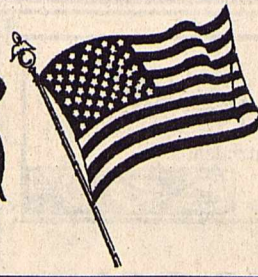


# The Brackett News

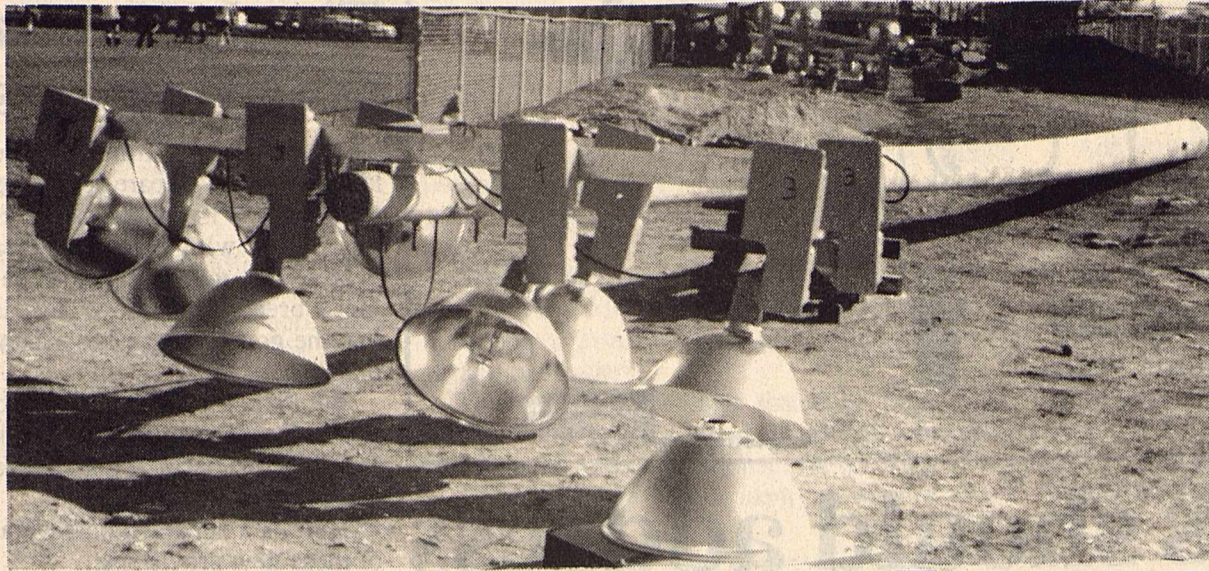


**Tigerettes rout Lady Owls, 15-6**  
See story, Page 5

9th year, No. 2

Serving the communities of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, Spofford and Kinney County

1 Section, 8 Pages



BRACKETT NEWS PHOTO BY J.J. GUIDRY

Liteco Electric Company has been busy at the high school athletic complex this week putting up lights at the baseball and softball fields. See related story, Page 2.

## New sewer plant nears completion

The joint sewer plant project between the Fort Clark Municipal Utility District and the city of Brackettville is near completion, officials announced.

"The sewer project is about 90 percent finished," MUD General Manager Larry Sofaly said.

The \$3.7 million project includes a new treatment facility, lift stations and rehab of antiquated lines in the city and at Fort Clark Springs.

"The lift stations aren't complete," Sofaly said. "All of the pipe has been laid in the ground, but the individual connections aren't complete."

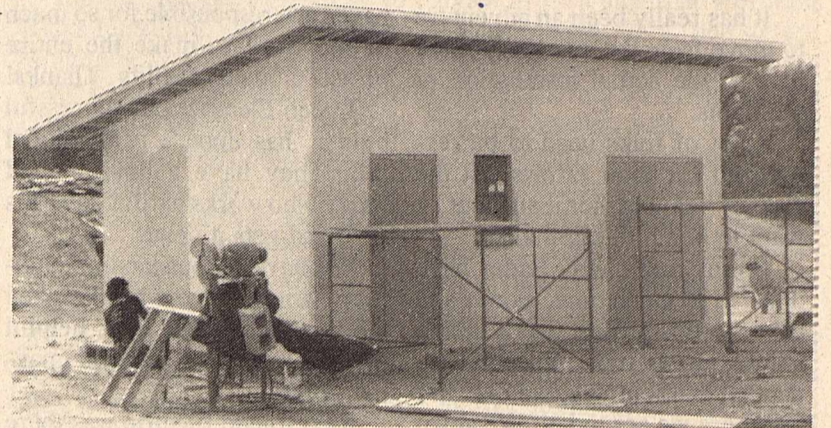
"They have the lift stations in, but they have to put pumps, motors and piping. It will take them about two to three weeks to get that in."

"A lot depends on when we can get electricity out there," he said. "Rio Grande is working on that now."

Brackettville City Manager David Luna said, "Here, in the city, they have completed most, if not all, of the lines."

"We're fixing to pick up on the lift stations so we can tie the whole thing together," he added.

The new treatment facility, consisting of four holding ponds covering approximately 36 acres,



BRACKETT NEWS PHOTO BY J.J. GUIDRY

Pictured above is the operation and maintenance building at the new treatment facility.

## Directors consider converting Seminole Hall into hotel rooms

The Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors accepted a recommendation for further study to convert Seminole Hall into hotel rooms at Saturday's monthly meeting.

The recommendation of the adaptive reuse was made by the association's planning committee.

"The board is considering the conversion of Seminole Hall to hotel rooms without damaging the historical integrity of the building," Fort Clark Springs General Manager Bill Haenn said.

Also on Saturday, Ben Pingenot presented an amendment allowing directors to request information directly from employees without going through the general manager.

The first reading of the amendment passed 4-2, with Pingenot, Betty Gibbs, Santos Yerena and Mona Miller voting for it. Mary Mitchell and Frank Cheaney opposed. Michael Holley was absent.

In other business, the directors approved a motion made by Cheaney to specify lots in Unit 27 for opting, and the board appointed Schuler and Schuler as the association's independent auditors.

Requests for open-to-the-public functions were approved for the Kinney County Arts Council on April 25 and May 2, and for the Lions Club on March 15.

Haenn presented the general manager's report. Consideration of an appointment to the recreation committee was discussed, but the item was tabled until the next meeting.

Miller presented the financial statement, which was approved, and the minutes from the previous meeting were approved.

During member discussion, improvements to the 18-hole golf course and handicap-accessibility to buildings were addressed.

## Commissioners Court agrees to raise rates of Civic Center

The Kinney County Commissioners Court unanimously agreed to raise the rates for the Civic Center Friday at a special meeting.

County Commissioners Freddie Frerich, Precinct 1; Joe Williams, Precinct 3; and Paul O'Rourke, Precinct 4; voted for the increases. Precinct 2 Commissioner Joe Montalvo was absent.

"We haven't adjusted these fees in two and a half years," Frerich said prior to the decision.

The hourly rate for the east wing was raised from \$60 to \$65, the west wing and the kitchen were both raised from \$27.50 to \$30, and the central downstairs room was raised from \$16.50 to \$20.

The \$60 deposit and the \$125 cleaning fee for the Civic Center stayed intact.

The commissioners agreed that the EMS and the Fire Department would both be able to use the Civic Center for free, and any other non-profit organization requesting free use would have to appear in front of the court.

The commissioners discussed repairing the roof of the Civic Center, but no action was taken.

The court authorized County Judge Tommy Seargeant to sign a supplemental grant application and resolution regarding the narcotics task force and the city of Eagle Pass salary reimbursement of \$41,312.

The commissioners heard a request to add an additional arm on the county's communications tower for safety purposes at Fort Clark Springs.

"We're just trying to find out if it is possible for Fort Clark to add an arm on to the present tower at no cost to anybody but themselves," said Charles Porter, head of security at Fort Clark Springs.

"They're contemplating buying a new radio system," Porter told the court. "If we can get on that repeater tower, of course, then we will have the capability of having radio communications. In the very back of Fort Clark Springs, where we don't have a full range of radio frequency, there are blind spots."

In other action, the commissioners approved installation of a satellite system, and necessary wires, in the Fritter Room at the Kinney County Library, approved the appointment of Horace Troy and Sandy Herman to the library board, and agreed to revise a resolution on Texas county and district retirement.

## Army Band to perform at Fort Clark Springs

The public is invited to attend a free performance by the 323rd U.S. Army Band in the Old Quarry Amphitheater at Fort Clark Springs at 5:30 p.m. on Saturday, March 1.

This community sponsored event is the third annual concert at Fort Clark featuring the soldier musicians of the Band of the Army Medical Department.

Ample free parking will be available at the entrance to Fort Clark. In the event of inclement weather, the performance will take place in the Post Theater.

The 323rd U.S. Army Band, a professional group of soldier

musicians, is one of the Southwest's and the U.S. Army's elite musical groups.

The 323rd U.S. Army Band presents an average of 240 performances each year. To fulfill its assortment of engagements, the band offers a concert band, marching band, brass ensemble, jazz ensemble "The Jazz Connection," Latin band "Corazon," Dixieland band, and the popular and country combo "Crosswords."

The band provides opportunities for talented soldier musicians to perform with a renowned group, to travel and to continue their education while serving their country.

## Brackett falls to Navarro, 63-57, in bi-district game

CASTROVILLE - Navarro put together a five-point spurt in the second quarter and led for the remainder of the contest Saturday night as the Lady Panthers defeated the Brackett Tigerettes, 63-57, in a bi-district playoff game at Medina Valley High School.

With the win, Navarro advanced to the area playoffs, where they lost to Karnes City, 53-42, Tuesday night.

Brackett ended its season with a 20-12 overall record. The Tigerettes won the District 30-2A title with a perfect 10-0 conference mark.

Navarro trailed 24-22 in the second quarter before closing the first half with a 5-0 run. Ashley Nicklas scored from inside the paint at the buzzer to put the Lady Panthers up 29-24 at intermission. Navarro never trailed the rest of the game.

Nicklas hit a turn-around jumper at the 1:12 mark in the third quarter to give the Lady Panthers their biggest lead of the contest at 46-34.

After that point, Brackett couldn't pull any closer than five points.

Jamie Hildebrand led Navarro with 17 points, Jessica Regalado scored 15, Kim Vogel had 13, and Nicklas added 11.

Regalado had 11 of her 15 points in the third quarter.

Brackett and Navarro both had 27 field goals in the contest, but the Lady Panthers were 8 of 17 from the free throw line and the Tigerettes were 2 of 3.

Brackett shot 57 percent from the field, making 27 of 47 field goals, had 21 assists, and committed only 14 turnovers.

But, the Tigerettes had only 12 rebounds.

Amanda Meek led Brackett's scoring attack with 17 points, while Courtney Harrison, Lindy La Mascus and Tina Meek all had 10 points apiece.

Amanda Meek, who was 8 of 13 from the floor, also had four assists and two blocks.

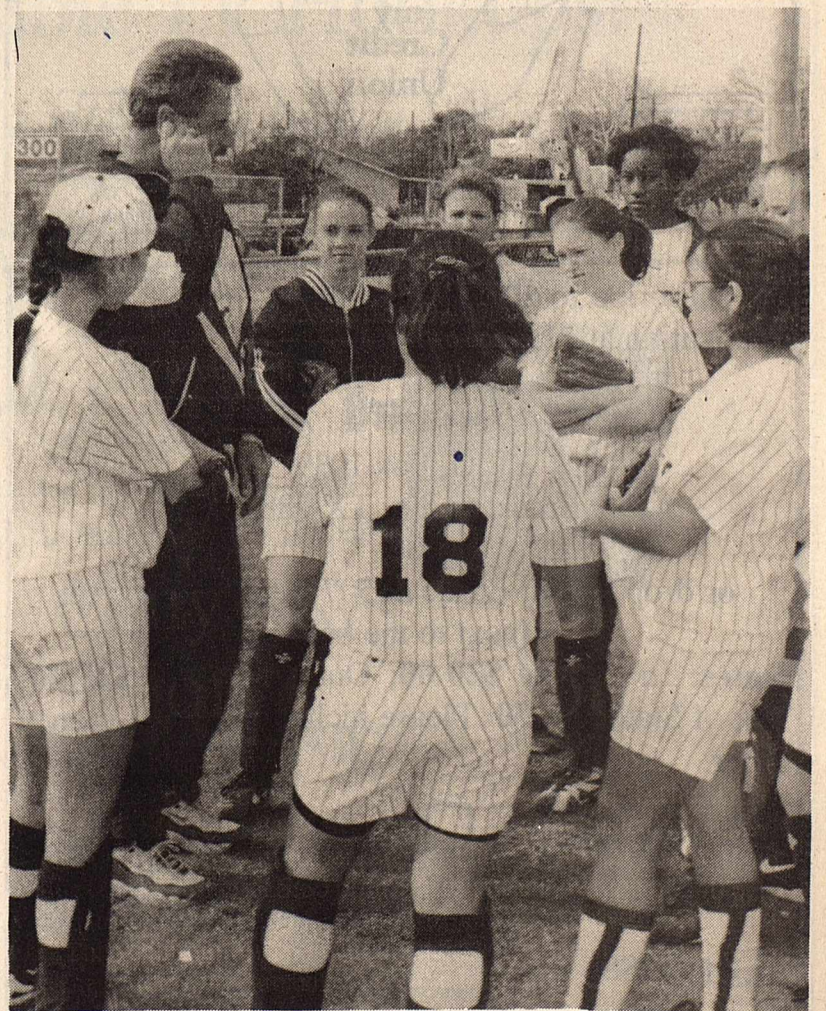
Harrison made 5 of 6 field goals, pulled down four rebounds and had four assists.

La Mascus finished the contest with four assists and four steals.

Tina Meek was 5 of 9 from the floor, scoring 8 of her 10 points in the third period. She also had three rebounds, two steals and an assist.

Chica Garza scored six points on 3 of 3 shooting. She also had five assists and five steals.

Sandra Hernandez and Reccia Jobe added two apiece. Hernandez had two assists and Jobe picked up one.



BRACKETT NEWS PHOTO BY J.J. GUIDRY

Only three days after ending the basketball season, Brackett coach Gregg Nowlin and the Tigerettes opened the softball season.

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#### Taylor Stephenson

The big project the last two weeks has been getting the new lights ready on the baseball and softball fields.  
Opinion/Page 2

#### Tigers open season

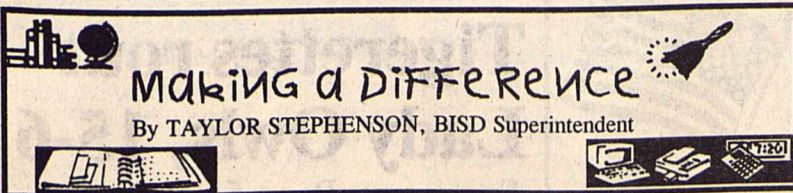
The Brackett Tigers will open the 1997 baseball season Saturday as they travel to Uvalde to battle the Coyotes in a doubleheader.  
Sports/Page 5

#### Buffalo Soldiers

AUSTIN- A Buffalo Soldiers video and teaching guide are available to teachers in time for Black History Month.  
Outdoors/Page 6

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# There are many to thank for new athletic facility

The big project the last two weeks has been getting the new lights ready on the baseball and softball fields.

It has really been an adventure to move from the awarding of the bids to the actual installation of the lights.

A lot of folks need to be recognized for their efforts. At the risk of leaving someone out, I want to begin to say thanks.

Jimmy and Cathy Bader have donated so much time, money and effort to this project that a simple thanks seems trite. Nonetheless, thanks! Without you, we couldn't be where we are today. We absolutely have one of the finest facilities in Texas.

We want to thank the Board of Education at Brackett ISD. They have given support and encouragement to the project. They have helped guide this project with monetary support.

As with all school projects, we could not achieve without a supportive board. We have one. Thanks!

The city of Brackettville deserves to be thanked for its support. David Luna has been there to help when the calls went out. The council and mayor have helped from the beginning with this project. It is a facility that the town is proud of also. Thanks.

Ray Smallwood and a band of helpers have worked like "busy bees" to finish bleachers in time. Ray is so proud. He can do lots of things and, above all, he has pride in his work. Ray recruited the workers that we needed to get this job done. Thanks for a job well done!

Richard Terrazas, director of maintenance, and helpers Tony

Negrete and Manuel Madrid have worked putting in sprinkler systems, and making sure the dirt, sand and grass are just right. They have been responsible for so much of the work to make the entire project a quality facility. Thanks!

Liteco Electric, our successful bidder, has done a professional job. They have a boss named Larry who works hard, knows his stuff and gets it done.

We have an outstanding engineer named Steve who designed the system and has been helpful in more ways than you can imagine. Thanks!

Rio Grande Electric was there to counsel, advise and work when we needed them. Nice to know these folks are around. There is excellent service response in this company.

CP&L ended up servicing the area. Once the decision was made as to whose trade area we were in (by authorities far beyond Brackettville), CP&L has been very helpful. They have helped us meet our deadline.

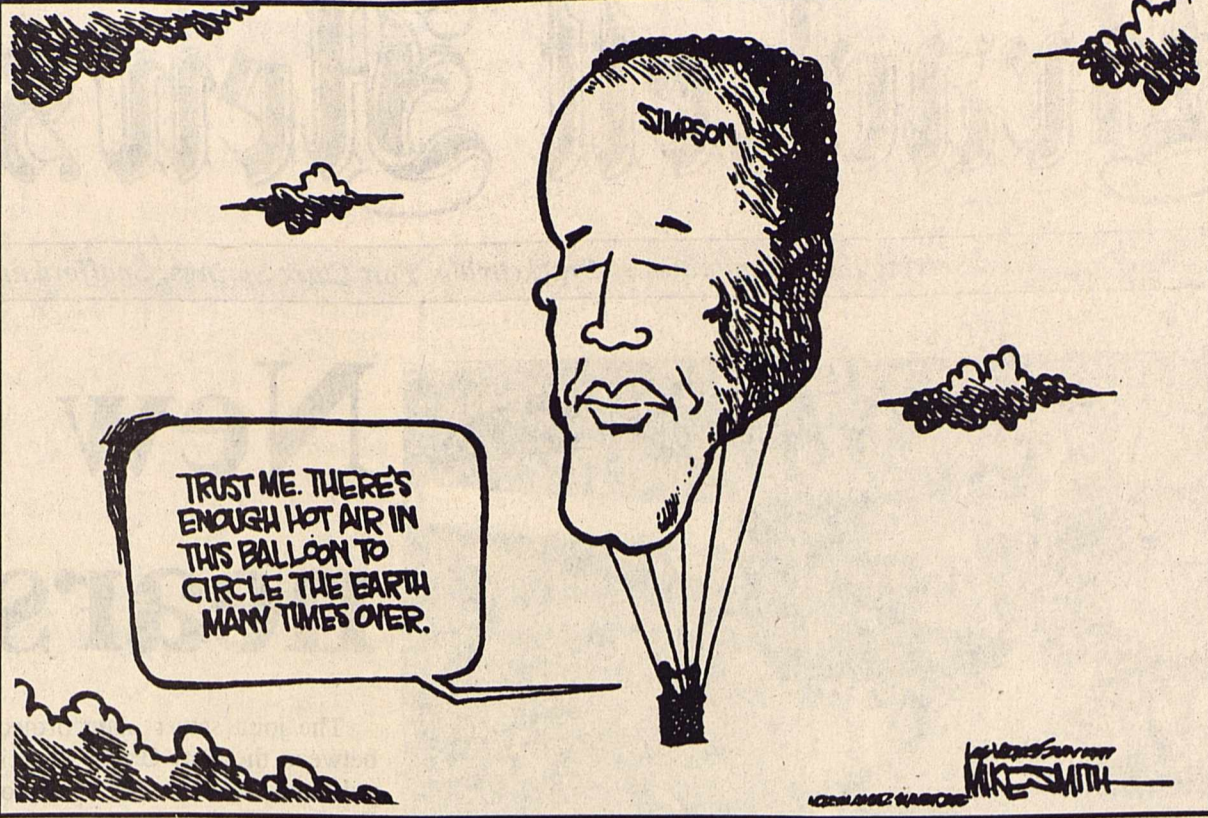
I'm sure there are more. I should thank our athletic director, Roy Rokovich, who works harder than any two that I have ever known.

Thanks to our coaches and players who have built a reputation that justified giving the best that our town could give.

Above all, thanks to the taxpayers of BISD who have made this fine addition possible. I am humbled by the facility and the work that went into it.

This week, take a drive by and see a first class ball park that was put together by a team of folks that believe in kids.

Have a good week!



# Congress should address more serious concerns

It's a sad fact, but true, that the government in Washington, from the President on down, is enamored with itself and the political future. Recent actions glaringly point this out.

They can't have integrity enough to solve overburdening problems of the nation, but they have time to fiddle with petty things that are of almost no real significance.

The co-president and her female compadres push legislation through the mill to require that women stay in the hospital two days instead of one.

They simply want to make waves about women, and the Congress bows to the whims lest they be charged with anti woman bias.

Whether a woman stays in a hospital one day or one year certainly should be in the providence of the woman and her physician.

While some insurance policies limit hospital stays to be paid for by insurance, there is no limit to

## Between Us

By Joe Townsend



how long a woman can be in the hospital if the need is there.

All the palaver about cutting health care cost goes out the window when political whims come into play.

It doesn't take a rocket scientist to know an extended day in the hospital means extended cost.

Two such inane actions regarding women can only be explained by political appeals to the female voter.

There are far more women who die from cancer and heart attacks than die from breast cancer. Mastectomy was chosen because only women are affected. Were cancer and heart attacks included this would include men. This would never be acceptable to these radi-

cal feminists.

To bypass medical findings that women need not take regular mammograms below age 50. Now, the Washington bureaucracy wants to drop the age to 40. This is simply another attempt to focus on female related problems.

These examples are more evidence that "the days of big government are over," ha ha.

If Congress would get serious about national concerns and turn a deaf ear to the co-president and other radicals, maybe, just maybe some meaningful problems could be solved.

Some things should be left to the individual, like the length of hospital stays and personal physical decisions.

# Agriculture: More than "meats" the eye

By Henry Bonilla  
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District

This year, I gained a seat on the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture.

The subcommittee is responsible for the programs that keep America the world's leader in agriculture. So I figured that the subcommittee was only about traditional agriculture programs. Well, guess what, it's not just crops and livestock.

Besides funding a wide range of important, traditional programs such as agricultural research, the CRP program, the Animal Damage Control Program and the Boll Weevil Eradication Program, the subcommittee is also responsible for federal food stamps and the WIC program.

WIC stands for Supplemental Nutrition for Women, Infants and Children and is one of the major federal welfare programs.

Last year alone, the WIC program was funded at \$3.7 billion. And now, the Department of Agriculture wants \$378 million more for WIC this year!

They can't even spend what they have now fast enough! In fact, WIC money left over at the end of each year has grown every year since 1990.

This is a prosperous country and we can, and must, provide a safety net to the needy, especially to the children. We have done that, and this Congress will continue to do that.

This is one of the big problems with Washington: Politicians wanting more money for programs that sound good without showing the need for massive increases.

Politicians are simply making themselves look good and compassionate to their special interests by spending huge amounts of our tax money.

Let's make one thing clear: The WIC program will be adequately funded.

We have the resources to take care of our neighbors in need and ensure the future of American agriculture. But the big spenders must stop demanding money without justification. It's just not responsible!

Every dollar that the subcommittee is forced to unnecessarily spend is another dollar taken away from agriculture improvements in Texas and the rest of the U.S.

For example, unnecessary spending takes away from agriculture research programs which ensure that the American farmer is able to produce the best crops and livestock in the world.

Today's agriculture research advances lead to substantial savings and a stronger American economy tomorrow.

As you can see, balancing the interests of the different areas of the country is quite a challenge.

As the only Texan on the subcommittee, my main responsibility is to make sure that the subcommittee understands what we Texans produce, especially in South and West Texas.

Whether it is farm and ranch programs or food safety or food stamps, the Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture is here to find effective, common sense ways to keep American agriculture 'Number one' and that's good news for the farmers and ranchers of the 23rd District and Texas.



## Timely tips on tax advantages

When you sit down at the kitchen table to prepare your taxes this year, you'll probably be thinking, along with a lot of other people, that the trouble with being a breadwinner nowadays is that the government takes such a big slice.

But there is a small bit of good news: Tax legislation enacted in 1996 may make Uncle Sam's slice smaller in the future.

Here is a rundown on several of those new provisions:

■ The Internal Revenue Code, in certain situations, now allows penalty free withdrawals from Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) for reasons other than retirement.

Withdrawals now are allowed to pay medical bills for you, your spouse or your dependents, but only for expenses in excess of 7.5 percent of your adjusted gross income.

Withdrawals also may be made without penalty by those who remain on unemployment insurance for at least 12 weeks; these withdrawals must be used to pay health-insurance premiums.

We're trying to add education costs and first time home purchases to the list of penalty free withdrawals.

■ The self-employed will enjoy increased tax deductions for their health insurance premiums. For the 1996 tax year, the deduction is established at 30 percent of premiums paid.

This deduction jumps to 40 percent for 1997 and will rise incrementally to 80 percent in 2006.

■ Beginning this year, the terminally ill and chronically ill may obtain tax-free benefits, often referred to as "accelerated death benefits," from some life insurance policies. This provision contains strict guidelines defining chronic and terminal illness.

■ Medical Savings Accounts (MSAs) are now available to a limited number of individuals allowing them beneficial savings plans to pay for their medical expenses.

MSAs are tax-deferred savings accounts which are available to self-employed and employer groups of 50 or fewer individuals in conjunction with certain high-deductible health plans (deductibles of \$1,500 to \$2,250 per individual, or \$3,000 to \$4,500 per family).

Eligible individuals can contribute up to 65 percent of the amount deductible under their health plan (75 percent for families) to an MSA, and use that contribution to pay for medical expenses, including dental and eye care.

Money contributed can be deducted from the business owner's gross income for tax purposes, and accumulates tax-deferred interest.

■ Last, but not least, one-income families now can benefit from the Homemaker IRA, which I sponsored.

The Homemaker IRA raises the limit on IRA contributions for one-income couples from \$2,250 a year to \$4,000 a year, \$2,000 for each spouse.

Finally, homemakers are getting equity when it comes to retirement savings.

A single-income couple that invests the new maximum amount annually into an IRA account beginning at age 25 will accumulate \$1.1 million by the time they reach retirement age at 65.

For more information on this, call my Dallas office at (214) 361-3500.

It's not a perfect system, but we have made it better. I urge all Texans to investigate the advantages these new tax-code rules have to offer.

# Gov. Bush proposes property tax plan

Gov. George Bush has been advocating a shift in the way public schools are financed. In his "State of the State" speech, Gov. Bush announced a plan to reduce school property taxes by approximately \$2.8 billion per year. Property tax relief would be provided in three ways:

- 1) The state mandated homestead exemptions for school purposes would be increased from \$5,000 to \$25,000;
- 2) Business inventories would be exempted from school maintenance and operations (M&O) taxes;
- 3) School district M&O tax rates would be reduced by 20 cents per \$100 value. Money to reimburse school districts would come from 4 sources:
  - 1) \$500 million per year of current state revenue would be channeled to schools;
  - 2) the rate of the state sales tax would be increased by 1/2 of one percent to 6.75 percent;
  - 3) the rate of the state motor vehicle sales and rental tax would be increased by 1/2 of one percent, also to 6.75 percent;
  - 4) the corporate franchise tax would be replaced by a "Texas Business Tax" (TBT) levied at a rate of 1 1/4 percent.

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Briefs...

Del Rio joins Spofford in fight against dump

DEL RIO - Spofford, successful at thwarting a company's attempt to locate a radioactive materials dump there, is preparing for another battle.

Del Rio, Spofford's ally in the previous fight, is ready for the next bout. City council decided last month to include Del Rio as a party to the application for a solid waste landfill in Spofford proposed by Adobe Ecosystems Ltd., according to the Del Rio Sun.

The council's decision was made in the form of a motion by Lee Weathersbee following a 40 minute executive session. There was no discussion on the matter when the council reconvened in open session.

Meeks earns honors

AUSTIN - Brackettville's Brandy Meeks earned university honors at the University of Texas at Austin for the fall of 1996 session.

Brandy, the daughter of Preston E. and Angie Meeks, has been offered membership in two national honor societies that recognize scholastic achievement, Alpha Lambda Delta and Phi Eta Sigma. Meeks' major is business honors and she plans a second major in management.

Butterflies featured

DEL RIO - Amistad National Recreation Area's weekly evening program on Saturday will be The Monarch Butterfly.

Sheriff's Report

Sunday, February 16

Victor Reyes Lara of Uvalde was arrested by Department of Public Safety Trooper Tom Wylie for driving while intoxicated, first offense. Lara was booked into the Kinney County Jail and magisterated by Judge Tommy Sargeant. Lara was released the next day after posting \$500 bond.

Brackettville's Schooler chosen to participate in educational program

AUSTIN - Brackettville's Michael Schooler is one of 150 Texas educators who were nominated and selected to participate in The Academy V, a program offered by the Texas Elementary Principals and Supervisors Association.

Schooler is the Jones Elementary School Principal at the Brackett Independent School District.

"We are extremely proud of The Academy," TEPESA Executive Director Sandi Borden said. "Through this program, we have launched a new era in the professional development of educators."

"We have had an opportunity to direct change, not just react to it. We believe we've made positive contributions to education and, ultimately, to children. That's exciting!"

The TEPESA Academy is an intensive training experience in which educators work collaboratively to become a professional cadre of highly skilled instructional leaders.

This gathering of minds fosters a "think-tank" forum for promoting creative problem-solving of current and future educational issues.

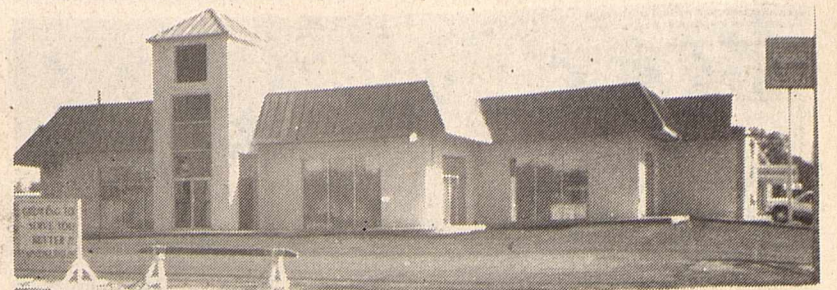
The structure of The Academy consists of a two-

year instructional program that offers continuous interrelated themes such as: the improvement of schools from within; the professional growth of school leaders; the school as a community of learners that fosters growth and learning for everyone; and improving schools to succeed in a world of change.

The Academy participants learn from nationally known educational experts during weekend workshops. This allows for personal and in-depth discussions of relevant educational issues.

Applicants for The Academy are selected based on the match between their stated objectives and the goals of The Academy. In addition, an effort is made to ensure that participants represent a diverse group of school leaders from a variety of school settings.

At the kickoff celebration, Dr. Terrence Deal, noted author of the books, "Leading With Soul," "Corporate Cultures," and "Reframing Organizations," will be the featured speaker. Deal is a professor of education and human development at Vanderbilt University's Peabody College.



Ricks Furniture prepares to show off remodeling project

Something new Del Rio has been looking forward to for a long time is finally here and it is hitting the Queen City by storm.

Ricks Furniture has been undergoing a massive remodeling project since June 1996 and is getting ready to officially open its doors to the public, very soon.

Lonnie Ricks, President of Ricks Furniture, says the remodeling took awhile, but it is something he and the Del Rio/Acuna community can be proud of. "We have needed something like this for a very long time. We had the opportunity to expand and we felt a need in Del Rio to offer a wider selection of styles and name brands. The building is professionally designed by Hubbard King, who came out with a floor plan that is wonderful. Everything is very up-to-date in style and it will give people great ideas for their home."

Because of the remodeling, Ricks Furniture is now able to give the public more of a selection. They carry name brands like Thomasville, La-Z-Boy, Broyhill, Kincaid, Lexington, Lane, Pulaski, Sealy Posturepedic, Philadelphia, and much more.

"People have been asking for it and the only way we could give them more selection was to expand. We now have approximately 30,000 square feet and we have added several special sections

to the store," Ricks said.

One new area includes an expanded desk gallery. They carry a wide selection of roll tops and computer desks. The gallery also displays beautiful book cases and office chairs. Another addition is the Home Entertainment Center Gallery. It holds all the latest styles in furniture that will hold your television, VCR, and stereo. The store also displays its bedroom and living room sets in such a way, that you will fall in love with the color combinations.

"We expanded to serve the public better. We are very excited about the rich colors and are looking forward to seeing how people will react," Ricks said

Ricks Furniture has researched and brought in beautiful, high quality items at a competitive price. Ricks hope is that people in Del Rio and the surrounding area are going to be surprised and like the idea of having a large furniture store like this in a small town."

The public will be pleased with the high quality and of course Ricks Lowest Price Guarantee. The colors and design of the building are something special to see. You won't want to miss this grand opening event, that is designed to be only the beginning of Ricks 50th Anniversary year. Ricks motto is "Proud of our Past, look forward to our future."

Prison recycling saves millions

HUNTSVILLE- Conservation programs in the state prison system last year were worth \$4.5 million to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice in direct savings, cost avoidance and income from selling recyclable waste, the agency says in its annual report to Gov. George Bush.

TDCJ's benefits ranged from selling a million pounds of used kitchen grease for \$11,000 to saving \$1.9 million in landfill disposal costs by recycling everything from garbage to file folders.

"Conservation is a high priority with TDCJ. Linking environment, economics and efficiency serves both the agency and the people of Texas," TDCJ Executive Director Wayne Scott said.

In addition to the recycling programs, the agency's aggressive utility conservation programs

saved \$1.8 million, Scott said, and focused new emphasis on water conservation during last year's drought.

TDCJ cut landfill costs by feeding 33 million pounds of food wastes to its own hogs and selling another 22 million pounds of food wastes to other hog farmers. Hog feed grain purchases were reduced by 50 percent at the prison units where food wastes are fed to hogs.

The prison hog farms also cut utility costs and helped save water by recycling more than 183 million gallons of reclaimed water from hog farm lagoons.

Prison textile mills and garment factories are major contributors to the success of the recycling efforts, according to Charles Morgan, TDCJ recycling coordinator.

Morgan said a new scrap cloth recycling machine put into service less than a year ago has already saved \$147,000 in virgin cotton

purchases by the garment factories by making reusable fibers of worn out guard uniforms and inmate clothing which was previously sold for only pennies a pound or dumped into landfills.

Other prison industries this year sold five million pounds of aluminum and metal scraps for \$362,000, Morgan said.

The agency also saw a 50 percent increase in recycled steel cans, selling 3.8 million pounds for \$95,000, and increases in paper and cardboard recycling worth \$100,000 plus from units, offices, printing plants and the cardboard box factory.

The prisons also recapped 6,400 tires; composted 5,200 cubic yards of sawdust, limbs and brush; and sold 47,000 gallons of used motor oil for \$5,800 and 33,000 wooden pallets for \$46,000, Morgan said.

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Council discusses utility ordinance

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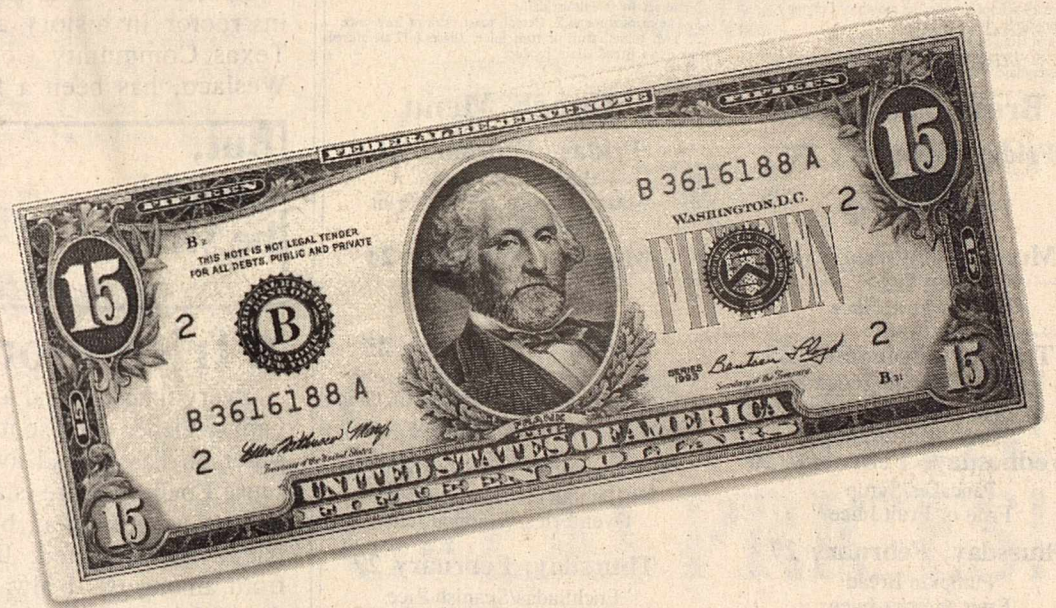
Parsons addresses Brackettville Rotary Club

By Frances McMaster Jeffrey Parsons speak of the recent increased efforts to enforce Rio sector of the Border Patrol, In recent years, more and more smugglers try to avoid trouble. The flow has now increased in the Kin-

Council agrees not to fill vacancy until May

The Brackettville City Council declined to fill the seat left vacant by Charles Bushart Tuesday night at their regular monthly meeting. Alvin Stocks Construction Company's low bid of \$77,160 was under the \$87,200 allotted in the budget.

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# Rotary Youth Leadership award conference



Ann Hibler, left, was crowned Preceptor Theta Sigma's Sweetheart and Barbara Miller was crowned Beta Epsilon Omicron's Sweetheart.

## Sorority Valentine Dinner

Preceptor Theta Sigma and Beta Epsilon Omicron, chapters of Beta Sigma Phi, met for a Valentines Dinner at the Texas Rose restaurant, Del Rio, on Friday evening Feb. 14th at 5:30 p.m. The dining room was beautifully decorated by members of the Sororities. After a delicious dinner of chicken and brisket and all the trimmings, a short program was held. Presidents Nancy Frerich and Dee Curry gave the opening remarks. Lynn McNew sang "My Funny Valentine" and Flo Stafford read a sweetheart poem.

Preceptor Theta Sigma's 1996 Sweetheart Luella Gilliland crowned their new Sweetheart, Ann Hibler, while Beta Epsilon Omicron's 1996 Sweetheart, Barbara Miller, crowned their sweetheart, Betty Mathison. Gifts were presented to the new Sweethearts and se-

cret sister gifts were exchanged.

Attending the event from Fort Clark Springs, were the following- Jan and Carl Chism, Nancy and Tony Frerich, Luella and Dwite Gilliland, Lou and Carl Green, Ann and Guy Hibler, Betty Inman, Doraline and Ken Keller, Gaye and Roger Kurz, Clara and Alan McCord, Pat and Clem McKelvey, Alicia and Gil Raymer, Molly Schroeder, Mylo and Dale Unruh, Bobbie and Pack Waddill, Ruby and Frank Cheaney, Dee and Ken Curry, Dorothy and John Frank, Opal and Larry Groce, Hazel and Gerald Ivey, Betty and Gordon Mathison, Pam and Pat Melancon, Barbara and Bob Miller, Lynn and Tom McNew, Helen and Howard Peck, Flo and James Stafford, Evelyn Whitely and P.M. Moore. Guests were Jean and Bob Slate, Betty and Vern Ebert and Lavena Clark.

By Frances McMaster  
Contributing writer

John Ford, the Vice President of Brackettville Rotary, presided on Thursday the 13th of February temporarily replacing Mr. Mike Holley who was recovering from an unexpected surgery. The program featured Rotary's efforts to develop effective leadership among young people. Superintendent of schools Taylor Stephenson presented two students who recently attended meetings out of town. Miss Katie Hagler, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Rick Hagler represented Brackettville in San Antonio at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA) program. Through RYLA, young people from ages 14 to 30 participated in workshops focused on leadership and professional development.

Miss Hagler reported on her experience emphasizing not only what she had been taught, but the intangible rewards of interacting with students from different areas. She appreciated the opportunity to see things from a different perspective which she felt had broadened

her outlook on life.

Caleb Crumley, son of Mr. and Mrs. James Crumley, recently participated in a meeting sponsored by the Rotary International Congress. Some of these meetings were held in Eagle Pass and some in Piedras Negras. The program was designed to foster better understanding between nations with an eye on developing informed future leadership.

Caleb echoed Miss Hagler's comments. He felt that meeting students with diverse backgrounds and experiences was particularly meaningful to him. He realized that coming from a small town is limiting in some ways, but the positive aspects stood out in his mind. He reported that students from some larger schools talked of having halls patrolled by security guards to protect against violence.

Both students thanked Rotary for the opportunity to attend these conferences and having a chance to discuss common concerns with other young people and to learn from the program presenters.

These programs encourage



Caleb Crumley high school junior, Mrs Susan Harrison high school counselor, Katie Hagler high school junior.

youngsters to plan and dream of the future and the contribution they will make through informed leadership.

Once the students had spoken, high school counselor, Mrs. Susan Harrison reported on some new courses available at the high school which she is coordinating. They are available for students to take on their own

for advanced placement when they enter college. There are dual credit courses in Trigonometry and English. Plans for expansion of this program exist for next year with Social Studies and Science to be added. At present six courses are available, and a student completing these can begin college with 24 to 30 hours credit already earned.

## Robinson to speak Saturday

Charles M. Robinson III of San Benito will speak Saturday at the monthly meeting of the Fort Clark Historical Society at 10 a.m. at the Palisado Building on Fort Clark Springs.

Robinson holds degrees from St. Edward's University and University of Texas-Pan American and is the author of several books on the Old West, including "Frontier Forts of Texas," "The Court Martial of Lieutenant Henry Flipper," "The Buffalo Hunters," and "Bad Hand: A Biography of General Ranald S. Mackenzie."

Two other books, "Shark of the Confederacy: The Story of the CSS Alabama," and "A Good Year to Die: The Story of the Great Sioux War," published by Random House, were Military Book Club selections.

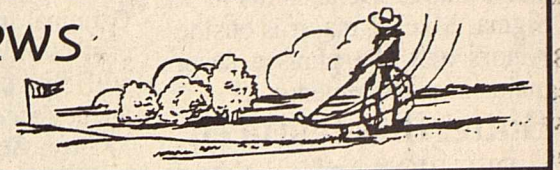
Robinson, who is an adjunct instructor in history at South Texas Community College in Weslaco, has been a frequent

contributor to various publications, and has been a professional consultant for municipal historical projects, as well as for the Southwest Museum Associates of Houston. He is currently completing a book on the combined Army-Navy assault on Fort Fisher, North Carolina in 1865, a history of the Texas Rangers, and has signed a contract to do a biography of Brigadier General George Crook.

Robinson will talk on Ranald S. Mackenzie, one of Fort Clark's most colorful commanders during the Indian Wars of the 1870s. Copies of his biography on Mackenzie, as well as some of his other books, will be available for sale.

The meeting is open at no charge to all Fort Clark Springs members. Non-members who wish to attend should call Ben Pingnot at 563-2195 or Tom Collins at 563-9947 to arrange gate admittance.

## Golf News



The Ladies Golf Association of Fort Clark Springs held its election of officers Feb. 11.

The following slate of officers was presented and accepted by the members. Winter Texan Chairman, Joyce Williamson; Summer Chairman, Mary Stephenson; Secretary, Barbara Miller; Treasurer, Pat McKelvey; Social Committee, Lorraine Lundquist and Betty Mathison.

Volunteers for the following committee's are: Publicity, Barbara Miller; Telephone, Betty Mathison and Pat Nelson.

Plans for the Ladies Club Championship March 3-4 and the Ladies Spring Fling March 24-25 were discussed.

Because of the inclement weather, there was no organized play but several "hardy" ladies did go out and play a few holes.

The End of the Month Scramble was held on Jan. 31 at the Fort Clark Springs Golf Course.

First place team with a net score of 61 was Lou Green, Tom Faulkenberry, Carl Jensen and G.B. Armstrong.

Second place was a three-way tie with a net score of 63 with Julian Garza, Carl Green, Carol Benefield and Jeanette Hinton; Carl Garza, George Clark, Harold Kaufman and Frank Eckenroth; and Blake Hinton, Roger Stevens, Pat McKelvey and Kathy Jensen.

The Fort Clark Men's Golf Association has scheduled a cross country scramble on Monday at 1 p.m. at the golf course.

All men's club members are encouraged to sign up for the scramble and to invite their best date to the social to follow.

## BISD Cafeteria Menu

Parents welcome to join their children at breakfast or lunch There are 19 school days in the month of February. Elementary @ \$1.10 = \$20.90. Middle and High School @ \$1.25 = \$23.75. Milk served with all meals. Salad Bar everyday. B line everyday.

Breakfast Menu	Lunch Menu
<b>Friday, February 21</b> Sweet Roll Fruit or Fruit Juice	<b>Friday, February 21</b> Macaroni & Cheese Steamed Broccoli/Fresh Fruit Whole Wheat Roll
<b>Monday, February 24</b> Tiger Toast Fruit or Fruit Juice	<b>Monday, February 24</b> Corn Dog/Tater Tots Veggie Salad/Fruit
<b>Tuesday, February 25</b> Potatoe & Egg Taquitos Picante Fruit or Fruit Juice	<b>Tuesday, February 25</b> Oven Baked Chicken Whipped Potatoes/White Cream Gravy Choice of Vegetable/Whole Wheat Roll
<b>Wednesday, February 26</b> Pancakes/Syrup Fruit or Fruit Juice	<b>Wednesday, February 26</b> Hamburger/Burger Salad Oven Fries/Whipped Jello
<b>Thursday, February 27</b> Pumpkin Bread Fruit or Fruit Juice	<b>Thursday, February 27</b> Enchiladas/Spanish Rice Pinto Beans/Sweet Potato Cake

**But, I could be wrong**  
By Chuck Hall

**A friend for life**  
Every time I attend a funeral, I am saddened. Not so much that a person has passed away, because I believe there is a reward waiting us in heaven, but that a friend has departed. Departed from among us. I always wonder if I have been the kind of friend I should have been. Have I done all that I could to help ease the suffering of the one now gone in his every day struggles of life? Did I take every opportunity to show Christian compassion? In this tussle and bustle world, the answer is all to often no. Now is a good time to call someone still here and share feelings of kindness and joy. Don't wait until he or she is gone. Do it today! As I meditate on the loss of friends this week, I hope I did my part. I hope they left this world considering me their friend. But I could be wrong.

## Bridge Anyone

The Duplicate Bridge Club met February 11, 1997 with 8 tables playing the Mitchell Movement.  
The winners in the north to south direction were Mac and Marie McCandless in 1st. place. Flo Stafford and Tina Baugues in 2nd place. Walt Geeze and Bob Barnett in 3rd place.  
The winners in the east to west direction were Milo Unruh and Peg Woolston in 1st. place. Mary Edgar and Diane Daniels in 2nd place. Alice Seargeant and Joyce Bell in 3rd.

**Smoke From Nakai**  
By Nakai Breen

**Local 'HAMS' establish regular meetings**  
By 'WD4ROE' Gil Raymer  
Contributing writer  
Local amateur radio operators (HAMS) from Fort Clark Springs and Brackettville met for coffee and social conversation Thursday Feb. 13th at the Burger and Shake.  
There were ten radio operators in attendance.  
The States of KY, SC, TX, NE, WI and MN were represented at the meeting.

**ForPete's Sake**  
George's seven year old grandson was enjoying all the games at a children's party until they decided to play hide and seek.  
Little George was "it" and dutifully put his hands over his eyes and began to count to the required hundred.  
But he soon stopped and began to sigh deeply, and at last sob.  
"Why, George, what's wrong?" the concerned hostess asked.  
"I've got a REAL problem," George replied. "They told me to count to a hundred, and I can't remember what comes after sixteen!"  
The drive-in was advertising a special on milk shakes, and I offered to treat my wife.  
Knowing her preference in flavors matched mine, I drove up to the speaker box and rolled down the car window.  
"May I take your order, please?" the voice asked.  
"Two chocolate shakes, please," I ordered.  
"Yes sir," came the reply. "And what flavor would you like them?"  
"Chocolate," I answered.  
■ **Editor's Note:** If you enjoy these stories and comments, send for a free sample of Post Story Book. Write Pete, Box 712, Kingsport, TN 37662.

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BRACKETT NEWS PHOTO BY J.J. GUIDRY

Courtney Harrison closed Tuesday's game on the mound for Brackett as the Tigerettes topped the Hondo Lady Owls 15-6.

## Brackett routs Hondo 15-6 in season opener

Patty Lopez pitched a one-hitter Tuesday to lead the Brackett Tigerettes to a 15-6 win over the Hondo Lady Owls in softball action.

It was the season opener for the Tigerettes, who will compete in the Natalia Invitational Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

Lopez went 3 1/3 innings for Brackett. She gave up two earned runs on one hit, while walking eight batters and fanning two.

Harrison relieved Lopez and pitched 2/3 of an inning. She walked one batter.

The Lady Owls jumped out to a 3-0 lead in the top of the first inning, but the Tigerettes responded with three runs in the bottom half of the inning to tie the score.

Brackett then rallied for five runs in the second inning and seven in the third to take a commanding 15-3 advantage.

Lopez led the Tigerettes' offensive attack, going 2 for 4, scoring three runs and driving in four more.

Harrison, Amy Bader, Lindy La Mascus, Hilda Aguirre and JoLee Jones also had hits for Brackett.

Bader scored three runs in the contest, Harrison and La Mascus had two apiece, and Aguirre, Melissa Terrazas, Jessica Payne, Zandra Negrete and La Toya Wright all scored one.

Harrison, La Mascus and Stephanie Terrazas all drove in two runs apiece, while Bader, Jones, Payne and Wright each had one RBI.

# Tigers open baseball season with doubleheader at Uvalde

The Brackett Tigers will open the 1997 baseball season Saturday as they travel to Uvalde to battle the Coyotes' junior varsity in a doubleheader. The action begins at 1.

The Tigers, coached by Gary Grubbs and Ricky Creel, are coming off of a 21-7 season. Brackett won the district championship last year and claimed the school's first-ever playoff victory.

Leading the Tigers into the season are all-state selections Ramon De Leon and Jorge Rodriguez. De Leon (16-2, 1.27 ERA, .371) is a senior pitcher and Rodriguez (.444) is a junior third baseman.

Other returning starters for Brackett are senior outfielder Beau Smallwood (.354), senior designated hitter Butch Lopez (.378), senior catcher Patrick Munoz (.367), junior outfielder J. Wayne Ballew (.275), and junior pitcher-outfielder Michael Meyer (3-3, 2.33 ERA, .300).

De Leon, Rodriguez and Smallwood were first team all-district selections last season, Meyer was a second team pick, and Lopez, Munoz and Ballew



BRACKETT NEWS PHOTO BY J.J. GUIDRY

Brackett baseball coach Gary Grubbs talks to his players Wednesday at practice. The Tigers will open their 1997 season Saturday at Uvalde with a doubleheader against the Coyotes' J.V.

earned honorable mention.

Expected to move into the starting lineup this season is senior outfielder Moses Hernandez (.515), who made the all-district team as a sophomore.

Other returning lettermen for the Tigers are junior outfielder Demetrius Williams, sophomore catcher Wes Baker, sophomore outfielder Luis Rivas, and sophomore first baseman Jacob Mann.

Top newcomers include sophomore second baseman Matthew Smallwood, freshman outfielder Tommy Sandoval, freshman pitcher Zack Davis, and freshman third baseman Coty Williams.

## Guidry named regional sports writer of the year

Brackett News Editor J.J. Guidry has been named the Texas High School Coaches Association's Region VIII nominee for Texas Sports Writer of the Year.

The coaches elected Guidry, 23, at the THSCA regional meeting in Austin earlier this month. He was nominated by Roy Rokovich, Brackett High School's athletic director and head football coach.

"This is a great honor for J.J. and he is well deserving of the nomination," Rokovich said. "He has done an outstanding job of covering not only our athletic program here in Brackettville, but throughout the region."

Guidry compiled the first-ever All-Southwest Texas Area

baseball and softball teams last spring, and served as chairman for the All-SWTA football team last fall. He is also a chairman for the Texas Sports Writers Association's All-State softball team.

Prior to being named editor at The Brackett News, Guidry was the sports editor at The Del Rio News-Herald and The Devine News.

Guidry, a 1991 graduate of Brackett High School, began writing while in school, covering local sports in The Brackett News and The Kinney Calvaryman.

The Texas Sports Writer of the Year award will be presented at the THSCA's annual coaching school in late July.

## Bobcats ruin Tigers' playoff hopes

Comfort ended Brackett's hopes of a playoff berth as the Bobcats defeated the Tigers 53-40 Friday night.

The Bobcats, 19-11 overall, won the District 30-2A title with a 9-1 league mark. The Tigers finish their campaign with a 19-10 mark. Brackett was third in the conference with a 6-4 mark.

Moses Hernandez hit a pair of free throws with 3:39 remaining as the Tigers pulled within nine at 46-37, but Comfort put together a 9-1 spurt to put the game away.

Micah Lindner hit a free throw with 1:10 left to give the Bobcats a commanding 53-38 lead, their biggest of the contest.

Comfort was up 26-21 at the half, and then opened the third

quarter with an 8-1 run. Jimmy Bruns' turn-around jumper at the 4:23 mark put the Bobcats up 34-22.

Bruns led Comfort with a game-high 25 points. Phillip Seidensticker had 10.

The Tigers led 19-18 after the opening stanza, but Comfort outscored Brackett 8-2 in the second quarter for a 26-21 lead at the break.

Hernandez paced the Tigers' scoring attack with 16 points. Ramon De Leon also finished in double digits, scoring 11.

Luis Guajardo had five points, Rene Luna scored four, Beau Smallwood had three, and Demetrius Williams made a free throw.



First Row from left- Allison J. LaMascus, Divina Pena, Philip Munoz and Chase Cole Neuman. Back Row Manuel Pena, Coordinator, Joe Goebel, Grand Knight, Grover Neuman, Helper.

## Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest Winners

By Agapito Sanchez  
Contributing Writer

The Knights of Columbus of Council 8223 of Brackettville held their annual Knights of Columbus Free Throw Championship contest on Feb. 13, 1997 at the local gym.

A good number of participants turned out for the event. Ages are from 10 yrs. - 14 yrs.

Of all the contestants seven of them advanced to participate on the District competition. They

were as follows:

"Girls" 10 - Divina Pena, 11- Allison J. LaMascus, 12- Michelle Bizzell, 13- April Crumley. "Boys" 11-Philip Munoz, 13- Chase C. Neuman, 14- Tannen Jobe.

The above winners will compete in the District contest on Saturday Feb. 22 at 9:00 a.m. District winners will advance to regional to take place in March, then perhaps to state in Austin.

Many thanks to all that made it possible.



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Bud Breen, cowboy, ranch foreman, western movie actor, then artist has been painting pictures that capture the beauty of the open country and ranch life that he loves so well. Born in Eagle Pass, Texas, Bud grew up on the ranches of Southwest Texas. Bud's Brackettville home is his studio, the kitchen table is his easel and his experiences are his inspiration.

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Buffalo Soldiers curriculum offered to teachers for Black History Month

By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

AUSTIN- The history of the 19th century Buffalo Soldiers has been making its way into classrooms across the state through living history re-enactors, and now a Buffalo Soldiers video and teaching guide are available to teachers in time for Black History Month.

tion in a way many history books cannot.

"What we are doing is taking the legacy of the Buffalo Soldiers into the cities and into the schools," explains Pollard, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) community outreach coordinator.

The re-enactors, employees spend much of their time traveling across the state presenting their program at churches, state

parks, universities, military bases, Texas Department of Juvenile Justice centers and other special events.

In 1996, Buffalo Soldiers re-enactors visited more than 50 schools, reaching approximately 42,000 students.

Word of mouth has caught up with Pollard and the numerous requests for his presentation has prompted Texas Parks and Wildlife Department employees to produce a video and teaching guide for teachers to use in their classrooms.

The Buffalo Soldiers classroom

video was broadcast over the Texas Educational Agency's TSTAR satellite network on January 15, 1997, as a segment of the "Explore Texas" series.

For those who missed the broadcast, the Buffalo Soldiers teaching package is available from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department for approximately \$15.

The package includes the video and a curriculum guide. Buffalo Soldier uniforms and a set of historic photos are also available for classroom use on a loan-basis.

In 1866, Congress passed legislation authorizing the formation

of six regiments of black soldiers, many of whom were former slaves.

These soldiers have come to be known as Buffalo Soldiers. TPWD's Buffalo Soldiers classroom program focuses on the Indian Wars period of Buffalo Soldiers history.

Topics include: formation of the United States colored regiments, general history of the 9th calvary and 24th infantry, duty on the western frontier and contributions made by pioneers during the 1800s.

terial before presenting it to their students," explained Pollard. "We're not calling them heroes or focusing on their accomplishments in battle, but rather for what they accomplished for themselves and their self esteem."

Students seem to really appreciate and respond to the hands on program, added Pollard. "They enjoy coming up to touch and feel the artifacts that are part of the presentation. The girls enjoy the focus on the frontier women. There is an educational focus, but in the setting of living history they don't necessarily see it coming."

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Super Crossword

- ACROSS 1 Robber follower? 6 Very elegant 10 Street urchin 14 Unexpected defeat 19 Greek market place 20 Singer Guitie 21 It's good for what ails you 22 Deplorably shabby 23 He wrote "Humboldt's Gift" 25 He's noted for "The Caine Mutiny" 27 Scene of the crime 28 Worldwide 30 Name in high fashion 31 Central point 32 Shot or step starter 33 Secluded valley 34 Capitol VIP 36 Capital of Yemen 38 Footlike organ 39 One-armed bandit feature 40 Calculating snake? 42 Hawaiian goose 44 She wrote "Sense and Sensibility" 47 Printed on a document 49 He wrote "The Sea Wolf" 53 Show to be untrue 54 -- morgana (a mirage) 55 TV role for young Ron 57 Town written of by 116 58 Apple-growing chemical 59 Perry's Mason's workload 60 Quantities of paper 62 Shoshonean Indians 63 Movie locale 64 Police officer's collar? 65 Author of "Advice and Consent" 67 Hebrew lya 68 Disappointed man 69 He wrote "Oliver's Story" 75 Actress Hubley 78 Spanish gold 81 Diplomat's need 82 Skier's terrain 83 Apportion 84 Edge 85 Legendary king of Thebes 87 Tree snake 88 Bearing 89 A thick liqueur 90 He created "Uncle Remus" 92 Deprives of rights 94 He wrote "The Executioner's Song" 95 Fire or ball starter 97 River of Hades 98 "White --" (novel by 49 Across) 99 Queen of the fairies 102 Small place 104 Engineer's org. 105 -- precedent 106 Menu phrase 109 -- in one's bonnet 111 Equipment 113 Ladder rungs 115 Wine vessels 116 He wrote "The Call" 119 Co-author of "Guys and Dolls" 121 Egg-shaped 122 Italian noble house 123 Stir up 124 Harmonize 125 Make strong again 128 Coloring agents 127 English sand hill 128 "Whither thou ..." DOWN 1 Kind of voice or singer 2 Once more 3 Numbered highway 4 Band on a shield 5 Seize roughly 6 Potter's tool 7 Synthetic fiber 8 Undesirable roommate 9 He wrote "The Immigrants" 10 Bonn exclamation 11 Regretted 12 "Mrs. -- Goes to Paris" 13 Deplore 14 Decorative vase 15 Chess piece 16 Small porch 17 Musical study 18 Small children 24 King of Moab 26 Synthetic fiber 29 Spartan queen 33 Merriment 35 An original member of the SEC 37 Wild ox 39 Recipe direction 40 Pays to play 41 Drive off 43 Put up with 44 Desert garments 45 African river 46 Venetian rights 47 Alluviate 48 Clock face 50 Malay chief 51 Unique person 52 Overly inquisitive 54 He wrote the "Studs Lonigan" trilogy 56 He wrote "The Conductor of Life" 59 Celtic or Maltese 61 Snub haughtily 64 Wood for baseball bats 66 Press for payment 67 Members of the cast 69 Engrave, in a way 70 -- cake 71 Cavi 72 "Let the -- Times Roll" 73 Fool's month? 74 Whitman's -- of Grass" 75 He wrote "True West" 76 Typewriter type 77 Pub pints 78 City on the Oka 79 Hoarfrost 80 Hebrew measure 84 Ship's prison 86 Pinches 89 Miracle city 91 Burn slightly 93 Airport listings: abbr. 94 Island in Taiwan Strait 96 Placed in 98 Easily broken 99 TV's "Dad" 100 Higher in power 101 He wrote "Borstal Boy" 103 French economist and politician 105 Year purchase 106 Love, to Luigi 107 Noted penologist 108 Valuable possession 110 Grafted, in heraldry 112 Network 114 Double-reed woodwind 115 Jason's ship 117 Cut with an ax 118 "Certainly!" 120 Scott Joplin creation

MagicMaze

BICYCLE RACING DWURPNKIGDBZXVS QOMKIGEECMAYWUH KSQPNLJCNHFEEESCIPMYLOAISXLSAYEAXVELODROMELCVUVRSHQAAEEBPAYNMKOTJOEHTEGFICECBALRGZSIYPARLXVIUFGTNIRPSSTITRRFOPOMLCKINGS TEOECNARFEDRUOT Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally. Criterion: Cyclist Gears Helmets Off-road Gears Sprint Stage race Olympics Tour de France Speed Trials Triathlon Velodrome

Natasha's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Get out and visit those friends you haven't seen in a while. You're at your best presenting new ideas. However, some find themselves dealing with evasive types who are less than open. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a great week for meetings with bankers and with real estate professionals if you're looking for a change in residence. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Couples should try to spend some quality time together this week, even if you need to take a day off to do so. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You make an early start this week to get a jump on the competition which has been breathing down your neck of late. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Parents should seek out teachers and set up meetings this week. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Early in the week, career developments are positive. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The research you do on an investment concern leads you to correct conclusions. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You and your significant other are in sync. CAPRICORN (December 22 to November 21) Leisure interests are highlighted this week. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're intrigued by a fascinating cultural interest this week. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Leisure interests are highlighted this week. HOROSCOPE: ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Get out and visit those friends you haven't seen in a while. You're at your best presenting new ideas. However, some find themselves dealing with evasive types who are less than open. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a great week for meetings with bankers and with real estate professionals if you're looking for a change in residence. Career interests go well generally. This weekend, avoid spending too much money on frivolous pursuits. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Couples should try to spend some quality time together this week, even if you need to take a day off to do so. Some soul-searching is in order. You've been a bit inflexible with certain people and overly critical of others. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You make an early start this week to get a jump on the competition which has been breathing down your neck of late. Keep your eyes open for new opportunities. Use discretion if discussing financial matters with an overly talkative friend. LEO (July 23 to August 22) You need some time alone this week to mull over personal concerns. This downtime leads to new insights and conclusions. Later in the week, it's a good time for shopping and gadding about. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Parents should seek out teachers and set up meetings this week. Partners are in sync, but you're bogged down with niggling details at work. Don't get caught up with inconsequential matters this weekend. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Early in the week, career developments are positive. Later in the week, you're running into a few obstacles to your progress. Special attention should be paid to details, especially when tending to domestic chores this weekend. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Leisure interests are highlighted this week. Some take up a new hobby, while others meet with an exciting romantic possibility. Over the weekend, while out and about, avoid spending too much money. CAPRICORN (December 22 to November 21) Leisure interests are highlighted this week. Some take up a new hobby, while others meet with an exciting romantic possibility. Over the weekend, while out and about, avoid spending too much money. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The research you do on an investment concern leads you to correct conclusions. Behind-the-scenes moves are best in business as you execute a low profile. Guard your tongue over the weekend. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You and your significant other are in sync. On the social scene this week, it's a mixture of highs and lows. Friends disagree over where to go and what to do. ©1997 by King Features Synd.



HOCUS-FOCUS

Two panels of a cartoon showing a boy and a girl. The boy is holding a bouquet of flowers. The girl is looking at him. FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS. Differences: 1. Roof panel is smaller. 2. Shirt is missing. 3. Door knocker is missing. 4. Locker is missing. 5. Flowers are moved. 6. Headline is different.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Table listing birthdays for February 20-24. Names include Henry Yeackle, Ricky Sandoval, Lester Meredith, Francisco Arellano, Joe Allen, David Melancon, F.B. Stanley, Lorraine Coffin, Jack Brewster, Jack Phillips, Oscar Sierra Jr., Cassandra Mata, Arnold Pinales Jr., Heather Martin, Ruth Young, and Elaine Crane.



