pieces of a dart-type projectile hunting system. Although they are missing some of the shafts of the kit and the handle of the atlatl, archeologists believe they can easily reconstruct the missing pieces due to what they know of these types of hunting kits.

Besides the hunting kit, archeologists also found evidence of a fire, a prong-

horn hide, and human fecal matter. The scientists estimate the date and the fact that none of the remains found were disturbed at around 6,000 years. They also found a straight-flying boomerang and some stone-tipped foreshafts which are used with the atlatl.

Big Bend Automotive holds grand opening



Big Bend Automotive held its grand opening and ribbon cutting on Saturday afternoon. The new owners Sheldon Beames and Brandon Schauman are pictured with the Alpine Ambassadors.

Courtesy photo

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LaVenture gains new chef

The Hotel Saint George and LaVenture restaurant is excited to welcome a new Executive Chef, Carlos Suarez, to the Big Bend community. With an impressive culinary background and a passion for innovative cuisine, Chef Suarez brings a wealth of experience and creativity to our restaurant. This exciting addition to the Hotel Saint George team marks the beginning of a new culinary journey for LaVenture. Chef Carlos Suarez is a native of Paraguay, where he began his culinary journey amidst his homeland's vibrant flavors and rich culinary traditions. From a young age, he developed a deep appreciation for cooking, inspired by the



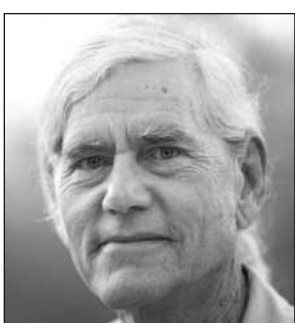
Chef Carlos Suarez

love of food ingrained in his culture. At 19, he relocated to Sydney, Australia, and his passion for cooking flourished even further. Over the past decade, he has honed his skills, working alongside incredibly talented chefs worldwide, mastering various culinary techniques and styles. From crafting simple yet delicious dishes to creating intricate and sophisticated

plates, each experience has enriched his culinary expertise. Chef Suarez joins LaVenture with over eleven years of experience in the culinary industry. Chef Suarez brings his vast experiences to the area, where he debuts a menu with new flavor-forward dishes. "My cooking for me centers on care and attention, akin to family. Food fosters connections, memories, and unforgettable experiences," Carlos Suarez The Big Bend community is invited to LaVenture, located inside Hotel Saint George. LaVenture is open seven days a week from 5 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Experience the new menu items and meet the new chef.

Conant Lecture held today

Thursday, April 10, promises to be a fun evening as the Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute welcomes Bill Neiman as its guest lecturer for the spring 2025 Roger Conant Distinguished Guest Lecture.



Bill Neiman

As the founder of Native American Seed, located outside Junction, Texas, Neiman has grown his native seed business into the premier site for native Texas flowers and

grass seeds. He is an exceptional storyteller and brings a wealth of knowledge about conservation and the diverse native

flowers and grasses found in each of the regions of Texas. The event promises to be an enjoyable and enlightening evening.

The lecture will take place on Thursday, April 10, at the Crowley Theater in Marfa. Doors will open at 6:30 p.m., and the lecture will begin at 7 p.m. As with all CDRI programs, admission is free. Beverages and hors d'oeuvres will be served after the lecture.

Rural roots and rising rates: Commissioners talk power, premiums, and public projects

BY KERRY LAIRD
Correspondent

The Brewster County Commissioners Court convened for its regular meeting on Tuesday at the Brewster County Courthouse in Alpine. Brewster County Judge Greg Henington presided over the session, and all commissioners were present except for Precinct 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Sara Colando opened the meeting by extending gratitude to the Brewster County Road and Bridge Department for their assistance during the recent dump day in Terlingua. She highlighted the challenging weather conditions and the substantial community turnout that kept the team engaged throughout the day.

"I wanted to recognize everybody who did that hard work," she said. "We really, really appreciate it so much."

The court addressed a generous \$2,500 donation from former County Judge Val Beard, earmarked for the construction of a new gazebo on the courthouse lawn. Judge Henington noted the current gazebo's deviation from its historical location and its deteriorating condition.

"The one we have now is actually not in its historical location," he stated. "The gazebo now needs to be renovated or completely torn down."

The commissioners approved the motion, initiating plans that include relocating the gazebo to its original site, ensuring ADA accessibility, and incorporating a time capsule beneath the new structure. Judge Henington speculated about the existence of a previous time capsule, suggesting that crews search for one during the demolition of the current gazebo.

Continuing their engagement with the Public

Power Pool (P3), the commissioners approved a resolution to maintain this partnership for negotiating electrical power rates.

Judge Henington emphasized the value of this collaboration, stating, "Power rates are up across the state for a number of reasons. These guys have done a good job of going out and buying this power for us and negotiating with the suppliers. This entity is not a broker trying to make a buck."

P3 operates as a non-profit political subdivision corporation, aggregating power usage among local governments to secure favorable contracts and reduce costs.

The commissioners discussed the 2025 property valuations for insurance purposes, with Judge Henington alerting the court to anticipated premium increases.

"We are facing some increased premiums this year," he explained. "Property and casualties across the country are rising, for obvious reasons—because the insurers are taking large hits in the disaster areas, and everybody's going to end up paying for it."

He elaborated on the appraisal process, noting that historic structures like the Brewster County Courthouse and jail require specialized coverage to ensure any restoration maintains their original late-nineteenth-century design, including features such as Italian marble.

"We want to make sure we're covered to replace whatever is there," Judge Henington concluded.

In support of state initiatives to bolster rural emergency medical services (EMS), the court approved a resolution backing Senate Bill 1377 and House Bill 3000 in this year's State Legislative session. According to the Texas Legislature, these bills propose the establishment of a grant

program to provide financial assistance to qualified ambulance service providers in counties with populations of 68,750 or less.

Judge Henington commented, "A lot of EMS agencies are struggling with capital costs. It's tricky when the state starts handing stuff out—how long they will hand it out and what the strings are—but I think, in general, we would support anything that the state might want to do to help rural EMS."

The Brewster County Commissioners Court is scheduled to hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, April 22, at 9:30 a.m. in the commissioner's courtroom at the Brewster County Courthouse.

Texas Capital Highlights

Appeals court: TEA can release A-F school ratings

A judge with the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled last week that the Texas Education Agency can release its 2023 A-F school accountability ratings, the Houston Chronicle reported.

The ruling overturned a district judge's injunction after more than 120 school districts sued to stop TEA from releasing the ratings. Those districts argued that the agency did not provide enough advance notice about changes to the formula used to calculate the rating.

The A-F ratings assigned to each district and campus are based on standardized test performance, though the COVID-19 pandemic slowed the process. The appeals court ruled that TEA Commissioner Mike Morath had the authority to postpone their issuance or to change the standards after the 2022-2023 school year was over.

"We agree that after a race is over not everyone can be declared the winner," the court's opinion read. "But it is not our role as judges to decide whether the Commissioner's decisions were necessary or fair. The Districts' burden ... was to show the Commissioner acted 'without legal authority,' not that he should have exercised his discretion another way."

Dueling property tax proposals compared

The Texas House and Senate have agreed to spend at least \$6 billion to cut property taxes but are taking different approaches, The Texas Tribune reported. The most significant difference that must be reconciled is whether businesses or homeowners get the larger tax break.

The House measure gives more relief to businesses. It would exempt up to \$250,000 of business inventory from all property taxes, up from \$2,500. House Speaker Dustin Burrows, R-Lub-

bock, backs the bill. "Raising the personal property tax exemption ... would be a monumental win for Texas businesses, freeing up funds for business owners to reinvest in the growth of their companies on top of the potential savings provided by buying down property tax rates for all property owners statewide," Burrows said in February.

The Senate version focuses on bigger tax breaks for homeowners, largely by raising the homestead exemption once again, this time from \$100,000 to \$140,000.

"I have made increasing the homestead exemption my mission because it is the best way to deliver meaningful property tax reductions for homeowners," Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, who leads the Senate, said in February. That bill passed unanimously in February. It contains an increase in personal property tax exemption from \$2,500 to \$25,000 – much lower than the House version.

Alpine ISD to host health fair

The Alpine ISD will be hosting a health fair tomorrow from 9 a.m. to noon in the Alpine High School cafeteria. The health fair is open to the public and those interested in attending should enter through the gym doors on Fighting Buck Avenue. There will be numerous local agencies and non-profits participat-

ing, including Big Bend Regional Medical Center, PCHS, Prescription Shop, Highland Drug, Lions Club, Sul Ross State University, Midland College, Alpine Police Department, Big Bend Family Crisis Center, Texas Department of Health and Human Services, Southwest Hearing Aid, Permiancare, Emergency Health

Network, Senior Life Skills, Aliviane, Brewster County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Public Safety, Office of Border Public Health, OSAR, and the Texas Workforce Commission. All are invited to attend. For more information contact the Alpine ISD nurse, Gayla Owen at 432-837-7710 ext. 410.

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:
What is your favorite springtime activity?

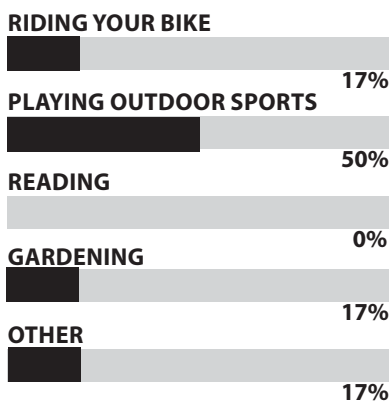
- Riding your bike
- Playing outdoor sports
- Reading
- Gardening
- Other

Vote for this week's poll online at:
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RESULTS

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPRINGTIME ACTIVITY?

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 by noon Monday for consideration.

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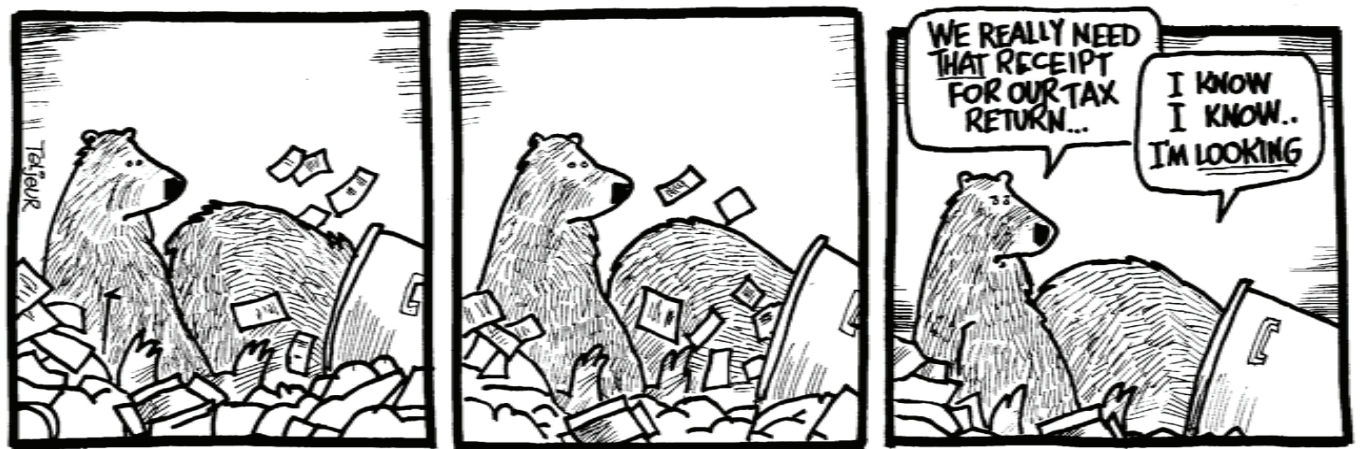
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BOONIEVILLE



Water and Weather

The past several weeks have brought much-needed moisture to the Big Bend Region of Texas. Snow in April is definitely a rare occurrence and something to be excited about, that is, unless you ran the risk of planting an early garden, in which case you might not be quite as thrilled. I have personally seen flurries on Cinco De Mayo west of Marfa before, so caution, along with a little bit of luck, is always needed when predicting the ideal time to get veggies in the ground in this part of the world. While the moisture is welcome and will undoubtedly provide a Spring green-up consisting primarily of puncturevine, woolly loco, and garboncillo, it really is just a drop in the bucket as far as the moisture that we hope to have in the coming months.

On that note, the amount

of rainfall, or lack thereof, in West Texas has always been a constant talking point in feed stores, barbershops, courthouses, churches, doctors' office waiting rooms, and just about anywhere else people congregate for more than five minutes. Here recently, I was getting some insight from a longtime area rancher/businessman into the local weather patterns when I mentioned that we list the average rainfall for the area at anywhere from six to sixteen inches annually, but in recent times it seems that the annual total is almost always on the leaner side of those parameters. He responded by explaining that we haven't had what one would call a normal



LUKE HENDRYX
Texas AgriLife Extension

rainfall year since around 1990, which means that the large majority of the years I have witnessed wouldn't count as traditional anyway, making it even more difficult when trying to predict rainfall.

This conversation stuck with me, and my mind kept inadvertently going back to the fact that maybe we are just drying out in general as far as the short-term weather cycle is concerned, and if that really is the case, then adjustments in many aspects of water management must be accounted for. With rainfall events in Far West Texas being few and far between, taking advantage of every drop is becoming a necessity because, similar to what the Rolling Stones once

said, you can't always get what you want, but sometimes we need to focus on simply getting what we need. With that being said, rainwater harvesting is becoming an increasingly important topic for our area, and that is certainly something that Extension is working towards addressing. In conjunction with a water testing campaign that will take place this month, Brewster and Jeff Davis County AgriLife Extension will also be hosting an educational session covering the benefits and strategies of rainwater harvesting at the Judge Val Beard Building at 207 N. 7th Street in Alpine on Tuesday, April 22.

For more information, please contact the Brewster Jeff Davis County Extension Office at: (432)-837-6207 or by email at luke.hendryx@ag.tamu.edu.

An adventure meant to be

"Blessed are the curious, for they shall have adventures."
— Lovelle Drachman, author

Adventure was not on my mind after another day at the newspaper office almost 40 years ago. I was simply cruising the day's mail, including the newest issue of Hemmings Motor News (aka "the car collector's bible).

Curious about what was for sale.

I braked hard in the Chevrolet ads when I saw, "For sale by original owner, 1965 Malibu SS, factory L-79 engine. Stored in Iowa."

Car collectors are known for many strange behaviors. One, buying kissing cousins something they had back in the day and "shoulda kept it" or wanted to have but couldn't afford it.

My story is no different. While still a student at East Texas State University, I became the third owner of a 1965 Chevy Malibu SS factory equipped with that L-79 high horsepower motor. I parted with the car too soon, vowing quickly to buy another ... if I ever found another one.

It was way after dark when I saw the ad some 15 years after taking that vow. But I dialed the number anyway, apologizing profusely for the late hour. My inquiry was

met with, "My husband is working the night shift; all I can do is read the window sticker for you."

That's when I sensed an adventure that was meant to be.

Combing the huge auto Pate Swap Meet near Fort Worth the next day, the car in the ad was still heavy on my mind. Near dawn the next morning, DFW airport was fading from the view at my American Airlines window seat.

Before lunch, I was shaking hands with the man who had special ordered the car while in high school. I was dazzled by all the paperwork he had on the car and loved his story.

"Because I wasn't 18 yet," he laughed. "The dealership required my mother to sign for the car because of the high-horsepower engine."

The car was brought from storage at his father's place in Iowa to the owner's home in the northern Chicago suburb of Northbrook at his father's place in Iowa just days before.

"Barn find" is a popular term today for old cars stored and not driven, sometimes for many years. It's used regardless of where they were actually found.

"Barn finds" are on the opposite end of the spectrum from beautifully restored



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

cars bought at televised auctions for stratospheric prices. And by some, a little more revered.

The first decision with a barn find becomes deciding whether to drive it home or trailer it. The owner had already changed the oil, filled the tank with fresh fuel, and washed away the "barn storage" dust. I checked fluids, tires, hoses, fan belt, electrical, and more.

My curiosity satisfied, I opted for the adventure ... "let's drive 'er home." By 5 a.m. the next morning, I was beating rush hour traffic out of the city packing basic tools, extra fan belt, fire extinguisher, and a quart of oil.

Now, if you're considering this at home, let me be clear at this point. Taking time to thoroughly assess a barn find before driving it any distance is critical. Looking back, I could have been —

should have been — much more thorough before putting Chicago in my rear-view mirror with a smile on my face.

Navigation then was gas station road maps, and interstate highways were not as connected four decades ago.

Google says the nearly 1,000-mile trip will require 13 hours of driving time to-

day. I made the same trip non-stop again in 2016, attending the Muscle Car and Corvette Nationals. Fourteen hours in a rental car.

The 1980s adventure in an aged muscle car that hadn't seen daylight in a long time consumed 21 hours. On tires that "looked pretty good" but were manufactured before date, coding was a thing. I was easy on her, monitoring gauges, listening for noises, and stopping regularly for visual inspections.

Granny always joked that "God takes care of old folks and fools." Whatever the case, He was with me on that trip. I turned into my driveway at 1 a.m. the next morning without incident. Four tanks of gas and one quart of oil later.

Other trips bringing barn finds home would follow. The best part about a barn find adventure is that even when you get home with no problems, you still have an interesting story to tell about the journey.

Just like this one about my first adventure rescuing an old car, one I've shared countless times in almost 40 years.

Every time with a smile.
—Contact Aldridge at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns are archived at leonaldridge.com

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Thank You

On March 7, I received a hip replacement at Del Sol Medical Center in El Paso. I was then transferred to the Swing Bed Unit of our Big Bend Regional Medical Center. It's a

program that allows patients to rehabilitate in a hospital setting. I found it to be the best unit and group of professionals I've ever dealt with. Everyone from RNs to nurses' assistants to office personnel was kind, caring, and considerate. Al-

though I'd love to list them by name, I imagine that thanking them as a team is even more appropriate.

The physical/occupational therapy team was just as impressive. So many people don't know that this unit ex-

ists. They really do deserve so much more recognition.

My family and I have a newfound respect and admiration for these caregivers. Again, thank you, and may God bless each one of you.

Virginia DeLaO Peña

CONTACT YOUR REPRESENTATIVE

Donald Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500
202-456-1111

Tony Gonzales
United States House
of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515
202-225-4511

John Cornyn
United States Senate
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4305
202-224-2934

Ted Cruz
United States Senate
185 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510-4306
202-224-5922

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

- Upcoming Events**
April 12 Heirloom Preservation, 9:30 a.m. at Jeff Davis County Library. April Smith will be on hand to demonstrate how to preserve old yearbooks, family correspondences, and other antique documents and books. For more details call 432-426-3802.
April 15 Sul Ross Vocal Recital, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, Francois Art Building on the Sul Ross campus.
April 16 Banda Lobos and SRSU Concert Band, 7:30-8:30 p.m. in the Studio Theatre, Francois Art Building on the Sul Ross campus.
April 18-20 34th Annual Gem

- and Mineral Show**, 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. at the Alpine Civic Center, 801 W. Holland.
April 19 Annual Kiwanis Easter Egg Hunt, 10 a.m. at Kokernot Park, 801 Fighting Buck Avenue.
April 21-22 Water Well Informed Screening, 8:30 a.m. – 10 a.m. water samples may be dropped off on April 21 at the Brewster County AgriLife Extension Office: 2101 FM 1703, Brewster Groundwater Conservation District: 201 W. Ave E, or the Presidio County Underground Water Conservation District: 2nd Floor Courthouse. A results and interpreting meeting will be held on Tuesday, April 22 at 8 a.m. at the Judge Val Clark Beard Office Complex at 207 N. 7th Street in Alpine. Sample containers should



be picked up before April 21 from any of the above locations, and each sample costs \$15. For more information contact Joel Pigg at 979-321-5946 or email j-pigg@tamu.edu.


April 25-26 Spirits of the West

- April 26 Alpine Dark Skies Celebration**
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 Alpine Food Bank, 933 East Gallego Street. Meeting room faces east.
American Legion Post 79 meeting, 6:30 p.m., second Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave. Dinner provided.
American Legion Auxiliary meeting, 4 p.m., third Monday each month, Legion Hall, 306 W. Sul Ross Ave.
Amigo Run Club at Alpine City Place, 5: 30 p.m. to 8 p.m. at 101


- W. Ave E. Weekly running club to walk/run 1-3 miles. Meet at the Amigo garage and finish at Amigo. Call 432-837-4012 for more information.
Big Bend Amateur Radio Club meeting, 7 p.m., second Tuesday each month, Frontier Masonic Lodge #766, 2300 Highway 118 North.
Big Bend Community Chorale rehearsals on Monday evenings at 6 p.m. in the Sul Ross Fine Arts Building, Room 200. All are welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbcchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.
Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-

- 2621
ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.
GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.
Hike with Homeless Dogs, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x301.
Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon to 1 p.m., first and third Wednesdays at the American Legion.
FWW Post 7207, 10 a.m., first Saturday of each month at 605 E. Ave F. All members are welcome.

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PET OF THE WEEK

Lassie and her sibling Sloan have been at the shelter for almost a year since April 2024. They were a little shy at first but warmed up and love to play. Lassie is still a puppy and learning how to be, but she gets better at walking on a leash daily and is treat-motivated, so training should come easy. One of the shelter staff's favorite characteristics of Lassie is how she talks to you!
 The Catahoula Leopard dog is the state dog of Louisiana. They are serious while working and playful at home. The breed requires

firm guidance and early socialization. They are affectionate, loyal, and gentle once they know their place in the family unit. They make good companions and hiking buddies. Meet Lassie at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy. She is spayed, microchipped, and vaccinated.

Make this year 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 Cattery with donated furnishings, décor, and household goods. It will soon be time for kitten fosters; we provide sup-



plies and support, so come in and sign up to be a foster at the Thrift Store.
 Come see us at Spirits of the West on the courthouse square in Alpine on Friday, April 25, and Saturday, April 26.
 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.

SAN VICENTE ISD REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS (RFQ) FOR DESIGN-BUILD SERVICES

San Vicente Independent School District is accepting qualifications from Design Build firms to provide Architectural / Engineering Design, and Construction Services for a new 1944 sf Duplex located in Big Bend National Park with a budget of \$200,000.00.

Please contact the Superintendent of Schools Jessi Milam by phone at 432-244-3131 or email at jmilam@svisd.com 195 Escuela Vista Dr., Big Bend National Park, TX 79834, or visit the District's website at <https://www.svisd.com/documents/public-information/294788> to obtain the Request for Qualifications package.


The qualifications must be submitted by 2:00 p.m. on Thursday April 24, 2025. Qualifications will be reviewed and ranked by the San Vicente ISD administration, with selections made by the Superintendent. San Vicente ISD reserves the right to accept or reject any qualifications submitted, in part or in whole, and to award the contract in the best interest of the district.




ALPINE AVALANCHE

Heard on the STREET


Tax Day is coming up on Tuesday. If you had your choice, how would the government spend your tax dollars?




Theodore White:
I'd invest in veterans services. They gave a lot, and we owe them more.




Luis Herrera:
Healthcare. Everybody should be able to see a doctor without going broke.




Isabella Rios:
More funding for public schools. Teachers deserve better pay and kids need better resources.



Miguel Zamora:
I'd build more parks and rec centers. Give kids a safe place to hang out after school.



Carlos Mendoza:
Fix the roads in town first. I'm tired of dodging potholes like it's a video game.



If You Smell Gas Or Suspect A Gas Leak, Please CALL 9-1-1

- **Evacuate** the building immediately and call your local natural gas office from a different location. **Do not** operate any electrical devices (i.e., light switches, telephones, etc., **Do not** ventilate the building, structure or resident.)
- Emergency contact numbers Mon-Fri 8 am to 4 pm:

Alpine	203 N APPLE	432-837-3437
Fort Davis	203 N APPLE	1-855-337-3437

After Hours Call 432-294-1529
- **Do not** re-enter the building, structure or resident
- **Wait** for service workers to secure the building.

Si Huele A Gas Natural O Piensa Que Hay Una Fuga De Gas LLAME AL 9-1-1

- **Salga** del edificio inmediatamente y **llama** a la oficina de gas natural de un lugar diferente de donde oloio el gas. **No opere** ningun aparato electrico; (switch de la luz, telefono, etc., **no ventile** el cuarto, estructura o edificio.)
- Numeros de emergencia Lunes a Viernes 8 am a 4 pm:

Alpine	203 N Apple	432-837-3437
Fort Davis	203 N Apple	1-855-337-3437

Después de horas regulares llamar al 432-294-1529
- **No regrese** al cuarto, estructura o edificio
- **Espere** a un empleado de la compañía de gas para asegurar el edificio

COA-GAS DEPARTMENT-PUBLIC AWARENESS PROGRAM

To the community of Alpine and surrounding areas,
 From the bottom of our hearts the Gentry family wants to thank all of the people and businesses that supported our family during the stockshow this year. We are truly grateful for this wonderful community that gets behind our youth. We are incredibly humbled and honored to be a part of this community. We will continue our stockshow journey this year thanks to all of the generosity and kindness shown to our family. We would like to thank the following individuals and businesses and we would ask that you support their business the same way they have supported our community: Chachi Hawkins, Lowe's Market, Skinner's Well Drilling, Betty Tanksley, Western Industrial Resources, Del Com Inc, Rod and Carlin DeVoll, Carol Morrow, Highwest Outfitters, 3 Nails Realty, Rusty Mertink, Josh and Michelle Rinehart, Stephan and Kelly Boultinghouse, Craig and KellyJo Newman, Doug and Caroline Fox, Marsha Roach, Shelley Shackelford, Judy Probst, Katie and Cross Moody, Parker and Parker Cattle Company, 06 Ranch, Buddy and Kristin Cavness, BBT, Brent and Carla Bean, George and Sally Johnson, Luke Hendryx, Desert Taxidermy, BMK Show Goats, BBSA, Lance Rose, Brewster County Sheriff and Fire Department.

We also ask that if you donated to the Gentry Family and were not mentioned, please do not hesitate to contact us, as we would like to thank you personally.

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Sports

Alpine earns District title for boys', girls' track

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

In a near repeat of the Fightin' Buck Relays, Alpine took the track and field by storm at Thursday's District meet held at Buck Stadium, with the boys' and girls' teams earning the District title.

The boys' team earned one of the top three podium spots in all but three events, beating out athletes from Anthony, Tornillo, Presidio, and Kermit. For the girls' team, each event earned them at least one spot on the podium and sometimes all three, showing their district rivals what a powerhouse the Runnin' Lady Bucks are.

The results showcased the excellent coaching from the Alpine High School staff and the focus and determination of the student-athletes.

JP Valenzuela won the 100m varsity race for the boys, while Isidro Molinar took second place in the JV race. The



AHS Runnin' Buck District Champions

girls' team also won first place in the varsity and JV 100m, with Danica Mulholland winning the varsity race and Mia Jimenez winning the JV race.

Ethan Flores won the 200m varsity race, while Mulholland took first for the girls. In the JV race, Molinar took the top spot on the podium for the boys, while Jimenez earned another gold medal for the JV girls.

In the 400m boys' race, Alpine earned a bronze for the varsity and a gold for the JV, Harlo Vargas medalled for the varsity, and Molinar earned gold for the JV. Emy Hernandez earned the top spot on the podium in the girls' varsity race, followed by Colette Fowlkes with a bronze medal. Alyssa Ramos earned a silver for the JV team in the 400m.



In the 800m boys' varsity, JP Prieto brought home a second-place finish, followed by Solanus Prieto with a third-place finish. The JV race had Matthew Pitts earning third. For the girls', Alice Saunders earned second for the varsity, and Alyssa Ramos earned first for the JV.

Hatfield Cason handily won the 1600m race for the varsity

boys, Hope Dominguez earned second place, and Saunders and Molly Garrett placed third and fourth for the girls. Matthew Pitts came in fifth place for the 1600m JV race for the boys.

Cason also won the final long-distance race, 3200m,

See TRACK • 7

ONE HUNDRED WINS AND STILL HUSTLING



Coach Christopher Virdell directing the Lady Bucks in Kermit for his 100th career win.

Courtesy photo

Virdell's Alpine dream in full swing

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

There are a hundred different ways to measure a coach's impact — but for Alpine Lady Bucks Head Coach Christopher Virdell, win number 100 came with more than just a notch in the stat book. It came with balloons, a banner, and a wave of appreciation for a career built on more than just victories.

"I started coaching in 1999, this is my 23rd year coaching," Virdell said. "I took three years off to help run the family business but quickly jumped back into coaching."

For Virdell, the milestone is less about numbers and more about the journey.

"As a coach, when you start out coaching, these

career victory goals never really cross your mind," he said. "Winning is a nice and great part of the job, but having the ability and responsibility to help create and lead young ladies to become successful in sports and in life is my true goal as a coach.

"I have the opportunity to be a positive role model and hopefully mold these young ladies to be the best they can be in life. I would say that reaching my 100th win in softball is special to me, though. It is special because I was able to do so here in Alpine. This place has always been my dream job and to be able to do it with this group of girls means the world to me."

See VIRDELL • 7



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Push it

Alpine's John Mendoza pushes himself over the bar during the pole vault competition at last week's District track meet.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



VIRDELL • FROM 6

Fifty of those 100 wins have come with the Lady Bucks, where Virdell has built a program defined by hard work, trust, and a lot of heart.

"Bringing the district championship back to Alpine two years ago and winning it last year was very memorable," he said.

His coaching philosophy has stayed steady through the years, though his approach shifts with each new group of athletes.

"Your philosophy can remain the same, but to reach your goals within that philosophy, you have to evolve to the type of kids and teams you have," said Coach Virdell. "I have never believed in a cookie-cutter type approach; you have to find out how to get the best out of each kid you coach, and every kid responds differently."

The milestone win also gave Virdell a chance to reflect on the players and staff who've stood with him over the years.

"I have been very fortunate in my career to have outstanding athletes with amazing work ethics," he said. "I truly believe that every athlete, no matter how small or big their role, contributed to every

win over the years.

"I have also had some amazing coaching staff, especially here in Alpine: Coach Anaya Losoya, Coach Jackson Yezak, and former Coach Marc Miranda. All these coaches were vital to any success that the program or I have had."

In Kermit, after the win that pushed him into triple digits, Virdell got an unexpected surprise.

"The parents really surprised me in Kermit after our victory and were kind enough to have balloons that read 100," he said. "I was able to celebrate the accomplishment at our next home game, where they had a small ceremony to honor my 100th victory and present me with a banner."

AISD Athletic Director Jerry Dominguez praised the coach's consistency and presence across the board.

"The ability of Coach Virdell to win at all the stops he has been speaks towards his ability to reach his players and also tells me that he is a good coach," he said. "When you are able to win at every stop you have been, that says a lot about the caliber of coaching that he brings to the table."

Dominguez pointed to the team's current dominance in district play as

a reflection of Virdell's tough, driven style.

"Coach Virdell's practices are not for everyone," said Dominguez. "He is demanding and pushes his team when needed. This has carried over to the way the girls play. They are resilient and will fight you to the very end."

Beyond the stat sheet, it's Virdell's unwavering approach and personal investment that impress the athletic director.

"What stands out to me is the consistency of his message to all the teams he has coached here so far," said Dominguez. "With consistent coaching comes consistent play. Coach Virdell is the type of coach who invests everything he has into his players and team. Examples of this are his team bonding dinners, and on dress-up days, it's normal to see him in gold shiny pants or some sort of crazy outfit to loosen the mood here at the high school."

Whether it's a banner, a balloon, or a bold pair of pants, the message is clear — Coach Virdell's century mark is more than just a win total. It's a celebration of impact, character, and a commitment to building something lasting, both on the field and far beyond it.

TRACK • FROM 6

and Molly Garrett came in third for the girls' varsity. Pitts placed fifth for the JV boys 3200m.

In the boys' 110m hurdles, Alpine's John Mendoza came in second for the varsity and Alan Navarrette for the JV. Mendoza took first in the 300m hurdles, and Cason took third for the varsity runners. Navarrette earned second place for the JV boys, while Raul Renteria won third.

In the girls' 100m hurdles, Rose DeGuia finished second, followed by Jianna Martinez in third. In the 300m hurdles, Taryn Hardin earned third place.

In the relay races, the Alpine boys' teams earned first in the 4x100, second in the 4x200, and third in the 4x400. The

girls' teams placed first in all three relays.

In the field events, Dae Hardwick placed first in the varsity high jump, followed by Kelton Tarrant in third. Jack Juett placed first in the pole vault, followed by Dane Jeffress in fourth and Mendoza in fifth.

Alpine's Tarrant placed first in the triple jump, followed by Tae Hardwick, who placed fourth.

AJ Llanez earned second place in the varsity shot put, Seth Dutchover earned fourth place in the discus for varsity, and Cain Vidal placed second in the discus for the JV.

For the girls' field events, both first and second places were won by Alpine in the high jump, by Fowlkes and Mulhol- land. Alpine also took all three spots atop the podium in the pole vault, with

Naida Morris in first, Andynne Ramirez in second, and Emily Sweat in third.

Kylie Maroney placed second in the varsity long jump, while Mia Jimenez placed first in the JV event, followed by Em- mory Mercado in second.

In the triple jump, Neveah Carrasco placed first, Morrissey placed third, and Jimenez took first for the JV.

Finally, Ailea Fierro placed second in the varsity shot put, while Shanna Tamale placed third in the JV. Fierro also took first in the discus, Aila Carpenter placed first for the JV, and Tamale placed third.

The Runnin' Bucks head to Denver City today for the Area track meet. All competitors who advance will compete at the Regional Championship in Abilene next Thursday and Friday.

DEADLINE APRIL 25



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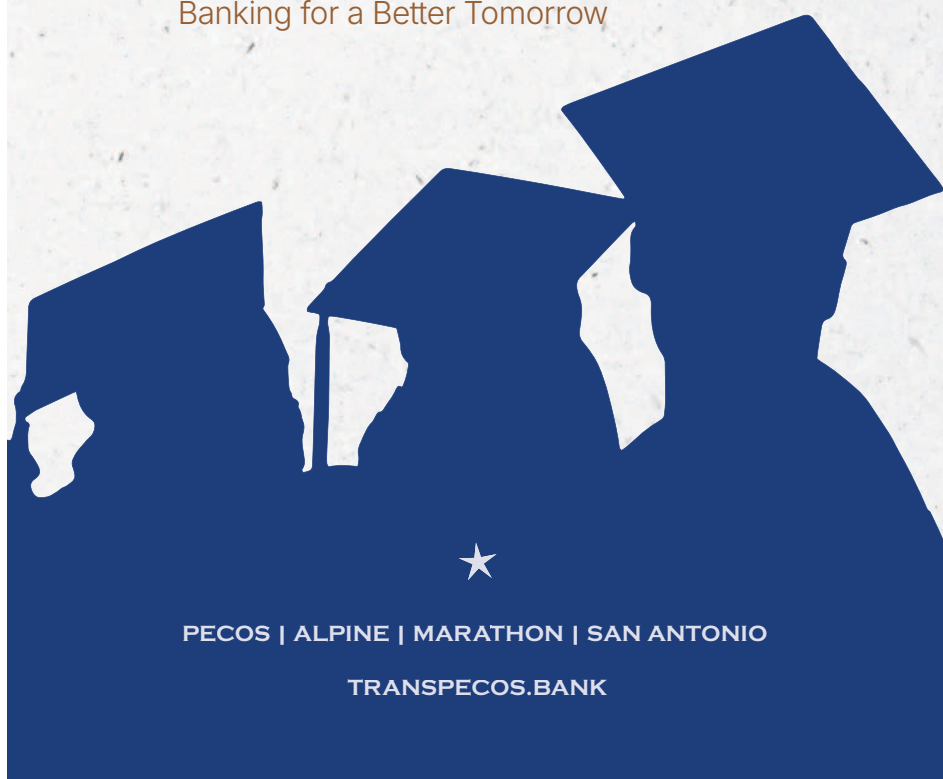
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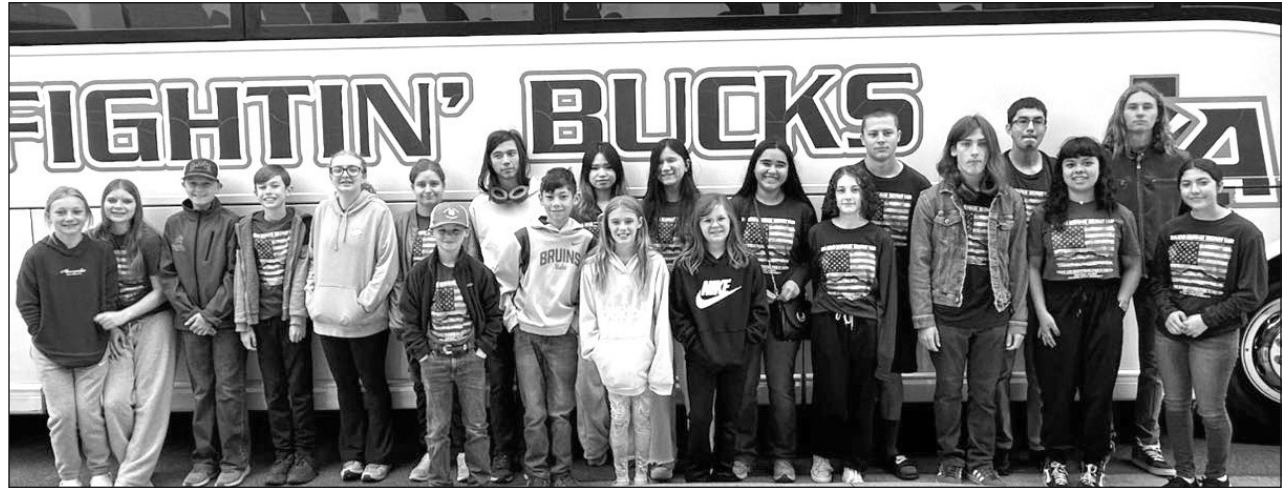
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Location:



Sponsored by the City of Alpine and funded by the Rio Grande Council of Governments (RCCOG) Municipal Solid Waste Grant Program

AISSD history fair hits the road



Students from Alpine Elementary, Alpine Middle School, and Alpine High School hit the road last Friday to travel to Austin to participate in the State History Fair after qualifying at the regional competition held at Sul Ross last month.

Courtesy photo

SPIRITS • FROM 1

The tunes begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday with the

locally renowned band The Swifts. Dawn and Hawkes will follow them at 2 p.m., the SA Blue Cats will take the stage at 4 p.m., Madame Radar at 6 p.m., and Fungi Mungle at 8 p.m. to close out the festival.

Spirits of the West, Wine, Spirits, and Brew Fest runs from 4 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Friday, April 25, and from 11 a.m. to 10 p.m. on Saturday, April 26.

New to the scene this year is Farmhouse Vineyards, which has created a custom-branded wine bottle engraved with the Spirits of the West label and will be selling them as souvenir memorabilia, there will also be a new craft cocktail bar available.

Wild Texas Wines will have its new Airstream bar next to the VIP tent. Other fourth-year returners are Andalusia Whiskey, Plateau Brewing Co., and Old Bones Chili Co.

New to the scene, Milam and Greene Whiskey will be on hand

from Blanco. Marlene Holmes, the distillery's master distiller, was recently inducted into the Whiskey Magazine Hall of Fame, and Forbes magazine named Milam and Greene Whiskey "the world's best whiskey."

The festival will have three premium add-on tastings sponsored by Twin Peaks Liquors and James R. Smith of Reddy Vineyards. These will include Wines Around the World with James R. Smith. Justin Harper, Mission Valley Distribution, will host the mescal and tequila tasting class, and founder Marsha Milam will host the Milam and Greene Whiskey tasting class, which will be sponsored by Twin Peaks Liquors.

The locals include Cathedral Mountain Vineyard, Calamity Creek Cattle Company, Desert Ghost Distillery, Murphy Street Provisions, Big Bend Botanicals, Slow Burn BBQ, Jeff Vajdos BBQ Pit, and area artists such as Michelle Bill-

ings, Linda Walker, Missy Walker, Al Caserez, and Katie Cruger-Keenan to name a few.

Krista Kirkland commented on the festival's economic impact: "We advertise across the state, with concentrations within the Midland/Odessa area, El Paso, San Angelo, Austin, Dallas, and Houston. Our average attendance year after year is around 1,100, with about 950 general admission attendees and the rest VIPs. Our tasting classes average around 135 participants. Over 20 vendors stay in lodging facilities across Alpine, averaging around \$9,000 (average \$200/night) for three nights. If you add in vacation rentals for another \$7,500 (average \$125/night) potential for the same three-night stay, we're looking at at least \$16,500 in HOT revenue for the city. This festival is one of our fundraisers for our non-profit, so we all see some economic benefits."



REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS

Big Bend Regional Hospital District is requesting submissions to select a firm with demonstrated experience in providing professional architectural services for constructing a new facility in Presidio, TX to provide a multi-purpose office space for BBRHD employees, non-medical client services, classroom for educational and fitness purposes, telehealth rooms, and public use space. The facility will be located on approximately one-acre of land owned by the District. The selected firm must be licensed, have experience in buildings of a similar nature, must be able to complete work on time and within budget. Submissions are due by April 17, 2025 at 3:00 PM CST.

For full details visit BigBendHealth.org



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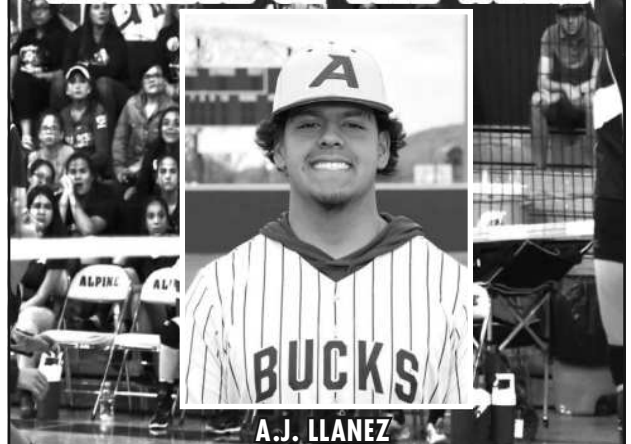
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ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



A.J. LLANEZ

This past week he competed in district golf where they won district champs and advanced to regionals. He led the baseball team as the winning pitcher over Tornillo 3-0. For the district track meet he advanced to the Area round in shot put (placed 2nd). And on Friday he helped lead the Bucks over Kermit with an RBI (score 3-1).

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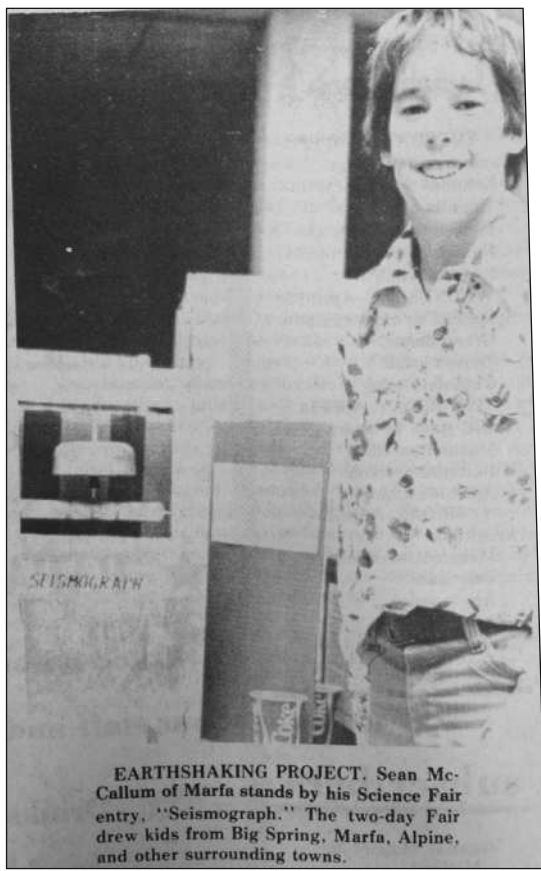
WINNING WELDERS. Angie Palmisano, center, holds the ribbons won by John Bullock's Vocational trades class at Alpine High School. From left, back row, are Joe Rivera, George Acosta, Palmisano, Allen Brunzel, and Every Martinez. Front row, from left, are Louise Hernandez, Larry Acosta, and Edward Miranda. See story for details.

April 4, 1977



EASTER SMILE. Katie Morrison, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Mac Morrison, smiles by participation at Easter, which falls on Sunday, April 10, this year. Katie attends the First Presbyterian Church here in Alpine.

April 7, 1977



EARTHSHAKING PROJECT. Sean McCallum of Marfa stands by his Science Fair entry, "Seismograph." The two-day Fair drew kids from Big Spring, Marfa, Alpine, and other surrounding towns.

April 21, 1977



RODEO BUCKLES. Holding the rodeo prizes for the second annual high school qualifying rodeo set this weekend are members of the Alpine High Rodeo Club. From left, top row, are Tony Ramos, Hal Coats, Bill Benge, and Billy Leavitt. Bottom from left are Rocky Scott, and Billy Pharis.

WEATHER
Courtesy Wayne Hale

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

Fasciated growth is just a part of a plant's tissues

Dear Neil, I saw this Texas mountain laurel growing at a local business. It had these very unusual fan-shaped growths that appeared to be part of the plant. What is this? I've grown my mountain laurel for many years, and I've never seen this.

This is fasciated growth. In normal English, that refers to plant tissues divided into two planes (two-dimensionally). The most common example is the old-fashioned garden flower called cockscomb (celosia), but you'll also see them in many types of cacti and succulents (notably Euphorbias). I've had them on my own mountain laurel, and I just trim them off to get rid of the unsightly growths.

Dear Neil, Does this look like Take All Root Rot? I treated it for insects two weeks ago, and the grass pulls loose easily.

I've dealt with TARR in my own St. Augustine for 30 years. I've seen it on

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

many other lawns. I have never seen it show up that dramatically. That looks more like some kind of chemical burn from applying the wrong weedkiller or even laying black plastic on top of the grass on a hot, sunny day. (Not to suggest that you did either of those things.) The fact that the roots are not holding tight suggests TARR or white grubworm damage. You say that you treated for insects two weeks ago. Did you dig and find a high number of white grubs in the soil in this specific area? I'm assuming that you did not since I see no disturbed ground. All the



TARR I have personally seen looks more like the grass just beyond your leaf rake, where it is yellowing in a rather uneven pattern. It normally thins out over a period of one or two years until the grass is pretty much gone. If your lawn was thick and healthy until recent years, that is indeed the way TARR develops.

If it is TARR, I would try the fungicide Azoxystrobin to stop any further development. Before I treat, however, I would collect a few samples and send them to the Texas Plant Disease Clinic at Texas A&M. You'll find their mailing address and collection instructions on their website. There will be a charge for them to culture

your sample, but then you will know for sure.

Dear Neil, these Indian hawthorns were pruned some years back to about 5 ft. tall. Should I just let them continue to grow, or should I trim them? If the latter, is it better to trim them after flowering or in the fall or winter?

They look like they need to be evened up a bit with some careful branch-by-branch pruning. Use hand shears and loppers to do the work and prune them immediately after they finish blooming. Try to retain their natural growth form, not some unnatural square or globe shapes. Then let them grow untrimmed until next spring's blooming has finished. They will produce flower buds on the growth they make this year.

You are fortunate that you have nice, mature Indian hawthorns. Many in Texas were killed by the cold of February 2021. Also, the fungal leaf spot Entomosporium that has riddled red tip photinias has now taken up residence

in Indian hawthorns. Your plants seem to be doing fine, however.

Dear Neil, What is this weed? If the ground is moist enough, I can pull it out. Recently, I pulled one out with a root that was almost 3 feet long. I'm not sure where the "mother plant" is.

My dad and uncle, both PhD botanists/plant taxonomists at Texas A&M, taught me that you need flowers to do accurate IDs of plants so that I won't attempt this one. Generally, when people ask the question this way, they're main-

ly interested in how to get rid of the plant - whatever its name might happen to be. You would want to treat it with a broad-leaved weedkiller - spot-spray onto the vigorous new growth. The more new growth you can coat with the herbicide, the better the control will be. It often takes several treatments at 2-week intervals to kill out a deeply rooted specimen like this. If it's difficult to spray it without drifting onto desirable plants nearby, use a foam rubber paintbrush to apply the herbicide to the leaf surfaces.

ACROSS

- 1 Waylon & Willie's "Mammas Don't Let Your Babies Grow Up Be Cowboys"
- 5 Oldham County seat
- 6 "I smell _____" (sense foul play)
- 7 Italian currency before the Euro
- 8 dentist and gun-fighter, Holiday
- 9 Texas towns have a _____ of Commerce
- 16 prepare a final draft
- 18 home theater? (2 wds.)
- 21 TX Bob Wills: "___ ha, take it away Leon"
- 22 watermelon skin
- 23 nat'l gun grp.
- 24 TX Simone Biles has 3 gold _____
- 30 Texas voted for this on 2/23/1861
- 34 degree in biology
- 35 Maquire of Texas group "The Chicks"
- 36 Nicolas of 2017 film "Mom & Dad" with TX Anne Winters
- 37 this UT LB Tommy was 1st selected in 1966 NFL draft
- 39 TXism: "brave enough _____ town cafe"
- 43 wipe off
- 44 sidekick
- 45 this Couples won the Byron Nelson Golf Classic in 1987 in Texas (init.)

- 46 past tense of "tread"
- 47 past Maverick star, Blackman (1981-92)
- 49 TXism: "jumped like _____ a hook"
- 52 Santa __, TX
- 53 TX Forrest of TV's "S.W.A.T." (init.)
- 54 TXism: "thin _____ skin"
- 55 horse hoof craftsman
- 58 grown-up
- 59 a TCU BB coach, "Moe"

- DOWN**
- 1 Matthew McConaughey birth town
 - 2 sentence stopper
 - 3 popular Fort Worth restaurant: "Joe _____"
 - 4 former race at the "Oatmeal Festival" _____-Thon
 - 9 this Clayton was TV's first "Lone Ranger" (init.)
 - 10 TXism: "that's a _____ different color"
 - 11 car renter
 - 12 1989 Texas-based TV _____ series: "Lonesome Dove"
 - 13 "_____ with it" (end involvement)
 - 14 TXism: "let '___ rip!"
 - 15 this Howard directed TX Bill Paxton in "Apollo 13" (1995)
 - 17 TXism: "put all _____ on the table"
 - 19 Texas Crossword co.: "_____ Bros."
 - 20 assembled in large numbers
 - 24 TX actress Mary who was first Peter Pan on Broadway (init.)
 - 25 enjoy a meal
 - 26 TXism: "at the _____ of a hat" (impulsive)

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by Charley & Guy Orbison
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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, APRIL 15, 2025** REGARDING FINAL READINGS OF THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ITEMS:

ORDINANCE 2025-04-02: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 22 - BUSINESSES TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; ESTABLISHING REGULATIONS AND REQUIREMENTS REGARDING THE SALE OF ALCOHOL WITHIN THE CITY AND PROVIDING FOR SPECIFIC ZONING DISTRICTS IN WHICH ALCOHOL MAY BE SOLD; 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.

ORDINANCE 2024-04-04: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION, ABANDONMENT, AND SALE OF THE UNIMPROVED PORTIONS OF SALTILLO AVENUE, MONTEREY AVENUE, TULUCO AVENUE, AND MORILOS AVE; ALL SITUATED WITHIN BLOCKS ONE (1) THROUGH SIX (6), COLIMA ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ALPINE, BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A DEED WITHOUT WARRANTY TO THE APPLICANTS MICHAEL AND LYNN MCCARSON; DIRECTING THAT FUNDS FROM THE SALE OF THE CITY'S INTEREST BE DEPOSITED IN THE GENERAL FUND FOR THE PURPOSE OF STREET IMPROVEMENTS; PROVIDING FOR TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF SUCH THEREOF; PROVIDING FOR A SEVERABILITY CLAUSE; PROVIDING FOR AN EFFECTIVE DATE.

THE PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, APRIL 15, 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.

Avalanche Classifieds

ERRORS - Please check your ad the first day of publication. We are only responsible for the first incorrect insertion of any ad. Publisher's liability for damages resulting from errors in any advertising that it has agreed to publish shall be limited to the amount actually received by the publisher in consideration for its agreement to publish the advertisement in question. It shall not be responsible for any consequential damages suffered by any party.

DEADLINES - All ads are due in the office by 12:00 (noon) on Tuesday.

HOURS - You may place your ad in person at 704 E. Holland, Alpine, TX 79830 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call 432-837-3334.

CANCELLATIONS - All ads may be cancelled for the next publication until 12:00 (noon) on the Monday before publication.

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GARAGE SALE

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Lady Bucks explode late to crush Presidio

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Lady Bucks rolled to an 18-0 shutout win over the Presidio Lady Blue Devils on Friday night, April 4, continuing their dominant district run behind a no-hit performance from sophomore pitcher Taryn Hardin and an explosive offensive effort in the late innings of a mercy game.

While the final score suggests a runaway from the start, the game was tight through the first two innings. Alpine broke the ice in the top of the second when Rikki Vega drew a walk on four straight pitches. After a flyout, Trinity Vega grounded out to the pitcher, moving Rikki to second. Alyna Gutierrez then ripped a line-drive single to right field, and a miscue by the right fielder allowed Rikki to dash home from the hot seat

for the game's first run. The Lady Bucks tacked on three more runs in the third inning before completely taking over in the fourth and fifth, erupting for seven runs in each frame. Alpine tallied 13 hits on the night, with Gutierrez and Kacy Hawkins each lacing triples to power the offense. Hawkins led the team with three RBIs, while Gutierrez

and Emily Sweat each added two. Presidio's defense struggled to keep pace, committing 10 errors that kept Alpine's runners circling the bases. The Lady Bucks made the most of every opportunity, displaying patience at the plate and speed on the base paths. With just two games left in the regular season, the Lady Bucks are

setting their sights on finishing strong. They'll travel to Tornillo tomorrow night before closing out the season at home against Kermit on Thursday, April 17. That game will be special — Senior Night and Purple Out Night — so fans are encouraged to wear purple and help celebrate the district's top varsity softball team.

432-837-2225

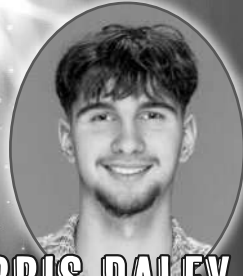
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SENIOR Spotlight



FERRIS DALEY

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I participated in Basketball, Golf, Football, and Cross Country.


Who was your favorite teacher/ Coach and why?
My favorite teacher is Mrs. Crespo. Mrs. Crespo always brought energy to the classroom. I would always see her out of the classroom, and she always greeted me with excitement. My favorite coach is Coach Hardwick. Coach Hardwick has taught me so much on and off the court. He is a great mentor

and a great coach.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
I have a lot of favorite moments in my high school career. But I always had so much fun with my friends, so just every time we hung out it was part of my favorite moments. My friends are what motivate me to go to school.

What are your plans after high school?
I plan to get a bachelor's in financial management and play basketball in college.

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Woe unto them that call evil good, and good evil; that put darkness for light, and light for darkness; that put bitter for sweet, and sweet for bitter! Woe unto them that are wise in their own eyes, and prudent in their own sight!

- Isaiah 5: 20 & 21



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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;"
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Devotional Page

That was Friday, but Sunday was coming

BY LANA COVINGTON
First Christian Church

As we continue through this Season of Lent and approach Palm Sunday, we may notice that there are many displays of Easter items ready for us to purchase. They include such things as candy eggs, chocolate bunnies, stuffed animals, etc. However, not many of them relate to Easter as a religious event. They certainly do not bring to mind the journey Jesus was on when, in Luke 9:51, Jesus resolutely set Himself toward Jerusalem, knowing that death and also resurrection awaited Him. Jesus had openly talked about these with His disciples. The first time was after Peter made his good confession that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of the Living God (Matthew 16:16), and Peter was commended for his understanding. However, a few verses later, Jesus told the disciples that He would suffer, be killed, and be raised again on the 3rd day (Matthew 16:21). The quick-spoken Peter said this must never happen and was rebuked for his words (Matthew 16:22). He again said He would suffer, die, and be raised, and the disciples were very distressed (Matthew 17:23). Later, Jesus told them that He would be handed over to the authorities to be mocked, flogged, and crucified and that He would be raised on the third day (Matthew 20:18 – 19). At this point, the disciples stopped listening.

They heard nothing about His being raised in three days. We might expect them to ask, "What? You're going to be raised from the dead? How could that be?" They didn't ask. And they were not at the tomb to greet Him on the Day of Resurrection. Only after the Resurrection would they understand that in the kingdom of Jesus, where the greatest of these is the least, and the least is the greatest; where people are told to be born again; and where nothing is impossible with God, the crucifixion becomes the glorification of Christ, a beautiful thing.

Does this mean that Jesus embraced the cross and that He looked forward to this manner of death? In the Garden of Gethsemane, He told the disciples, Peter, James, and John, that He was deeply grieved, and He prayed, "My Father, if it is possible, let this cup pass from me; yet not what I want but what You want." (Matthew 26:39) He prayed this prayer three times as He sweat drops of blood and while the disciples slept. No, Jesus did not embrace the will of the Father all the way until He said from the cross, "It is finished." He never wavered from His purpose to become the sacrificial lamb who takes away the sins of the world. He died on what we now call "Good Friday," but that was Friday, and Sunday, the Day of Resurrection was coming! Let us rejoice!!

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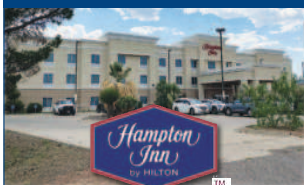
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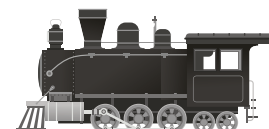
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Senior long jumper Logan Smith has a look of determination on his face as he competes at last Thursday's District track meet.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Flyin' high for gold



Jack Juett took the first-place spot for the boys' varsity pole vault in last Thursday's District track meet. Juett vaulted to an impressive height of 9'6" for the win.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Floating on a cloud of sand



Long jumper Kylie Maroney floats through the air towards her second-place varsity long jump attempt during last Thursday's District track meet.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Long distance not for the faint of heart



Molly Garrett was the lone runner for the girls' 3200m race last Thursday during the 3A District track meet. Garrett placed third.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Landing in 1,2,3



Thaddeus Prieto hovers above the sand just before landing during the boys' long jump competition at last Thursday's District track meet.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

AMS band shines at UIL



The Alpine Middle School Fightin' Buck Band participated in the UIL sight reading and concert performance contest on Wednesday, April 2. The band earned a superior rating for sight reading and an excellent rating for their concert performance.

Courtesy photo

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