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USDA opens general and continuous conservation reserve program enrollment

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced several Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) enrollment opportunities for agricultural producers and landowners on May 12. USDA's Farm Service Agency (FSA) is accepting offers for both the General and Continuous CRP beginning today through June 6, 2025.

CRP, USDA's flagship conservation program, celebrates its 40th anniversary this year. For four decades, CRP has provided financial and technical support to agricultural producers and landowners who place unproductive or marginal cropland under contract for 10-15 years and who agree to voluntarily convert the land to beneficial vegetative cover to improve water quality, prevent soil erosion, and support wildlife habitat. The American Relief Act, 2025, extended provisions for CRP through Sept. 30, 2025.

"With 1.8 million acres available for all CRP enrollment this fiscal year, we are very aware that we are bumping up against the statutory 27-million-acre statutory cap," said FSA Administrator Bill Beam. "Now more than ever, it's important that the acres offered by landowners and those approved by USDA address our most critical natural resource concerns. With the limited number of acres that we have available, we're not necessarily looking for the most acres offered but instead prioritizing mindful conservation efforts to ensure we maximize the return on our investment from both a conservation and economic perspective."

General CRP (Signup 64)

Agricultural producers and landowners submit offers for General CRP through a competitive bid process. Offers are ranked and scored by FSA, using nationally established environmental benefits criteria. USDA will announce accepted offers once ranking and scoring for all offers are completed. In addition to annual rental payments, approved General CRP participants

may also be eligible for cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP (Signup 63)

Unlike General CRP, Continuous CRP offers are not subject to a competitive bid process. To ensure enrolled acres do not exceed the current statutory cap of 27 million acres, FSA is accepting Continuous CRP offers on a first-come, first-served basis through June 6. However, should allotted CRP acreage remain available following the June 6 deadline, FSA will accept continuous CRP offers from interested landowners through July 31, 2025, and may be subsequently considered for acceptance, in batches, if it's determined that the offered acres support USDA's conservation priorities.

Continuous CRP participants voluntarily offer environmentally sensitive lands, typically smaller parcels than offered through General CRP, including wetlands, riparian buffers, and varying wildlife habitats. In return, they receive annual rental payments and cost-share assistance to establish long-term, resource-conserving vegetative cover.

Continuous CRP enrollment options include:

- **State Acres for Wildlife Enhancement Initiative: Restores vital habitat** in order to meet high-priority state wildlife conservation goals.
- **Highly Erodible Land Initiative:** Producers and landowners can enroll in CRP to establish long-term cover on highly erodible cropland that has a weighted erodibility index greater than or equal to 20.
- **Clean Lakes, Estuaries and Rivers (CLEAR) Initiative:** Prioritizes water quality practices on the land that, if enrolled, will help reduce sediment loadings, nutrient loadings, and harmful algal blooms. The vegetative covers also contribute to increased wildlife populations.

- **CLEAR30 (a component of the CLEAR Initiative):** Offers additional incentives for water quality practice adoption and can be accessed in 30-year contracts.
- **Conservation Reserve Enhancement Program:** Addresses high priority conservation objectives of states and Tribal governments on agricultural lands in specific geographic areas.

Grassland and Expiring CRP Acres

FSA will announce dates for the Grassland CRP signup in the near future.

Additionally, landowners with acres enrolled in CRP set to expire Sept. 30, 2025, can offer acres for re-enrollment beginning today. A producer can offer to enroll new acres into CRP and also offer to re-enroll any acres expiring Sept. 30, 2025.

For more information on CRP participant and land eligibility, approved conservation practices and detailed program fact sheets, visit FSA's CRP webpage.

More Information

Interested producers should apply through the FSA at their local USDA Service Center.

Signed into law in 1985, CRP is one of the largest voluntary private-lands conservation programs in the United States. Originally intended to primarily control soil erosion and potentially stabilize commodity prices by taking marginal lands out of production, the program has evolved over the years, providing many conservation and economic benefits.

FSA helps America's farmers, ranchers, and forest landowners invest in, improve, protect, and expand their agricultural operations through the delivery of agricultural programs for all Americans. FSA implements agricultural policy, administers credit and loan programs, and manages conservation, commodity, disaster recovery, and marketing programs through a national network of state and county offices and locally elected county committees. For more information, visit fsa.usa.gov.

OBITUARIES

Raymond Glen Decker

Raymond Glen (R.G. "Real Good") (Pawpaw) Decker passed away Wednesday, May 14, in his home in Alpine. He will be truly missed. Born in Dallas to Lois and Elmer W. Decker on January 28, 1950, R.G. lived most of his young life in the Odessa and Midland area, attending Midland High School. He spent over four years in the United States Marine Corps, from 1967 to 1971. Semper Fi. He then received his Ranch and Livestock degree from TSTI in Waco. Having learned at an early age the trade of boot making and shoe repair from his father, he spent many years maintaining Decker Boot and Shoe Repair in Midland and later in Mesquite. He met the love of his life in 1971, Laura Martin, and they wed and enjoyed 54 beautiful years of marriage and raised four wonderful children. Upon retiring to Alpine, they enjoyed going to garage sales every Saturday, where he was an enthusiastic conversationalist. He reluctantly traveled and enjoyed every bit of it. He enjoyed entertaining grandchildren, being cohorts in mischief and mayhem. He created his



own personal oasis with ponds, trees, and plants, then enjoyed the domestic and wild animals that would visit.

R. G. is survived by his loving wife, Laura: two sisters, Jane Wooten of Midland and Sherry Koury of Throckmorton; one brother, Robert Decker of Edgewood; four children, Julie Elliott-Cramer of Alpine, Jennifer and Brandon Shelton of Alpine, John and Nikki Decker of Boerne, Jacob and Candie Decker of Boerne; his twelve grandchildren, Aiden and Ember Elliott, Maximus Cramer, Victoria and Charles Michaelis, Isabella Shelton, Brandon Shelton, Jr., Logan Decker, Landon Decker, Lincoln Decker, Haylee Decker, Drake Decker, Ivan Decker and Freya Decker; his great grandchildren, Nevaeh and Camila Michaelis; and many many nephews, nieces, and cousins.

His life will be celebrated on Saturday, May 24, at 11 a.m. at the Alpine Memorial Funeral Home Chapel. Gathering will begin at 10 a.m. Graveside services will be held immediately after at Hill Crest Cemetery in Fort Davis. Pallbearers include John Decker, Jacob Decker, Aiden Elliott, Logan Decker, Brandon Shelton, Sr., and Frank Reimer.

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

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

432-837-2225

Dona W Blevins

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

The Alpine Housing Authority will hold a PUBLIC HEARING MEETING

Date: July 9, 2025

Time: 5:30 PM

Location:

Alpine Housing Authority Office

1024 North 5th Street

Alpine, Texas 79830

To receive comments on the

2025-2029 FIVE Year Action Plans and Annual Statement

Documents outlining how Capital Expenditures are to be completed.

All documents will be on display at the office of the

Alpine Housing Authority, 1024 North 5th Street,

Monday through Friday, between the hours of 8AM to 5PM

(closed during noon hour).



NOTICE OF PASSED ORDINANCES

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

ORDINANCE 2025-05-03: AN ORDINANCE CANVASSING THE RETURNS AND DECLARING THE RESULTS OF THE MAY 3, 2025 GENERAL ELECTION HELD FOR THE PURPOSE OF ELECTING CITIZENS OF ALPINE TO THE OFFICE OF CITY COUNCIL MEMBER WARD 1; PROVIDING FOR THE FOLLOWING: FINDINGS OF FACT; REPEALER; SEVERABILITY; EFFECTIVE DATE; AND PROPER NOTICE & MEETING CLAUSES.

COPIES OF THE ORDINANCE 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.



Hardaway gives retiring address



Members of the Alpine FFA attended the Area II FFA Convention last week, where Kendyl Hardaway, the 2024-2025 Area II Vice President, gave her retiring address. Some of the other Alpine FFA members who attended were Mia Jimenez, Sophie Janis, Carolyn Newman, Colette Fowlkes, Ryanna Pine-da, Reese Coleman, Kylie Maroney, Evelyn Smith, and Kasen Hardaway.

Marathoners perform Alice in Wonderland



Thanks to the Missoula Children's Theatre, students in Marathon were able to perform Alice in Wonderland on stage. Another show is coming up in June.

Courtesy photo

Texas Capital Highlights

Lawmakers agree on \$8 billion school funding package

Leaders from the Texas House and Senate have agreed on an \$8 billion school funding package, which is being called the largest in state history, The Dallas Morning News reported.

The latest version of House Bill 2 was unveiled at a Senate hearing Thursday. It would give the state major discretion in deciding how the funds are spent, from teacher pay raises to special education to school safety.

House Democrats reportedly are unhappy with major changes to the original bill, first passed in mid-April. That version gave local schools more discretion on how to spend state dollars. The new version cuts the proposed per-student funding increase from \$395 to \$55 but also includes \$7.2 billion in new funding, with more than half of that dedicated to teacher pay raises.

State Sen. Brandon Creighton, R-Conroe, said critics should concentrate on the total number of funding being appropriated.

"It seems to be lost in narratives right now as we talk about this historic money, knowing that every district in Texas wins," Creighton said.

An administrator testifying at the Senate hearing said lawmakers should put more

trust in local school districts.

"We hear a lot about [how] we need to be a small government, and yet I see a lot of the bodies talking about things that will put a lot of restrictions on the local independent school districts," said Phillip Morgan, the Plano ISD fine arts director. "Let those local ISDs make those decisions."

Abbott moves to block use of food stamps for soda, candy

Gov. Greg Abbott last week formally requested a waiver from the Trump administration to block the purchase of "unhealthy, highly processed food" with Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program benefits. The SNAP program serves more than 3.2 million Texans with more than \$7 billion in taxpayer funding, Abbott wrote in a letter to U.S. Agriculture Secretary Brooke Rollins, according to the San Antonio Express-News.

"SNAP was created to increase access to nutritious food; however, many SNAP purchases are for food with little to no nutritious value," Abbott wrote.

A bill to ban SNAP recipients from using benefits to buy "sweetened soft drinks" has passed the Senate and is up for a vote in the House.

SNAP recipients receive an average of \$187 a month,

according to the latest USDA figures.

Bills pose risks to existing wind, solar farms

Two companion bills pose existential threats to the state's renewable energy boom, according to the clean energy industry, the Houston Chronicle reported. House Bill 3356 and Senate Bill 715 would "require nearly every solar and wind farm in the state to back up their electricity output with natural gas power plants or a fleet of batteries."

If an existing renewable project doesn't have backup power, its owner would have to either stop operating or pay a steep fine. Clean industry leaders say such a requirement would be cost-prohibitive.

"I cannot recall legislation as damaging to our industry and to the energy market as House Bill 3356 and Senate Bill 715 being considered in both chambers this late in session," said Mark Stover, executive director of Texas Solar and Storage Association, a trade group.

The bill's sponsor, state Rep. Jared Patterson, R-Frisco, said his goal is to "level the playing field" against what he called a highly subsidized renewable energy industry, so more natural gas power plants can be built in the state.

AgriLife Extension holds training

The Texas A&M AgriLife Extension Service will hold a Far West Texas private applicators training on Wednesday, July 16, beginning at 9 a.m. at the Reeves County Extension Office in Pecos.

Individuals looking to purchase certain herbicides and pesticides must obtain a private applicator's license. Texas AgriLife serves as the educational outlet for the Texas Department of Agriculture, which requires licensure. The first step for individuals meeting the requirement is this mandatory training. Once the training is completed, testing is required to obtain the license, and a third-party testing service conducts it.

To maintain a license, individuals also must complete 15 hours of CEU training every five years. Many

Extension programs offer CEU opportunities for participants, so keeping up to date on licensing is relatively easy to obtain.

For more information, contact Reeves County AgriLife Extension Agent Micki Harris at 432-287-0600 or email micki.harris@ag.tamu.edu or Luke Hendryx at 432-837-6207 or email luke.hendryx@

ag.tamu.edu.

Interested parties must RSVP by June 25 to secure their spot and the materials needed for the training. The training will be held at 10 CR 118 in Pecos. The cost is \$55 per person and includes all materials needed, and payment is expected on the day of training.

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— *Introducing* —
Certified Nurse Practitioner
Kate Gonzalez

Please welcome Kate Gonzalez to the primary care team at BBRHC. Kate has worked in trauma and emergency surgery, and in surgical critical care, in hospitals across the state. Her dual certification allows Kate to provide comprehensive care to patients of all ages, but she is most excited to return to her roots in far West Texas.

Services include:

- Annual wellness visits and regular check-ups
- Acute illnesses including flu, abdominal pain, UTIs
- Aging-related conditions, such as arthritis, osteoporosis and dementia
- Chronic conditions including diabetes, high blood pressure and asthma

Convenient online scheduling with Kate Gonzalez at **BigBendAnytime.com** or call 432-837-0430.

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City of Alpine

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residents may recycle tires for FREE!
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 *NO TIRES FROM COMMERCIAL SOURCES ACCEPTED
 NO TIRES WITH RIMS

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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?

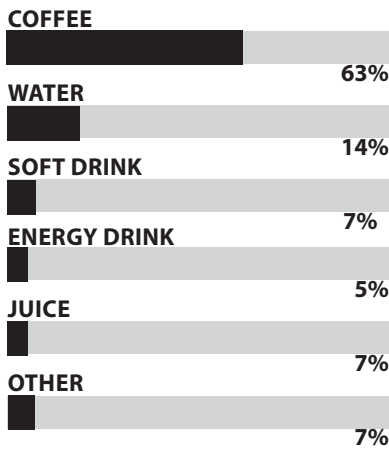
- Coffee
- Water
- Soft Drink
- Energy Drink
- Juice
- Other

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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Appraisal District makes changes to meet state standards

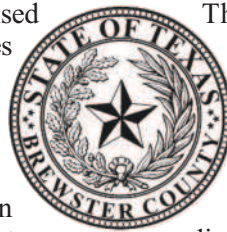
RICHARD PETREE
Interim Chief Appraiser

The Brewster County Appraisal District is once again moving values up to try to hit the state standard of 95% of market value. Alpine ISD has lost state funding due to the continuous failure of the Property Tax Value study done annually by the State Comptroller. The rapidly rising local market after the pandemic, coupled with a general increase in values throughout the state, has exacerbated the difficulty of setting correct values.

AI SD values have increased by 59% in the past five years in the local appraisal district. While the district started low, the state study has risen 45% during the same time period, keeping the goal posts just ahead of the approved percentage. The 2024 determined

ratio of local appraised values to sales prices was 93.4%. That relatively small difference resulted in a funding loss to AISD of more than \$700,000. Local tax rates are basically set by the state legislature, leaving AISD with no choice but to cut or reduce programs.

The appraisal district will send notices to taxpayers around May 25, and taxpayers have 30 days to file a protest on the increase. Taxpayers are protected from large increases in value if their property is a homestead. All homesteads are limited to a 10% increase, while persons who are over 65 years old or who are disabled have their taxes capped. No increase in taxes occurs for this group, who are numbered at 1001 in the school district.



The limitation under the 10% homestead currently keeps \$50 million in value from being taxed.

Non-homesteaded real property is also limited to no more than a 20% increase annually. The restriction keeps over \$22 million in value from being taxed.

If a taxpayer feels that their property would not sell for the appraised value, they should complete the protest form enclosed with the notice and send it to the appraisal office or bring it to the office at 1604 W. Highway 90. Property owners can also file a protest online and submit pictures and other evidence. Instructions will be contained in the notice of value mailed to taxpayers.

Richard Petree, Interim Chief Appraiser for the district, commented, "We hope

that the taxpayers of the community will understand this needed increase. We cannot continue to undervalue property and cause the school to lose state funding. If we are wrong and taxpayers have proof of value, we will be happy to correct the over-assessment. Good evidence includes a fee appraisal for financing purposes, a closing statement from a recent purchase, and pictures of needed repairs."

The district is requesting taxpayers to first file the protest. Personnel are very busy during this time and cannot normally talk to taxpayers without an appointment. Taxpayers should include an opinion of the value of their property on their protest form and any evidence they would like to submit.

Brown shoes in a tuxedo world is not fun

"Our mission is to connect every person in the world."

— Mark Zuckerberg

Technological advancement should bring improved quality of life with rewards in saving time and productivity.

The internet does that, as do phones that can replace a plethora of everyday items while fitting in a pocket or purse.

The jury is out on AI, however. Don't we have enough artificial intelligence serving in elected offices and as television news analysts?

I was around to see fax machines hailed as futuristic. We marveled at the one we were quick to install at the newspaper office in Center. "It's going to save so much time," we cheered as we gazed at documents magically transferred through phone lines. With every screeching sound of the machine's "handshake" tone, everyone in the office gathered to "ooh" and "ah" at letters from the other side of the country arriving in mere minutes.

Granted, technology does make us look wonderful when it works. But it can leave us feeling silly when it doesn't.

The late Lewis Grizzard, Southern humorist and author, put it succinctly in his book entitled, "Elvis Is Dead, and I Don't Feel So Good Myself."

With his insightful humor, Grizzard poked fun at analog baby boomers trying to fit in with modern digital technology. Said it made him feel like the world around him was a tuxedo and he was wearing brown shoes.

Those thoughts came to me when my home security system failed. The one designed to perform what a bad dog backing up a Smith and Wesson used to take care of, but where erring humans sometimes fail.

The system monitors security, thermostat, lights, and selected appliances. It also records videos of anyone approaching the doors, allowing me to answer the doorbell from across town or across the country. All this is controlled by a smartphone, provided the system installer and the smartphone user are smarter than the technology.

In this example, a young technician came to my house and upgraded my control panel. He arrived, was done in short order and gone.

At bedtime, cats were put out, dogs let in, doors locked, and pillows fluffed. As the last measure before drifting into blissful slumber, I set the alarm confident in the sophisticated system with my "three



LEON ALDRIDGE
Guest Columnist

dog night" backup.

For the record, my money's on the dogs for reliability. They do one thing the alarm doesn't—wake me without fail at 5:30 a.m., reminding me of their urgent need to go outside.

However, responding to the "doggie alarm" by poking numbers on the new panel at 5:32 a.m. the next morning failed. The words "Incorrect Code" were easy to see, even when half asleep. A second attempt with glasses was equally unsuccessful. By the third try, all three dogs were poised and pointing at the back door with tears in their eyes.

My first thought was to simply open the door. Within seconds, I would be talking to someone from the security company. The problem was that I could also have been talking to uniformed police officers. With guns.

Deciding that calling the alarm company was a better option, I dialed the number and was pleasantly greeted by, "Good morning, how may I help you?"

"My dogs and I are being held hostage in my house," I joked about the non-functioning panel.

Please note that humor is not

an appropriate response when talking to a home security agent. Once we reached an understanding of what constitutes funny and what does not, it was determined that the technician had failed to program the new panel with my security code.

"No problem; I can walk you through it," the understanding agent said. However, her realization that she was dealing with someone who could not program their VCR, combined with her realization that she was talking with someone who still used a VCR, dashed all hopes of a speedy solution.

We stumbled through it, much to the delight of three agonizing dogs who burst out the back door.

Crisis over, my thoughts turned to caffeine. And to Zuckerberg's philosophy and Grizzard's humor.

First, talking to security system people at 5:30 a.m. was not how I envisioned connecting with every person in the world.

And second, my brown shoes in a tuxedo world at 5:30 a.m. was not fun.

Leon Aldridge can be contacted at leonaldridge@gmail.com. Other Aldridge columns can be found at leonaldridge.com

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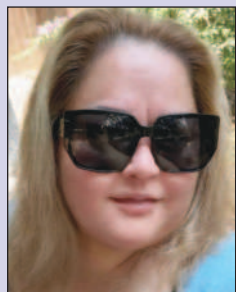
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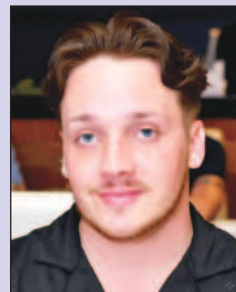
Ken Paxton
Attorney General
512-463-2100

Heard on the STREET

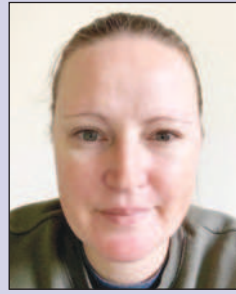
What's the weirdest thing you've ever eaten?



Brandy Porter: I tried chapulines, fried grasshoppers, when I was visiting Oaxaca. Crunchy, salty, kind of like popcorn.



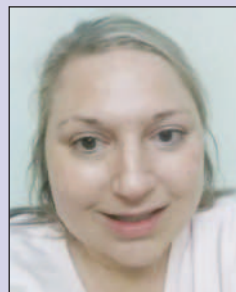
Steve Harris: I once had alligator sausage at a festival in East Texas. Tasted like chicken, with a kick to it.



Julia Simmons: Had pickled pig's feet at grandma's house one time. Not too bad.



Jake Mimosa: Ever heard of durian fruit? Smells like garbage, but it tastes sweet. Still weird.



Betty Morales: Escamoles. Ant larvae. They call it Mexican caviar. Tasty, but I'll only do it once.

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

UPCOMING EVENTS

May 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 24 Fire Fiesta Fundraiser, 5 p.m. at the Fort Davis fire station. Enjoy tacos, red and green enchiladas, rice, beans, chips, guacamole, queso, and dessert for \$15. Drinks are included, and proceeds benefit the Davis Mountains Volunteer Fire Department.

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 24 Veterans Appreciation Event/Community Fundraiser, 12 p.m. at Holy Angels Cemetery.



Burger and chip baskets \$10 and special guest speaker Andy Ramos-Commander of the American Legion.

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/middleschoolcamp/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 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 bbc-chorale.wixsite.com/bbcc.

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

Marathon's Brick Vault attends festival



College Station's Troubadour Festival hosted around 30 of the top BBQ restaurants and pit masters in the state last weekend. Among these BBQ aficionados was the team from the Brick Vault Brewery and BBQ featuring Jared Marriot, Felipe Fierro, Jerek Lara, Ricky Castillo of Mill Scale Metal Works, and pitmaster Phillip Moellering.

Courtesy photo

SENIOR Spotlight

KENDYL HARDAWAY

In what activities did you participate in high school?
I mainly participated in FFA. I competed on the vet skills demonstration team for three years, as well as the horse judging team. I showed goats for our county stock show, and at the end of my junior year, I ran for a position on the Area II FFA officer team and was elected to serve as sentinel.

Who was your favorite teacher/coach and why?
My favorite teacher has been Mr. Fox, although the last four years have been challenging, he has pushed me to keep going and has ultimately made me a better

person. I could not be more grateful to him and Mrs. Fox.

What was your favorite moment in the last four years?
I think it is safe to say that I went on a lot of Ag trips, but couldn't pick a single favorite. Each one has been unique, but I think my favorite thing we did was our late-night face masks with Mrs. Fox, filling her in on all the drama going on at school.

What are your plans after high school?
I plan on attending Sul Ross, where I will study nursing with an emphasis on labor and delivery.

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PET OF THE WEEK



Meet Dahlia!
Dahlia was surrendered to the shelter by her owner in mid-April. She was scared and apprehensive about her new situation, but after a few days of the shelter staff working with her to calm her fears, she was more comfortable, and her sweet disposition came to the forefront. Dahlia is great with other dogs; she is doing well with leash and potty training, follows commands very well, and is very smart and understanding.

She needs a home with interaction and companionship. She does not like to be left alone in a yard to her own devices; she may try to escape if she is bored or not mentally and emotionally engaged enough. Meet this staff favorite and see what a sweet cuddle bug she is!

Dahlia is spayed, vaccinated, and microchipped. Meet Dahlia at the Alpine Animal Services Shelter, 2900 Old Marathon Hwy.

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

Work on your fitness goals and help the commu-

nity. 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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Sports

Alpine High School athletes gear up for a summer of strength, speed, and skill

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

Alpine ISD has released its summer training and camp schedule for student-athletes, and one thing is clear: Athletic Director Jerry Dominguez is determined to have the Bucks battle-ready for the 2025-2026 season. Whether on the court, the field, or in the weight room, the focus this summer is on building strong, conditioned athletes who are ready to compete.



Weight training is a big part of preparing for fall sports.

Courtesy photo

“We’re going to continue the strength conditioning training that we started here when I took over in February,” said Dominguez, who has deep roots in the district as a longtime coach and now head of the Alpine Athletics Program.

One of the benefits of having a local resident take the helm of the high

school’s athletics program is their real-world knowledge of the area and the student-athletes. It’s an advantage you don’t get when you bring in a new hire from out of town.

Coach Dominguez’s understanding of the unique Far West Texas athletics environment—its rugged opponents, dry heat, and

high elevation—gives him an edge when it comes to preparing Alpine’s athletes. That preparation begins with one key ingredient: resistance training.

For high school athletes, resistance and weight training are more than just a muscle-building tool. They improve bone density, coordination, and overall ath-

leticism. More importantly, they teach discipline and commitment—skills that translate far beyond the field. Dominguez views lifting and running as the foundation of all sports success.

“The foundation of all athletics is lifting and running,” he said. “That’s going to make everything better. We want to see as many kids in here as possible.”

The Alpine summer strength and conditioning program kicks off June 2 and will be held Monday through Thursday over several weeks. Athletes will train June 2-5, June 9-12, and June 16-19 before taking a break the week of June 30 through July 3. Training resumes July 7-10 and continues through July 14-17 and July 21-24.

Dominguez hopes to see

See STRENGTH • 7

Summer basketball camp on the horizon

BY KARA GERBERT
Managing Editor

The Sul Ross summer girls’ basketball day camp for ages 7-14 is set for June 23-26 at the Pete P. Gallego Center.

Registration for the day camp begins on Monday, June 23, from 7:45 a.m. to 8:20 a.m. The cost is \$100 per person and includes the camp fee, awards, a T-shirt, and prizes. Snacks and bottled water will be

supplied daily.

The application deadline is June 16, and you may contact Coach E.J. Lee Smith at ej.smith@sulross.edu for applications or call 432-837-8230 or 318-372-5203 for more information about applying.

This year’s camp will feature Sul Ross women’s basketball team members

See SUMMER • 7

Cowboys up: Defending champs Alpine Cowboys reload for another title run

BY KERRY LAIRD
Sports Editor

The Alpine Cowboys are gearing up to defend their Pecos League crown after a record-breaking 2024 campaign, and they’ll do it under a familiar face in a new role. Lance Myers, a former Cowboys standout and assistant coach, takes the reins as head manager following Sean Persky’s five-season run that netted two league titles and a 45-4 mark last year, good for the best winning percentage in Pecos

League history.

“It was a great run. I enjoyed every minute of it,” Coach Myers said of last season. “I was glad to be back in Alpine, what I call home. I learned a lot from Persky, and I’m blessed to be a part of this great organization in Alpine.”

Myers isn’t a stranger to Kokernot Field. He played third base for the Cowboys from 2017 to 2019 and helped secure the 2019 title. After a successful stint managing the Roswell In-

vaders—including a 2022 championship—Myers returned to Alpine as assistant in 2024, reuniting with Persky, his longtime friend and former teammate.

Now, with Persky stepping away, Myers will lead a squad full of firepower and high expectations.

See COWBOYS • 7

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SUMMER STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING PROGRAM:

June 2nd - June 5th
June 9th - June 12th
June 16th - June 19th
Off the weeks of June 30th - July 3rd
Resume July 7th - July 10th
July 14th - July 17th
July 21st - July 24th

7 ON 7:
State Qualifying tournament in Wink on Friday May 30th.

VOLLEYBALL TOURNAMENT:
Thursday May 29th J.V. travels to Wink.
Friday May 30th Varsity travels to Wink.

ALPINE VOLLEYBALL LEAGUE:
All Saturday’s and all start @ 9:00 A.M.

June 7th
June 14th
June 21st
June 28th

NIKE VOLLEYBALL CAMP:
July 7th - 12th Details to follow.

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Coach Dominguez

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COWBOYS • FROM 6

“They’re going to be big shoes to fill,” he admitted. “We just have to have the mentality that the target’s on our back this year. We want to stay with the same momentum and keep everything where it’s at—keep the same demeanor. At the end of the day, just find a way to get wins.”

The Cowboys will bring back a stacked roster. Leading the charge is 2023 league MVP James Prockish, who mashed 14 homers and hit .454 last season at the hot corner. He’s joined by returners Sean Becker, AJ Folds, Trevor Tripoli, Kyle Rodriguez, and Drake Angeron—the 2024 Postseason MVP. Behind the plate, fan favorites Peyton Kennard and John Tuttle are back to anchor the battery.

On the bump, the Cowboys return ace Humberto Vela, who not only sported a



Former third baseman and assistant manager Lance Myers is looking for a home run this season as the Alpine Cowboys’ new manager.

Courtesy photo

2.35 ERA but also hit .375

last season. Lefty Jesse Garcia and right-hander Jacob Bradley also return to a deep

pitching staff.

“We’ve got a good group of returning guys,” Myers said. “There will be some

new faces, but we have a very good core group of guys returning.”

Myers brings a hard-hitting, no-nonsense coaching philosophy to the dugout—one built on respect, work ethic, and team-first baseball.

“I want to instill a lot of the same things that Persky did: stricter regimens, nothing is given for free,” he said. “You have to work for what you have. Hard work, hustle, and respecting the game are huge for me. I’m a big attitude and effort guy. Those are the two things in life you can really control.”

Cowboys fans can expect a few surprises on the roster, too.

“We’ve got a couple of guys with affiliated experience coming in, guys who have played in higher leagues,” Myers said. “It’s a wide variety.”

The final roster will be

set this Sunday, but Myers noted that some on the field won’t make the cut after tryouts.

“Unfortunately, there are some guys here who won’t be here at the start of next week,” he said.

Despite the challenges that come with change, Myers is confident the Cowboys are poised to keep their winning ways alive.

“I am blessed to be back and more than ready to get going,” Myers said. “I said it from the time I stepped into Alpine in 2017: We have the best fanbase in the league. There’s more that goes on than just what happens between the lines on the field. It takes a community, and we have the best.”

The Cowboys begin their title defense at home on Wednesday, May 28, hosting the Pecos Bills in a four-game homestand.

First pitch each night is at 6:30 p.m.

With a roster full of heavy hitters and a manager who bleeds Cowboys red, 2025 promises another wild ride under the lights at Kokernot Field.

May

- **Tuesday, May 27:** 6:30 PM CST @ Cyclone Ballparks, Pecos, TX – vs. Pecos Bills
- **Wednesday, May 28:** 6:30 PM CST @ Kokernot Field, Alpine, TX – vs. Pecos Bills
- **Thursday, May 29:** 6:30 PM CST @ Kokernot Field, Alpine, TX – vs. Pecos Bills
- **Friday, May 30:** 6:30 PM CST @ Kokernot Field, Alpine, TX – vs. Pecos Bills
- **Saturday, May 31:** 6:30 PM CST @ Kokernot Field, Alpine, TX – vs. Pecos Bills

STRENGTH • FROM 6

a strong turnout from athletes across all sports, especially from players in popular, competitive programs like football and volleyball. With spots up for grabs and playing time never guaranteed, this is the offseason moment when future starters can separate themselves from the pack.

On the volleyball court, repetition and footwork rule the summer. Players will spend Saturdays in June competing in the Alpine Volleyball League, with matches beginning at 9 a.m. on June 7, 14, 21, and 28. These sessions are critical for mastering bump-set-spike mechanics, improving court awareness, and sharpening serving and blocking fundamentals.

Later in the summer, the Nike Volleyball Camp returns to Alpine from July 7 through July 12, offering girls ages 7 to 18 a chance to elevate their skills under expert instruction. From increasing vertical jumps to learning game strategy, the camp provides a well-

rounded approach to helping young athletes reach the next level.

Just before June arrives, both the JV and varsity volleyball squads will travel to Wink for preseason tournament action. The JV will compete on Thursday, May 29, with varsity following on Friday, May 30.

Over on the football field, the summer heat won’t stop the Bucks’ Texas 7-on-7 squad. With no pads, no running plays, and no blocking, 7-on-7 football emphasizes precision passing, route running, and tight defensive coverage. The action is fast and often high scoring on a shortened 45-yard field. Receivers must be tuned in, quarterbacks quick-thinking, and defenders quick with the hands.

The Bucks will look to make a statement at the State Qualifying Tournament in Wink on Friday, May 30. The competition, organized by the Texas State 7on7 Organization, offers players a chance to develop chemistry ahead of fall camp and showcase their

abilities against strong regional programs.

Basketball players should keep an eye out for future announcements about skills sessions and open gyms. While those dates haven’t been set yet, Coach Dominguez emphasized that basketball athletes are encouraged to join the summer strength program in the meantime.

Running will be a key element across all sports this summer. Though often an unpopular conditioning activity with young and old alike, especially in the sweltering Alpine summer sun, it’s one of the most beneficial.

Running improves both aerobic and anaerobic fitness, which is essential for sports performance and endurance. Training at Alpine’s 4,400-foot elevation also gives local athletes a competitive edge by increasing red blood cell count and improving oxygen efficiency when competing at lower elevations.

“With our summer strength conditioning, it will involve more run-

ning,” said Dominguez. “Running will help every other sport. Running more during the summer will help from top to bottom.”

Though it may not be fun, it’s effective...and necessary. For the Bucks, this summer isn’t just about staying busy. It’s about getting better, stronger, faster, and more confident. With a packed schedule and a new level of focus under Coach Dominguez’s leadership, Alpine athletes are getting exactly what they need to take the next step.

Because when fall arrives, they don’t just want to play. They want to dominate and make opponents Fear the Deer of the Alpine Valley.

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SUMMER • FROM 6

Victoria Aguayo, Sophiya Bustillos, Arianna Escalante, and Kyra Taylor. Both seniors, Aguayo and Escalante, have multiple years’ experience at the college level of play. Although relatively new to college-level sports, Bustillos and Taylor more than proved themselves as formidable players this past season for Coach Smith’s team.

Coach Smith, with the help of her husband, Assistant Coach Dale Smith, and the Lady Lobo players, will also hold an Elite basketball day camp June 21-22 for high school-aged players in grades 9-12. Registration is Saturday afternoon from 1:30-2 p.m., with camp time running from 2:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. on the same day and on Sunday from 9 a.m. to noon.

The cost for the Elite day

camp is \$150, and girls will stay on campus. This fee includes the overnight stay, camp fee, awards, T-shirt, prizes, snacks, and bottled water, and two meals.

The application deadline for the Elite camp is June 10.

Please contact Coach E.J. or Coach Dale (daleis@live.com or call 225-572-9769) for applications and more information.

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SRSU • FROM 1A

Sul Ross' OCU designation highlights its strong performance in student access as well as post-graduation earnings. Access scores of 1.8 out of 3 and earnings score of 1.54 out of 3, the university ranks #3 among 39 other institutions in the Mixed Undergraduate/Graduate Small classification (less than 4,000 students) and outperformed Manhattan College and College of Mt. Saint Vincent, both in New York.

Sul Ross Provost Bernie Cantens stated, "I'm incredibly proud that these Carnegie designations recognize Sul Ross State University's academic research rigor and inclusive mission. They affirm the outstanding work of our faculty and staff in advancing research excellence, expanding educational opportunity for the students

and communities we serve, and promoting social mobility throughout our region."

Sul Ross has spent nearly \$4.9 million on research and development since 2023, which earned them the RCU designation. Among the 216 institutions recognized, the university is a standout, as it is one of only three RCU designees that fall into the Mixed Undergraduate/Graduate Small category. It is also the only public institution in this group to receive the designation.

Falling into the Mixed Undergraduate/Graduate Small institution category reflects the balanced range of academic offerings that Sul Ross is known for. With enrollment growth and the addition of upcoming doctoral programs, SRSU is assured to rise in future Carnegie rankings.

PERIL • FROM 1A

tent. "Based on our camera trapping, there are fewer than 25 animals in the Van Horn population, however, Sierra Diablo and Black Gap have stabilized since the onset of the disease events, but we would like to see lamb recruitment in both places higher, and the disease is still a threat," Hernandez stated.

Hernandez also made clear, "At this point, the herd at Elephant Mountain is the only clean herd in the state. Thanks to the efforts from our guys there, we are working diligently to keep it that way by continually gunning the invasive aoudad every two weeks. Thus far, this is helping to keep these animals off Elephant Mountain. Still, it is estimated that over 60% of the aoudad around the Elephant Mountain area are infected with M. ovi."

Aoudad, the invasive species introduced to Texas from Africa, is a prolific breeder and carrier of this deadly bacteria. Unlike the bighorn they share habitat with, it does not seem to be fatal to them. Their passage of the bacteria to the bighorn is the key reason for TPWD's eradication practices of removing the aoudad and trying to eliminate the spread of the disease to the native animal populations.

TPWD biologists estimate that there are over 80,000 aoudads in West Texas, and landowners, such as Chris Stahl, believe they must be eradicated entirely. "If you have bighorn on your ranch, you, as the landowner, have to decide whether you will have bighorn or aoudad. You can't have both. We have eliminated all aoudad on our ranch, and while I understand that hunting trophy aoudad rams helps supplement many ranchers' livelihoods, what they should consider is that these invasive animals also affect the native deer populations that many of them [ranchers] also depend on for income. Their numbers far outweigh those of native species, and if they're not spreading disease, they're out-competing native species for habitat," said Stahl.

Other speakers from organizations such as the Nevada Department of Wildlife, Borderlands Research Institute, Idaho Department of Fish and Game, Nebraska Game and Parks, and the Utah

Division of Wildlife Resources discussed their challenges and management practices with this deadly pathogen during the day-long symposium.

Besides the eradication of aoudad, it was also suggested that TPWD establish a high-game fence around Elephant Mountain to protect the uninfected herd. While this was met with comments for and by some with hesitancy, it was an option that Hernandez was open to discussing.

"We are at the point that immediate action is required to save these animals. We must protect the herd at Elephant Mountain at all costs. The recent relocation of bighorn to the Franklin Mountains outside El Paso was done because that area is currently free of aoudad. With the large amount of infected aoudad around Elephant, we wanted to try and diversify the herd elsewhere in case the unthinkable were to happen: the animals at Elephant became infected," said Hernandez.

Hernandez ended the symposium by commenting, "We are ready for the hard questions and the complex discussions. We can't back away from this, or our efforts thus far to establish these animals are all in vain. We have to act now. We can't sit around and discuss this and kick this can down the road. It requires us to decide how to approach this situation now and will likely require a multifaceted course of action."

Currently, their goal is to establish future relocation sites where there is zero aoudad presence. Additionally, they're encouraging landowners' willingness to maintain low densities of aoudad on their properties, while also seeking to develop cooperative agreements with these landowners. TPWD wants to establish a minimum of 30 collared animals in each mountain range, while focusing restoration efforts at the same time. Finally, plan to evaluate sites that are generally not considered optimal habitat for the animals.

Only time will tell what actual plan of action is put in place beyond the current eradication processes employed by the agency and their immediate ideas as they meet and discuss the pathway forward to save the Desert Bighorn.

STREETS • FROM 1A

Antrim stated, "This fine is per occurrence. So, if someone is operating an STR that isn't permitted or they are in violation of the rules, they will be fined every time they break the rules. If they rent out the STR nightly, then that is how many times they will be fined."

The council then acted on the two action items on the agenda.

The first action item was the approval of Resolution 2025-05-23, which approved the currently budgeted funds by Animal Services to implement the spay and neuter pilot voucher program. This program would provide up to \$100 per voucher to assist residents with the cost of spaying or neutering their pets. This item was approved unanimously after being discussed earlier during the discussion items.

The next action item was the approval of renaming streets on the Sul Ross State University campus. The renaming would update the Master Street Addressing Guide (MSAG).

Kayse Muratori, the Rio Ground Council of Governments GIS 911 Coordinator, explained to the council the reason behind the name changes at Sul Ross. "About three years or so ago, all the names of the streets were changed without approval or proper procedures. We need to change these back to what they were originally so that addresses may be developed for agencies that could possibly show up from out of town, if a major disaster or incident occurs. This would allow them to know where they are going and where they need to be. I've been collaborating with Ben Telesca from Sul Ross on this, and we just needed the streets changed back to the original names," said Muratori. The council approved this unanimously.

Finally, reports from the mayor included telling the new council members to familiarize themselves with the zoning and to see what seats on the boards or commissions

they were serving on needed filling, and to try and fill those empty seats.

Antrim told the council in her report that she was moving forward in looking for a utilities director, that the survey for customers who have both water and gas was up on the city website, and that due to a recent complaint about the wastewater treatment plant problems and the sewer, all STRs were issued "Don't Flush" fliers.

Finally, all council members welcomed the two new council members to the council, and Councilor Rukes stated he was happy to be here and enjoyed working on the other side of the council before and looked forward to working with the council in his new position.

Councilor Portillo said, "I'm excited to be working with the council and look forward to moving the community forward."

The next regular meeting of the Alpine City Council is scheduled for Tuesday, June 3, at 5:30 p.m.



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May 7, 1987



Induction of the newest members of the Alpine High School National Honor Society took place last week. Standing, L-R, are inductees Shiloh Coleman, Ivor Hella, T.J. Arispe, Kris Smith, April Davis, Tara Mahoney, Kerr Pettigrew, Jennifer Sites, Tammy Walcher, Patty Sheehan and Kim Halford. Seated, L-R, are current members Donna Gorlon, Marcy Harovey, Tara Richerson, Niki Elliott, Christina Farris, Heather Bradley and Monica Powell.

May 28, 1987



Read-A-Thon winners were Marty Beard, Shannon Morrow, Nicole Portillo and Esther Brannon.

May 21, 1987



Still enjoying the sweet victory of last weekend's state golf tournament are the newly crowned state A-4 champions from left, Amy Hanchman and Christine Klingman.

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

Girdling roots should be removed as soon as possible

Dear Neil, I have an 8-year-old oak tree. It looks like it has a girdling root. Should we cut through the root in two places so it can be removed, or should we leave well enough alone?

Definitely trim and remove it as soon as possible. Seal any cut wood of the remaining portion of the tree with black pruning paint to prevent infection. We see this very often, yet few people seem to notice it. Good catch!

Dear Neil, Could you please identify this grass for me? I've looked up nutsedge, dallisgrass, and johnsongrass, but they don't look right. What is it, and how can I get rid of it?

From the looks of things, I'm guessing you have a good bit of shade in this area. It looks like your permanent lawn grass has thinned as a result. And I'm guessing you might have overseeded with a blend of grasses sold as a mix for shade or a bare-patch filler. Because of its wider blades and clumping habit, this looks like some type of tall fescue. Sometimes people even accidentally overseed their permanent lawngresses with tall fescue in winter. Usually, they do so by accident, not knowing that it



GARDENER'S MAILBAG
 by neil sperry



will try to hang on through the summer.

As far as controlling it within an existing lawn, I would wait a few weeks to see if hot weather kills out more of it. You might choose to dig the clumps out by hand. That's not an enjoyable task, but at least you wouldn't kill the adjacent turf in the process. Suppose you want to treat with some kind of herbicide. In that case, I'd suggest using a foam rubber paintbrush to apply a glyphosate-only weed-killer directly to the blades of the fescue. Don't slop it over onto your lawn grass. Digging the clumps will probably be the easiest in the long run. Put out pre-emergent granules mid-September to keep next year's generation from germinating and growing over winter 2025-26.

Dear Neil, You always

recommend 2,4-D to kill broadleaved weeds (non-grasses). What do you suggest for grassy weeds?

Unfortunately, the grassy weed control product (MSMA) that was available for consumers was taken off the market 12 or 14 years ago. It was very effective in killing grassy weeds within Bermuda turf without killing the Bermuda. We couldn't use it in St. Augustine lawns because it also killed the St. Augustine. Still, it was great at eliminating dallisgrass, crabgrass, grass-burs, and even unwanted St. Augustine in Bermuda turf. It is still manufactured and used for specific golf course and roadside applications. Depending on what setting you have, talk to a lawn care company to ask if they could help you. Otherwise, you're left to use pre-emergent granules

for annual weeds and spot-treat or hand-dig perennial types.

Dear Neil, I have a bed of yellow garden mums that look like they are trying to bloom. Should I trim them off, or let them go ahead and flower?

It's a complicated explanation when these early-fall types also try to bloom in spring, but it all stems back to day length. That's what promotes mums to bloom. Day (actually night) lengths in early spring are the same as they are in early fall, so the mums start growing and form buds right away. I leave mine for a month or so, but by early to mid-June, I prune the flowers and buds all off, cutting back into normal-looking vegetative growth so the plants can regrow for fall.

Dear Neil, How can I eliminate the invasive

zoysia that is entering my shrub beds without harming my dogwood, hostas, and boxwood?

At the risk of sounding redundant, spot treat with a glyphosate-only herbicide. That would be like the original Round Up. It is outstanding at killing grasses and does not go into the soil, so it won't damage anything unless you hit it with the spray. If you don't have much of the zoysia, just buy a trigger squeeze bottle pre-mixed. If you need to spray more, buy concentrate and mix it in a 2-gallon tank sprayer. Do not try to be precise with a hose-end sprayer.

Dear Neil, We have a thorny vine growing and spreading from a tuber. Its leaves are dark green and very shiny. What will kill it?

That's the perfect description of Smilax briars. Its leaves come in many

shapes, but the rest of the description is spot-on. Smilax does grow from tubers and masses of heavy roots.

I have found that cutting it to just an inch or two with a shredder blade on my tractor eliminated almost all of it in my rural landscape. It isn't equipped to be cut back and sprout back out again. The leaves are too sparse and glossy for a broadleaf weedkiller to help, so your only recourse is to dig and discard the tubers of any that survive the mowing. I eliminated 98% of my chest-high plants with that first cutting 50 years ago. For a few years thereafter, I had to dig perhaps 10 or 15 plants per year. Almost none since.

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

ACROSS

- 1 former Cowboy Bob Hayes won Gold for 100m ___ in 1964
- 5 this Preminger directed TX Tierney in "Laura" (1944)
- 6 actor Jack in "4 for Texas" (1963)
- 7 not mentally ill
- 8 Cut ___ Shoot, TX Jerry Lewis hosted the ___ telethon
- 12 Astros & Rangers runners often try to ___ second base
- 17 Texas Buc-ee's is a gas ___ and much more
- 19 TXism for "a lot" (2 wds.)
- 21 racing team rowers
- 22 real ___
- 23 TXism: "useless as earrings ___"
- 28 "he paid his ___"
- 29 what some get on South Padre Island
- 30 TXism: "___ as a fishing trip with a game warden"
- 31 TX Mark Chesnutt's "Old Flames Have New ___"
- 35 of sounder mind
- 36 popular Fort Worth Mexican restaurant (3 wds.)
- 42 song on TX Orbison "In Dreams" album: "___ Dreamer"
- 44 Warren of "Tough Enough" with TX Dennis Quaid (1983)

DOWN

- 1 TXism: "___ at suppertime?" (yes)
- 2 Cass County city named for capital of Georgia
- 3 it's the gold ___ (best of the options)
- 4 TXism: "bring ___ the bacon"
- 9 performer who uses no words
- 10 TX Kristofferson 1974 film: "Alice ___ Anymore"
- 11 Gov. Richards
- 12 TX Harrelson 2004 film: "___ Hate Me"
- 46 actress Horsford in "Presumed Innocent" with TX-born Winfield (2 wds.)
- 48 gets up from the bed
- 49 banned insecticide
- 50 small Chevy (1969-79)
- 51 Texas-born Autry bedroom ___ (furniture)
- 52 TXism: "___ bien" (good)
- 54 TXism: "that's a ___ pill to swallow"
- 56 UT grad Wallach

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
 Copyright 2025 by Orbison Bros.

- 13 what the STAAR produces (2 wds.)
- 14 "I could ___ horse" (very hungry)
- 15 TXism: "flat as ___ handle prairie"
- 16 TXism: "___ of breathing room" (spacious)
- 18 San Marcos univ.
- 20 Santa __, TX
- 23 first two initials of Gov. Colquitt
- 24 service that preserves the nation's coastlines (abbr.)
- 25 member of a Semitic people
- 26 this O'Connor sang on TX Willie Nelson "Across the Borderline" album
- 27 part of pledge: "Texas . . . ___ indivisible"
- 32 Paxton's title (abbr.)
- 33 Pa's mate
- 34 TXism: "let ' ___ rip!"
- 36 Hogg or Bowie
- 37 TXism: "he's got the morals ___ alley cat"
- 38 European money
- 39 country song: "___ Sayin"
- 40 on the Gulf (2 wds.)
- 41 TXism: "take a look ___" (investigate)
- 43 British adios word
- 45 Cory Seager pos.
- 47 binge eating (3 wds.)
- 48 elderly
- 55 this Coolidge was wed to TX Kris

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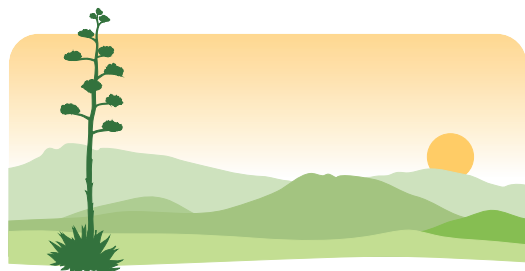
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PROPERTY OWNERS MAY PROTEST APPRAISED VALUES

Property owners who disagree with the Brewster Central Appraisal District's appraisal of their property for local taxes or for any other action that adversely affects them, may protest to the local appraisal review board.

A property owner must file a written notice of protest within 30 days after the appraisal district delivers the property owner's notice of appraised value (June 25th). The ARB will begin hearings June 25.

After the ARB completes its hearings and approves final property tax appraisals, taxing units will use these appraisals to set property tax rates.

The ARB is a group of citizens who live in the appraisal district. The local administrative district judge appoints ARB members.

Property owners may protest the following issues to the ARB

1. The property's appraised or market value
2. Unequal property appraisal
3. The property's inclusion on the appraisal records
4. Denial of a partial exemption such as a homestead exemption
5. Determination that the property does not qualify for the circuit breaker limitation on appraised value for non-homestead real property
6. Denial of special appraisal, such as agricultural or timber productivity appraisal
7. Determination that agricultural or timberland has had a change of use and is subject to a rollback tax
8. Identification of the taxing unit or taxing units in which the property is located
9. Determination that the taxpayer is the property owner
10. Any other action of the appraisal district office or ARB that adversely affects the owner

The ARB schedules a hearing and sends the protesting property owner written notice of the date, time and place of the hearing. The law contains specific timelines and procedures for both the property owner and the ARB throughout the appraisal protest process, as detailed in the Comptroller's publication, Taxpayer Assistance Pamphlet.

Copies are available from Brewster Central Appraisal District at 1604 W. Hwy 90, Alpine, Texas. The publication is also available on the Comptroller's website comptroller.texas.gov/taxes/property-tax/.

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Proof a good dessert can make you a believer

What do you get when you mix a good Bourbon and an even Better Steakhouse? Lots of things, but this week, we are focusing on dessert- not just any dessert, but one infused with Kentucky Bourbon.

I need to be honest, I have never been a fan of bread pudding EVER, but on a recent trip to Perini Steakhouse in Buffalo Gap, I have been changed. After the mesquite-grilled ribeye and Mrs. Mathews' hominy, we ordered their famous Bourbon Bread Pudding. I understand how President Bush, among others, has requested this at special events. The ambience of the steakhouse, the fireplace, the food, the bar, a



HEAD OVER MEALS

by j.t. maroney



dessert. According to my bourbon-enthusiast college roommate, a good bourbon should be well-balanced, with a pleasant aroma, smooth, and a lingering finish. While preferences vary, the best bourbons showcase a balance between sweetness, spice, oak, and warmth.

I'd like to share the recipe straight from their cookbook.

SOURDOUGH BREAD PUDDING WITH BOURBON SAUCE

INGREDIENTS

- Vegetable oil spray
- 2 large eggs
- 2 ½ cups whole milk
- 2 tablespoons of salted, melted butter
- 2 tablespoons of pure vanilla extract
- 1 ½ cups of sugar
- 4 packed cups of 1-inch-cubed sourdough bread
- ½ cup of chopped pecans

BOURBON SAUCE

- 1 stick (1/2 cup) of salted butter
- ½ cup heavy whipping cream
- ½ cup of sugar
- ¼ cup of bourbon

DIRECTIONS

- Heat oven to 325.
- Spray a 9 or 10-inch square baking dish with vegetable oil spray.
- Whisk the eggs until lightly beaten, then add the milk,

- melted butter, and vanilla.
- Gradually add the sugar to the egg mixture and continue to whisk until the sugar is dissolved.
- Arrange the bread cubes in the baking dish.
- Pour the egg-milk mixture over the bread.
- Press down on the bread lightly, just enough to make sure that all the bread cubes are saturated.
- Sprinkle the pecans over the bread, lightly pushing them down into the bread as well.
- Bake the bread pudding for about 50 minutes, until golden brown and crusty, but still moist below the crust.

MAKING THE SAUCE

- While the pudding is baking, combine the butter, cream, sugar, and bourbon in a saucepan.
- Bring to a boil, stirring occasionally, and then remove from the heat.
- Serve the warm pudding in bowls, topped with a healthy drizzle of the bourbon sauce.

Enjoy!

Devotional Page To Those Left Behind

BY SCOTT HUCKABY

Big Bend Bible Fellowship

If you happen to read this article after millions of people have disappeared, please know there is still hope. This event is called the rapture of the church (1 Thess 4:13-18, 1 Cor 15:51-52). It marks the end of the Age of Grace and the beginning of the transition to a new age when Jesus Christ returns to earth to rule for 1,000 years (Rev 20:4).

Following the rapture, you still can and should call on Jesus Christ to be your Savior. "For whoever calls on the name of the Lord shall be saved" (Romans 10:13). It is, however, important to recognize that your salvation will not necessarily be in this life, but after this mortal life is over. And your eternal destination is way more important than whatever happens to you in this world.

One thing you should expect is that there will be a convincing explanation for the rapture of the church (2 Thess 2:11). This "strong delusion" will deny that the rapture was a supernatural act of God but instead advance some narrative probably involving extraterrestrials. Yes, the Bible addresses extraterrestrials; they are called angels and are either holy or fallen (aka, "demons").

The deception of the transitional time you're entering will be so strong that Jesus warned about it three times in His Olivet Discourse (Matthew 24). If you think our government or the mainstream media would not lie to the public, you

have already been conditioned to be deceived.

Jesus called this transitional time you're entering as the "Tribulation" and said that unless He intervened, no one would survive it (Matt 24:21-22). There will be wholesale death during the seven years of the Tribulation (Rev 6:8, 9:18, Isaiah 13:12).

Another thing Jesus warned about is that there will be intense persecution of His followers during the Tribulation (Matt 24:9; Daniel 7:25). But you will have the opportunity to be part of an unprecedented revival during the Tribulation that will result in a great multitude of martyrs (Rev 7:9-17).

All people during the Tribulation will be required to submit to the authority of the new world ruler the Bible calls the Beast and the Antichrist (1 John 2:18). There will be intense pressure to swear allegiance to the Antichrist in order to just buy groceries (aka, "Mark of the Beast" - Rev 13:16-17). Don't do it! Taking the Mark of the Beast will seal your eternal fate (Rev 14:9-11). It will be much better to starve to death and have eternal life than fill your belly and be forever in the lake of fire.

Until the rapture occurs, you can look forward to being part of the mass resurrection of the church by simply believing that Jesus paid your sin debt through His blood shed on the cross (John 3:16). Jesus is our "Blessed Hope" (Titus 2:13).

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

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"Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you; For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth and to him that knocketh it shall be opened." The words of Jesus Christ" - **Matthew 7:7-8**

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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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MAY | 24



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MAY | 26

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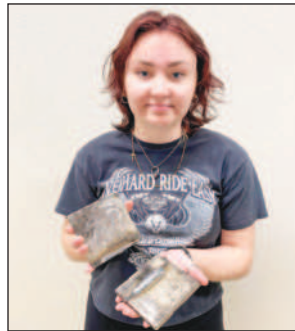
Honoring our deceased veterans who gave their lives in service to our country

At 7:00 AM, VFW Commander Robert Polanco will raise the flag at sunrise.
Coffee and donuts will be available following the ceremony.

At noon, the flag will be raised to full staff.

EVENTS WILL TAKE PLACE AT HOLY ANGELS CEMETERY

AHS seniors complete welding certification



These eight Alpine High School seniors recently completed and earned their GMAW D1.1 tack weld certification through the Ag Engineering program. This is an industry-based certification that also fulfills graduation requirements. Welders are Reese Coleman, Mason Dove, Exodus Galvan, Kendyl Hardaway, Sarah Natera, Jaycee Portillo, Allison Sanchez, and Cash Sullivan.

Courtesy photos

The Gage Hotel and Brick Vault Brewery and BBQ Congratulates the Marathon High School Class of 2025



Camaron Aguilar



Zoey Aguilar



Juan Castro



Owen Cavness



Alysa Garcia



Jasenya Gonzalez



Congratulations

CLASS OF 2025

Good Luck to the Classes of 2025

These four individuals are at the top of their game. It is not easy to stay on top, but the rewards are worth the effort. This year, we are highlighting the top two students from each high school, who lay

claim to the Class of 2025 Valedictorian and Salutatorian. Their accomplishments, character, goals, and work ethic speak for themselves, making them the perfect leaders for the graduating class of 2025.



Zeynep Basibuyuk
ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN

The most rewarding moments during my high school years were definitely all the bonding moments I had with my friends (and some teachers). Throughout these four years, I learned a lot of school topics and subjects, but only the memories and the lessons I discovered thanks to these experiences will stay in my heart forever for the rest of my life. Countless individuals from our school and within our community have helped me with my achievements, but I owe most of it to my parents for always being there for me and being great role models on how to be successful and achieve my goals. I wouldn't be the person I am today if they weren't there for me all my life, even when we were miles away. I know they will be there to help me achieve my future goal of pursuing medicine, too. I hope to use their teachings to be a good person and a physician in my future communities.



Brooke Jenks
BIG BEND HIGH SCHOOL VALEDICTORIAN

Growing up in a small town has taught me more lessons than I can count. The community has supported me my entire life, and I can't express my gratitude for them enough. Leaving my small hometown and the close-knit community that shaped me is bittersweet, but I'm grateful for the strong roots and support that will always guide me. I'm excited to take the next step in my journey by attending the University of Texas at Austin, where I'll be majoring in Kinesiology. My goal is to pursue a career in physical therapy or sports medicine



Hatfield Cason
ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL SALUTATORIAN

The most rewarding thing about going to high school in Alpine has been all the opportunities for travel and experiences - getting to do interesting things with interesting people. It's made the last four years go by a lot quicker. For helping me become salutatorian, I'd like to thank my car for getting me to school every day (mostly), all my teachers for sticking through it with me to the end and making sure I got here in one piece, my dad for keeping me sane with weekend river trips and rock-climbing getaways, and my mom for literally everything else. After high school, I will be attending Rice University, where I'll study Law and Social Thought, as well as how to dodge hurricanes.



Luna Barrett
BIG BEND HIGH SCHOOL SALUTATORIAN

My name is Luna Marie, and my plans after high school are to attend Texas Tech University for a year, then hopefully transfer to UT. That is, if I don't get off the waitlist for Rice by June. At Big Bend High School, I was involved with FTC Robotics, a club that sparked my interest in a career in STEM. I plan to study Mechanical Engineering and join the Formula SAE team at Texas Tech. I also plan to further my participation in Folklorico, a traditional Mexican folk dance, at Tech in the Fall. I am honored to have attended and to have graduated from BBHS and hope to set an example for future female students interested in STEM.



Congratulations

to the **Class** of

2025



On your graduation day, we'd like to say how proud we are of your achievement! We wish you the best of luck as you take the next step on your journey, and every happiness along the way.

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ALPINE HIGH SCHOOL



DEAR CLASS OF 2025

What an incredible journey this year has been. It's hard to put into words the pride and joy I feel as your principal. For many of you, this year has been filled with milestones and memories that will last a lifetime. And for me, it's been an honor to walk alongside you during this final chapter of your high school experience.

You've grown into leaders, role models, and difference-makers—not just on our campus, but throughout the Alpine community. You've shown resilience, character, and heart in everything you've done. I hope you carry the spirit of the Class of 2025 with you wherever life leads next.

As you step into the next season of your life, remember this: every choice you make shapes your future. So, choose courage over comfort, kindness over comparison, and purpose over popularity. Don't forget who you are, where you came from, or what you stand for. You may leave Alpine, but Alpine will never leave

you. Once a Fightin' Buck, always a Fightin' Buck.

A wise man once said, "You never win a horse race saying whoa!" The only way to lose in life is to stop moving forward. So, when it's easy, keep going. When it's hard, keep going. And when you're unsure, take one step at a time, but keep going.

Alpine ISD is forever proud of you and grateful for the legacy you leave behind. You will always have a home here. Don't hesitate to reach out if we can support you in the years ahead.

Congrats, Class of 2025!!!

*With pride and gratitude,
Jarrett Vickers
Principal, Alpine High School*



Peyton Tays makes a sacrifice bunt to help advance runners at Koker-not Field.



Zane Wash wins the tip-off in the Bucks match-up against Kermit.

HAMMIN' IT UP WITH ST. NICK



Senior CNA student Sierra Maxwell Valenzuela took time to ham it up for the camera with Ol' St. Nick, the practice dummy.

Photo by AISD Nurse Gayla Owen

Congratulations class of 2025!

Wishing you nothing but the best as you embark on this new journey.

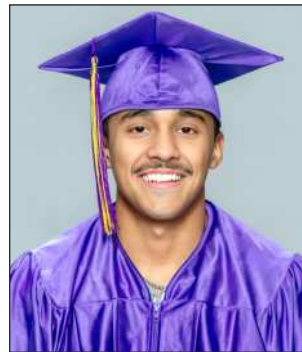


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ALPINE SENIORS



Enrique Acosta



Marco Acosta



Virginia Acosta



Roxell Adams



Jezel Araiza-Hernandez



Josue Araiza-Hernandez



Hope Dominguez and Hatfield Cason were named Mr. and Miss AHS at this year's academic awards banquet.

An Achievement to Celebrate

We salute the hard work and dedication that got you here today, graduates. As you receive your diplomas, please know you have made us proud, and we wish all of you all the best.

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ALPINE SENIORS



Zeynep Basibuyuk



Hatfield Cason



Jaylynn Celaya



Reese Coleman



Christopher Craver-Turner



Harmoney Cribbs

Congratulations Danica Mulholland!
We are so proud of you! We Love You!

Love, Mom, Nana, Papa, Kevin, Alexis, Mariella, & Ernest

Danica Mulholland
A.H.S. Class of 2025

Oral Roberts University
Class of 2029

"Strength and dignity are her clothing. And she smiles at the future. She opens her mouth in wisdom. And the teaching of kindness is on her tongue. Many daughters have done nobly, But you excel them all." Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain. But a woman who fears the Lord, she shall be praised. Give her the product of her hands. And let her works praise her in the gates."
 Proverbs 31:25-26, 29-31



Rodolfo Cunningham



Ferris Daley



Xander Dodson



Audrey Dominguez



Hope Dominguez



Mason Dove



Hat Cason clears the hurdles during one of Alpine's home track meets.

Today we're celebrating you, graduates!
 Congratulations on this milestone achievement and all of the accomplishments you've worked for along the way.



Greg Rodriguez



Zoey Rae Aguilar

Congratulations
 Class of
 2025!

Your hard work has paid off, and your journey is just beginning. At WTNB, we're proud to celebrate your achievements – and we're here to support your future every step of the way.



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ALPINE SENIORS

Congratulations Piper!

We are so proud of you as you begin a new chapter in your life.

Isaiah 41:10: will always guide you in His ways.

Love Lee, Mom and Zach



Alyssa Duenez



Jaxson Ficke



Davian Fierro



Izaak Fierro



Romeo Fish



Ethan Flores



Evan Frioux



Exodus Galvan

Sarah,

We are very proud of all of your achievements. We cannot wait to see what the future holds for you.

We Love You, Mom, Dad, Alex, Noe, Grandma, Grandpa, Amanda, Andrea, Issac, of course Layla!

2025
class of



Muzaffer Gunes



Kaleb Haile



Illeana Hamilton



Kendyl Hardaway



Leif Jarrell



Sedrick Lara



Iden Lujan



Brittany Maltos

Remember This Moment



Here's hoping your Graduation Day is unforgettable in every way. May it find you surrounded by good friends and good times that last straight through the summer.

Congratulations, Class of 2025!

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Alpine seniors doubles players Zane Wash and Solanus Prieto brought home third-place medals at the Fort Hancock Invitational. Also placing third in mixed doubles were Ashlee Neal and Marco Salcido.



PRACTICING FOR HIS FUTURE

Senior Mason Dove trims a horse's hooves in preparation for attaching shoes to its feet. Dove plans to study medical farriery after graduation.

Photo courtesy of Bailey Dove

Wishing You Good Luck & Good Fortune



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ALPINE SENIORS

Rikki Beatrice

Rikki Beatrice congratulations! You have accomplished so many wonderful things. May you continue to thrive as you follow your dreams.
 "Trust in God" Love you, dad, mom, Joel and family, Gabriel and family, Gino and family,
 Tomas and family, Victor, and Miguel and family.



Landyn Marta



Sierra Maxwell Valenzuela



John Mendoza



Miguel Milan



Austin Milligan



Masiela Miranda



Isidro Navarette



Adrian Monclova



Danica Mulholland



Sarah Natera



Ashlee Neal



Symaia Pitts

SENIORS ARE VITAL



Senior CNA students Riki Vega, Hope Dominguez, and Piper Wash practice taking vitals on patients at the Big Bend Regional Medical Center during their clinicals.

Photo courtesy of AISD Nurse Gayla Owen

Jax Ficke



Jax,
 Keep on Keeping on.
 You make us all
 very proud.

Love,
 Mom, Jace
 & Dan

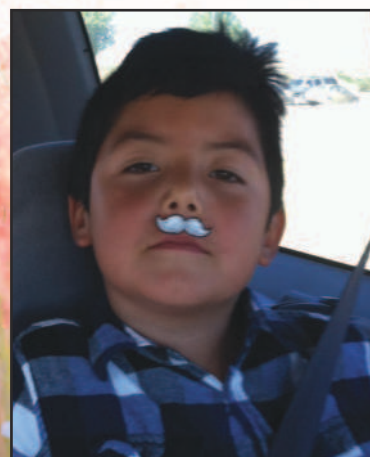


CLASS OF 2025

Auden

Class of 2025

Proud of you
 Auden.
 Love,
 Grandma
 Darla, Sam
 and Karen
 and family



ALPINE SENIORS



Jaycee Portillo



Solanus Prieto



Auden Ramirez



Yazmyne Reyes



Dominyk Rodriguez



Gregory Rodriguez



Zachary Rodriguez



Jacob Roggow



Devon Rojo



Marco Salcido



Taven Salcido



Allison Sanchez

Meet the GRADUATING CLASS

Cash Sullivan



**SHOOT FOR THE MOON.
EVEN IF YOU MISS, YOU'LL
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*Congratulations Cash!
I pray you'll remember that God
is on your side. And there's no
limit to the things the two of you
can accomplish.*

*Love Always,
Daddy & Mama*



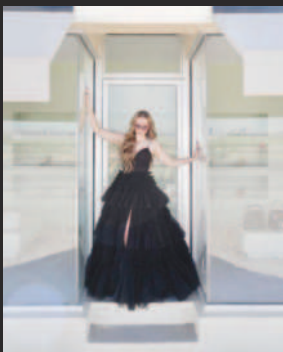
Home of the
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National Team
2025
Class Of

Graduation Wishes

Our Graduate



Reese Maxine Coleman



Keep lighting up the world, baby girl! We are so forever and deeply proud of you!
Love you too many...
Mummy, Pa, Ryder, Grandma, Papan, and Uncle Keith



Auden Ramirez



**We are proud of you.
Love, Dad, Mom
and the Girls.**

Mason Dove

Class of 2025

*We are so proud of you and all
of your accomplishments.
We can't wait to see how far
you go, and we will be in your
corner every step of the way!
Love Dad, Bailey,
and Raelyn*

**"It takes courage to grow and
become who you really are."
- E. E. Cummings**



ALPINE SENIORS



Alan Sera



Diego Sierra



Logan Smith



Cash Sullivan



Peyton Tays



Raven Torres



David Valenzuela



John Valenzuela



Alan Valenzuela-Navarrete



Rikki Vega



Landon Velasco



Piper Wash



Zane Wash



Ashlee Neal contemplates how she's going to return the tennis ball so close to the ground.



David Valenzuela ducks his head, but he's all grins as he's introduced with his parents during Senior Night at a Bucks baseball game.



Senior Buck baseballers Iden Lujan, David Valenzuela, Peyton Tays, and Devon Rojo.



Iden Lujan tees off during the Regional golf tournament.

A WORLD OF WELL WISHES, TRADS!

Hats off to you, graduates, as you celebrate a fine achievement. A world of opportunity awaits, and we wish you happiness and success in all that you do.

Way to go,
CLASS OF 2025!

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CLASS OF GRADUATES

2025

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MARATHON HIGH SCHOOL



MARATHON SUPERINTENDENT'S MUSING ON THE CLASS OF 2025

Our six seniors are as different and diverse as I've seen, yet they all have supported each other in becoming a little bit better along the way. Juan is the latest addition to the group, with Camaron being the only one here since Prekindergarten. Three of the six graduates want to go into various branches of nursing. Two are going to service-oriented jobs, and one will focus on occupations requiring welding. All six stand firm on what they want their future to look like. I'm proud to be part of this super star team with half of them holding an

Associate's Degree and all six ready to take their next step without hesitation. Supporting these six seniors has humbled me as they each held their own in being first in their family to go into their desired professions or being recognized for learning a new language as a senior. I guarantee you that Marathon ISD will miss our six Magnificent Mustangs.

— Dr. Ivonne Durant, Superintendent

MARATHON SENIORS



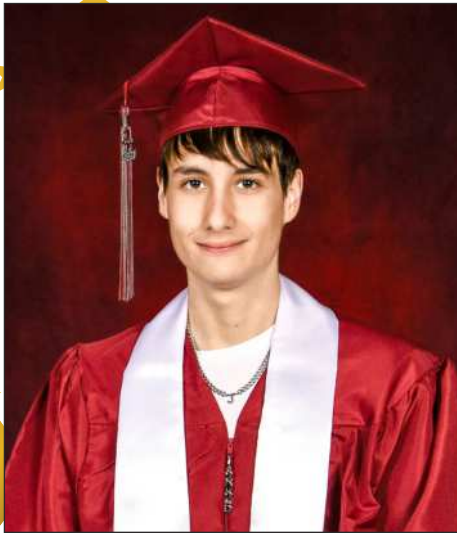
Camaron Aguilar



Zoey Ray Aguilar



Juan Castro Jr.



Owen Nicolas Cavness



Alysa Renae Garcia



Jasenya Olga Gonzalez

The Best Is Yet to Come

We're proud of you, graduates. Good luck and best wishes in all of your future endeavors!



Class of
2025
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Congratulations!

As you turn the page to the next chapter, the future is yours to write. Fill it with new experiences, good people and rewarding choices that help make the world a better place.

Best wishes to all of the dedicated seniors who are celebrating their graduation today!

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BIG BEND HIGH SCHOOL



DEAR CLASS OF 2025 BBHS PAISANOS

One of the great pleasures of teaching at a rural school is that you get to know each student at a very deep level. This class will have the highest percentage of college-going graduates from BBHS that I can remember. This class has accomplished things that have never been done at BBHS. This class has a girls' district track championship, two-time robotics state qualifiers, a State XC qualifier, a history of high test scores, community service, and leadership. Most importantly, you have shared moments of character. I believe that day-to-day actions are far more important than any accomplishment. Perhaps these qualities are you individually or the class as a whole. We will remember a determined friend, an independent, the 2025 class glue, the deep thinker, a get-it-done-for-family, a challenge overcomer with a smile, a ray of sunshine on a boat, an expresser through images, and a master of poise. The lives you will share your future moments with will be blessed with your presence. Thank you for your moments here.

*Reagan Reed
Terlingua CSD*



Graduation Day is here,
and we'd like to congratulate
the **Class of 2025!**

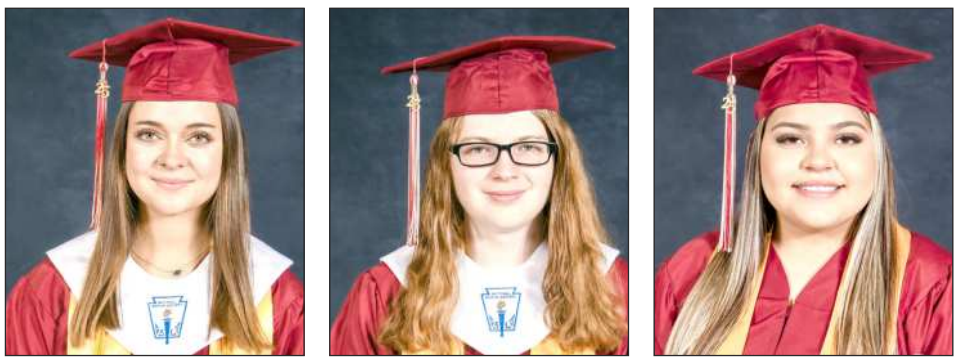
We wish you much success
in your future endeavors,
and we hope you find
great happiness along the way.



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79830
(432) 837-5156

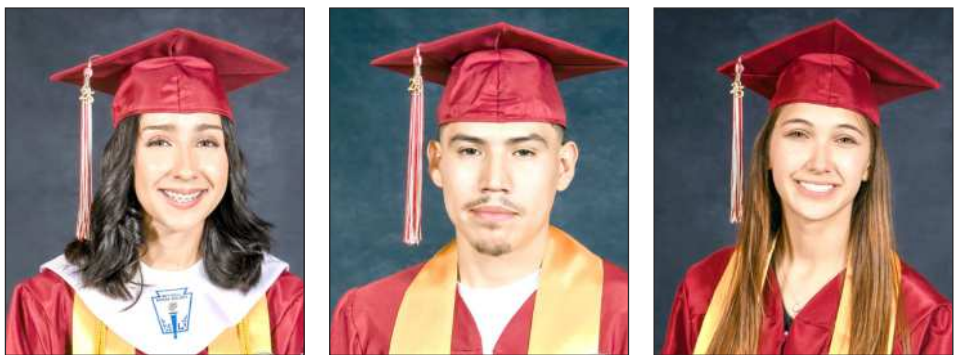
BIG BEND SENIORS



Luna Barrett

Evan Clark

Yaritza Galindo



Shyla Garcia

Rigoberto Guevara

Annica Herrera



Brooke Jenks

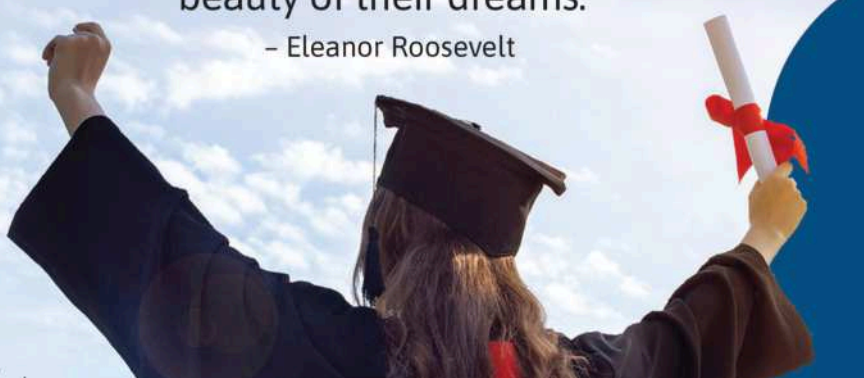
Caitlin Staib

Myranda Villa

Congratulations & Best Wishes!

"The future belongs to
those who believe in the
beauty of their dreams."

- Eleanor Roosevelt



*Dr. Ray Allen & Staff of Alpine Veterinary
Clinic would like to congratulate the*

Class of
2025

*Your big day is finally here, so give yourself
a pat on the back and enjoy the accolades
you so richly deserve!*

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VETERINARY CLINIC**

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Congratulations

**The CLASS of
2025**

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Congratulations

TO ALL 2025 GRADUATES IN THE BBRMC FAMILY

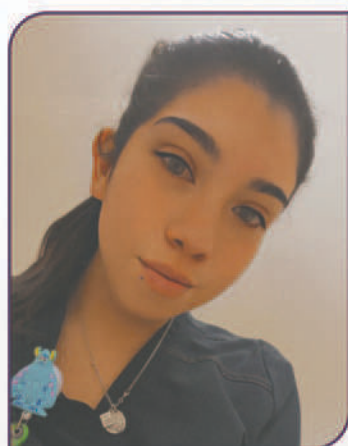
We're so proud, and wish you all the very brightest of futures!



Jaren Brooks
Sul Ross State University
Masters, Criminal Justice



Amanda Eastwood
Sul Ross State University
Masters, Business Administration



Di Andra Garcia
Excelsior University
RN, ASN, Nursing



Nancy Hinojosa
University of North Texas
BS, Hospitality Management



Michelle Marroquin
Universidad Autonoma
Benito Juarez de Oaxaca
MD, Surgery



Ryelan Cash McBride
Angelo State University
BA Natural Resource Management



Sara Ramos
Sul Ross State University
BS, Nursing



Lilianna Terrazas
University of Texas at Austin
BA Psychology & Sociology



Jaime Valles
University of Texas
BS, Mechanical Engineering



Maria Noemi "Mimi" Vargas
University of Texas in Arlington
Masters, Social Work



Evan Frioux
Alpine High School



Diego Jurado
Marfa High School



Iden Noe Lujan
Alpine High School



Mayson Sage McBride
Alpine Christian/
Wilson Hill Academy
Valedictorian



Auden James Ramirez
Alpine High School



John Paul Valenzuela
Alpine High School

