

Emergency Services discusses collaborations, grants, and call-outs

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

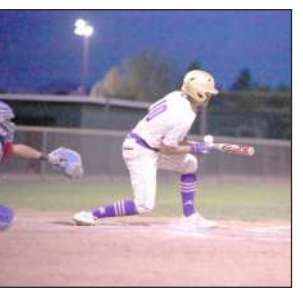
The Alpine Emergency Services Board held its regularly scheduled meeting on April 7 in the Alpine Volunteer Fire Department (AVFD) meeting room. Treasurer Stacey Wood was absent, while Mark Rose attended via phone call. AVFD firefighter Larry Rodriguez was also in attendance.

After the call to order, the first item of business was to approve the minutes from the March 6 meeting. Aaron Rodriguez made a motion to approve the minutes, with a second from Albert Benitez.

Secretary Carla Spencer told the board that she gave a brief report to the Alpine City Council. Chairman Rusty Moore also told the board that he understands that their bookkeeper, Carole Causey, has completed all the Quickbooks entries and that profit and loss reports

See AESB • 8

INSIDE



FEATURED

See Sports 6-7

Rainfall totals at Alpine-Casparis Airport

2025.1.75"
 April.1.75"



Burn Ban ON

INDEX 14 pages
 Opinions P. 4
 Sports. P. 6-7
 Puzzle. P. 9
 Classifieds P. 10

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



Living with Native Black Bears
Understanding their patterns and behaviors will ensure their survival

BY KARA GERBERT
 Managing Editor

It is no secret that black bears are here to stay in the Big Bend. In fact, the Borderlands Research Institute and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) are currently in the midst of a black bear study thanks in part to some “unruly” bears doing what bears do—digging into trash-cans and becoming a nuisance in our communities. This is due to a couple of factors. One is that drought conditions are making food sources

increasingly difficult for all wildlife to come by, and two, human habitation usually results in an easy meal.

Many of the bears in the Big Bend region are collared, and there have been recent reports of a collared bear being a nuisance in neighborhoods south of Alpine such as the Double Diamond area and those who live off Mile High Road.

Texas Parks and Wildlife would like to remind residents and advise all community members to secure items that might

attract bears. Proactively attending to these attractants, mitigates the possibility of human-bear conflict.

Bears are no different than other wildlife, in that they quickly associate human dwellings with food if steps are not taken to deter them from an easy meal.

The best way to deter these animals is to secure livestock and pet food inside a sturdy building or bear-resistant container. Also,



Photo courtesy of BRI

See BEARS • 8

Alpine welcomes new park



The Alpine Ambassadors, along with employees and other representatives from the City of Alpine, were on hand for a ribbon-cutting ceremony last Wednesday to celebrate the official grand opening of the new Pueblo Nuevo Park. The celebration included free hot dogs and other giveaways for the Alpine community. The new park is located between South Hancock and Chastain streets and between Avenue H and Gallego Avenue.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

City Council plugs into the future—Alpine gets smart water meters

BY KERRY LAIRD
 Correspondent

The Alpine City Council convened on Tuesday night in the council chambers. All members were present except for Ward 2 Councilor Eva Martinez. Mayor Catherine Eaves presided over the meeting.

During public presentations, the city recognized Johnny Marquez with a Certificate of Appreciation for his “dedicated service” as interim utility director for approximately 14 months—from February 2024 to April 2025.

In discussions, the council addressed third-party management options for the city’s Utilities Department, previously overseen by Marquez. As of the agenda’s preparation, the City of Alpine had reached out to three organizations—Strategic Government Resources, WaterWorkforce, and U.S. Water Services Corporation—to explore options for securing a temporary Utility Director for a term of approxi-



Megan Antrim, Alpine City Manager

mately six to eight months.

Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim said this position aims to provide critical oversight and operational leadership during a transitional period. Officials are awaiting responses and availability from each organization and “will provide further updates and recommendations once viable options are presented.” The salary range is approximately \$71,000

to \$106,000.

The council also discussed a pilot program using AMI water meters through Premier Water Works to enhance operational efficiency, customer service, and billing accuracy. Antrim highlighted key benefits of the smart water technology, including improved efficiency and reduced labor costs, increased accuracy and billing confidence, enhanced customer access and transparency, and data-driven utility management.

The proposed trial period will test and evaluate

the system’s effectiveness before broader deployment. The total cost for the system is \$83,972.63, with \$27,797 due upon receipt, excluding the cost for the meters, which are an additional \$335 each. Currently, AMI systems operate in cities such as Odessa, Lubbock, and Andrews.

The council approved the second and final reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 22 - Businesses of the Alpine Code of Ordinances.

See CITY • 8

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OBITUARY

James Henry Thomas Jr.

James Henry Thomas, Jr., "Coach Thomas/Daddy," 88, of Pecos, passed away on March 28 in Fort Worth, surrounded by family and friends.

James was born on March 29, 1937, to James H. Thomas and Cora Lee Thomas in Marathon. He later moved to Alpine and attended Alpine High School. He earned a scholarship to play baseball and attended Sul Ross State University, earning a bachelor's and master's degrees in education and adminis-



tration. He was part of the first-ever 1957 College NAIA World Series Championship baseball team at Sul Ross State University. He and his team were inducted into the Sul Ross Hall of Fame. He served

in the US Army Reserves. Coach Thomas worked for the Pecos-Barstow-Toyah Independent School District for 45 years. During his time with the PBTISD, he was the head varsity baseball coach, varsity football coach, typing/keyboarding teacher, and driver's education instructor. He drove the longest bus run in the State of Texas for many years. Coach Thomas loved the Town of Pecos City very much. He was a member of the Church of Christ.

Coach Thomas was preceded in death by his fa-

ther, James Henry Thomas of Alpine; his mother, Cora Lee Thomas-Laskey of Alpine; his brother Raymond Thomas of Lubbock, son James H. Thomas, III of San Antonio, his first wife Betty Thomas, Pecos, his grandson Jaxon Weidner of Odessa, granddaughter Eileen Gooding Orum of Caddo Mills, and grandson Ducie Weidner of Pecos.

Survivors include his wife of 53 years, Beverly Thomas of Pecos; brother Denny Thomas (Virginia) of Mustang, Oklahoma; four daughters, Betty Kay

Perea (A Black) of Pecos, Debbie Welch (Bart) of Choctaw, Oklahoma, Brenda Grimsley (Brad) of Mustang, Oklahoma and Darcy Ard (Michael) of Timberlake, North Carolina, three sons, Wade Gooding (Pam) of Fort Worth, Robert (Bobby) Gooding (Sharon) of Stephenville, and Michael (Mickey) Thomas (Julie) of Fort Worth. He is also survived by 27 grandchildren, 51 great-grandchildren, and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Viewing was Friday, April 4, from 6 p.m. to 8

p.m. at the Pecos Funeral Home. The funeral was held at the Pecos Church of Christ, 1321 W. 4th St, in Pecos, on April 5 at 11 a.m. Interment was at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine on April 5 at 4 p.m.

Restaurant Guide

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

REATA RESTAURANT

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

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

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

Early voting to commence Tuesday

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

Early voting for the May 3 general election will begin on Tuesday and continue through Friday, April 25. It will

resume on Monday, April 28, and continue through Tuesday, April 29. Early voting hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at the Alpine Civic Center. Voters in Ward 1 will

be the only voters who may cast their ballots. Robert Ruckes was the only candidate vying for the Ward 3 seat on the Alpine City Council. Therefore, since he is running unopposed,

there will be no election for that council seat.

On Saturday, May 3, election day, voters may cast their ballots for the Ward 1 City Council race in the Alpine City Council Chambers from

7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

Candidates on the ballot who are vying for the Ward 1 seat on the Alpine City Council are Andres "Andy" Ramos, Richard Portillo, and Austin Smith.

Rodeo team covers academia



The Sul Ross State University Rodeo Team is not just covering livestock and smoking the time clock, they've taken their academics by the horns as well. Seventeen members of the SRSU Rodeo Team earned recognition for their academic achievements at Sul Ross State University's Honors Convocation on Monday night, and the rest of the team was with them to cheer them on.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross Rodeo

Partners in fighting hunger



The Alpine Food Pantry and the West Texas Food Bank have partnered with Alpine Elementary's Food 2 Kids Backpack program for the second year in a row. This program helps students facing food insecurity receive weekend food bags each Friday in a discrete manner. The food items are shelf-stable and allow these kids to have access to nutritious food when school meals aren't available. Alpine Elementary counselor Emily Hendryx is the coordinator for this program.

Sul Ross attends AISD health fair



Dr. Dean Culpepper, Dean of the College School of Health Sciences at Sul Ross State University was on hand at Alpine ISD's health fair on Friday morning at the Alpine High School cafeteria. Dr. Culpepper and Sul Ross were one of many health-related professionals on hand for the event.

Courtesy photo

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Sul Ross' geology department students and professors collect vertebrae of an Alamosaurus in Big Bend National Park.

SRSU geology students collect vertebra from Alamosaurus in BBNP

In March, students from the Sul Ross State University Geology program visited Big Bend National Park on a research mission to retrieve dinosaur bones belonging to Alamosaurus. Led by Dr. Jesse Kelsch, an assistant professor, and Dr. Thomas Shiller, an associate professor, participants included students in Stratigraphic Analysis and Structural Geology courses. The goals of the trip included con-

ducting structural and stratigraphic analyses of Cretaceous—Eocene rocks and to retrieve a large vertebra belonging to Alamosaurus, a long-necked dinosaur that lived in North America during the Cretaceous Period. Alamosaurus is the largest known land-dwelling animal to have lived in North America. Fossils from the giant sauropod are known in the Big Bend but are usually fragmentary and

poorly preserved. The specimen collected by SRSU belongs to one of the most complete skeletons in the area, originally collected and described by researchers from the University of Texas in the 1970s. Associated vertebrae were previously collected from the same quarry by Dr. Shiller and his students and are currently being studied in the SRSU paleontology lab.

Native Plant Society to hold plant sale

The Big Bend Chapter of the Native Plant Society of Texas will hold its annual plant sale on April 26 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Forever West Texas 308 West Avenue E in

Alpine. There will be native plants including desert-adapted, flowering plants, perennials as well as shrubs available. Experts will be on hand to answer your native plant questions.

Plant sale information can be found here: <https://www.npsot.org/chapters/big-bend/plant-sales/>

You can also donate plants to the Patty Manning Pollinator Garden

being developed at the Alpine Public Library.

Come celebrate Earth Day with the Native Plant Society and purchase some native plants to save water and store some carbon!

Texas Capital Highlights

Texas version of DOGE heads to Abbott's desk

If signed, the first bill headed to Gov. Greg Abbott's desk would create the "Texas Regulatory Efficiency Office," the Statesman reported. A supermajority of the House passed Senate Bill 14 last week, following its approval in the Senate in late March.

The measure is expected to save taxpayers \$25 million for five years by identifying rules that are "unnecessary, duplicative, expensive or prohibitive." It would also look for ways that state agencies could cut costs.

House sponsor state Rep. Giovanni Capriglione, R-Keller, noted the state of Texas has more than 274,000 rules and regulations.

"The purpose of the office is to have technical professionals, people skilled in those regulations, review those regulations and to come up with recommendations to the agency on how they can make things better for the constituents of Texas," Capriglione said.

Visas revoked for international students in state

At least 110 international students at Texas universities have had their visas revoked or their immigration status marked as terminated in a federal database, The Texas Tribune reported. As of last week, these universities confirmed the number of international students affected:

- University of North Texas: 27
- University of Texas at Dallas: 19

University of Texas at Arlington: 27

Texas A&M University: 19

University of Texas Rio Grande Valley: 9

Texas Women's University: 4

Texas Tech University: 3

The University of Texas at Austin and the University of Houston said that some of its students had a change in their immigration status but declined to say how many.

On Wednesday, the Department of Homeland Security said it would begin screening the social media feeds of international students for "antisemitic" content. Pro-Palestine protests were held at several Texas campuses after Israel retaliated in Gaza after the Oct. 7, 2023, attack by Hamas.

March brought higher temps, less rain

Warmer-than-usual temperatures in March, combined with less rain for most of the state, meant 70% of the state was in drought by the end of last month. That's a rise of 21 percentage points since late February, according to hydrologist Dr. Mark Wentzel, with the Texas Water Development Board.

"In the next few months, drought conditions are expected to improve somewhat in South Texas but expand across the Panhandle and North Central Texas," Wentzel wrote.

He added he expected some easing of drought severity in South Texas, which was hit with torrential rain last month, and no drought areas in East Texas.

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

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

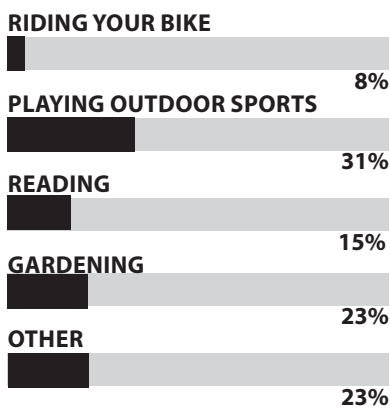
- Riding your bike
- Playing outdoor sports
- Reading
- Gardening
- Other

Vote for this week's poll online at:
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RESULTS

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE SPRING BREAK 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.

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

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BOONIEVILLE



Come explore the Museum of the Big Bend

As a youngster in the Big Bend, I fell in love with the Museum of the Big Bend's portrayal of our rich history and the temporary exhibits that connected this young man from Terlingua to a distant world.

As its new director, I am excited at the opportunities that lie ahead to showcase our new facilities and continue the museum's strong tradition of bringing an outside world to folks in the Big Bend region while providing visitors with a connection to our remarkable past.

In recent years, the museum has undergone significant transformation, further enhancing its role as an educational institution and cultural hub in West Texas while celebrating the history of the Big Bend region. In 2023, the museum opened the Emmett and Miriam McCoy Building, which features three exhibit galleries and a Cultural Events

Center. Visitors are greeted by the beauty of "old meets new" as the space complements the historic building constructed in 1937. Exhibits currently on display feature artists who depict the Big Bend and Texas in their work.

Tom Lea's work is on display in the exhibit "Western Beef Cattle." A native of El Paso, Lea's paintings provide a glimpse into the cattle industry in the region.

Our new Cultural Events Center has seen a steady stream of visitors as we have hosted dinners, parties, fundraising events, and numerous weddings.

As we move forward, the museum will continue its strong commitment to exhibiting the cultural talents of artists in the region and beyond.



DR. JOHN KLINGEMANN
Interim VP of Development and Advancement

Most recently, the museum hosted "Ecos del Sol," which highlighted the work of renowned artists such as Gaspar Enriquez, Elisa Jimenez, and Antonio Castor.

Currently, Bob Stuth-Wade's paintings are on display and depict the landscapes of Far West Texas. As noted by our website, his exhibit showcases the profound experience and connection between himself and the landscapes of the Big Bend. This summer, the museum will open a new exhibit dedicated to the late Texas photographer Jim Bones.

In addition to these developments, we boast an innovative and talented staff who are ready to move our organization down a new path while being mindful of our legacy. Our vision mov-

ing forward will draw upon the museum's distinction while looking internally to call upon the expertise of our staff, faculty and members of the community.

With their guidance, the museum will look to expand its role at Sul Ross by enveloping ourselves in the educational mission of our campus. We will work with the university to help expand opportunities for students and contribute to the recruitment and retention of youth in the region and beyond.

As a fourth grader growing up in Terlingua, I remember visiting the museum during the school year. I recall the exhibits that depicted early Alpine and the cowboy culture in the region. We plan to continue this tradition at the museum through events like the Trappings of Texas, which have earned us a spot on the list of top small museums in the nation.

Days of dirt streets and wood sidewalks

"Count your age by friends, not years. Count your life by smiles, not tears."

— John Lennon

Nothing makes a writer feel his or her age quicker than reviewing their early works. Realizing many of the people whose lives they chronicled half a century ago lived and witnessed a rapidly forgotten history.

May 1 will mark 50 years since I penned a piece printed in the Naples Monitor on Thursday, May 1, 1975. An interview with a gentleman born when Ulysses S. Grant, commanding general of the Union Army in the Civil War, was serving as the 18th president and when the U.S. was just 38 states, Burgess Peter Jacobs, aka "Papa Jake," of Naples, had just celebrated his 99th birthday when we talked. "Came here the 15th day of January 1907," he said with a smile. "I stepped off the train at the depot with a wife and five kids. Came from North Carolina, where I worked in a sawmill and raised a little patch of cotton.

"There were no brick buildings," he reminisced, recalling dirt streets and wood sidewalks as if it were only yesterday.

"Charlie Pope built the first

one in 1908 or '09. "You know where the Lee Davis' store is? Put his name in the brick. Course, when Lee moved in, he covered up Charlie's name."

His crystal-clear mind revealed events like reading a history book. "The big business here was the sawmill, but it shut down a few years after."

Wit and humor surfaced when questioned about what occupations he followed through the years. "Like everyone else, as little as I could," he laughed. "Two years in Bowie County and a year in West Texas before settling near Naples.

"I farmed mostly. Until about 17 or 18 years ago," Jacobs continued. "My house was in Morris County, but I farmed in Cass County. About as far as from here to the street," he added, looking out the window.

"Tax collector came one day. Spent the whole day measuring, lookin' and askin.' When he discovered I lived in Morris County, he tore up the papers and left. I could have told him if he had asked," he chuckled.

Smiles and laughter reflected his zest for life. "This fellow was runnin' for sheriff in Cass Coun-



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

ty once and came by to ask me to vote for him. I told him that no one was coming that far to get me, and no one there was going to bother me, so I didn't need a sheriff."

Papa Jake was 99 years young the Saturday before I wrote about him. Among the many cards he showed me was one from President Gerald Ford. "Seen a lot of presidents come and go," Jacobs said, proudly displaying the card. "But sure was surprised to get a letter from one."

Jacob said his family had commemorated his birthday since the early 1920s by staging the family reunion on the Sunday falling nearest his birthday. And family came large for Papa Jake.

Looking fondly at a picture of him and his wife, Quincey Adalee, he adds, "I was married to her for 69 years, five months, and a few days. I liked a little being 20; she was a little over 16 when we married." After a hesitation, he said softly, "She's been gone about ten years now."

The couple had nine children and 42 grandchildren. Asked about great and great-great-

grandchildren, Jacobs shook his head. "I don't know. I can't count 'em all. I just call 'em my dirty dozen."

Papa Jake reported daily activities of watching "... right smart of television. Like to watch the wrestling. Listen to the news on the radio. I walk to the mailbox every day. Used to get the mail for the ladies around here 'till I got to where I couldn't see too well."

Jacobs expressed pride in the roses that grew around his house, especially the white roses. "We call them 'Mama's bloom,'" he said, holding his wife's picture.

My story reported his birthday party Saturday night at the Naples Community Center and the family reunion Sunday. "He did not miss a minute of the activity while spreading humor and warm smiles," I wrote. "Posing for pictures with family that came from as far as California to attend."

Papa Jake was a living example of the old saying that you are only as old as you feel. Seeing him smile while talking about his family and friends left me thinking I was the old-timer in that conversation.

Fifty years ago, next week.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Senator

I understand that the Office of Management and Budget, in the direction of DOGE, plans drastic cuts at NOAA (National Oceanic & Atmospheric Agency). This is an open letter to Senator Ted Cruz:

"Senator Cruz, I live in Texas. The cuts to NOAA — and its research branch OAR (Oceanic and Atmospheric Research), scheduled to be cut by 75% — would be catastrophic! OAR scientists are world-class researchers studying the atmosphere and oceans. They provide NOAA's National Weather Ser-

vice crucial information for severe weather predictions that allow Texans to prepare for our increasingly hazardous weather events: floods, droughts, wildfires, tornadoes, and hurricanes. You should be concerned about Texas residents being adversely impacted — resulting in loss of lives and millions if not billions of dollars in damage.

Senator Cruz — As chairman of the Commerce, Science & Transportation Committee in the U.S. Senate, you have the power to advocate and to push back against dangerous cuts to NOAA! I'm asking you, Senator Cruz, to

step up and fulfill your elected role in our federal government. Please, it's your job in Congress to appropriate federal dollars and to direct spending levels — not DOGE's job! Senator Cruz, you represent the people of Texas. The better the weather predictions, the fewer people will die, and fewer government dollars will be spent on the recovery. Tell DOGE to back off & leave the decisions To Congress about what programs to fund. Do not let DOGE gut NOAA and OAR. Thank you, sir, for standing up for Texas and our safety!"

Fellow citizens, if you live in

Texas, please call Senator Ted Cruz's offices.

Ted Cruz is Chairman of the Senate Committee that oversees NOAA, so he is likely in a better position than anyone to effectively oppose the plan to kill NOAA. Please make your calls soon, as the decision will be made this week. Every phone call is logged —make your voice heard! (Washington DC office 202-224-5922; Austin office 512-916-5834; Dallas office 214-599-8749; Houston office 713-718-3057)

Signed,
Donna and Barry Smith
Fort Davis

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

- Upcoming Events
- 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 bbchorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

Citizenship Classes, at Alpine Public Library by appointment only, 805 W. Ave. E. 432-837-2621

ESL Tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

GED tutoring, at Alpine Public Library, 805 W. Ave. E. Call 432-837-2621 to make an appointment.

Hike with Homeless Dogs, 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. every Thursday at the Davis Mountains State Park Interpretive Center in collaboration with Grand Companions. For more information contact Charlie Ewing at 432-246-3337 x 301.

Kiwanis Club of Alpine, noon to 1 p.m., first and third Wednesdays at the American Legion.

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

ALPINE AVALANCHE

Heard on the STREET

Easter is this Sunday, a time of renewal and resurrection. Where do you find hope?



Caleb Foster: Hope comes from knowing there's a purpose bigger than me, takin' it one day at a time.



David Langford: Faith in God, plain and simple. It's what keeps me grounded no matter what.



Mildred Martinez: My grandchildren. Seeing them grow up happy and strong gives me all the hope I need.



Rebecca Sloan: Prayer and a good church community. I lean on both when life gets tough.



Steve Ray: Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior. He's carried me through a lot of dark days.

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet CeCe!
CeCe, or Cecile, was originally found stray and pregnant in late 2023. She gave birth in the shelter, weaned her puppies there, and was adopted into a loving home. Unfortunately, there have been some life changes in the home, and her owner is no longer able to provide the care needed to her loved companion. So, she finds herself back at the shelter through no fault of her own.



CeCe is an outstanding dog. She was in a home with cats, dogs, and kids and did well with all. She is a pro on the leash and enjoys walking with you. She loves attention, cuddling, and playing with toys. She is spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. Whoever adopts this dog wins the puppy lottery! Meet CeCe today at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.

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 supplies and support, so come in and sign up to be a foster at the Thrift Store.

On April 25 and 26, we will have pet toys

and supplies at our Spirits of the West booth at the Brewster County Courthouse.

Pet promotions are courtesy of the Alpine Humane Society. Alpine Animal Services handles pet adoptions at the city shelter, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 6 p.m., seven days a week at 2900 E. Old Marathon Highway. For information about shelter pet adoptions, cremation services, or lost/found pets, call the shelter at 432-837-9030. If you find a stray or injured pet, call the Alpine Police Department at 432-837-3486 to dispatch an Animal Control Officer.

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Sports

Bucks catch fire, win four straight

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Fightin' Bucks are heating up at just the right time, stringing together four straight wins to climb to 5-2 in the district standings with just two games left in the regular season. Fueled by dominant pitching, timely hitting, and solid defense, the Bucks are making a strong push for a district title.

It all started Tuesday, April 1, at historic Kokernot Field, where Alpine shut out Tornillo 3-0 behind a stellar outing from right-hander A.J. Llanez. In a classic pitcher's duel, Llanez commanded the strike zone and kept Tornillo's bats off balance, tossing six and two-thirds innings of scoreless baseball. He allowed just five hits, struck out four, and walked none.

Josh Solis wasted no time getting Alpine on the board, driving in a run with a single in the first inning. He added a sacrifice fly in the third to make it 2-0, and that was all the support Llanez

needed. With two outs in the seventh and a runner on, Coach Adam Llanez turned to Devon Rojo, who struck out the final batter to seal the win.

The Bucks collected nine hits on the night. Rojo, Peyton Tays, and Ryli Vasquez each had two hits, while Solis drove in two runs and finished 1-for-2. Llanez and Iden Lujan also teamed up for a slick double play that ended a Tornillo threat.

On Friday, Alpine traveled to Kermit, where David Valenzuela followed Llanez's lead with a gem of his own. Valenzuela pitched a complete game, allowing just two hits and no earned runs in a 3-1 victory. He struck out four and didn't issue a walk.

Llanez opened the scoring with an RBI single in the first, and Solis added an insurance run in the third with a double to center. Alpine's defense stayed sharp, and Valenzuela kept Kermit from mounting a serious rally. Solis and Llanez each



Alpine's Josh Solis sprints across home plate as a befuddled Blue Devil's catcher searches for the ball.

drove in a run, while Solis, Llanez, Tays, Valenzuela, and Lujan all contributed hits in a balanced offensive effort.

Back at home Tuesday, April 8, the Bucks picked up a key 5-4 win over Anthony to improve to 4-2 in district play. David Valenzuela singled to center to tie the game at 1-1 in the first, and Alec Ramos scored on a tag-up in the second to put Alpine in front.

Ramos also took the mound and delivered a strong outing, allowing just one run on three hits over four and one-third innings while striking out five. Ezra and Iden Lujan handled relief duties to close out the game.

Alpine racked up 13 hits, led by Rojo's 3-for-4 performance. Ramos, Rojo, Vasquez, Valenzuela, and Iden Lujan each drove in a run. Tays, So-

Photo by Felipe Fierro

lis, and Ezra Lujan had multiple hits, and Tays also swiped two bases.

Alpine capped off the week with a statement win over Presidio on Friday, demolishing the Blue Devils 20-1 at Kokernot. Looking to avenge an early-season loss, the Bucks erupted for 14 runs in the fourth inning alone.

Rojo was unstoppable, going 3-for-3 with a triple and three RBIs. Solis tri-

pled and doubled, driving in three runs. Valenzuela had a huge day at the plate as well, going 3-for-3 with a triple and four RBIs. Iden Lujan added two more RBIs with a single, and Ramos and Vasquez each drew bases-loaded walks to plate additional runs.

Llanez and Ezra Lujan contributed RBIs with a sac fly and a bunt, respectively, in the third inning. Overall, Alpine tallied 18 hits and showed patience at the plate, drawing seven walks. The team also ran wild on the basepaths, stealing seven bases.

Valenzuela again started on the mound, tossing five innings of one-run ball with seven strikeouts and no walks. He gave up just three hits and didn't allow an earned run.

The Bucks' lineup was firing on all cylinders. Rojo, Vasquez, Valenzuela, Lujan, and Solis each had three hits. Tays added two hits in four at-bats, and Llanez drew two walks. With quality

See BASEBALL • 7

Lady Bucks crush Tornillo in three-inning blowout

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Lady Bucks made quick work of Tornillo in a dominant three-inning shutout Friday evening, steamrolling their way to a 21-0 victory on the road. It was another mercy-rule win for Alpine, the kind of performance that has become routine for this high-powered squad as the regular season draws to a close.

From the first pitch, Alpine's bats were blazing, and their base running was relentless. Junior slugger Zariah Galvan was simply unstoppable at the plate, going a perfect 4-for-4 and delivering hit after hit to keep Tornillo on their heels.

Galvan kicked off her night with a single in the first, then added a double later in the same inning before collecting two more singles in the second. She drove in two runs in the first frame and added another RBI in the second, helping to blow the game wide open.

The Lady Bucks wasted no time getting on the scoreboard, hanging eight runs in the top of the first inning. With runners on, Kody Hawkins was hit by a pitch to force in the first run. Taryn Hardin followed with a line-drive double that plated another. Emily Sweat then roped an RBI single, continuing the hit parade.

After another bases-loaded hit-by-pitch, this time by Kacy Hawkins, the runs kept coming. Trinity Vega slapped a two-RBI single, Galvan added her first RBI



Kody Hawkins slugs one into the outfield in a recent game.

Courtesy photo

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK

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See SOFTBALL • 7

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Runnin' Bucks are Area Champs

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Alpine Runnin' Bucks, repeating their district win, won the Area Championship in Denver City last Thursday. The boys' and girls' teams collected enough points to bring home the win.

In the running events, Danica Mulholland won first place in the 100m, Kylie Maroney placed fourth for the girls, and JP Valenzuela placed fourth for the boys. Mulholland took first in the 200m, while Gyllian Morrissey placed seventh.

In the 400m races, the Alpine girls earned the top two spots on the podium, with Emy Hernandez placing first and Colette Fowlkes in second. Harlo Vargas placed sixth for the boys, followed by Everett Edwards, who came in seventh. In the 800m races, Alice Saunders placed fifth for the girls, and John Paul Prieto placed sixth for the boys.

In the two longest races, the 1600m and the 3200m, Hatfield Cason earned the top spot for the boys' team, while Hope Dominguez placed fourth in the 1600m for the girls, followed by Alice Saunders in seventh and Molly Garrett in eighth. Garrett also placed eighth in the 3200m.

In the girls' 100m and 300m hurdles, Jianna Martinez placed seventh in the 100m and eighth in the 300m. Taryn Hardin brought



2025 Area Champions

Courtesy photo

home a third-place finish in the 300m hurdles for the girls.

In the boys' 110m hurdles, John Mendoza placed sixth. Mendoza also placed second in the 300m hurdles, while Cason came fourth.

The Alpine girls' team again conquered the relay events, placing first in the 4x100, 4x200, and 4x400m races. The boys' team earned fifth place in the 4x100, second place in the 4x200, and third place in the 4x400.

In the field events, the Alpine boys' team earned a third and fourth-place finish, with vaults from Dane Jeffress and Jack Juett. Alpine placed fifth, sixth, and seventh for the girls' team with the vaults of Naida Morris, Emily Sweat, and Andynne Ramirez.

Alpine's Kylie Maroney was

the only qualifier in the long jump, with her sixth-place finish.

In the triple jump, Kelton Tarrant placed fourth, Tae Hardwick placed eighth for the boys' team, Nevaeh Carrasco placed fourth for the girls, followed by Morrissey in eighth.

Dae Hardwick earned a second-place finish in the boy's high jump, while Tarrant placed seventh. Fowlkes placed fourth for the girls, Mulholland sixth, and Saunders eighth.

In the discus and shot put events, Seth Dutchover placed eighth in the discus, while Ailea Fierro placed fourth for the girls in both events.

The Runnin' Bucks' next trip is to Abilene, where they will compete at the Regional Championship tomorrow and Saturday.

Hutchings keeps the wins coming

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor



Tristen Hutchings

Courtesy photo

The 2023 Sul Ross graduate and former rodeo team member Tristen Hutchings has done it again.

After recently taking the title at the Houston Rodeo, Hutchings added the American Rodeo to his list of titles after his ride on Saturday. Hutchings rode Stranger Danger for 89.25 points and a payout of \$120,000 for the win. Currently, Hutchings is listed in the #3 spot in

the world for bull-riding after competing at last year's NFR for the third time.

SOFTBALL • FROM 7

single of the game, and Hawkins capped the inning with a base hit that drove in another run.

Then came the second inning, which turned into an all-out offensive eruption. Alpine racked up 12 more runs in the frame, cycling through the lineup with machine-like precision. Rikki Vega started things off with a run-scoring single.

Two errors by Tornillo helped bring in a pair of unearned runs before Alyna Gutierrez stepped in and drove in another with a clean base knock. Galvan continued her hot streak with an RBI single, and a third Tornillo error gave Alpine even more breathing room.

With the bases loaded, Vega was plunked to bring in another run, and Kacy Hawkins came through with a two-RBI single to keep the scoreboard spinning. Gutierrez drew a bases-loaded walk to bring in the twelfth run of the inning, closing the book on a marathon second frame.

By then, the only drama left was whether Tornillo would be able to scratch out a run or avoid the mercy rule. But Taryn Hardin made sure neither happened. The sophomore pitcher was dominant in the circle, mowing through Tornillo's lineup with surgical efficiency.

Hardin struck out nine of the 10 batters she faced and allowed just one hit across three innings. She didn't walk a single batter and barely gave Tornillo a breath of hope.

On defense, Alpine played clean, error-free softball, backing up Hardin with crisp fielding and smart decision-making. Galvan anchored the infield with nine chances, showing off both range and a steady glove. The outfield remained largely untested, as Hardin kept

the ball in the infield with a mix of rise balls and inside heat that Tornillo couldn't touch.

Alpine's offense totaled 13 hits in the game and showed discipline at the plate, drawing seven walks. Gutierrez led the team with two free passes and also drove in two runs. Sweat added two stolen bases to her stat line, while the Lady Bucks as a whole swiped nine bases on the day, taking full advantage of Tornillo's inability to control the running game.

With the lopsided win, the Lady Bucks continued their roll through district play and defiantly announced, heading into the postseason, that opponents need to Fear the Deer. The team will wrap up their regular season at home today, when they host Kermit in what promises to be a final tune-up before the playoffs.

The Lady Bucks have their opponent set for the Bi-District Championship, where they'll square off against Lamesa High School in a three-game series. Game one is scheduled for Friday, April 25, at 5 p.m., with a doubleheader set for Saturday, April 26, beginning at 1 p.m. Alpine will have the home-field advantage and, if recent games are any indication, plenty of momentum.

Alpine swapped some heavy blows with Lamesa back on February 22 in a shortened game, ultimately falling 5-4 against the Lady Tomatoes at home.

With Galvan locked in at the plate, Hardin dealing from the circle, and the rest of the roster ready to battle it out, the Lady Bucks are playing some of their best softball of the season. If they can carry this energy into the postseason, the road to a deep playoff run might just start and end in Alpine.

BASEBALL • FROM 7



Alpine's Alec Ramos attempts to score against Presidio's catcher last Friday night at Kokernot Field.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

at-bats up and down the lineup and dominant starting pitching, Alpine is looking more and more like a title contender.

Now sitting at 5-2 in district, Alpine gets a much-needed rest this week before hitting the road for a

match against Tornillo on Tuesday. With their rotation locked in and the bats clicking, the Bucks have a clear path to the postseason if they can maintain their momentum.

"The Bucks baseball team got back on track with a big win over

one of the district's top pitchers, scattering multiple hits and playing solid defense behind our starting pitcher[s]." Said Head Coach Adam Llanez. "I have 100% confidence in battling back for a run at the district title."



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AESB • FROM 1

would now be available. It was also noted that Wood told Moore that the current balance for the board's account was \$23,723.89 and that she would have a complete financial report at the next meeting.

Moore also said that in conversations with local community members, he has received positive feedback on the department and how they are moving forward.

The next item of business was a report from AVFD Chief James Etchison. Etchison gave a run-down of the different calls the fire department had responded to for March, which included an illegal bonfire in a backyard where a family was making s'mores, a call to a possible fire off of Fort Davis Street, which was an in-ground smoker, where the resident was smoking a brisket.

The department was called to a vehicle rollover on Hwy 118, where they performed an extraction with their new equipment in response to aid Terlingua Fire and EMS (TFEMS) because only emergency personnel from TFEMS responded to the call. AVFD was also called to a jeep fire in Sunny Glen, and when they arrived on the scene, it was completely engulfed in flames. Etchison told the board that the department utilized the fire blankets on the gas tank and jeep tires to prevent them from exploding. The only tire that was not covered with the blankets was the spare. "I told everyone on the scene to get back because that one tire was likely to explode due to the flames and heat. No sooner had I said that and everyone moved, and the tire did explode," Etchison said. After being used on the jeep, he also showed



This jeep recently caught fire in Sunny Glen and was fully engulfed when AVFD responded to the call. A fire blanket was used on the tires to help prevent their explosion.

the board photos of the fire blankets and commented, "These are only a one-time solution. While they may only be around \$20 each, this is not a good use of our funds, and we won't be purchasing anymore."

AVFD also responded to two fires on Highway 67 involving vehicles. One was a vehicle fire, where the driver noticed smoke from the air conditioner. The Kia vehicle caught fire and created a brush fire that jumped the road. In attempting to extinguish the fire, crews quickly realized that water was not doing the job. It was determined the vehicle had lithium batteries from Mexico, and crews used the F-500 retardant to extinguish the car.

In collaboration efforts for the area, a part of the Emergency Response Center was leased for several months to the U.S. Army, which is stationed here to assist the U.S. Border Patrol. The county will receive \$500 a month for the lease of the space, and the Army will also contribute by installing a gym behind the building that AVFD can use. It will also give free combat lifesaver training to any firefighter interested.

In other collaborations, AVFD's brush truck #3 is on loan to TFEMS until they can repair their brush

truck that damaged an axle. Etchison told the board that with the new ARFF truck and the anticipated arrival of a Humvee from the Texas Forest Service, the plan is to give AVFD's Engine #2 to Marathon VFD (MVFD). "Brad Wilson, MVFD's Chief, is pretty good at being a mechanic, and he said he could fix the mechanical issues that this engine has without any significant problems. This would give MVFD a full-service fire truck they do not have," Etchison said.

In other news, Etchison told the board that the department's new ARFF truck needed a new water canon for the front, a high-pressure pipeline for the back, and couplings to make it fully operational. Etchison contacted the company that equipped the truck and spoke to a mechanic who worked on this particular truck and had the needed parts. The parts are located in Alabama and would likely cost around \$3,500 with shipping, with the parts themselves costing around \$2,000. "I spoke with the judge about going to Alabama to pick them up as opposed to paying the extra \$1,500 for shipping, but I wanted to ask the board what they believed the best option would be and what our

Photo courtesy of AVFD

budget lines reflected for this," Etchison explained. After some discussion, Spencer made a motion for Etchison to travel to Alabama to pick up the parts for the new truck. The motion received a second from Albert Lujan and was approved unanimously.

Finally, Etchison relayed to the board the different grants he was working on, seeking, or awaiting approval. Four grants have been approved, including two training grants, a PPE grant, and a firefighter insurance grant reimbursable for \$31,450. Thus far, \$25,730 of reimbursement has been received. The Fire Apparatus grant was approved and received in the form of the new ARFF truck, valued at \$750,000. The department is also awaiting the Humvee with the slip-on unit, but the value is unknown at this time. There are currently five other grants that have been applied for and are awaiting approval. Etchison was also waiting on his login credentials for the new software approved at the last meeting before utilizing it.

The next meeting for the Alpine Emergency Services board is scheduled for May 5 at 5:30 p.m.

BEARS • FROM 1

if you have chickens, limit any excessive feed and scratch within their coops and secure the animals themselves, especially at night. TPWD requests that any depredation of domestic poultry or livestock be immediately reported to them.

Other ways to reduce human-bear conflict include:

- Never feeding or approaching bears
- Removing outside pet food at night and feeding pets indoors
- Clean and store outdoor

grills in a secure place

Alert neighbors or TPWD to any bear activity in your area

If a bear is seen near or around a residence, from a safe distance, making loud noises such as banging pots and pans, setting off car alarms, or honking car horns can help scare off bears. Once the bear leaves, make sure to remove or secure any attractants immediately and advise your neighbors to do the same. These simple changes will help reduce bear activity in and around human habitations and allow for a safe coexistence with these unique animals.



Senior Spotlight

IDEN LUJAN

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I played football and baseball for the Alpine Fightin' Bucks.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach, and why?
My favorite teacher is Mrs. Golden because she is the kindest person I know and is a very good teacher. My favorite coach is Coach Dominguez because he has been a big part of my athletic career and high school. He has pushed me to be better and he sees not only my potential but all the other athletes. He is always staying

positive and always in a good mood.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
My junior year when we won our playoff game against Brady. I will never forget that game.

What are your plans after high school?
My plans after high school are to try and play baseball. If not baseball, I would like to just try college, go for kinesiology, and if not college, trade school, or military.

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CITY • FROM 1

The ordinance establishes regulations and requirements regarding the sale of alcohol within the city, specifying zoning districts where alcohol may be sold and providing for penalties of up to \$500 per occurrence for violations.

Key provisions include zoning restrictions, distance requirements from sensitive land uses, restrictions on sales from curb service restaurants, gross revenue reporting requirements for restaurants selling alcohol, permit fees, and enforcement measures. The ordinance was unanimously approved.

The council also approved the second and final reading of an ordinance authorizing the vacation, abandonment, and sale of unimproved portions of Saltillo Avenue, Monterey Avenue, Tuluco Avenue, and Morillos Avenue within blocks one through six of the Colima Addition, which runs adjacent to N. 16TH Street.

The original request included a portion of Avenue "C," identified as a critical ingress/egress route, which was subsequently removed from the request. Applicant Michael McCarson agreed to maintain Avenue "C" as part of the public right-of-way.

City staff recalculated the property's appraised fair market value to reflect this change, adjusting it from \$30,000 to \$27,587.20. Proceeds from the sale will be deposited into the General Fund and dedicated to street improvements in accordance with the

Texas Local Government Code, said Antrim. The ordinance was unanimously approved.

The council approved the first reading of an ordinance amending Chapter 74 - Parks and Recreation, Article II - Municipal Swimming Pool of the Alpine Code of Ordinances. Key updates include administrative oversight clarifications, safety and conduct enhancements, and enforcement measures.

Specifically, children under 13 must now be accompanied by a responsible adult, vaping and tobacco use are explicitly banned, and glass drink containers are prohibited. Violations are considered misdemeanors with penalties of up to \$500 per occurrence. The ordinance was unanimously approved.

The council also approved a resolution adopting a swimming pool fee schedule for Fiscal Year 2025. The new fee schedule includes a per-day admission fee of \$3 for children and \$4 for adults. Individual season passes are available for \$55, senior citizens can purchase a season pass for \$35, families up to five can purchase a season pass for \$85, and families with more than five members can purchase a season pass for \$105. Non-swimming adults may enter for free.

The council approved the High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area (HIDTA) grant for Fiscal Year 2026. The HIDTA program, administered by the Office of National Drug Control Policy, provides assistance to federal, state, local, and tribal

law enforcement agencies operating in areas determined to be critical drug-trafficking regions of the United States.

The grant fully funds two full-time law enforcement officers dedicated to narcotics enforcement and related investigative efforts and the acquisition, maintenance, and operation of two dedicated law enforcement vehicles. The program enhances operational capacity and interagency collaboration, contributing to community safety, according to documentation provided by the city. The estimated funding provided through the grant totals \$259,518.

The Alpine City Council will hold its next regular meeting on Tuesday, May 6, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

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.

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LOOKING BACK

Alpine Avalanche

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April 14, 1977



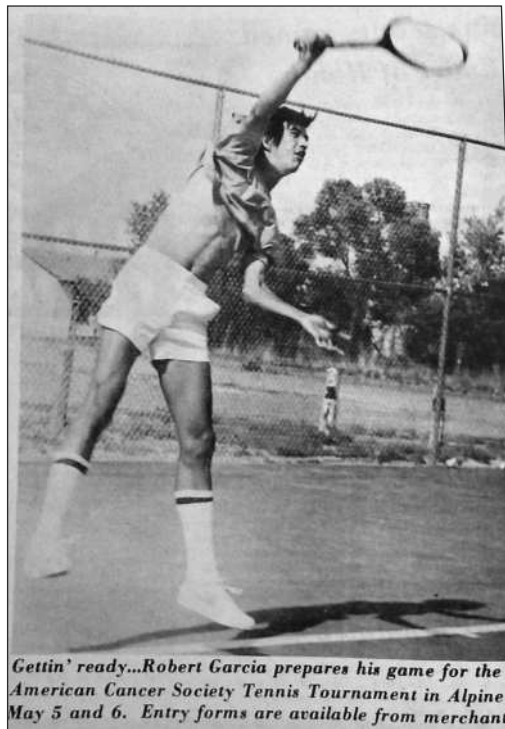
Alpine Boy Scouts display their wares at Scout Exposition Saturday.

April 4, 1977



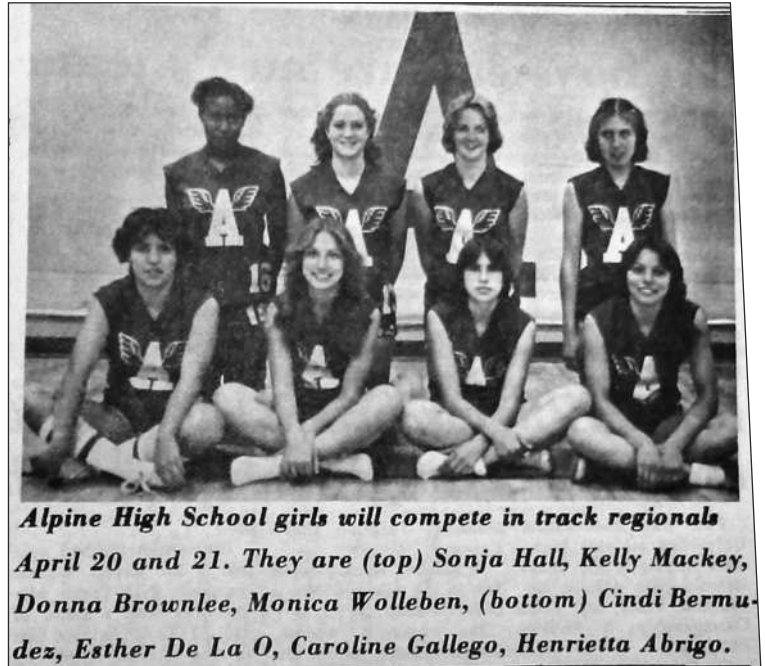
ALPINE REGIONAL GUITAR CHOIR
Alpine Guitar Choir performs in Fort Davis Sunday

April 7, 1977



Gettin' ready...Robert Garcia prepares his game for the American Cancer Society Tennis Tournament in Alpine May 5 and 6. Entry forms are available from merchants.

April 21, 1977



Alpine High School girls will compete in track regionals April 20 and 21. They are (top) Sonja Hall, Kelly Mackey, Donna Brownlee, Monica Wolleben, (bottom) Cindi Bermudez, Esther De La O, Caroline Gallego, Henrietta Abrigo.

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

Visually appealing plants can be toxic

Dear Neil, I received two angel trumpet plants, but I've read articles about their being poisonous. What information can you give me?

I can confirm that both closely related plants, daturas and brugmansias, are toxic if ingested. However, so are parts of tulip, daffodils and hyacinths, oak acorns, tomato leaves, Carolina jessamine, holly berries, mistletoe berries, oleanders, dieffenbachias, many mushrooms, castor beans and wild onions (the last two deadly poisonous) and many other common landscape plants and houseplants. You need to follow your own heart on this one. For my part, I taught my kids and grandkids not to eat things that weren't put in front of them at the table. I've grown both brugmansias and daturas and oaks and hollies abundant in our landscape. I'm more concerned about electricity, gasoline, texting drivers, and a lot of other everyday hazards. But that's just my feeling. I respect



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry

yours as well.

Dear Neil, Any idea(s) why my purple wisteria has never bloomed and what, if anything, I can do to get it to produce blooms?

This is absolutely my most-asked question relative to vines. Unfortunately, no one has ever given a simple, definitive answer that covered all the possibilities. Let me plunge forward.

The most obvious is pruning. Wisterias set their flower buds in the fall and early winter. Some gardeners feel that the only time they can prune woody plants is in the winter, but if you do



that with spring-flowering plants, you'll be removing much of their flowering potential. Pruning should be saved for right after they finish blooming (even if they don't bloom!).

If you have the wisteria in shade, that will often result in rank growth but at the detriment of flowers. Wisterias bloom best in full or nearly full sunlight.

Finally, if your plant grows where fall applications of nitrogen lawn fertilizer will go down over its root system, that could push it toward the vegetative side. Avoid nitrogen from late summer on to encourage a good bud set. In fact, it's a good idea to

"root prune" your wisteria to shock it into blooming. Use a sharpshooter spade in moist soil in late August or early September. Cut the lateral roots by slicing straight down 18 or 24 inches from the trunk. That will often trigger the setting of flower buds as the plant hustles to move into the reproductive mode.

If the truth were known, the failure of wisterias to bloom is probably a combination of several of these issues. While I may not have pinpointed exactly the precise one, perhaps I've given you things you can think about.

Dear Neil, One of the national stores was selling Naval orange trees locally. Will they grow well here? I was surprised to see them being sold.

Naval oranges won't tolerate sub-freezing weather for any extended period of time. They may not have told you this at the store, but they were obviously being sold as patio plants to be grown

in large pots, so they could be rolled indoors when it's cold. You have to decide whether that's an obligation you want to assume.

Dear Neil, My crape myrtles have been loaded up with aphids the past two summers. They developed black mold on their leaves and twigs. Sprays didn't help much last year. Is there something I can put on them before the insects arrive?

Use the systemic insecticide Merit (Imidacloprid) as a soil drench.

Apply it in mid-May, and your timing should be perfect. If you want to repeat the treatment six weeks later, that should ensure they don't become a problem again. The black sooty mold develops in the honeydew residue the aphids leave behind. While it's harmless, it is disfiguring, and the soil drench should prevent it.

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

ACROSS

- Oldham County seat
- TX George W.'s former office shape
- decorative painting on tin utensils
- ___ out a living
- prehistoric footprint place near Fort Stockton (2 wds.)
- "Santa ___ National Wildlife Refuge"
- "Asleep at the Wheel," e.g. (2 wds.)
- a SMU theatre is named for this actress Greer (init.)
- TXism: "___ 'noah"
- this Bob was coach & GM of the Dallas Stars (1993-2002)
- this Baylor grad Kinsey was in TV's "The Office"
- this Gay played for the Spurs (2017-21)
- "six" in Mexico
- TX Clint Black hit: "___ Tell Ourselves"
- this Willie benefit concert was held in 1987 (3 wds.)
- ___ville, TX
- hallucinogenic drug
- TXism: "get ___ built" (be still)
- farm building
- TX Dan Jenkins book: "___-Tough"
- marries
- everything left by a rich Texan
- TX Bobby, CIA dep. director (1981-82)

DOWN

- in Texas senate,
- school vouchers,
- voted in favor of bringing to mind
- ___ Park, TX is in Harris County
- in Parker County on FM 1187
- in the Middle East: ___ Arabia
- Gulf pirate in the early 19th century: Louis-Michel ___
- "got no ___ for it"
- late TX Rip (init.)

- TXism: "___ up with the chickens" (rise early)
- grin from ear to ear
- moan, grumble
- actress Ginger who lived in Texas for 4 years (init.)
- snakelike Gulf fish
- ___ canal is a dental procedure
- TXism: "hard as putting ___ in a windstorm"
- TXism: "___ mouth" (cusser)
- anger, rage
- Rangers drafted this Robb in 1987
- this Williams was the 1st Ranger manager
- police informer: stool ___
- TXism: "he couldn't drive ___ into a snowbank" (inept)
- Juan Gonzalez has the Ranger record for these
- Abilene, TX was named for a town in this state (abbr.)
- TX Dan Rather
- TXism: "___ the wool" (unchanging)
- TXism: "___ to a fare-thee-well"
- Spindletop driller: Capt. ___ Lucas
- legislative "no" vote

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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S-1736

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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.

ACCEPTANCE - The publisher wants to do everything

that is possible within the confines of good taste and legal constraints to help you advertise your product or service to the best advantage. We reserve the right to edit or reject any copy or insertion that does not meet our standards of acceptance. The Alpine Avalanche does not run ads for anyone whose balance on previous ads is

not current.

PAYMENT - All Classified Ads must be paid in advance.

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

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NOTICE TO CREDITORS

Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of **Larry Lee McCallister, Deceased**, were issued on April 8, 2025, under Docket No. PR03202, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Mary Elizabeth McCallister**.

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

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

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

DATED April 12, 2025.

Mary Elizabeth McCallister

By:
 Elizabeth J. Lewis, Attorney for Representative

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Alpine Avalanche

Fresh and fruity Easter eats

Easter is coming, and delicious sides help make that Sunday meal. What better way to enjoy your Easter eats than with a delightful fruit salad?

Creamy and kid-friendly, this recipe uses yogurt instead of whipped topping like other fruit salads that most of us may be familiar with.

It is also quick to put together and is even better if it has had time to sit and the flavors meld. So, if the plan is to have it for Easter lunch, making it the night before and storing it in the refrigerator is just the thing. If your Easter meal is planned for the evening, there's plenty of time to whip this up in the morning so that it has time for those flavors to gather together and pack their punch.

While many are familiar with the always-popular Waldorf salad or Ambrosia, this one is slightly different. However, the over-



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert



Easter Fruit Salad

Courtesy photo

EASTER FRUIT SALAD

INGREDIENTS

- 1 cup chopped fresh strawberries
- 1 cup fresh blueberries
- 1 cup red seedless grapes
- 1 Fuji apple, cored and chopped
- 1 Granny Smith apple, cored and chopped
- 2 kiwi fruit, peeled and chopped
- 1 (15-ounce) can of crushed pineapple, drained
- 2 cups of lemon yogurt

DIRECTIONS

- Gather and prepare all the ingredients.
- Mix the strawberries, blueberries, grapes, apples, and kiwi in a large salad bowl.
- Add the drained pineapple and then add the yogurt.
- Combine all the ingredients until completely incorporated, and all fruit is covered with the yogurt.
- Refrigerate for at least 30 minutes before serving.

all concept is the same: a velvety texture with the addition of naturally sweetened fruit — at least for the most part. The canned pineapple is the standout, but it can be replaced with a fresh variety if available. Other fruits can also be substituted if one is not to someone's liking or has an allergy potential. No matter the preferred variety, this quick and easy fruit salad will surely please everyone at your Easter table, including the Easter Bunny himself.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

LETTERS • FROM 4

Celebration for Johny

It is hard to be brief when discussing the talents, accomplishments, and fun stories associated with Johny Wyerts. The wry grin he had when a ranch horse would try to buck, magical notes on his guitar, specialized leather work, and unequalled art and engraving on anything that would hold still. When the Lord was in need of a new shep-

herd's staff, girded with silver, adorned with tightly woven leather and rawhide rings, with a curved head of unseen beauty, the Lord knew to have this intricate staff leaned near His throne, all he had to do was just look down His right arm and give Johny the nod.

Congratulations, old Pard!

From Sam Dove and other past and present Big Bend cowboys.



Devotional Page

He Is Risen! Alleluia!

BY VICAR PHILIP FRANK

Redeemer Lutheran Church

Today, the Church celebrates Holy Thursday or "Maundy" Thursday. The word Maundy comes from the Latin "mandatum," meaning "commandment." On that first Holy Thursday, Jesus Christ said to His disciples: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another: just as I have loved you, you also are to love one another." (John 13:34 ESV).

On that first Holy Thursday, Jesus also instituted the Sacrament of Holy Communion for His disciples and us. This sacred meal of our Lord and Savior's Body and Blood — in, with, and under the bread and wine — is a means by which we receive His grace, mercy, and forgiveness of our sins. Jesus' Words are performative, meaning that when He says it, then it happens.

"Now as they were eating, Jesus took bread, and after blessing it broke it and gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My Body.' And He took a cup, and when He had given thanks, He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink of it, all of you, for this is My Blood of the [New] Covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins.'" (Matthew 26:26-28 ESV)

Tomorrow, the Church celebrates Good Friday, a solemn day of reflection and remembrance of the brutal suffering and death of Jesus Christ. He was scourged, crowned with thorns, and nailed to the cross. Jesus hung on the cross for hours until He died.

From the cross, Jesus forgave His attackers and

preached His Gospel message of the forgiveness of sins, which He was achieving at that very moment. Then, He said: "It is finished," and He bowed His head and gave up His Spirit." (John 19:30b ESV)

With His final Words from the cross, Jesus revealed to us that His work of salvation was fully completed, once and for all who believe in Him.

On the first Holy Saturday — being the Sabbath Day — Jesus victoriously rested in His tomb from His work of redemption. In His work, He had defeated the power of sin and Satan. As He rested, His disciples hid in the Upper Room where they had eaten the Passover Seder with Jesus, fearing those who had killed Jesus.

But the grave could not hold Jesus Christ — the Lamb of God — the only begotten Son of God.

On Sunday, the Church celebrates Easter Sunday, the resurrection of our victorious Lord and Savior from the dead! In His resurrection on that first Easter, Jesus defeated the final enemy of death. In His resurrection, Jesus made a way for all who believe in Him to have eternal life with Him in heaven.

"God, being rich in mercy, because of the great love with which He loved us, even when we were dead in our trespasses, made us alive together with Christ — by grace, you have been saved — and raised us up with Him and seated us with Him in the heavenly places in Christ Jesus." (Ephesians 2:4-6 ESV)

Soli Deo Gloria!

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Ephesians 4: 31-32
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— 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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SRSU SAAC holds field day

The Sul Ross State University Student-Athlete Advisory Committee hosted their Second Annual Field Day on April 2. These SAAC volunteers held sports-themed stations and participated with students from Alpine ISD for fun and games. The event was sponsored by the SRSU Civic Engagement and Student Association and included 25 students from Alpine ISD and around 20 volunteers from SRSU athletics.

Photo courtesy of Sul Ross State University



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Annual plant sale sees large turn-out



True Value's annual plant sale saw a large turn-out of area residents on Saturday looking to green up their houses, lawns, and gardens. Owner Bob Ward (left) is pictured talking to community members about the wide selection of plants.

Ramirez earns consolation in Sanderson



AHS multi-sport athlete Andyne Ramirez earned the girls' singles consolation medal at last week's Sanderson Invitational.

Courtesy photo

Infield strategy



Alpine's Peyton Tays utilizes a bit of infield strategy at the plate during the Bucks' match-up against Presidio.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

Throwing some heat



Alpine Fightin' Buck pitcher David Valenzuela delivered some heat to the Blue Devils from Presidio last week in the Bucks' epic defeat over their district rivals.

Photo by Felipe Fierro

CNA students participate in health fair



Nurse Gayla Owen's Certified Nursing Assistant students participated in Friday morning's health fair held at the Alpine High School cafeteria. Numerous organizations and healthcare businesses were on hand for the event.

Courtesy photo

Heading to the finish line



Harlo Vargas pumps his legs as he sprints towards the finish line in last week's relay race at the Area track meet in Denver City.

Photo by J.T. Maroney

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