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OBITUARIES

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Miriam Elene Ishmael

Miriam Elene Ishmael, 89, of Terlingua, went home to be with the Lord on April 30 in El Paso. Her life was a remarkable journey of growth, change, and adaptability. A lifelong deeply devout Christian, she openly shared her love for the Lord in "praise" songs that she joyfully wrote and sang. She was a published author of poems and spiritual essays, encouraging everyone to love and care for each other.

Miriam was born in St Philips Parish, Barbados, West Indies, on November 21, 1935, to Ione Albertha (nee Squires) and Timothy Gladstone Ishmael, the third of nine children. She was raised in a Christian home with regular church attendance and adherence



to Biblical principles. She recalled her mother as a kind, loving, caring woman and a wonderful cook. Christmas was always special. Her minister father worked as a tailor; he was a disciplinarian with a sense of humor. She had vocal and speech issues as a child, but loved drawing and writing. She completed high school and trained as a dressmaker, demonstrating creative skills and designs in wedding attire

and apparel.

Miriam will be remembered dearly and lovingly missed by everyone who was fortunate to meet her and could call her a friend or neighbor. She was kind, caring, compassionate, and outspoken. Her abiding faith and love of Jesus Christ carried her through to the end of life. She loved to shop and cook "Bajan" dishes. After spending the day shopping in Alpine, she happily greeted everyone she knew. She was a member of Terlingua Bible Church with Pastor Jerry and Donna Ennon.

She made a lifelong friend, Ruth James, an educator from the Commonwealth of Dominica, with whom she shared a deep bond and religious faith while also gaining an extended family. Mrs.

James encouraged her further educational pursuits and medical care for Miriam's vocal problems, which were addressed in Manchester, England, where she also became certified in Midwifery. She subsequently moved to Toronto, Canada, where three of her younger sisters and older brother lived to continue her studies, obtaining a nursing degree and a BSN from George Brown College of Applied Arts and Technology. Miriam made many friends in Canada and became a citizen, but the cold Canadian winters led to emigration to the United States via St Thomas, Virgin Islands. Thereafter, she moved to West Texas, worked as a Licensed Registered Nurse in several cities, sought permanent U.S. residency,

and eventually became a U.S. citizen. During the period of "Y2K," she retired and settled in Terlingua. Miriam was enthralled by the majestic beauty around her; she bought a piano and took the moniker "Desert Lady" vowing to never leave, always basking in the companionship of her various cats.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Ione and Timothy Ishmael, her brother Wilbert (Barbara) Ishmael, and her sisters Vernita (Rueben) Briggs, Cicely, and Sheila Ishmael.

She is survived by her brother Charles (Patricia) Ishmael, her sisters Marguerite (Carlton) Howell, Jean, and Patricia Ishmael in Canada and Barbados, her Nieces Grace Sandiford and Sharon Howell, and nephews Ronald

Ishmael, Rueben Briggs, Jr., and Adrian Howell. Also, her extended family, the James', including Anne (Harold) Piper, Mel-dora (Keith) Beckwith, her Goddaughter Julia, Priscilla, Melvin, Henri-son, Adelbert, Orville, and Duane James.

Visitation with family viewing will begin at 11 a.m. on Saturday, May 17, at Grace Christian Fellowship, 801 E Brown Ave, Alpine. The funeral service will start at 12 p.m., and burial will follow at Holy Angels Cemetery. A memorial service will be held the following day at 11 a.m., Sunday, May 18, at Terlingua Bible Church in Terlingua.

Funeral arrangements have been entrusted to Alpine Memorial Funeral Home.

Dr. John W. Pate

June 11, 1941 — April 22, 2025

Dr. John Woodrow Pate, Jr., died peacefully at home on Tuesday, April 22, at the age of 83.

Memorial Service: 10:30 a.m., Saturday, May 17 at Robert Carr Chapel - TCU

John was born on June 11, 1941, in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was the eldest son of Dr. John Woodrow and Era Jeanne Pate. John grew up in Alpine, where his father worked as a local physician. John attended Alpine High School, where he played football as the starting high school quarterback. After graduating in 1959, he attended the University of Texas, graduating in 1964, and married his college sweetheart, Judy Summers. Following college graduation, he went



to the University of Texas Dental School, receiving his D.D.S. in 1968. John attended medical school at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston, receiving his MD in 1971. From 1971 to 1972, he completed an internship in Salt Lake City, Utah. He then completed his residency at the UT Southwestern Medical School in Dallas with a focus on general surgery, otolaryngology, head and neck surgery, and facial plastic and reconstructive surgery. He owned and

operated a plastic surgery office in El Paso, Texas, for over 40 years. He was certified by the American Board of Otolaryngology-Head and Neck Surgery as well as the American Board of Facial Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery. He and his wife, Rhonda, established the John and Rhonda Pate Endowed Presidential Scholarship in Law at UT Law School in 2000 and the John and Rhonda Pate Professorship in Otolaryngology, Head and Neck Surgery at UT Southwestern in 2004. In 2000, Governor Rick Perry appointed John as a member of the Texas Medical Board, on which he served from 2001 to 2007.

In addition to his profession and career, John had a passion for life outside medicine. His hobbies included piano playing, scuba diving, skiing, sailing,

and mountain climbing. Usually with his family in tow, he skied throughout the Rocky Mountains and Swiss and French Alps; John skipped bareboat monohulls off the coast of California, British Virgin Islands, and the Grenadines; he climbed all the Class 4 peaks in the Elk Range of Colorado and the Grand Teton in Wyoming. He also summited the Matterhorn in Zermatt, Switzerland, and Mont Blanc in Chamonix, France. None of these, however, could match his love for aviation. Starting at the age of 49, John became a pilot with a commercial rating, an instrument rating, a multi-engine rating, and a single pilot Citation 500 jet rating. He ultimately logged over 3000 hours of flight time. When he wasn't climbing a mountain or flying over one, he enjoyed rocking on

the balcony at his home in Snowmass, Colorado, his favorite place of all. His dedication to his family, his spirit of adventure, and his joy in living stand as a shining example of a life well lived.

John is preceded in death by his parents: Dr. John Woodrow Pate, Sr., in 1999, Era Jeanne Boettger in 2007, and his first wife and mother of his two sons, Judy Pate, in 1989.

John is survived by his beloved wife of 30 years, Rhonda K. Pate of Ft. Worth; his two sons, Jay and wife, Samantha of

Dallas and Matt and wife, Catherine, of Dallas; his two brothers, Dr. Bart Pate and wife, Cathy of Ft. Worth, Dr. Mark Pate and wife, Margie of Rocky Mount, North Carolina; six grandchildren, Presley, George, Sam, Alice, Jack Pate and Gage Hampton; and many nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.

In lieu of flowers, the family respectfully requests donations be made in memory of Dr. Pate to The Salvation Army of North Texas, 214-637-8220, PO Box 36006, Dallas, TX 75235.

Nelda L. Reyes

Nelda L. Reyes, a devoted mother and vibrant spirit, peacefully left this world on May 11 at the age of 66 in Fort Stockton. Born on March 12, 1959, in Alpine, Nelda was a lifelong resident of Brewster County, where she touched the lives of many through her warmth, kindness, and zest for life.

A proud graduate of Alpine High School, Nelda's spirit shone brightly during her school years. She was actively involved in sports and the school band, showcasing her love for music and athleticism. Those who knew her would often speak of her infectious joy for life, as she reveled in singing and dancing—



activities that brought her immense happiness and were always shared with her loved ones.

Nelda's role as a devoted mother was central to her identity. She cherished her children fiercely, and her legacy will live on through their lives. Dwayne Kristopher Reyes (Candes), Wesley Ryan Reyes II (Patsy), Kaila De'Lon Martinez (Pedro), K'Lan Kelsey Reyes (Maggie),

and Destinee Rae Kellam (Henry) were fortunate to have a mother whose love knew no bounds. Her nurturing spirit and unwavering support provided them with the foundation they needed to thrive.

Beyond her immediate family, Nelda was surrounded by the love of her mother, Maria E. Melgoza, sisters, Pamela Melgoza and Ruth Macias (Joe), her 17 grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews, who witnessed the light that Nelda brought into the world. Though her heart grieved the loss of her beloved husband, Andres Reyes Jr., and her son, Wesley Ryan Reyes I, Nelda found solace in her faith, which she cherished deeply.

The void left by the passing of her father, Ruben D. Melgoza, was a testament to her strength and resilience as she navigated life with grace and positivity. Nelda lived her life filled with laughter and a passion for making beautiful memories with those she held dear.

As we remember Nelda L. Reyes, it is her love of life, her spirit of joy, and her devotion to family that will forever resonate in our hearts. She will be dearly missed, yet her legacy will continue through the laughter and happiness she instilled in her children and all who had the privilege of knowing her. Rest in peace, dear Nelda, until we meet again.

CORRECTION

The canvassing of the votes for the May 3 General Election did not happen on Tuesday, May 6, as was reported. The votes were officially canvassed during the May 13th special city council meeting.

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- Ginger Hillery
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City of Alpine

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Marathon ISD hires new superintendent

The Marathon Independent School District met on May 6 to officially hire Mr. Keith Kimbrough as its next superintendent. After Dr. Ivonne Durant announced her retirement in February, the board immediately began the process of hiring a replacement.

During the process, the Marathon ISD School Board thoroughly reviewed 17 applications. After two days of interviews and deliberation, the board unanimously selected Mr. Keith Kimbrough and announced him as the lone finalist on Sunday, April 13. He will take over the School District on Monday, June 2. Dr. Durant will remain with the district to help with the transition until June 26, upon which she will return to Dallas to enjoy her retirement.

Following his hire, Mr. Keith Kimbrough, a PK-12 Principal from Martinsville ISD, will come to our Marathon Community. Mr. Kimbrough has five years' experience in Administration. Prior to stepping into Administration, he was a dedicated Mathematics teacher for five years. Mr. Kimbrough brings a multifaceted perspective to leadership with his



Marathon ISD School Board with new superintendent Keith Kimbrough, includes front row: Marina Aguilar, Cheyenne Marta, Dr. Ivonne Durant, and Leandra Ramirez. Back row: Marcus Celaya, Hayes West, Keith Kimbrough, Andy Lewis, Timothy Roberts, Coy Gonzalez, and Craig Carter.

experience. In addition to his educational background, Mr. Kimbrough also brings real-world experience as a plumber. This hands-on expertise provides a unique understanding of our school infrastructure needs.

During his time at Martinsville ISD, he increased the CTE funding by 50%. His knowledge will provide support for our PTECH program and CTE courses currently offered at Marathon ISD. Mr. Kimbrough has successfully

completed the three-year process for the Teacher Incentive Allotment (TIA) at Martinsville ISD, which will provide his qualified teachers with substantial compensation. In addition, his grant-writing skills have yielded a \$1.5 mil-

lion grant for the purchase of infrastructure and new buses for Martinsville ISD.

He comes with small district experience, big, audacious goals, and a willingness to learn, grow, and live among the Marathon families and community. Mr. Keith Kimbrough is energetic and enthusiastic about living and working in such a hospitable community.

Mr. Kimbrough is married to Mrs. Billie Kimbrough. Together, they have raised five children and have ten grandchildren. Mrs. Billie Kimbrough, also a dedicated and enthusiastic teacher in education, was hired by Dr. Durant to fill the third-grade self-contained position at Marathon ISD. Mrs. Kimbrough brings a rich background in early childhood and elementary education, and is academically driven in science. Mrs. Kimbrough is a highly successful and experienced teacher, showing significant growth in her students. Mrs. Kimbrough's knowledge and educational background will also play a vital role in helping to excel Marathon ISD students and their future success.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Klingemann takes on new role

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor



John Klingemann

Last November, John Klingemann, Ph.D., returned to his alma mater as Director of the Museum of the Big Bend, Assistant Vice President for Advancement, and as a professor in the Department of History. Since that time, Dr. Klingemann has served as the interim Vice President after the departure of Paul Herring.

Klingemann has now been named as the Vice President for Development and Advancement at

Sul Ross. He will continue his role at the Museum of the Big Bend, but a search for a new director is currently underway.

"John's commitment and connection to Sul Ross and the Big Bend area have already yielded positive results," said SRSU President Dr. Carlos Hernandez. "He is a great fit and a proven asset to the university."

"I am honored to serve in a leadership role at my alma mater," Dr. Klingemann said. "This is an opportunity to give back to the institution that gave so much to me by advancing our mission and strengthening relationships to support growth and innovation."

TSCRA backs USDA decision to halt cattle, horse, bison imports amid screwworm threat

TSCRA supports USDA's necessary decision to close southern border amid threat of New World screwworm

In response to the U.S. Department of Agriculture and Secretary Brooke Rollins' recent announcement to close the southern border to imports of cattle, horses, and bison in an effort to slow the northward spread of New World screwworm, Texas and Southwestern Cattle

Raisers Association President Carl Ray Polk Jr. released the following statement:

"Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association takes the threat of New World screwworm seriously. We commend Secretary Rollins and the USDA for making a difficult but necessary decision to close the southern border. While this action presents short-term challenges for cattle raisers, it is a critical step to se-

ecure the long-term health of the U.S. cattle herd.

Cooperation from the Mexican government is essential, and this move sends a clear signal about the urgency of the situation. Our association has consistently supported a border closure if warranted, and while we continue to work toward a domestic sterile fly production facility, we are left to rely more heavily on ground-based containment efforts."



Melissa Orozco and Joyce Baumann receive certificates and prizes for the winning essay and for being the outstanding Texas history teacher.

Photo courtesy of DRT

DRT presents awards to Terlingua teacher, student

The Alpine Hally Bry- an Perry Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas presented on April 25, certificates and cash prizes for the Julia Nail Moss Awards to Joyce Baumann of Terlingua CSD, 2025 Outstanding Texas History

Teacher-Seventh Grade, and Melissa Orozco, 2025 Winning Essay-Seventh Grade. The Historic Education Committee of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas provided the topic for the seventh-grade essay contest: "Which site should be considered the

birthplace of the Republic of Texas: West Columbia, Washington-on-the-Brazos, or San Jacinto?" Students had the opportunity to improve their research skills and enhance their writing skills, all while learning about early Texas history.

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Opinions

ONLINE POLL

THIS WEEK'S QUESTION

Now the Avalanche asks:

What is your go-to drink to get your day started?

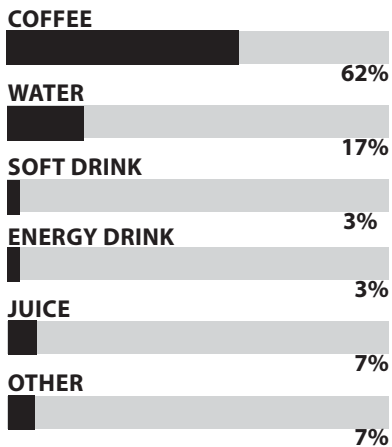
- Coffee
- Water
- Soft Drink
- Energy Drink
- Juice
- Other

Vote for this week's poll online at: www.AlpineAvalanche.com

RESULTS

WHAT'S YOUR FAVORITE GO-TO DRINK TO GET YOUR DAY STARTED?

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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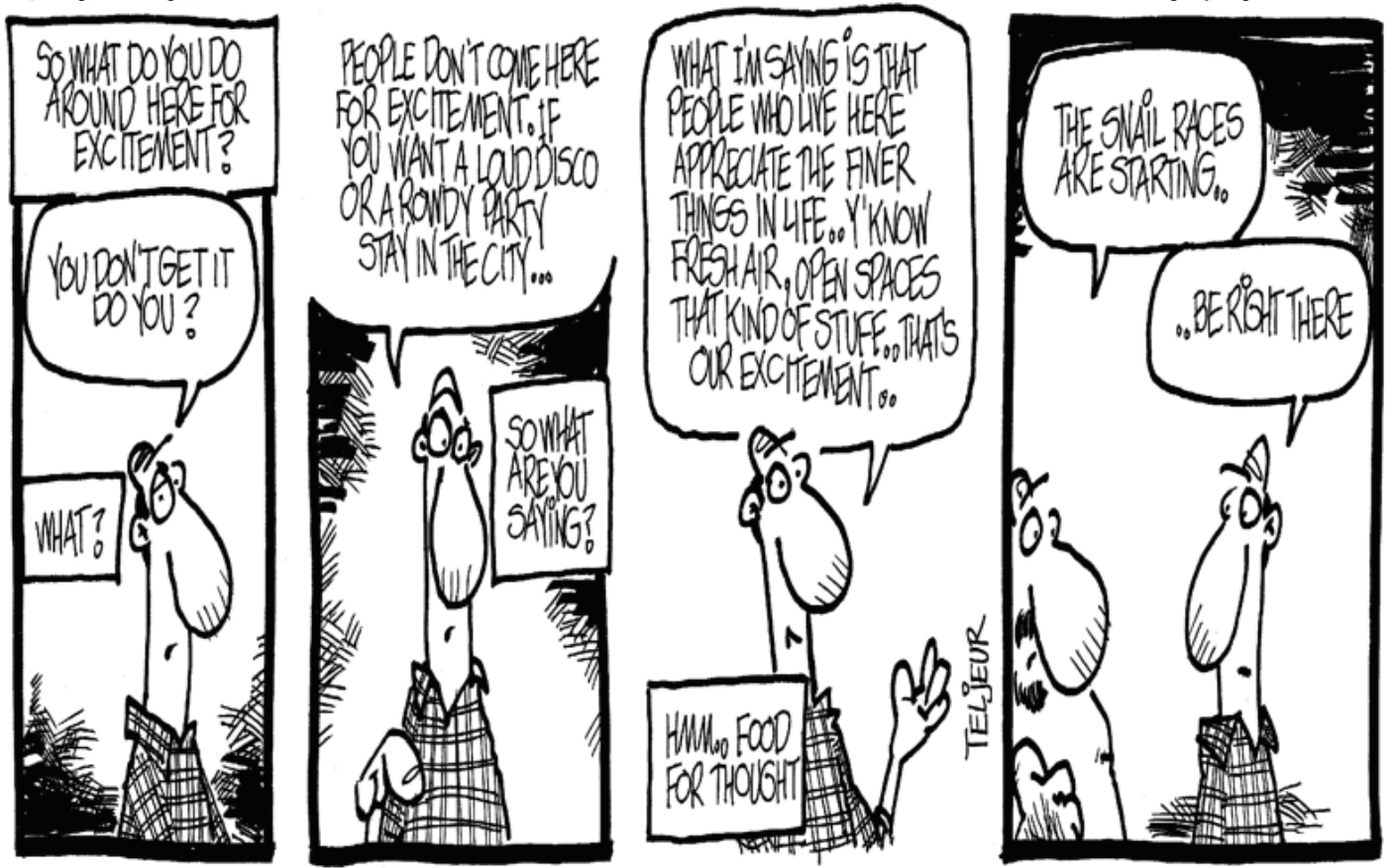
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BOONIEVILLE



Commencement signals a new beginning

As the spring semester draws to a close and the excitement of spring commencement fills the air, I find myself reflecting on all we've accomplished at Sul Ross State University over the past few months. It has been a season of tremendous growth, resilience, and achievement, and I could not be more proud of the students, faculty, staff, and families who make our university community so special.

To our graduating class—congratulations! You arrived here with big dreams, and you leave with hard-earned degrees and the confidence that you can shape the world around you. Your journey has been one of late nights, early mornings, and countless moments of learning and discovery. You've faced challenges head-on, and you've done it with courage and heart. You have not just endured—

you've thrived. You've shown us what determination looks like, and we are inspired by your example.

This semester, I've had the joy of attending performances, athletic competitions, academic showcases, and student-led events across campus. I've watched our students build community through service and mentor one another with generosity and compassion. Whether in the lab, on the field, on the stage, or in the classroom, your voices and efforts have helped create a campus culture rooted in purpose and pride.

I want to express my deep gratitude to our faculty and staff, whose dedication, creativity, and care shape every student's experience. Your



DR. CARLOS HERNANDEZ

President, Sul Ross State University

commitment to academic excellence and student support has never wavered, even in the face of uncertainty or challenge. You make this university not only a place of learning, but a place of belonging.

To the families and supporters of our students, thank you. Your encouragement, patience, and sacrifices do not go unnoticed. Behind every graduate walking the stage this May stands a team of people who believed in them from the beginning. We celebrate you, too.

As we look ahead to summer and the planning for a new academic year, I encourage our continuing students to take time to rest, reflect, and recharge. Your journey is still unfolding, and we are honored to walk alongside you.

For our graduates, remember: commencement is not just the end of something—it's the beginning of a lifetime of impact. Wherever life takes you, you will always be part of the Lobo family.

Hundreds of students will graduate from high schools around West Texas later this month, many of whom will continue their academic journeys here at Sul Ross. We are excited to welcome them and look forward to watching them shine as they start down the pathway toward what are sure to be productive, successful lives and careers.

Let us all carry forward the spirit of spring—growth, gratitude for what we've accomplished, and hope for what's still to come. I wish each of you a safe, restorative summer and continued success in all you do.

And as always, go Lobos!

How funny, we all laughed

"We've got to patch it up baby, Before we fall apart at the seams. — "Patch it Up" performed by Elvis Presley in 1970

A well-meaning friend gifted me a coffee mug on my 40th birthday ... a few years ago. Black in color, it reflected the American mindset of 40 as the midnight hour of aging, when birthday celebrations turn into pumpkins. And it bore a message—words foreshadowing the coming years.

"After 40, it's patch, patch, patch."

How funny, we all laughed at the party. These "Golden Years" were still a distant vision when we celebrated as I announced my intentions to remain "thirty-nine and holding." A motto, which I also used to think was funny when my optimistic Uncle Freddie joked about it years ago.

While sitting in the waiting room of the hospital imaging area last week, leisurely looking at dog-eared magazines dating back to Y2K, the mug's message returned to me in a vision. And with it came memories of household items families routinely patched when I was a kid—things that no one patches anymore—at least, not that I know of.

Things like blue jeans, with cuffs turned up a couple of rolls, and extra leg length for growing

boys, because buying new jeans didn't happen frequently.

Typically, for back-to-school. By the time they were finally tossed, the dark color was long gone, the cuffs completely unrolled, and the knees patched. Sometimes more than once.

Iron-on blue jean patches were a staple of every mother's mending back then. New patches stood out like a sore thumb on worn jeans. Something that no doubt promoted the popularity of decorative patches.

I remember going to school sporting a likeness of Davy Crockett on my knees. "King of the Wild Frontier." Other times, Roy Rogers was pictured riding Trigger, hat waving high above his head.

Patching clothes was not limited to blue jeans, though. Mom darned my socks. Who today even remembers the word "darning?" The domestic art of stitching up small holes in clothing by weaving thread to cleverly hide the repair. My sisters' sweaters received the same treatment, extracting extra miles from what we wore.

Shoes were patched as well. Making them good for more miles. Every small town had a "shoe shop" where the rich smell of leather greeted customers at



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

the door. Glynn's Shoe Shop on the south side of the square in Mount Pleasant extended the life of footwear with new soles and heels and a complimentary shine, all at a fraction of the cost of new shoes.

Another shoe shop service was cutting a couple of inches off the end of a leather belt and punching extra holes. This made the belt last longer, keeping the pants up on young boys as they sprouted into lanky teenagers.

Washing machines, refrigerators, and other appliances were once repaired when they stopped working. Now, we go shopping for a new one when the old one hiccups.

A popular advertising slogan touting quality back in the day proclaimed the Maytag repairman to be "the loneliest man in town." Today, simply finding a service technician to repair any brand in some communities is a lonely search.

Patching practices often included the family car. Patched tubes were the common fix for a flat tire on our Studebaker Starlight Coupe. A box of Camel brand inner tube patches was ever-present in Dad's toolbox. Like most men, he did minor repairs on the fam-

ily's only car when automobile maintenance required only common sense, logic, and little skill.

Today's riding lawnmower is a more complex machine than a 1950 Studebaker—and three times as expensive.

Many household repairs were often creative. My grandfather patched Granny's pots and pans utilizing a nut and bolt with flat washers on both sides of the hole. I own a rocking chair on which he repaired a broken leg. He patched his favorite rocker to last some 30 years, I know of. Previous generations were adept at patching and repairing to make household items and money last longer.

A repair shop sign I saw one time claimed, "We can repair anything but a broken heart."

"Mr. Aldridge," the voice beckoned. The invitation to join the technician for an MRI party down the hall reigned my thoughts back into 2025. By the time this is in print, I should know the test results.

It's amazing what modern medicine can patch now.

Who knows. Maybe one of those Camel brand tube patches will be an option for my aching, aging shoulder.

Contact Aldridge at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns are archived at leonaldridge.com



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Heard on the STREET

What's your favorite smell?



Sofia Alvarez: Vicks VapoRub. If you know, you know- it cures everything in a Mexican household.



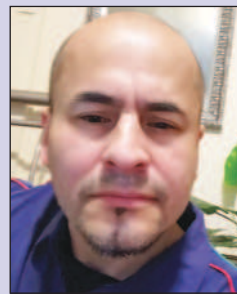
Luis Forbes: Skunk. I know it's weird, but I love it.



Tameka Johnson: Coconut oil and cocoa butter. Smells like summer and self-care.



Javier Morales: Fresh rain in the desert. You can smell it miles away.



Carlos Navarro: Fresh tortillas on the comal. Take me straight back to mi abuela's cocina.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 17, 24, 31 Birding on the Wild Side, 9-10:30 a.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the front office with binoculars, water, a hat, and sunscreen.

May 17 Dutch Oven Demo, 2-3:30 p.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center to learn about bygone cooking techniques and sample homemade cherry cobbler. First come, first served.

May 21 Master Naturalist Hike, 9-10:30 a.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the CCC Rock Lookout for this mile-and-a-half moderate hike to learn about the park, its geology, ecology, and history.

May 21 Dark Sky Tour, 9-10 p.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the CCC Rock Lookout (far end of Skyline Drive), and bring a chair and red-lamp flashlight. Dog friendly.

May 24 Alpine Cowboys Home Run 5k and 10k, 9 a.m. start for 10k and 9:15 a.m. start for 5k.



This will be followed by an Alpine Cowboys inner squad game at 11:30 a.m.

May 28 Bird Discovery Walk, 9-10:30 a.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center and bring binoculars.

May 31 Snakes of the Park, 2-3 p.m. at Davis Mountains State Park. Meet at the Interpretive Center to find out what snakes call the area home.

July 7-8 SRSU STEAM Camp, 9 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. for students entering grades 5th-8th. Tuition

is free, and the camp will be in the Espino Conference rooms A and B in the University Center at Sul Ross. Snack and lunch will be provided. Campers will explore geology, biology, theatre, music, movement, and careers.

July 14 Science of Stem Literacy Conference, 9 a.m. at Sul Ross State University. Educators may register at <https://sites.google.com/view/science-of-stem-literacy/home>.

July 18-20 Sul Ross Ag and Rodeo Exes Reunion, 1 p.m. on Friday, activities begin with the 42 tournament, and everything culminates on Sunday at 9 a.m. with a golf tournament at Alpine Country Club and a playday at the SALE Arena.

July 22 Peak Performance Youth Camp, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at Museum of the Big Bend on the Sul Ross campus. Admission is free, and the camp is for 4th-8th graders. Interested participants may register at <https://sites.google.com/view/middleschool-camp/home>.

July 23 H2O and You Summer Camp, for 4th-8th grades only, at the Museum of the Big Bend

on the Sul Ross Campus. Interested participants may register at <https://sites.google.com/view/h2oandyou/home>.

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.

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

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

welcome, but first contact Andrew Alegria at Andrew.alegria@sulross.edu, call 432-837-8216, or visit bbccchorale.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.

First Friday Song Swap, 6 p.m. to 9 p.m. Far West Guitars, 114 N. 6th Street, the first Friday of each month.

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.

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

First Communion Mass celebrated



A Mass for First Communion was held at Our Lady of Peace Catholic Church on May 3. Partaking of their first communion are, first row: Adriel Dominguez, Abril Miranda, Eliana Chavez, Sadie Sanchez, and Audri Aguilar. Second row: Catechist Barbara Tucker, Suzelle Martinez, Anthony Dominguez, Valentina Espinoza, Mimi Adams, Johnny Mears, Pamela Hinojosa, Catechist Cynthia Wood, and Cathy Lammons. Third row: Catechist Jose Mora, Mason Savery, Addilyn Dominguez, Myah Brown, Fr. Hector Chicas Palacios, Luciano Velez, Misela Gonzalez, and Catechist Manuel Martinez.

Photo courtesy of Wind River Photography

Grant funding preserves El Ocotillo



AHS Junior Lillian Stewart, yearbook advisor Vaughn Grisham, and AHS senior Evan Frixoux have digitized editions of the Alpine Buck yearbooks, El Ocotillo, with the use of the district's new CZUR ET24 Pro scanner. The yearbook staff has scanned and restored editions from 1948 to 1993 so that they are freely available to AHS alumni and the community. Digitized editions may be found at <https://bit.ly/el0alpinehighschool>

Photo courtesy of Violet Mack

PET OF THE WEEK

Meet Tiggy!
This handsome cat was transferred this month from another rescue. Before they helped get him out of the situation he was in, he had spent most of his life living in a wire crate with minimal space and resources. Despite this less-than-ideal life, he is sweet and laid back, loves attention, and is not demanding. He is quiet and enjoys his naps and belly rubs. He would be so grateful and loving for a calm and stable household where his love can shine! Meet this darling kitty and give him a chance at a new life.

Tiggy is neutered, vaccinated, and micro-chipped. Meet Tiggy at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter today, 2900

Old Marathon Hwy. Stay tuned for the Four Paws Ice Cream Social next month.

Work on your fitness goals and help the 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.

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



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NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN BY THE CITY OF ALPINE THAT THE CITY COUNCIL HAS PASSED THE FOLLOWING CAPTIONED ORDINANCES:

ORDINANCE 2025-05-01: AN ORDINANCE AMENDING CHAPTER 74 - PARKS AND RECREATION, ARTICLE II - MUNICIPAL SWIMMING POOL, TO THE ALPINE CODE OF ORDINANCES; AMENDING RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE CITY POOL; 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 2025-05-02: AN ORDINANCE AUTHORIZING THE VACATION, ABANDONMENT, AND SALE OF 0.046 ACRES OUT OF S. 5TH ST. RIGHT OF WAY, PLATTED AS PART OF FERGUSON'S SECOND ADDITION TO THE CITY OF ALPINE, ENVELOPE 96, PLAT RECORDS OF BREWSTER COUNTY, TEXAS; AUTHORIZING THE CITY MANAGER TO EXECUTE A DEED WITHOUT WARRANTY TO THE APPLICANT, HORTICULTURAL CONSULTING LLC; 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.

COPIES OF THE ORDINANCES ARE AVAILABLE AT CITY HALL, 100 N. 13TH STREET, DURING NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS BETWEEN 8:00 A.M. TO 12:00 P.M. AND 1:00 P.M. TO 5:00 P.M. COPIES MAY ALSO BE OBTAINED BY EMAILING CITY.SECRETARY@CITYOFALPINE.COM. QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO THE OFFICE OF THE CITY SECRETARY AT 432-837-3301, OPTION 1.



Everyone's looking for something. Find what you need every week in the Alpine Avalanche Classifieds.

Texas Capital Highlights

Abbott signs voucher bill into law

Gov. Greg Abbott last week signed a \$1 billion private school voucher bill into law in front of a large crowd at the Governor's Mansion, the San Antonio Express-News and other media outlets reported. Abbott called the new law the biggest legislative win of his time in the governor's office and touted the new program as the largest in the nation.

"Today is the culmination of a movement that has swept across our state and across our country," Abbott said. "It's time we put our children on a pathway to have the number one-ranked education system in the United States of America."

The new voucher law will give Texas students \$10,000 a year that can be used toward private school tuition, tutoring, textbooks, and other educational expenses.

Abbott was joined on

stage by U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Lt. Gov. Dan Patrick, House Speaker Dustin Burrows, and several private school leaders. Meanwhile, across the street from the mansion, Democratic legislators, union officials, and public educators gathered to express their opposition to vouchers.

"Today, big money won and the students of Texas lost," said state Rep. James Talarico, D-Austin. "Remember this day next time a school closes in your neighborhood. Remember this day next time a beloved teacher quits because they can't support their family on their salary."

Bail crackdown bill struggling in the House

Another of Abbott's priorities is facing stiff opposition in the House from enough Democratic members to jeopardize its passage, according to the Houston Chronicle. The bail crackdown bill would

prohibit pretrial release of defendants accused of certain violent offenses. In addition, voters would have to approve it as a constitutional amendment.

As of late last week, not enough Democrats support the bill, which requires passage by a supermajority. At least 12 Democrats would have to side with Republican legislators in order for the bill to pass. Senate Joint Resolution 5 would allow judges to deny bail to anyone accused of a violent crime or sexual offense, while Senate Joint Resolution 1 would prevent judges from granting bail for undocumented immigrants charged with a felony.

"This is not a right or left issue," Abbott said. "This is not and should not be a Republican or a Democrat issue. This is a public safety issue, plain and simple."

Both measures easily passed the Senate in February.

House Democrats assail

the proposals as unconstitutional and have offered alternative bail reform proposals.

"Dan Patrick and Greg Abbott don't actually want to fix crime — they want to run on it next year," state Rep. Gene Wu, D-Houston and chair of the House Democratic Caucus, said in a statement.

State may restrain new large energy users

The Electric Reliability Council of Texas predicts the state's energy needs will nearly double in six years, The Texas Tribune reported, prompting one West Texas legislator to sponsor Senate Bill 6. That measure, sponsored by state Sen. Phil King, R-Weatherford, would put guardrails on the state's energy market meant to help ERCOT better forecast future electricity needs.

"We do not have accurate load forecasting. No one knows if the forecast

is real," King said. Large companies, he added, are requiring ERCOT to plan "for load growth at dramatically higher levels than experienced ever in the history of Texas, and frankly, ever in the history of the United States."

King said that without credible data the state runs the risk of either overbuilding, leading to higher rates for consumers in order to finance the expansions, or underbuilding and risking grid failure. His bill has already passed the Senate and is now before a House committee.

King's bill would require new large businesses needing more than 75 megawatts to disclose whether they have similar requests elsewhere in Texas or out of state, what their backup generator capacity will be, and to pay at least \$100,000 to examine the transmission work needed to get electricity to their facilities.

COUNCIL • FROM 1

the purchase of an asphalt zipper to support roadwork. The five-year lease agreement costs \$78,619.37 annually. Per Councilor Stephens' amendment, Alpine City Manager Megan Antrim is authorized to finalize the purchase if the price remains unchanged.

Additionally, a lease agreement between Alpine Community Projects and the city was approved for using the former Sunshine House building at 205 E. Sul Ross Avenue. The site will be used for nonprofit and community engagement initiatives.

According to city documents, the lease "promotes community-driven initiatives and supports economic development activities... while ensuring protection of the city's property assets."

The next regular Alpine City Council meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 20, at 5:30 p.m. in the council chambers.

AVFD • FROM 1

last year's to Teams. Wood also stated that board bookkeeper Carole Causey was interested in attending the meetings but was unable to attend this one due to a family emergency. "Carole wants to come to a meeting so she can get a feel for what we do and what we deal with, other than just looking at sheets of numbers," said Wood.

Director Rusty Moore commented, "Her being here would be great. This way, she will better understand what we need going forward."

The next item of business was a report from AVFD Fire Chief James Etchison. Etchison told the board there was very little activity regarding calls. "We only had three call-outs last month, which isn't necessarily bad," he said.

Etchison explained that his crew had been called out to as-

sist the Terlingua Fire and EMS crew at Terlingua Ranch. Upon arrival, they dealt with a structure fire on the opposite side of the ranch from where TFEMS was working on their brush fire. The structure fire was a complete loss, and a conex box used as storage lost everything inside due to convection heat.

"During this call-out, TFEMS had a vehicle slide off the caliche and roll, thus losing the front axle. AVFD loaned them Brush 3 until their vehicle could be repaired, and thankfully, their truck is now fixed," said Etchison.

The second call involved a transformer that caught on fire in Paisano Pass. The power pole was in a difficult spot, with drop-offs on both sides of the hill. AVFD kept a close eye on the fire and attempted to put it out, but it ended up just burn-

ing due to its location. No other structures or land were involved.

The third and final call was a young couple who accidentally used the clean oven feature on their oven, thus burning everything inside and causing smoke. The 911 call resulted, and the AVFD responded and reset the oven. No damage was done.

Etchison told the board about all of the training that had been taking place recently, including adding six new certified firefighters. He also mentioned that his crews were diligently working on the new ARFF truck with the parts he purchased while learning how to operate all the different mechanisms on the vehicle.

Finally, Etchison said he would be taking a prescribed burn class so that he would be trained to oversee a prescribed burn, especially during a burn

ban if requested. He stated that if a prescribed burn were to be requested during a burn ban, the county would charge a \$500 fee to do so.

During the public comment section, board member Spencer spoke as a public member to publicly thank Etchison for his military service, as May is Military Appreciation Month. She presented him with an ammo box full of goodies such as mints, Velcro, sunflower seeds, and other odds and ends, along with a commentary on all of the items relating to his leadership skills and extensive military service.

After the presentation, the board adjourned the meeting at 7:04 p.m. The Alpine Emergency Services board's next regular meeting is scheduled for June 12.

COUNTY • FROM 1

which rated Brewster, Jeff Davis, and Presidio counties as D4—Exceptional Drought.

"I think we've all known this," said Judge Henington. "We've been looking at the drought maps for a while. The Governor has declared our county, among other counties...in a severe drought. In support of our agricultural community and our ranchers, it's important that we recognize this."

A report provided to the court underscored the severity of the ongoing drought: "The last time that Brewster County was rated as 'normal' on the drought monitor was February 2020. We have had a drought rating of D0—abnormally dry—or worse in all three counties for 262 consecutive weeks—five solid years with not one break in ratings."

Commissioners also approved the final plat and development requirements for the Ranches at Well Creek subdivision. The paperwork for each individual lot will include a notice about potential water scarcity:

"Brewster County hereby makes no certification, representation, or guarantee: (1) of water availability, quantity, or quality regarding this subdivision; or (2) that a present or future adequate water supply exists to service this subdivision. The unlawful blocking of the flow of water, the construction of any improvements in

a drainage easement, and the filling or obstruction of a designated floodway are prohibited."

According to county documents, for every 10 developed lots, the developer must install and maintain a 5,000-gallon water storage tank equipped with fire department connections for emergency use.

In a lingering financial matter, the court approved a \$5,000 settlement to Finova Capital/Cascade Leasing for unused credit card processing equipment.

"Hopefully, this brings this whole saga to an end," said Judge Henington. "It's been kind of a back-and-forth for a couple of months. It's sort of distasteful, but I don't know what else we're going to do."

Commissioner Pct. 2 Sara Colando was candid in her response: "That's a hell of a restocking fee," she said, noting the equipment had "never even [been] taken out of the box."

Commissioners also approved an application for the 2026 Colonia Grant. Judge Henington noted that Brewster County narrowly missed out on the 2025 round.

"We applied for the '25 Colonia Grant," said Henington. "We did not make the cut. We were close, but El Paso—imagine that—got a big chunk of it."

Henington emphasized that 2026 will be the last year the grant is non-matching, increasing the

urgency for a successful application.

Additionally, the court approved the purchase of a 2026 Western Star 47x Truck Cab for the Road & Bridge Department under a Buy Board contract, totaling \$177,240.82.

"We've gotten everything we're going to get out of our [current] truck," said Precinct 3 Commissioner Ruben Ortega. "The more we use it, the more it costs. It just seems like we're down a bunch with that thing."

The old truck will be declared salvageable and auctioned.

Finally, the commis-

sioners approved interlocal agreements for 2025 tax collection with several entities, including the City of Alpine, Alpine ISD, Marathon ISD, Terlingua CSD, San Vicente ISD, and Big Bend Regional Hospital District.

"We're already operating under these interlocal agreements," said Henington, admitting he had failed to get them on the agenda last fall. He also noted discrepancies in the financial formula used in past years. He said a new formula would be applied starting in 2026.

The next regular meeting of the Brewster County Commissioners

Court is scheduled for 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, May 27, in the commissioner's courtroom at the Brewster County Courthouse.

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

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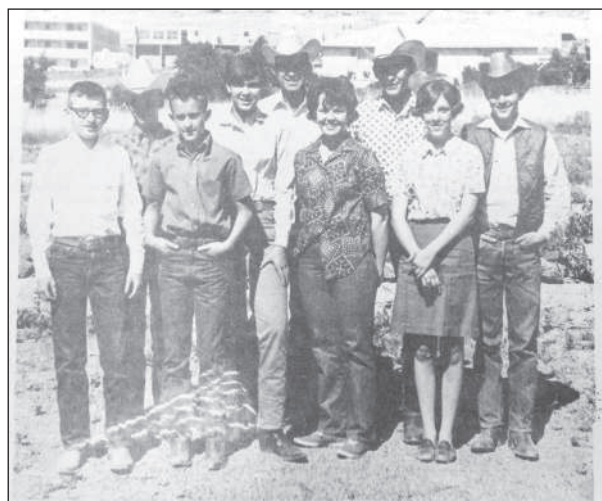
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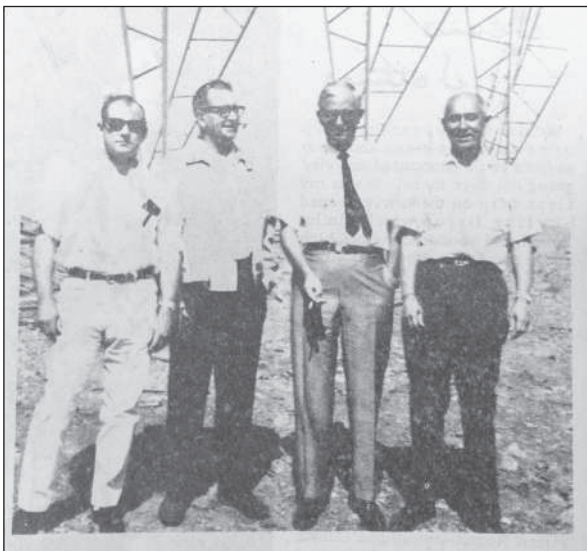
LOOKING BACK
Alpine Avalanche

SERVING THE BIG BEND AND DAVIS MOUNTAINS COUNTRY

May 4, 1967



BREWSTER Jeff Davis 4-Her's scored a double victory at the district 4-H Livestock Judging Contest held Saturday, April 29, at San Angelo State College. Both senior and junior teams were first place winners. The senior team is made up of Bob Owens, Jeanette Donnell, Martha Miller, and Kim Lane. They will represent District 6 at the state contest June 5-7 at College Station. Bob Owens was overall high point individual of the senior contest and Jeanette Donnell was third high. Members of the first place team in the junior division were Jim Dyer, Clint Owens, Tami Lane, and Roxie Sims. Jim Dyer and Clint Owens were second and third high scoring individuals in the junior contest. Both teams were coached by County Agent Ray N. Sims. (Photo by Cowder)



DIRECTORS of Alpine TV Cable, Inc., inspecting work on the new antenna system are, from left, Bill Sohl, president; W.J. Newell, secretary-treasurer; Dick Rogers, vice-president; and Fred Williams, board member.

May 25, 1967

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

May 4, 1967



SPEC. 4 David L. Kokernot Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. D.L. Kokernot of Alpine, receives the Distinguished Flying Cross in Saigon from Brig. Gen. George Seneff for distinguished aerial service on a helicopter in the Mekong Delta Region of Vietnam. Kokernot also has been awarded the Air Medal, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with the Bronze Star Cluster for gallantry in action and distinguished service. He is a member of the Creman 120th Aviation Co. Razorbacks, armed helicopters. David graduated from Alpine High School and attended Schreiner Institute and Sul Ross College (Army Photo)

Coral vine seeds require scarification for good germination

Dear Neil, I harvested coral vine seeds when they turned brown last year. We stored them dry at room temperature and planted them around March 1. None of them germinated. Why?

First of all, I'm answering about something I've never tried. Of course, things like humidity, the degree of maturity of the seeds when harvested, and other basic things came up. Still, I stumbled across a critical fact in researching my reply. Coral vine (*Antigonon leptopus*) seeds have hard seed coats (like Texas mountain laurels and bluebonnets) that greatly benefit from scarification. The various websites I visited called for soaking the seeds overnight before planting. Those seed coats are nature's way of preventing mass germination that might be followed by a drought long enough to kill a generation of seedlings. I also found several recommendations for waiting for warmer soils. Coral vines

GARDENER'S MAILBAG
by neil sperry



have always been some of my favorite flowering plants. Still, they really don't take over until it gets very warm, soils included.

Dear Neil, I have a house in Houston. Does the blooming of tropical trees like *Bauhinia*, *Erythrina*, and *Tabebuia* depend on their age or size? I planted these trees in the ground. They freeze. They come back, but they don't bloom.

Many trees operate just as you describe. They'll flower on semi-mature wood produced the prior year. If that growth freezes, it takes the potential for flowers the following season. That's common,

for example, with fruiting figs. Suppose they freeze to the ground in colder parts of the state. In that case, they generally need a couple of years to regrow before they have enough mature wood to produce flowers and fruit. You probably either need to switch to hardier trees or make plans to move to an area with warmer winters. (For what it's worth, you'll see the same thing happen when oleanders freeze to the ground in many parts of Texas after really cold winter spells. It takes a couple of summers before they bloom normally again.)

Dear Neil, We have a hybrid live oak that is

now 40 years old. Last year, we noticed some of the bark falling off the trunk's west side. What should we do?

Thanks for the excellent photos. If this were a young tree, especially a red oak, I would suspect sun scald since it is on the west side of the trunk. However, the canopy of the tree shades the trunk completely, so that's not going to be the problem. There is some form of active decay in the internal wood of the trunk on that side. It may be something down low, such as an old injury that is working its way upward in the trunk. You definitely need to have an International Society

of Arboriculture (ISA) Certified Arborist look at the tree to see what the origin of the problem might have been. Only then will you be able to chart a plan of action. Do not try to peel the bark back. The arborist may cut some of the loose bark away, but he or she will know how to do so properly to see what is going on behind it.

Dear Neil, Is there any way to keep this bothersome tree from coming back? No matter how many times I cut it off, new shoots sprout up. It keeps coming up in the fence line.

You have a hackberry tree. Their small fruit is

very attractive to birds. They eat the fruit, process the seeds, and happily "plant" them for you beneath their fence perches. You can spot-spray small seedlings with a broadleafed weedkiller (containing 2,4-D). If you have larger stumps where you have cut them back several times, drill into the stumps to make 1-inch-deep "reservoirs" (otherwise known as holes) in the stumps. Blow out all the sawdust, then pour the broadleafed weedkiller in at full strength until it just fills each hole. It will soak into the wood to carry through the entire stump and root system. In most cases, the stump won't sprout again.

TEXAS CROSSWORD
by Charley & Guy Orbison
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ACROSS

- young fellas
- "Welcome to Stanton, Home of 3,000 Friendly People And ___ Old Soreheads"
- cows (archaic)
- with 30-down, TXism for "good"
- TXism: "stirred up (caused trouble)"
- TX Paul who ran for president 3 times
- TXism: "___ duck in water"
- care giver at Dallas' Parkland (abbr.)
- Texas ___ University
- border patrollers
- TXism: "all ___, ___ watermelon" (fake)
- "___ is life"
- hairless
- 5th quarter for the Cowboys (abbr.)
- Globetrotter Lemon
- assistant
- anger
- TXism for "amateur"
- TXism: "he's holding all the ___"
- TXism: "he could out run ___-legged bobcat"
- outside suds area at New Braunfels Wurstfest (2 wds.)
- TXism: "wouldn't hurt ___" (gentle dog)
- TXism: "take a ___ off" (sit)
- ___ville in Tyler County
- TXism: "knee high to ___ hopper" (short)
- TXism: "it'll make your hair stand on ___" (scary)
- birth mo. of Texas-born Carol Burnett (abbr.)
- "bye" south of the border
- one year old horse
- TXism: "she could talk the legs off an iron ___"
- TXism: "me casa es ___ casa"
- Charlton Heston did these commercials (2 wds.)
- ___ Pass, TX
- snow slider
- TXism: "___ his hide" (spank)
- Texas tales
- TXism: "got a heart as big ___" (kind)
- shun (2 wds.)
- this Vic was in "Roots" with TX Lynda Day George (init.)
- that is (abbr.)
- TX Kristofferson's "Why Me ___?"
- did well on an exam
- Padre Island first name: "Las ___ Blancas"
- worship or love
- TXism: "nervous as ___ in a frying pan"
- lassos
- TXism for "against"
- needed by obese Texans? (2 wds.)
- in Wise County on U.S. 287
- TXism: "rounder"

P-1741

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Sports

Lady Bucks dominate All-District softball honors after undefeated season

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

Following an undefeated run through district play, the Alpine Lady Bucks have once again made their presence felt—this time through a sweep of All-District softball honors. Eleven players received district-wide recognition, with every honoree also named to the Academic All-District team, a testament to both athletic dominance and academic commitment.

At the top of the honors list, Kody Hawkins and Jaycee Portillo were named District Co-MVPs, a fitting capstone to seasons defined by leadership, production, and consistency. Taryn Hardin took home Pitcher of the Year, while Zariah Galvan was named Catcher of the Year. Freshman Kacy Hawkins earned the title of Newcomer of the Year, standing out both offensively and defensively in her debut season.

Head Coach Christopher Virdell, reflecting on the scope of the accolades, noted the sig-



Kody Hawkins (left) and Jaycee Portillo, District Co-MVPs



Avalanche photos

nificance of the team's presence on the list.

"It is great to see so many girls get recognized," he said. "It just goes to show how dominant the team was throughout district play."

The recognitions extended far beyond individual titles. Emily Sweat was named First Team All-District Short Stop, and Rikki Vega received First Team All-District First Base honors. Alyna Gutierrez earned her spot as All-District Left Field, rounding out a defensive unit that proved impenetrable all season long.

"Team chemistry is big and it leads to success,

which in turn leads to earning honors," Coach Virdell said. "All these girls went above and beyond to create chemistry with selfless attitudes to ensure that we had the best opportunity to win."

The team's undefeated district campaign was characterized by dominant pitching, sound defensive play, and a powerful, explosive offense. That balance was best witnessed in the synchronized play of Hawkins and Hardin in the circle, Galvan behind the plate, and a consistent infield anchored by Sweat, Vega, and Gutierrez.

The Co-MVP title rep-

resents more than stats for Portillo, a three-year leader under Virdell's tenure. It reflects her ability to inspire, motivate, and connect with her teammates on and off the field. Her contributions to team culture have helped lay the foundation for future success.

Virdell highlighted the intangible strengths that helped elevate the Lady Bucks this season.

"We saw growth with every single girl this season," he said. "In some way, they shaped their game to help the team win. We had a team of standouts, and they were able to rely on each other to help achieve success; again, these girls were team-first minded."

Off the field, the Lady Bucks showed equal discipline and determination. All 11 honorees, including Aila Carpenter, Trinity Vega, and Emyliana Hernandez, made the Academic All-District team, each of whom played a vital role throughout the year. Their presence in the classroom mirrored their

See SOFTBALL • 9

Bucks baseball players recognized on All-District team after winning season

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

Though the 2025 season ended in dramatic fashion for the Alpine Fightin' Bucks baseball team, the work put in over the long stretch of district play did not go unnoticed. Twelve players were recognized on this year's All-District team, alongside two student athletic trainers—an impressive haul that underscores both the talent and academic commitment of the program.

"It's an honor that they have been recognized for all their hard work and effort through the season/district play," said Head Coach Adam Llanez, who guided the Bucks through a tough regular season schedule that saw the team battle through injuries and inconsistent weather.

Alpine finished strong in district, relying on a core of veteran leadership and standout newcomers. At the top of the awards list is senior pitcher David Valenzue-



Pitcher of the Year, David Valenzuela

Avalanche photo

la, who was named District Pitcher of the Year and earned Academic All-District honors. Valenzuela anchored the Bucks from the mound throughout the season, often delivering under pressure.

"David Valenzuela stood out and had a great season on the mound and was able to go the distance for us in his senior season," said Coach Llanez.

Joining Valenzuela among the top honorees

See BASEBALL • 9

Cason named girls' coordinator for Lady Bucks athletics



Head girls' track coach and cross-country coach, Cory Cason (center), has been named as the girls' coordinator for the Lady Bucks Athletics. Cason brings 19 years of teaching experience, with seven of these as a teacher of World History at Alpine High School. Cason began leading the AHS cross country teams in 2018 and has had nine appearances by student athletes at the state cross country championships. She took over as the head high school girls' track coach in 2020 and the middle school girls' coach in 2023. Cason led the Lady Bucks to five straight varsity district and area championships and multiple middle school district championships, along with two state track and field appearances.

Courtesy photo

ATHLETE OF THE WEEK



DAVID VALENZUELA

Nominated District Pitcher of the Year, as well as Academic Honors.

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BASEBALL • FROM 8

was Ezra Lujan, who made an immediate impact in his debut season and was named All-District Newcomer of the Year, in addition to Academic All-District. Coach Llanez highlighted his consistency as a key to the team's performance.

"Freshman Ezra Lujan remained consistent with his defensive effort and at his plate appearances," he said.

Senior Peyton Tays, another two-way contributor, earned First Team All-District Outfield honors and Academic All-District. Tays proved versatile throughout the season, often rotating between positions while keeping his bat hot at the plate.

"Senior Peyton Tays also stepped up and was a big contributing factor by playing multiple positions on defense and also was consistent at the plate," Coach Llanez added.

Josh Solis, one of the team's most reliable players behind the plate, was awarded First Team All-District Catcher and Academic All-District. Solis, a junior, has become a crucial piece in Alpine's battery and will return next year as a senior leader.

A.J. Llanez, who played third base, earned First Team All-District honors and was also named Academic All-District, continuing a strong family legacy on the team. Llanez was a vocal presence in the dugout and a steady force on the mound.

Devon Rojo and Peyton Tays both landed First Team All-District Outfield selections, giving Alpine a dominant presence in the outfield categories. Rojo also made the Academic All-District list, further demonstrating the team's off-field commitment.

Alec Ramos, another junior pitcher, was named Second Team All-District Pitcher and Academic All-District. Ramos threw several crucial innings during the Bucks' playoff push and will be missed next season.

Shortstop Iden Lujan received Second Team All-District honors for his strong defensive play and middle infield work. At the same time, Ryli Vasquez, an outfielder, also earned Second Team All-District and

Academic All-District.

Leon Mucharraz earned All-District Honorable Mention and was also recognized for his academic performance. Mucharraz gave Alpine valuable innings and flexibility during the season. Alex Adams and Kelton Tarrant were both recognized with Academic All-District honors for their classroom performance and team contributions.

Behind the scenes, athletic trainers Mackenzie Sanchez and Karolina Castillo were also named Academic All-District, a recognition of the vital role they play in keeping the team healthy and ready to compete.

Despite the many honors, Coach Llanez expressed a sense of frustration about the district selection process.

"I believe these honors do not reflect our performance on the season. I feel that our athletes deserve more than they are given when it comes to these selections," he said.

The players' regular-season achievements speak volumes, and the All-District recognitions provide a capstone to months of hard work.

Looking ahead, Coach Llanez acknowledged that the program will face a rebuilding phase.

"We are losing four starting seniors, which will be tough to replace. I have spoken to our boys and mentioned that spots will be open and that they are big shoes to fill," he said.

Those graduating seniors include Valenzuela, Lujan, Tays, and Rojo — all major contributors whose leadership helped shape the team's character.

But with a strong crop of returning players like A.J. Llanez, Josh Solis, and others, the foundation is already in place for another competitive campaign next season.

"We do have five returning starters. Incoming seniors A.J. Llanez, Alec Ramos, and Junior Josh Solis will step up and help guide our young team next year," Llanez said.

As the Bucks turn the page on the 2025 season, the message is clear: The season may be over, but the work continues. And if this year's All-District selections are any indication, Alpine baseball has a bright future ahead.

Varsity tennis ends road at Regionals

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor

The Alpine varsity girls' team has ended the tennis season. Last Wednesday, they faced tough opponents in Abilene at the regional championship.

Girls' singles player, Megan Struthers, fought through her first-round opponent, winning the match 6-1, 6-1 against A. McGuire of Sweetwater.

In second-round play, Struthers faced K. Holtman of Wall, only to drop two sets 0-6, 1-6, thus ending her run for the season.

Singles player Andynne Ramirez could not overcome her opponent, A. Taylor of Wall, battling through a tough loss 0-6, 0-6 in the first round of play.

The girls' doubles team of Jaylynn Celaya and Shanna Tamale took on a tough Canadian team of I. Mondragon and A. Rivera. Celaya and Tamale fought hard but ultimately lost in two sets, 2-6, 2-6.

Coach Lauren Martinez shared, "Coach Ramos and I are beyond proud of these ladies for showing up and playing better than their best, giving



AHS varsity girls' tennis Regional competitors Megan Struthers, Jaylynn Celaya, Shanna Tamale, and Andynne Ramirez.

Courtesy photo

110% on those courts. This was an incredible experience for our girls. We are so thankful for

everyone's good luck wishes and support, and we hope we made our community proud."

Middle school boys hooked on the fairways

BY KARA GERBERT

Managing Editor



Nicholas Duran-McMillen prepares to tee off during Tuesday's Alpine Middle School golf tournament.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

The Alpine Middle School held a golf tournament on Tuesday afternoon at the Alpine golf course. According to Marco Gomez, head coach for the golfers, many of these kids had never played the game before.

"This year, we had a great turnout of middle school golfers. We had 20 boys show up interested in playing. Although we only had two girls, we hope we can interest a few more next year," Gomez said.

According to Gomez, the golfers have improved tremendously in the last few weeks.

Some of these kids are hooked now and are really working on improving their game. This is something for them and me to look forward to," Gomez remarked.

Tuesday afternoon's tournament resulted in Henleigh Anderson placing third for the girls and Georgia Muratori placing fifth.

On the boys' side, Colt Billings shot a 52, followed by Luis Lujan with a 53. The other top three players on the day tied, shooting a 54; they were Jeffrey Castillo, Roman Holguin, and John Ritchie.

SOFTBALL • FROM 8

performance between the lines—focused, committed, and consistent.

While Virdell expressed pride in the recognition, he also noted the challenges of the All-District selection process.

"I still believe we should have had more recognition," he said. "The process is sometimes complicated, and it depends on how other coaches vote after I nominate. I feel we had a couple of girls who should have been placed in superlatives, especially since we dominated the district."

Regardless of how the voting went, the Lady Bucks' overall performance speaks for itself. Their undefeated district record and postseason berth were no fluke—they were the result of the players', coaching staff's, and broader support system's dedication day in and day out.

With the return of key players like the Hawkins sisters, Galvan, Hardin, Sweat, Gutierrez,

and others, the future of Alpine softball looks bright. Virdell and his staff are already laying the groundwork for another competitive run next season, emphasizing the same principles that brought them success this year: accountability, discipline, and a team-first mindset.

The Lady Bucks' accomplishments have

not gone unnoticed by the Alpine community, whose support filled the stands throughout the season.

"I would like to thank everyone involved with the program this season," Coach Virdell said. "The players, the parents, the community, the school, and my coaches. It takes everyone involved to grow the program to be successful."

In a sport that often elevates individual heroes, the Lady Bucks made their mark through collective strength and unity. And now, with a stack of district honors to prove it, the legacy of their undefeated run is secure, etched into the record books and carried forward by a new generation of players eager to keep the tradition alive.

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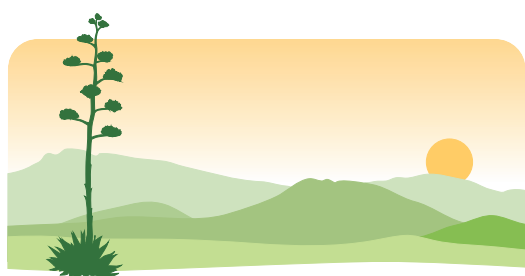
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Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the **Estate of Ross David Burling, Deceased**, were issued on May 13, 2025, under Docket No. PR03206, pending in the County Court of Brewster County, Texas, to **Charles Daniel Burling**.

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

Representative,
Estate of Ross David Burling, 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 May 13, 2025.

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By: Elizabeth J. Lewis,
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OBITUARIES

• FROM 2

John H. Watkins

It is with great sadness that the family of John H. Watkins announces his passing on May 10. John departed this life peacefully in his sleep at Lakeside Health & Wellness in Kemp, Texas, where he had resided for the past two and a half years.



Born on August 6, 1938, in Monahans, John was the son of C.E. and Martha Watkins. He graduated from Monahans High School in 1956 and went on to attend Tarleton State University and Texas Tech University. John proudly served in the United States Marine Corps and was honorably discharged.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Peggy Duncan, mother of his daughters Kim and Dee; his second wife, Glen Richburg Bromley, whom he married on November 23, 1978; his parents, C.E. and Martha Watkins; three brothers; three sisters; stepson Bill; and stepdaughter Elizabeth. John is sur-

vived by his daughters Kim and Dee, stepson Ed, ten grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

From 1969 to 1985, John owned and operated the Hut Drive Inn in Alpine. In 1980, he and Glen opened Alpine's first art gallery, sharing their love of art with the community. He was a proud member of American Legion Post #79 in Alpine and a Master Mason of AF & AM Frontier Lodge No. 766.

A graveside service will be held at Elm Grove Cemetery in Alpine on Friday, May 16, at 12 p.m. All who knew and loved John are warmly invited to attend.

DEATH NOTICE

Miriam Elene Ishmael

Miriam Elene Ishmael, 89, of Terlingua, Texas, went home to be with the Lord on April 30, 2025. She was born on November 21, 1935. Her life was a long, remarkable journey as she openly shared her love for the Lord in "praise" songs that she joyfully wrote and sang. She was a published author of poems and spiritual essays, encouraging everyone to love and care for each other. She will be remembered dearly and will be lovingly missed by everyone who was fortunate to meet her and could call her a friend or neighbor. She was kind, caring, com-

passionate, and outspoken, and loved to shop, cook, and greet everyone she knew.

Her funeral service will be held on Saturday, May 17, 2025, at Grace Christian Fellowship, 801 E Brown Ave, Alpine, TX. Visitation with family viewing will begin at 11 a.m., followed by the service at noon, and then her burial. In addition, a memorial service will be held the next day on Sunday, May 18, 2025, at 11 a.m. at the Terlingua Bible Church, 51455 State Hwy 118, Alpine, TX (55 miles south of Alpine on the east side of the highway).



Devotional Page

Now what?

BY THE REV. MICHAEL WALLENS
St. James Episcopal Church

Sometimes we forget that Easter isn't just one day. Easter is a Season of the Church Year, and the Season of Easter is actually 50 days long. That means we get to keep celebrating NEW LIFE and Resurrection and keep the experience of this joy going way beyond Easter Sunday.

I am challenging myself, and you, this Easter Season, to find time to get outside and be with Jesus in Nature. Take the time to have a Sabbath day beyond Sunday. Take a mini retreat to restore and get refreshment. It may sound impossible, but take an entire morning off or part of an afternoon. If you have kids, find a friend who will babysit for you and then return the favor so he or she can also have time for a Sabbath or retreat time. Make space in your schedule to have time to just BE with God.

Sit and Look and Watch or Take a Walk and Look for "Little Easters." Joy Spots, Happy Places, and or Signs of Resurrection and New Life. Joyce Rupp calls the things we see and experience, the things that bring us new life and make us smile and hopeful, "Little Easters." Today, watch for these and give thanks. Allow God to talk to you through nature: the

wind, the vines, flowers, trees, etc.

What newness do you need in your life right now?

What kind of refreshment or resurrection? Spend some time with that and talk to God...journal, walk, create something in art.

"God is the friend of silence. See how nature—trees, flowers, grass—grows in silence; see the stars, the moon, and the sun, how they move in silence... We need silence to be able to touch souls." Mother Teresa

A prayer based on a prayer by Thomas Merton

There is nothing more important than what we are attending to.

There is nothing more urgent than we must hurry away to.

We Wait on you God.

Your time is the right time.

We wait for You to make Your word clear to us.

We know that in time and in the spirit of deep listening and in quiet stillness

Your way will be clear. AMEN

Remember to thank God when you recognize the joy spots and Little Easters along your way! And keep celebrating Easter all the way to Pentecost, June 8.

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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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Acts 2: Verses 17-21
verse 17, "And it shall come to pass in the last days, said God, I will pour out of my spirit upon all flesh, and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your young men shall see visions, and your old men shall dream dreams;"
verse 21, "And it shall come to pass that whosoever shall call on the name of the Lord shall be saved"

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Ephesians 4: 31-32
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Put spring in your step, with lemon-forward pizza



Lemon Basil Pizza

Courtesy photo

Most folks would be hard-pressed to say they know anyone who doesn't like pizza. Seriously, what's not to love about pizza? And thanks to creative minds in the world's kitchens, pizza goes above and beyond cheese and pepperoni or basil, tomatoes, and fresh mozzarella.

The possibilities are pretty endless when creating a unique take on what most folks believe to be the "traditional" pie. Case in point, this lemony-basil creation that gives this traditional heavy food a lightening-up.

When one thinks of pizza, lemons are not the first thing that comes to mind, but cooked lemons have become one of culinary's go-tos in the past few years. Recipes from social media and food blogs use this



HEAD OVER MEALS

by kara gerbert

citrusy fruit to its full advantage. Offering a slight bitterness from the roasting of the pith and a sweetness from the flesh, cooked lemons offer whatever dish they're used in as a concentrated bright flavor.

With the flavors of roasted lemons added to the traditional spices of thyme, garlic, and fresh, sweet basil, plus the addition of honey, shallots,

THREE CHEESE LEMON BASIL PIZZA

INGREDIENTS

- 1/2 lb. pizza dough
- 1 tablespoon of extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup grated Parmesan cheese
- 2 tablespoons toasted sesame seeds
- 1 tablespoon fresh thyme leaves
- 2 cloves of chopped garlic
- 1 shallot, halved, and leaves separated
- chili flakes
- 1 tablespoon of honey
- 3/4 cup shredded mozzarella cheese
- 3/4 cup shredded provolone cheese
- 1 small Meyer or regular lemon, thinly sliced
- 1 bunch of fresh basil

DIRECTIONS

- Preheat oven to 425 degrees.
- Push the dough out on a lightly floured surface until it's thin (about a 10-12-inch circle). Transfer the dough onto a baking sheet and lightly brush with olive oil.
- Sprinkle the crust with Parmesan, sesame seeds, thyme, garlic, shallots, and chili flakes. Drizzle with honey.
- Add the mozzarella and provolone, arrange the lemon slices over the cheese, and top with a handful of torn basil leaves.
- Bake for 10-15 minutes or until the crust is golden and the cheese is bubbling.
- Remove from the oven and top with two big handfuls of fresh basil.
- Slice and enjoy!

and spicy chili flakes, this spring-inspired pie will make your taste buds sit up and sing.

So, don't be shy about what to put on your pie. Experiment a bit, add or subtract some things, or

mix it all up with an entirely new set of ingredients. Just remember that cooking doesn't have to be a chore. It should be fun to introduce new flavors, foods, and ideas into the family favorites.



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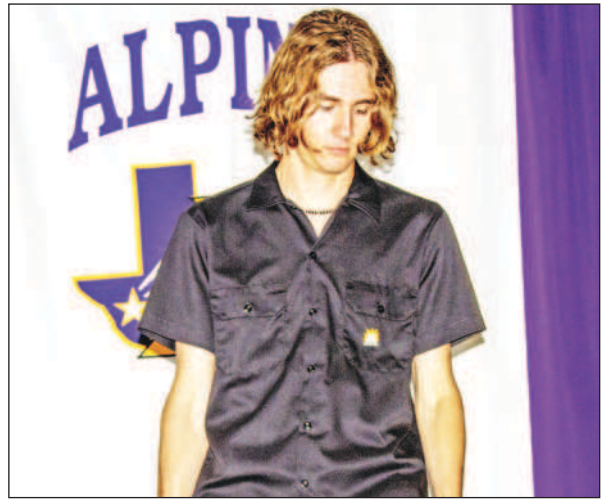
AHS Valedictorian



The 2025 Alpine High School Valedictorian is Zeynep Basibuyuk. Basibuyuk was also awarded the most outstanding Science and English student, a UIL Scholar Award, and the Texas Education Agency's Highest-Ranking Certificate.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

AHS Salutatorian



The 2025 Salutatorian for Alpine High School is Hatfield Cason. This young student athlete has excelled at everything he's attempted while at AHS. On top of earning the Salutatorian honor, Cason earned first place in UIL editorial, fifth place in number sense, and was also a UIL Scholar Award recipient.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

AHS Shining Star



AHS senior Xander Dodson was awarded the Shining Star award at Monday evening's academic awards ceremony.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Haas wins multiple academic achievements



AHS's Roseline Haas earned multiple accolades at Monday night's academic awards ceremony. Haas earned the most outstanding student for both Health I and Principles of Health, plus earning second place in UIL Literary Criticism and Spelling at the District level and first place in Copy Editing.

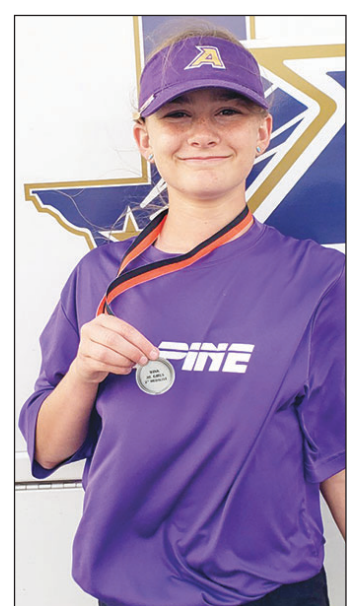
Photo by Kara Gerbert

Only driving he's allowed



Eighth-grade golfer John Ritchie rears back to drive his golf ball down the fairway towards the green on Tuesday afternoon during the boys' middle school golf tournament.

Photo by Kara Gerbert



Junior High golfer places in Wink

Georgia Muratori earned a silver medal at the Wink golf tournament last week.

Courtesy photo

Wang awarded for multiple subjects



Dylan Wang was awarded the most outstanding student for U.S. History and English IV AP at Monday night's Alpine High School academic award ceremony. Wang also was recognized for winning second place in UIL Social Studies.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

Llanez awarded for multiple academics



Hayden Llanez was awarded the most outstanding student in World History, as well as Graphic Design I, at Monday evening's Alpine High School academic award ceremony.

Photo by Kara Gerbert

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