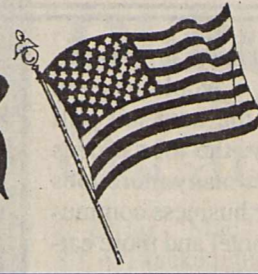


The Brackett News



J.J. Guidry leaves Brackett News
See story, Page 2

11th year, No. 11

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

County Commissioners hold special meeting; Peace Officer proposed for school

Tanya Kay McClure
STAFF WRITER

The Kinney County Commissioners Court held a special called meeting Tuesday morning to discuss several important items that were placed on the agenda.

One item that was presented by the Kinney County Sheriffs Department was the hiring of a certified Peace Officer for Brackett Independent School District.

At the current time the Kinney County Sheriffs Department and the school district are working hand and hand toward applying for a grant that would fund a Peace Officer for the school system.

The Peace Officer would work toward helping the school with its drug and alcohol problem.

This grant would fund the hiring of a full time Peace Officer. At the current time the paper-

work is still being filled out by the school and Sheriffs Department.

According to Sheriff, L.K. Buddy Burgess, the School Board is in agreement toward the hiring of a certified Peace Officer.

The County Commissioner Court was also in agreement of the project. Action will be taken on this item when needed in the future.

Also on the agenda was an update on the Pinto Creek Bridge Project.

According to Road Supervisor Clifford Fritter, the project was completed with no problems.

No action was taken on the opening of sealed bids for construction of certain County road improvements. The bids were returned during court session.

According to the Commissioners they were not satisfied with the way the bid proposal was set up and would like to have

it redone before bids would be opened.

The Commissioners stated that the bidders would be allowed to rebid at a later date, when the proposal was rewritten to meet their approval.

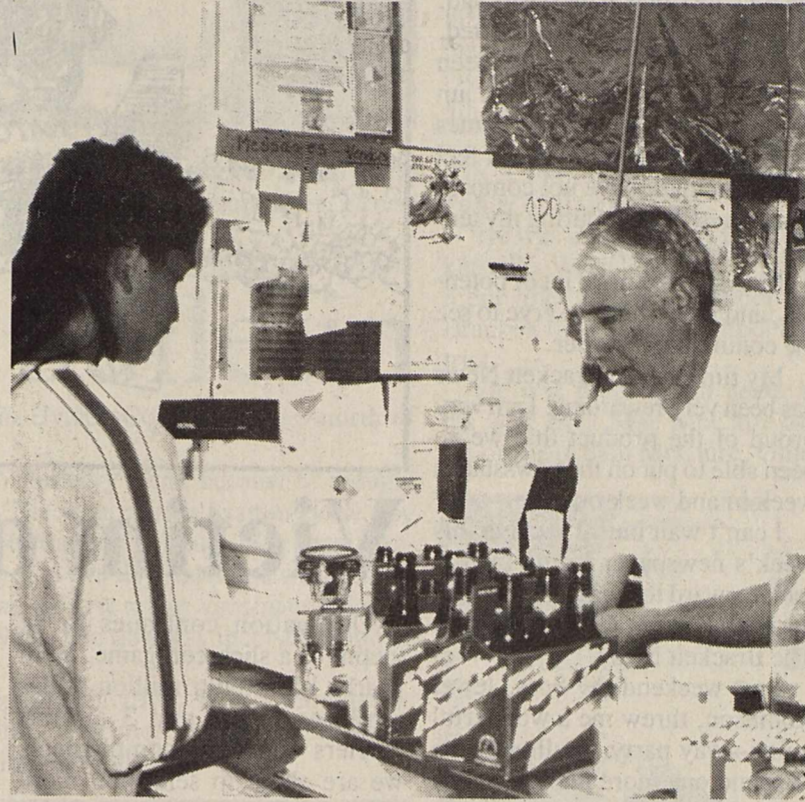
An update was also given on the proposed Detention Center for Kinney County by Mr. Herb Bristow, Kinney County Attorney.

According to Mr. Bristow the time delay on construction is due to trying to structure the facility as tax exempt to save the County money.

If the paperwork goes through on time and no other delays occur, construction would begin sometime in late June or early July.

At current time, the estimated cost of construction is \$15 million dollars.

The Kinney County Commissioners Court then recessed, reconvening for a budget workshop after lunch.



During the two hour power outage caused by a squirrel on Sunday, it was business as usual at Stop-in-Shop for Lingo Sandoval. Photo by Jewel Robinson

Briefs ...

City cleanup campaign to begin

On April 13, the Brackettville City Council approved the annual city cleanup campaign. It will run from May 3, thru July 20.

Every citizen of the community is urged to participate.

Please place all such refuse on alleyway easements or other accessible areas and call the city for pickup.

Special Olympics 5K Fun Run media event

Del Rio Sector Chief Patrol Agent Paul M. Berg will be on hand to start the Third Annual Border Patrol-sponsored 5K Fun Run in support of Texas Special Olympics. The run will begin at 9 a.m. Saturday, April 24th near the Border Patrol Air Operations Facility at the Del Rio International Airport. The Fun Run is open to the public.

Beta Epsilon Omicron Chapter

The March meeting of Beta Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi was hosted by Jan Peck. Members present were Dee Curry, Helen Peck, Betty Mathison, Pam Melancon, Marla Madrid, Cathy Conrey, Evelyn Whitely, Jan Peck, Hazel Ivey, Opal Grose, and Elizabeth Goebel. Plans were made to attend the Old Quarry Variety Show.

Texas Republic 74th annual pilgrimage

SAN ANTONIO--Children, Sons and Daughters of the Republic of Texas from all over the state met at the Municipal Auditorium to make the 74th Annual Pilgrimage to the Alamo on Monday, April 19.

Representing the Caddell-Smith DRT chapter were Hawkins Huey, Pat McKelvy and Agnes Vondy from Brackettville.

Brackett I.S.D. holds early election voting

Early voting by personal appearance, for the election to fill two expiring three-year terms, will end on Tuesday, April 27th, at 4 p.m. Early voting is being conducted each weekday at the Central Office, 400 Ann Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

The BISD Trustee election is scheduled for Saturday, May 1, in the Central Office of BISD, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, Tx. Polls will open early at 7 a.m. and close promptly at 7 p.m.

New vocational classes to be offered at School

Tanya Kay McClure
STAFF WRITER

The Brackett Independent School District held its monthly school board meeting last week.

The latest available drug survey on students at BISD in grades 4-12 was reviewed by the board. The survey indicated that the young people of Brackett, in grades 4-6 and 7-12 have about the same percentage of tobacco, alcohol and other drug usage as the average of all Texas students.

The Board approved a cooperative grant with the sheriff's department to identify and focus on the problems of youth in Kinney County. The Board also decided that no student should ever be allowed to attend school if any staff member knows that the student is under the influence of alcohol or drugs.

Don Sims reviewed a proposal of new vocational courses to be offered at BHS for the 1999-2000 school year.

The new vocational classes may include carpentry, auto mechanics and horticulture classes. This is only a proposal and no decision has been made.

Additional details will be brought to the meeting.

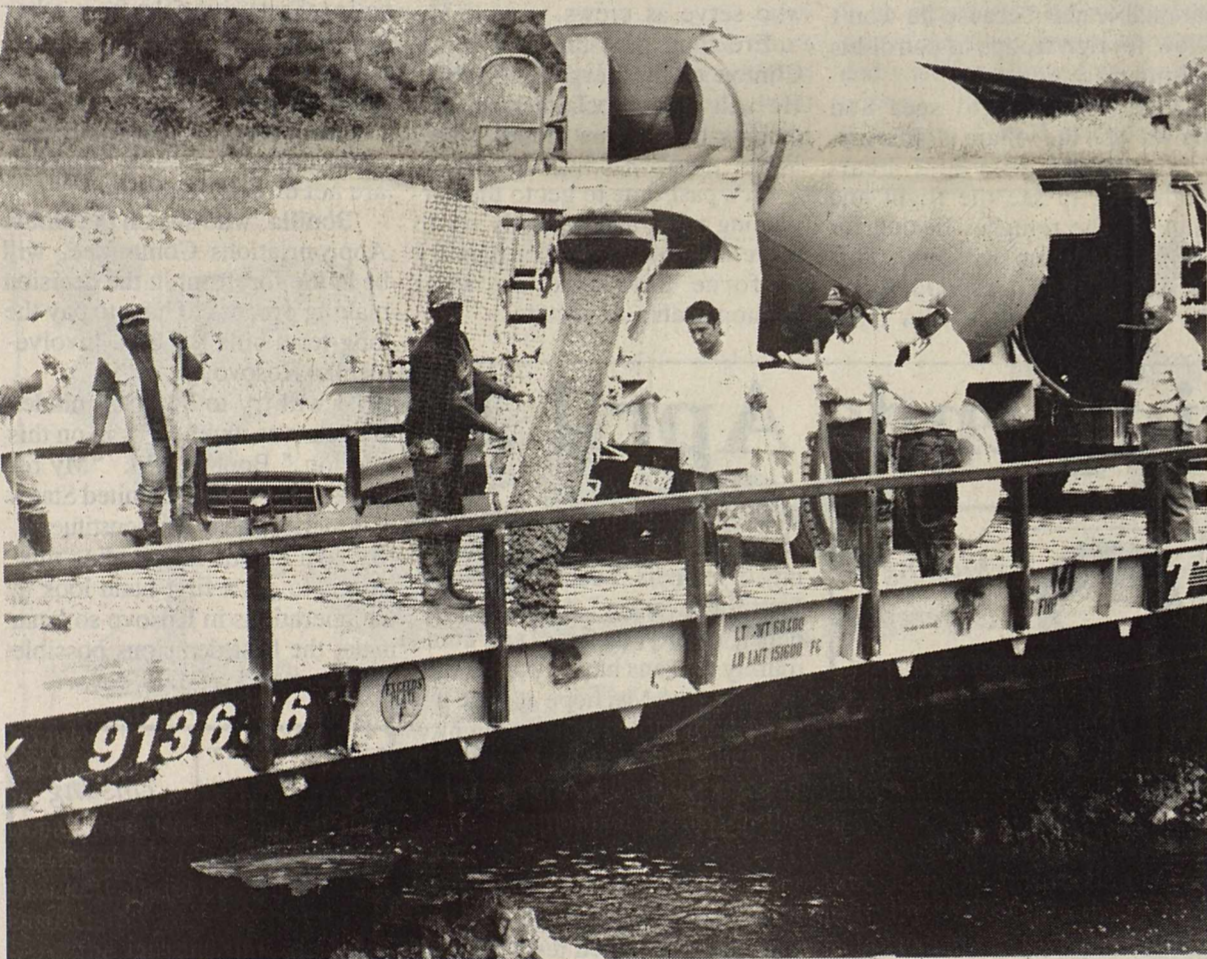
The Board advised Principal Don Sims that the senior trip should be taken on Thursday and Friday of graduation week. They also advised Sims that the rose ceremony was much too

long and they asked that it be limited to the reading and giving of four roses during the ceremony. All names will be listed on the program and the remaining roses will be given after the graduation ceremony is over.

Elective credits for BHS and Brackett Middle School for the 1999-2000 school year were approved. The only major change was for students who take geometry - only one math period will be required. If students who take geometry have a history of poor TAAS scores, a TAAS Remediation class will be required.

Taylor Stephenson reported that the school district had won its tax appeal with the state property tax division. This will save the school district \$116,000 for the next fiscal year. Stephenson credited Dixie Brown for much of the work and research on the project. Joyce Fuentes was also helpful in guiding them through tax records and in providing documentation for the appeal. This was a major win for the school district.

The Board approved the sale of two in trust lots. Taxes have not been paid on these lots in many years. The lots are jointly owned by all of the taxing entities of Kinney County: City, County and School. If approved by all entities, back taxes will be paid and the lots will once again start producing tax revenues.



Kinney County Commissioner, Freddie Frerich, (right) of Precinct 1, pictured above watching as the county employees pour cement this past Friday at the Pinto Creek Bridge crossing. This was the final step toward the completion of the Pinto Creek project on Standart Lane which has been ongoing since 1998.

Brackett News Photo by Tanya Kay McClure

Enforcement officers hold pistol shoot

The Del Rio Law Enforcement Officer's Association held its 16th Annual Pistol Shoot on Saturday, April 10. The Shoot brings together law enforcement officers from many different agencies to gather and compete in a spirit of goodwill and friendship.

The Top Gun award went to David Moody, from the U.S. Border Patrol's Brackettville Station. Moody shot a superb score of 580 (out of a possible 600), putting 21 of his rounds in the tiny "x ring" of the target. L.D. Whitton of the Texas Department of Public Safety in Del Rio was on Moody's heels, firing a 575 with 20 in the "x ring."

Moody teamed up with Scott Meehleib, another excellent shooter from the Border Patrol's Brackettville Station, to take home the Team Trophy for the second straight year. The two combined for a score of 1143 of a possible 1200. Second place

in the Team Category went to the Del Rio Office of the U.S. Marshal's Service. Ralph Mossman and Tommy Clark combined for a score of 1098.

The Shoot also has a category for spouses. This year's top shooter was Greg Germany with a score of 352 of a possible 420. Patricia Jones also had a fine round of shooting, turning in a score of 340 for second place.

The Expert Award went to Jose DeLuna of the U.S. Customs Service in Del Rio. The Sharpshooter Award went to Tommy Clark of the Marshal's Service. The Marksman Award was captured by Paul Hurley of the Del Rio Police Department.

In the "Popper Shoot," David Moody continued his day of fine shooting by winning both first and third place money. Clint House of the 47th Security Forces Squadron at Laughlin Air Force Base snagged the second place money.

This year's shoot included competitors from Border Patrol Stations in Brackettville, Del Rio, Eagle Pass, and Marfa, as well as shooters from the Del Rio Police Department, Val Verde County Sheriff's Department, Texas Department of Public Safety, 47th Security Forces Squadron, Customs Service, Marshal's Service, Immigration and Naturalization Service, National Park Service, and the FBI. In addition to the shooting, all participants were treated to another superb barbecue thanks to the Association's "camp cook," Greg Germany.

The Association reminds all area law enforcement professionals that membership in the group entitles you not only to participate in the shoot but to attend the annual Association barbecue. This year's event will be on May 21. For further details, call Warren Beitel, 775-1911.



David Moody (left) and Scott Meehleib of the U.S. Border Patrol's Brackettville Station with the top team trophy. Photo special to the Brackett News

INSIDE

Joe Townsend

It is certainly deplorable and heart wrenching to see the flight and plight of the refugees fleeing for their lives from Kosovo. Opinion/Page 2

J.J. Guidry leaves

My time at The Brackett News has been very rewarding. I am very proud of the product that we've been able to put out. Opinion/Page 2

Softball season ends

The defending District 30AA Tigerettes ended their softball season with a slate of 10 wins and 9 losses. Sports/Page 5

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Horseback Mail Run

The 150th anniversary of the San Antonio/El Paso Road will be marked with a special horseback mail run from Brackettville to Castroville on Saturday, May 1st.

The route will follow US Highway 90 until Hondo, when the route will follow the original road through New Fountain and Quihi into Castroville.

Starting at Brackettville at 8 a.m. riders from the Lardeo Trail Drive Association and the Guadalupe County Sheriff's Posse will ride eastward. Stops will include Cline, Uvalde, Knippa, Sabinal, D'Hanis, Hondo, New Fountain, Quihi and Landmark Inn State Park in Castroville. The riders are scheduled to arrive at approximately 5:30 p.m.

The US Post Office will have a special pictorial cancellation for the event offered at Brackettville, Uvalde, Knippa, Sabinal, D'Hanis, Hondo and Castroville. Special pictorial envelopes honoring the communities on the road will be available at Brackettville, D'Hanis, and Castroville.

Special events will take place along the road at several of the communities, including a swearing in ceremony and cowboy send off at Brackettville. The Uvalde High School Mariachi Band will greet the rider on the town

square around 11:30 a.m.

Sabinal will have a full day of activities as Lonesome Dove West Day commences at 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. The rider will arrive at 1:30 at the open lot just south of the post office. Call (830) 988-2010 for more details.

Hondo will host an old fashion May Day celebration from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. on the grounds of the Medina County Historical Museum, including wash toss, horse shoe, yo-yo, limbo, and hula hoop contests. In addition there will be soap making, horse shoe and blacksmithing demonstrations with food, drinks and live entertainment.

At Landmark Inn State Park in Castroville, site of the Monod/Vance Store Mail Stop, the grand finale will be at 5:30 p.m. Featured is the Zilker Conjunto Band, the only Alsatian, Conjunto, Western Swing Band in Texas. Admission is 50 cents for adults. Bring your own chairs or blankets. Call (830) 931-2133.

Approximate Arrival Times for Riders: Brackettville, 8:15 a.m.; Cline, 10 a.m.; Uvalde, 11:30 a.m.; Knippa, 12:30 p.m.; Sabinal, 1:30 p.m.; D'Hanis, 2:30 p.m.; Hondo, 3 p.m.; New Fountain, 3:40 p.m.; Quihi, 3:50 p.m.; Castroville, 5:30 p.m.



Super S Foods sponsored Easter coloring contest winner 1st grader Elidia Molinar, age 7, pictured with store manager, Ernest Contreras.

Rabies bulletin

Dog tests positive for rabies in Uvalde County, 6 miles north of Uvalde, off highway 55.

A man took his dog to Uvalde Veterinary Clinic because he thought it had a bone stuck in its throat. The veterinarian examined the dog and could not see or feel a bone in the dog's mouth. She then diagnosed it as having rabies. The dog died two days later and was submitted for rabies testing. The dog had its first rabies vaccination during the Rabies Drive on March 4, 1999. The dog was incubating rabies prior to the vaccination.

This is the twelfth case for region 8 in 1999. This is the 5th (1st dog) rabies case for Uvalde County. For more information, please contact Zoonosis Control in Uvalde, at (830) 278-7173.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Wednesday, April 14

1:30 p.m. A local woman called in to report that someone had stolen INS papers that belonged to her son. She said that the papers were stolen one year ago and that the Del Rio Border Patrol advised her to call the Sheriff's Department in Brackettville.

9:25 p.m. Smith Security reported a local Fort Clark Springs man was riding around on his golf cart with a rifle of some sort. Deputy Bobby Guidry spoke with the man who stated that the gun was only a B.B. gun used for snakes and such. Deputy Guidry confirmed that it was only a B.B. gun. The man stated that he would go home.

10:30 p.m. A unit was requested at the Cline Check point to transport a subject who was apprehended by the U.S. Border Patrol Agents who found marijuana in the vehicle. The subject was also wanted out of Austin on charges pending. The subject was transported to the Kinney County Sheriff's Department.

Thursday, April 15

Michael Woodard Clements, age 41, of Hondo was arrested for D.W.I.

8:45 a.m. A local man came into City Hall and complained about the junk cars behind a local wrecking service. Chief of Police Ron Ring spoke with the wreck-

ing service. The owner said that they were trying to dispose of the vehicles and that they would comply as soon as possible.

11:00 a.m. A local woman called in to report a possible vandalism and gasoline theft from a motor vehicle belonging to one of the tenants at the housing complex. Chief of Police Ring tried to talk to the lady but no one was home.

Friday, April 16

4:55 p.m. A local woman called in to report that her ex-husband was at the front gate of her ranch and was not allowed on the premises.

Ciriaco Lara Leyva, age 42, was arrested for DWI by Agent

Stewart and is being held on charges from Bexar County.

Saturday, April 17

4:45 p.m. A local woman called in concerning a pickup truck that was parked near her home and wanted it off her property. The owner of the truck was contacted by Chief of Police Ring. The owner stated that she was trying to find the keys to the truck and would move it as soon as she did.

11:56 p.m. A Spofford man called in to report livestock out on Farm Rd. 131. Stan Conoly ranch owner, was notified of the situation.

12:24 p.m. A Fort Clark man called in to report a lot of gun fire near his home. Deputy Guidry responded to the scene and found several kids playing with paint ball guns. Fort Clark Security was advised that there was no trouble.

Sunday, April 18

7:18 p.m. A Spofford man called in to report a house fire in the residential area of Spofford. The fire department was called out, EMS on standby.

9:05 p.m. A local woman requested a deputy at her residence. She stated that there was an individual who would not leave her home. Deputy Karl Chism was notified of the situation. Deputy Chism found that the subject had been treated by EMS for a cut on his hand and could not drive. The man was transported home.

12:50 p.m. Justice of the Peace John Ford called in to report that there was a power line down at five points.

Obituary

Oscar "Mac" McClure

Oscar "Mac" McClure, age 87, of Brackettville, died Monday, April 12 at La Vida Serena nursing home in Del Rio.

Oscar was born May 29, 1911, in El Campo, Tx., to John Thomas and Dora Peterson McClure. Oscar served in the U.S. Army, 5th Cavalry, Fort Clark.

He also served as Constable, City Councilman and Chief of Police of Brackettville.

He was a member of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department and a Peace Officer for Brackett Independent School District.

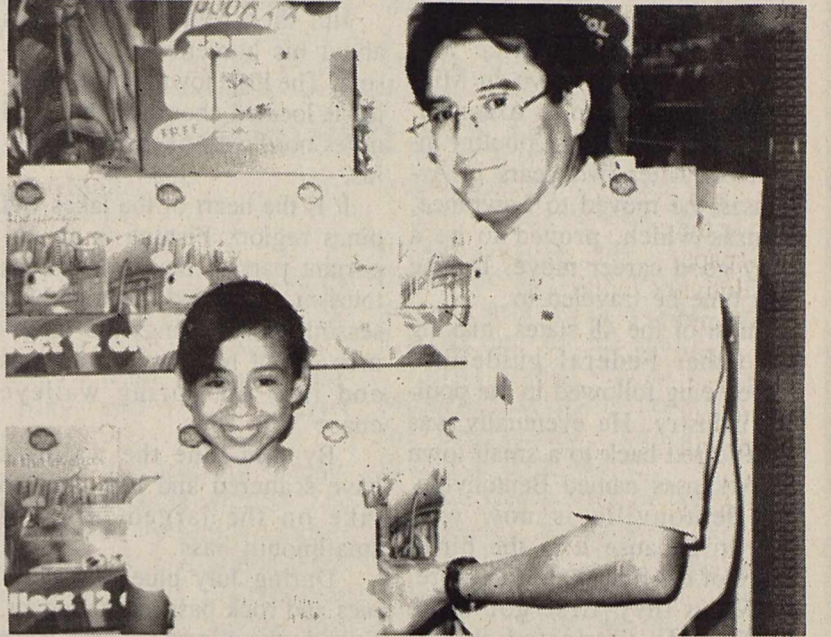
He was preceded in death by his wife Lola Mae McClure and his brothers Sam McClure, Gilley

McClure, Chester McClure, Johnny McClure, and his sister Nancy McClure.

Surviving are his six sons and one daughter, Alvin McClure and Johnny McClure of Brackettville, George McClure of Lampasas, Tx., Oscar McClure, Jr., of El Campo, Vernon Ray McClure, Andrew McClure of Wharton, Tx., and daughter Margaret McClure.

A memorial service will be held at 11 a.m., Saturday, April 24th, at St. Johns Missionary Church. Rev. William Adams will be officiating.

"He shall rest forever in eternal happiness in the kingdom of the Lord."



Super S Foods sponsored Easter coloring contest winners were: 2nd grade winner (above) Bianca Terrazas, age 7 and (below) 3rd grade winner Lane Nowlin, pictured with store manager, Ernest Contreras.



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Super Crossword

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for ACROSS, DOWN, and various word categories.

MAGIC MAZE

BOYS' NAMES STARTING WITH "W" - I H E B Y V S P M J H E W B Y - V T Q O L I W G D B Y A W T R - Find the listed words in the diagram.

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're unsure if the financial advice you've received is going to work for you. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The week turns out to be a mix of progress and setbacks.



HOCUS-FOCUS - HENRY BY BOLTIFF - Find at least six differences in details between panels. Includes two panels of a boy and a girl.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY - April 22.....Debra Bauntello - April 25.....Lynda Conrey - April 25.. Harold Kauffman

