

# The Brackett News



**Board to compensate Shahan as interim GM**  
See story, Page 3

14th year, No. 23

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## Briefs ...

### Water district has meeting scheduled with state officials

The Kinney County Underground Water Conservation District will hold a special meeting this afternoon at 1:15 at the Courthouse.

Personnel from the Texas Water Development Board will present briefings on management procedures and recharge of aquifers in Kinney County at the special meeting.

### Agents apprehend 79 in Brackettville

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents made 79 apprehensions in Brackettville during the period of July 1-7, officials announced.

There were 723 total apprehensions made in the Del Rio Sector, including 283 in Eagle Pass, 110 in Carrizo Springs, 75 in Del Rio, 53 in San Angelo, 47 in Uvalde, 30 in Comstock, 28 in Abilene, 14 in Rocksprings and four in Llano.

Agents in the Del Rio sector seized 829.2 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$663,360.

### Commodities to be distributed Monday

There will be commodities distributed at the St. John's Missionary Baptist Church at 116 W. Crockett St. on Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 3 to 5 p.m.

### Flores and Kincane win roping event

Richard Flores of Quemado and John Kincane of Brackettville took top honors at Roping for Christ, an annual event held at the Dust Bowl Arena in Kinney County.

Cory Floyd of Camp Verde and Tavi Vasquez of Del Rio took second-place honors in the roping competition, Heather Lopez of Devine and Ryan Redder of Utopia finished third, and Larry Jung of Quemado and Newell Stewart of Mount Home were fourth.

### Basketball camp begins on Monday

The 2002 Brackett Tiger basketball camp begins on Monday and continues through Friday. The camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the high school gym.



### Getting ready for a wedding

Kim Wilkins (from left) Jerry Williamson, Paige Wilkins and Jewel Robinson of the Texas Guns perform in "Married to a .45" during the Third Annual Gunfighters Competition Saturday at Alamo Village. The Texas Guns tied for Most Outstanding Performance with the South Texas Gunfighters of San Antonio. Robinson was named Most Talented Female and Williamson and Paige Wilkins were named Most Handsome and Most Beautiful in the competition. Other individual awards went to David Crowe, Best Actor; Celine Weidner, Best Actress; Ralph Murillo, Most Talented Male; Wayne Lehman, Most Comical Male; Peggy Fitzpatrick, Most Comical Female; James Ham, Most Authentic Male Dress; Patti Ham, Most Authentic Female Dress; and Duke Meek, Grubby Hat Award.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

## Rotary Club sponsors an exchange student from the Netherlands

The Brackettville Rotary Club will again participate in the Rotary Youth Exchange Program by sponsoring inbound student Maarten Vos from Driehuis, the Netherlands during the upcoming school year.

Vos, 17, will be the second international exchange student to attend Brackett High School. He will be arriving from Holland in less than four weeks.

The Rotary Club has many pre-arrival preparations to accomplish, including the recruiting, screening and selecting of host families. Two host families are recommended during the school year.

"This is another opportunity to make a difference in the life of a young man and allow him to experience life in an American community that cares," said Brackett Superintendent Taylor Stephenson, a Rotarian.



"Hosting a youth exchange student from another country is a challenge and an opportunity," said Bill Haenn, a local Rotarian. "Involvement with an exchange student challenges a host family to become familiar with another culture, while providing the opportunity to share a young student's hopes and ambitions. These challenges and opportunities promise to enrich the lives of every host family member."

The primary qualification to be a host family is a willingness to accept a young person from a different culture into your home and make them feel a part of your family.

During Vos' stay, the Rotary Club will work with the school,



Maarten Vos

provide him with a monthly allowance, have frequent counselor contact, and facilitate moves to new host families. For his part, Vos will have a role as ambassador for his village, his country, and his sponsoring Rotary Club. He will also participate in Rotary District Youth Exchange Program activities.

"This is an exciting opportunity for our fine school and community" Haenn added.

For a host family application, call Haenn at 563-2323 or 2010, or Stephenson at 563-2491.

## Board hears proposal for water study

By J.J. Guidry  
Staff Writer

Officials from the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District and the Native Valley Cooperative agree that accurate scientific data is needed for the county, but it remains to be seen if the two entities will work together for a study of the Pinto Valley's groundwater resources.

The Native Valley Cooperative — made up of water experts who are working with Kinney County landowners to convert water rights historically used for irrigation in Pinto Valley into municipal water supplies — has offered to pay for the study.

Lynn Sherman, a water attorney and a former executive manager of governmental af-

fairs for the Lower Colorado River Authority, represented the company last week during the groundwater conservation district's monthly meeting. He addressed the board's decision to adopt pumping limits last month based on recharge rates provided in a 1997 regional water plan released by the Texas Water Development Board.

Local officials have a special meeting today at 1:15 to discuss water issues with Randy Williams of the Texas Water Development Board.

Sherman urged the local leaders to ask Williams "whether or not any of the data that is being considered, including the '97 Water Plan or the 2002 Water Plan, are sufficient science to base rules upon."

■ See Water Board/Page 4

## City Council opposes budget for tax district

By J.J. Guidry  
Staff Writer

The Brackettville City Council voted against the Kinney County Appraisal District's proposed budget, which includes average salary increases of 25.8 percent for its three employees.

Council members Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez, Martha Ward McDonald and John Samaniego all voted in opposition of the proposed budget.

"I find it hard to accept a \$21,000 increase in salaries," Flores said. "Let's face it, in Kinney County and the city of Brackettville, we don't have high-paying salaries here. This is a great big increase."

The proposal includes an increase of \$18,034.22 in salaries and an increase of \$21,547 in total payroll, which includes salaries and benefits.

The raises include a

\$7,961.53 raise (25.1 percent) for the chief appraiser from \$31,776.47 to \$39,738; a \$5,988.31 raise (30.4 percent) for the bookkeeper/auditor from \$19,701.69 to \$25,690; and a \$4,084.38 raise (22.2 percent) for the clerk/research analyst from \$18,415.62 to \$22,500.

Garza said the amounts of the raises were "outrageous."

"This is a small town, and we're already paying too much in taxes," she said. "There are a lot of older people that live here and they can't afford it, and we just keep raising stuff and raising stuff. I just don't think that's fair."

The total budget increased 16.7 percent, from \$159,719 to \$186,448.20.

The other taxing entities will also have the opportunity to vote on the Appraisal District's budget before it is approved or disapproved.

## Officials interviewing applicants for road and bridge administrator

By J.J. Guidry  
Staff Writer

The Kinney County Commissioners Court began interviewing applicants Monday for the road and bridge administrator's position.

The position has been vacant since Cliff Fritter resigned last month.

The commissioners interviewed four applicants during an executive session of their regular meeting Monday afternoon. Three of the applicants are from Brackettville and the other is from Eagle Pass.

"The applicants we've interviewed thus far are some really good, quality people," County Judge Herb Senne said.

Officials are hoping to conduct more interviews during a special meeting Monday night at 6.

"We've had three other individuals that have picked up the applications, but we haven't interviewed them yet," Senne said. "What we will do between now and then to prompt those applications is to call those individuals and see if they will have

"The applicants we've interviewed thus far are some really good, quality people."

County Judge Herb Senne

those applications in our hands by this Friday."

Senne said the court may hire a new road and bridge administrator during the special meeting on Monday.

"We have advertised the position in a way that we can hire when we have found the applicant who is the applicant of our choice," he said. "In other words, we're taking applications until the time in which we make the selection."

"We certainly would like to have somebody in the position off and going as soon as possible. We need that third person, and most certainly he or she needs to be a supervisory-type person that can not only supervise people, but run the equipment and the machinery in a timely way and do a good job of that," the county judge added.



### KCLS tournament a success

Flip Talamantes (from left), Ray Pena, Keith Edwards and Norman Longoria took top honors in the Kinney County Livestock Show Board of Directors' first annual golf tournament, which was held on June 29 at the Fort Clark Springs Golf Club. The next KCLS Board of Directors sponsored event is on October 5, and will include dinner, a live band and door prizes, including a top prize of \$500 cash. Last year was the Tamalada, this year is the Steakalada.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

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### Steven LaMascus

The 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, has ruled that after nearly fifty years of acceptance the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because it says, "one nation under God." Opinion/Page 2

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The Brackett School Board hired two secondary teachers and a kindergarten teacher Monday night at its monthly meeting, and accepted the resignation of Mary Ellen Fuentes, who has accepted a teaching position in Beloit, Wis. Community/Page 3

### Taylor Stephenson

Rain finally came to Kinney County, and it turned everything green! Some of us had a couple of inches while others had as much as 10 or 11. Rain clouds hung around for a week. Lifestyles/Page 5

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# At My Own Home?

But I could be wrong  
By Chuck Hall

About a year ago I wrote a piece relating a vicious attack on my personal self. No, not a slander, those occur too frequently to warrant mention. I am referring to the assault by a hornet.

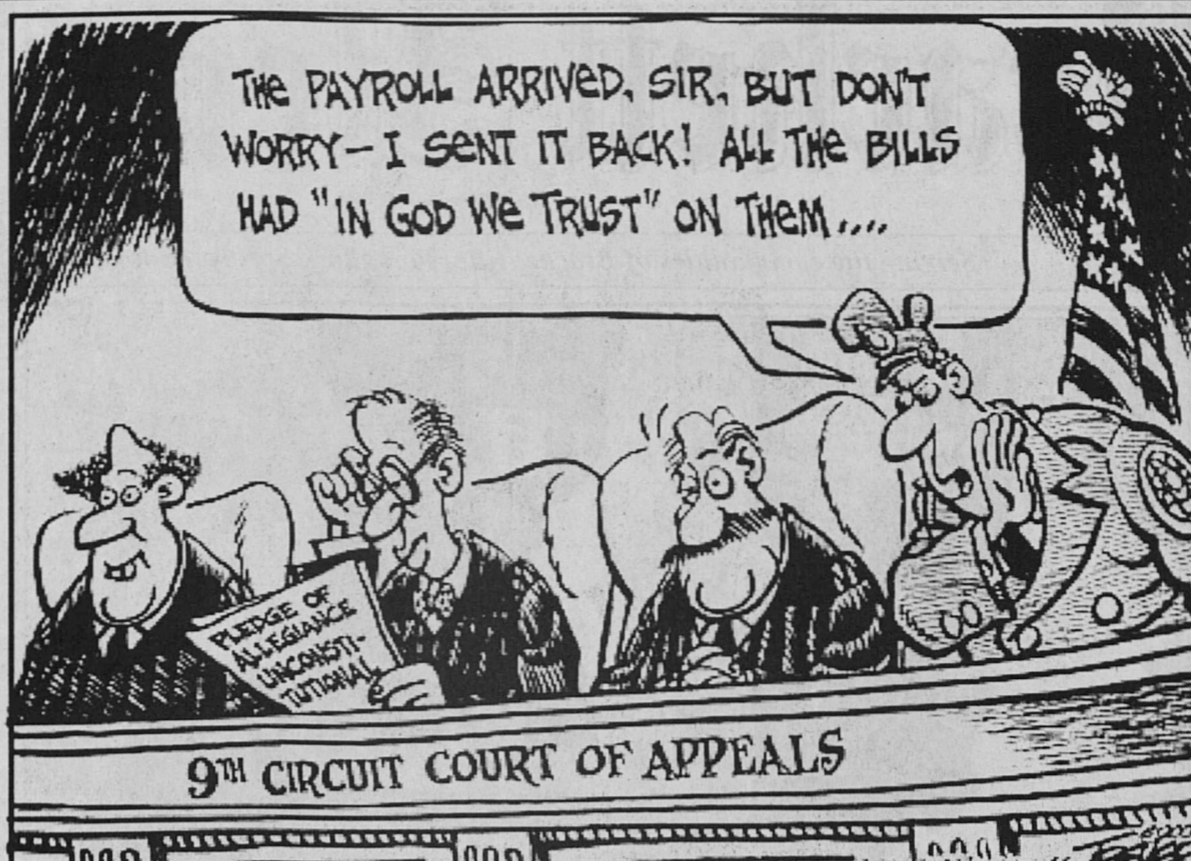
Well, it happened again. This time I was walking out of my backdoor, again minding my own business, when here he came.

The wasp attacked me on my home ground. The aggressive charge came out of left field. I'll give that insect credit for one thing: he made a direct frontal offensive blow.

He flew right straight at me;

never once wavering from his mission. He had extreme focus. He knew what he had to do. My instrument of vision was his target. At the last milli-second before contact, he reversed, extended his posterior, and jabbed his stinger at my organ of sight. My only defense was to close my eye-lid.

The pain was intense. I reeled in a state of drunken-like stupor. As I slowly regained my wits, (somewhat), I found my way back into the house, into the pantry, located the long-distance wasp spray, and spent the better portion of an hour, dispatching those winged demons. No one attacks me at my place. But I could be wrong.



# The Road To The Capitol

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

When I was attending South San Antonio High School, I never thought I would one day be representing you in Washington as a United States Congressman. It was something of a feat for a student there to graduate, let alone go on to college and beyond. Most people assume congressmen have worn suits their whole lives, and that a law or business degree is a required ticket of admission.

However, Congress is full of self-made men and women who came from every background imaginable. Let me share a few examples with you. At the young age of 20, Rep Bob Riley of Alabama began selling eggs door to door with his brother. The small operation grew to become one of the largest totally integrated poultry and egg operations in the Southeast. Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California was the youngest person to win a seat on the coveted New York Stock Exchange at age 25. She worked as a stock trader and investment banker. After moving to California she founded the ChildCare Registry, the first company to provide background information on child-care providers. Congress has also attracted its share of athletes over the years. Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma.

He went on to play for the Canadian Football League, and after that became a youth minister. Rep. Steve Largent, also of Oklahoma, was also a professional athlete. He played for the Seattle Seahawks for 14 years and was inducted to the NFL Hall of Fame after retiring as the third all-time leader in pass receptions in 1989. Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes, its war heroes. Senator Bob Kerry of Nebraska served his country in an elite Navy SEAL team in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor after losing part of his right leg in action. Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano, Texas, is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality - half of that period in solitary confinement - in a North Vietnamese prison camp.

I'd like to remind them that America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It's a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.

## Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama  
See!



The secret of patience is doing something else in the meanwhile.

# The Brackett News

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# One nation under God

The Way I See It  
By Steven R. LaMascus

Well the Left Coast Courts have done it again. Yep, the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals, the most notoriously liberal, anti-religious, reality challenged court in the land has ruled that after nearly fifty years of acceptance the Pledge of Allegiance is unconstitutional because it says, "one nation under God."

Do you know what kind of legal and historical gymnastics a person has to perform to arrive at that conclusion? They only have to ignore the bulk of our historical documents, the vast majority of the personal papers and letters written by our founders, and the Constitution of the United States itself! They have to totally disregard the wording of the Constitution, the beliefs of the writers of that document, and the will of the people who penned the Pledge of Allegiance. In short they have to violate the document they are claiming to protect. I say that it isn't the Pledge of Allegiance that is unconstitutional — it is the 9th Circuit Court of Appeals!

It is beyond my understanding how anyone, especially someone, like a judge, who is sworn (by what, I wonder?), to uphold and protect the Constitution, can be so blind as to not see the intent of the people who wrote that document. They are so arrogant, so self-assured, so certain of their own perfection that they cannot admit that there is a God in Heaven who is going to punish them for their evil. They look about each day and see the wonder of God's cre-

ation and attribute it to chance. They judge others and ignore the fact that they too will someday be judged. They not only deny the existence of God, but they are determined to keep the rest of us from worshipping Him as well. They are never satisfied. They will never stop trying to destroy our faith, and along with it, our nation. They are evil incarnate. Their judgments are not based on reason but on hatred and arrogance and ignorance.

They have perverted the greatest civil document ever written and have challenged the might and right of God himself, and for that they deserve to be judged. "Joshua said to the people, 'You are not able to serve the Lord. He is a holy God; he is a jealous God, He will not forgive your rebellion and your sins. If you forsake the Lord and serve foreign gods, he will turn and bring disaster on you and make an end of you, after he has been good to you.'" Joshua 24:19 & 20 NIV

That is precisely what those Pharisees in the 9th Circuit (and the unbelieving idol worshipper they ruled in favor of) are doing. They are forsaking God to serve foreign gods. They are rebelling against the God who brought us up out of Egypt, or England, or Ireland, or France, or Mexico, or wherever we came from. And we are letting them do it. We simply sit back and allow these evil snakes to force more and more of their godless ideas on us. We say we have to obey because it is the law, but the Bible disagrees. Daniel disobeyed the king

and prayed to his God in spite of the decree forbidding it.

"Now when Daniel learned that the decree had been published, he went home to his upstairs room where the windows opened toward Jerusalem. Three times a day he got down on his knees and prayed, giving thanks to his God, just as he had done before." Daniel 6:10 NIV

And the Apostles also defied the leaders of the Jews: "Then they called them in again and commanded them not to speak or teach at all in the name of Jesus. But Peter and John replied, 'Judge for yourselves whether it is right in God's sight to obey you rather than God. For we cannot help speaking about what we have seen and heard.'" Acts 4:18-20 NIV

My allegiance is to my God and to my country, in that order, and I don't care what the 9th Circuit says. I will pledge that allegiance in the same way I have since I could first recite the words: "I pledge allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation, under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." And when it is no longer "one nation under God," it will no longer have my allegiance!

Acts 4:25&26 - "You spoke by the Holy Spirit through the mouth of your servant, our father David: 'Why do the nations rage and the peoples plot in vain? The kings of the earth take their stand and the rulers gather together against the Lord and against his Anointed One.'" NIV

# Americans still fighting for the survival and success of liberty

By Warren Byrd  
Special to The Brackett News

GUANTANAMO BAY, Cuba — "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe to assure the survival and the success of liberty."

President John F. Kennedy spoke those words some 40 years ago, and they ring so true today for Americans as we participate in and endure this global war on terrorism.

Last Thursday was a most appropriate time to reflect on Kennedy's pledge. The tragic events of Sept. 11 undoubtedly made this past Fourth of July particularly meaningful for many Americans, including me. I celebrated Independence Day here at U.S. Naval Base Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where I have spent the past three months of a six-month tour working as a public affairs specialist and media escort.

More than 1,800 military members from the Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines and

Coast Guard join me as part of Joint Task Forces 160 and 170. Some are mobilized reservists and National Guardsmen. An active duty contingent is also on ground.

We, as are our counterparts in Afghanistan, Pakistan and elsewhere, are fighting for freedom, make no mistake. We are undaunted, undeterred, never intimidated. And as President Bush said, we will continue to fight as long as it takes.

I'm sure the Texans had this same tenacity when they fought at the Alamo and fought for their independence. That same pride has been evident in the hundreds of soldiers who have deployed here from Texas to fight this battle. Without doubt, you can see the tenacity, the commitment and the patriotism in the eyes of every service-member at Guantanamo Bay. I, too, am trying to do my part.

GITMO, a moniker assigned this naval base years ago, is where the U.S. is holding captured Taliban and al-Qaida fighters suspected of being terrorists.

Like many other reservists, or "Citizen Soldiers," I was plucked from my civilian job

and mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom following 9-11. Like many others, I gladly answered the call to fight for freedom. I said goodbye to my journalism students at Delta State with four weeks remaining in the spring semester. I will re-enter the classroom in mid-September with a renewed dynamism.

My experience at GITMO has helped me hone communication skills. It has complemented my journalism background. It has been an incredible experience, from an academic and professional perspective. That should translate to more invigorating and interesting lectures. Additionally, a number of national and international military and media representatives have agreed to visit Delta State this fall as guest speakers. I am taking part in history here.

I breathed a sigh of relief when I was told I was going to Guantanamo Bay. Look at a map. It is nowhere near Afghanistan or the Middle East, where U.S. forces serve to protect and promote freedom. You won't find many deep,

dark, scary caves, there is little mountainous terrain, and it much more closely resembles civilization as Americans know it. It is semitropical. It lies in the Greater Antilles, for those who remember their geography lessons. It is arid. Temperatures hover in the mid to upper 90s, but a nice Caribbean breeze blows hard enough during the day to cut the humidity and provides soothing, cool comfort at night. Most of the rain, unfortunately, is held hostage by the small mountain range to our west.

Thirsting for a quick history lesson? GITMO boasts about 45 square miles of land and water, located on the southeast corner of Cuba (it is frequently labeled a "barren outpost" by media). It is seemingly a stone's throw from Jamaica and Haiti, smack dab in the middle of the Caribbean.

The United States has been leasing this property from Cuba since 1903, and part of a 1934 treaty reaffirming the lease required that the U.S. and Cuba mutually agree to terminate the lease.

Continued on page 4

# School hires 3 new teachers

By J.J. Guidry  
Staff Writer

The Brackett School Board hired two secondary teachers and a kindergarten teacher Monday at its monthly meeting.

Lisa Conoly of Brackettville was hired as a kindergarten teacher, while Rhonda Marquardt of New Braunfels was hired as a secondary history teacher and Manuel Triana of Sabinol was hired as a secondary math teacher.

The board also accepted the resignation of Mary Ellen Fuentes, who has accepted a teaching position in Beloit, Wis.

Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said Fuentes had been reassigned from first grade to fifth grade for the upcoming school year, and added that the vacancy had already been filled.

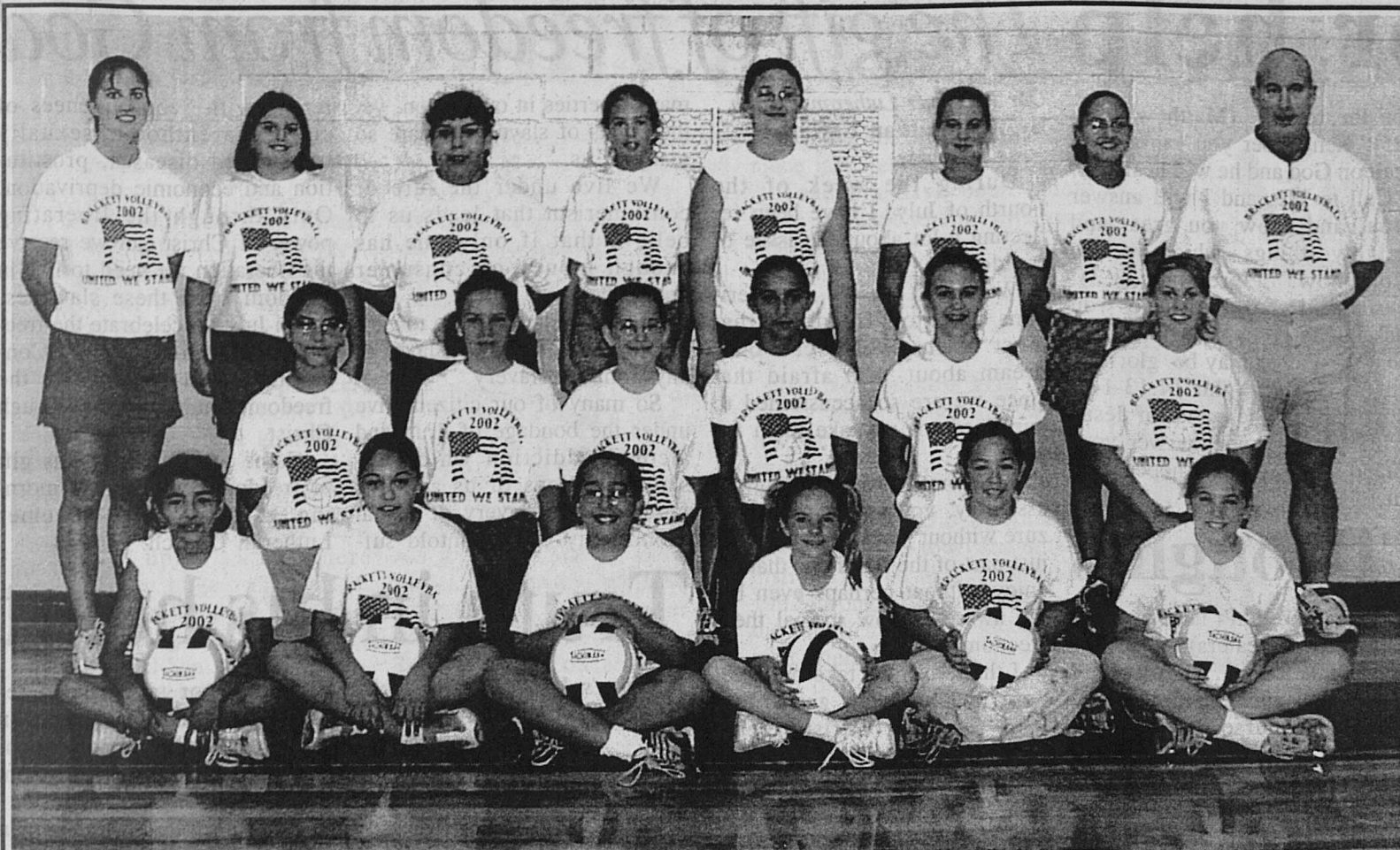
The trustees met in executive session for over an hour to discuss personnel issues, in addition to real estate issues, including the appraisal of the rodeo arena and parking at the football stadium.

**Handbooks**  
The trustees approved handbooks for students and employees for the upcoming year.

**Delinquent Taxes**  
The board approved a request from Margar Suarez to waive penalties and interest for delinquent taxes. Suarez's tax payment was late because her statement was sent to the wrong address.

**Recognition**  
The district recognized Ricky Alvarado, manager of Pico's, for his contributions to the school system, particularly his involvement in the Shattered Dreams program.

**Administrative Reports**  
Stephenson, Brackett High School principal John Paul Schuster and Jones Elementary School principal Paula Renken each presented reports to the board.



**Brackett volleyball camp**  
Participating in this year's Brackett volleyball camp were, top row (from left): Coach Lindsey Brotherton, Cathy Herman, Cassandra Gomez, Hayley Harris, Stephanie Davis, Laura Meyer, Bianca Stewart and Coach Dusty Brotherton. Middle row: Amber Castilla, Ashley Stephenson, Meghann Davis, Nadine Terrazas, Jessi Crane and Dana Bonner. Bottom row: Elva Garcia, Chaito Sanchez, Samantha Mossman, Taylor Dunbar, Cynthia Jaso and Heather Baggett. Not pictured: Bailee Allen, Summer Allen, Brandy Smith and Coach Bonnie Brotherton.

## Kinney County Sheriff's Report

**Tuesday, July 2**  
5:35 a.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley responded to a report of an 18-wheeler on the side of the road on Highway 90 west.

5:40 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent radioed to report water over the road on Highway 90 west and F.M. 3008. An employee from the Texas Department of Transportation was notified.

**Thursday, July 4**  
12:54 a.m., Kevin Brockwell, 37, of Del Rio was arrested for driving while intoxicated by Deputy Sheriff Manuel Pena Jr. Brockwell was released on a personal recognizance bond.

6:39 p.m., A woman requested an officer. Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo responded to the call.  
7:53 p.m., Angel De Hoyos, 18, of Brackettville was arrested for no driver's license by Chief Alonzo. De Hoyos was released the next day on a personal recognizance bond.

**Friday, July 5**  
12:50 a.m., Kids were reported playing with fireworks. Chief Alonzo was advised.  
12:54 a.m., A man reported fireworks. Chief Alonzo responded.

12:59 a.m., Chief Alonzo responded to complaint of fireworks.

1 a.m., Deputy Pena, Chief Alonzo and DPS Trooper Tom Wylie responded to a domestic threat with a firearm.  
2:20 a.m., Anthony Negrete, 42, of Brackettville was arrested by Constable Cordelia Mendeke for assault causing bodily injury. Negrete was released on a personal recognizance bond.

**Saturday, July 6**  
5:05 a.m., Deputy Pena responded to a possible intoxicated driver who was parked on the side of Highway 674.  
6:30 a.m., Daniel Kyle Ingram, 19, of Brackettville was arrested for public intoxication, minor in possession of alcohol and DPS warrants by Deputy Pena.

9:45 a.m., Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism responded to a welfare concern.  
11:15 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent reported that barricades were needed at the Las Moras Creek on Standard Lane. Deputy Chism was advised.

11:30 a.m., Frank Jaso Ledesma, 32, of Kyle was arrested for warrants out of Hays

County for failure to stop and render aid by Trooper Ashley. Ledesma was released the next day on a bond.

7:46 p.m., Deputies Manuel Pena Sr. and Manuel Pena Jr. responded to a domestic problem.

9:30 p.m., Luke Carlton Luce, 36, of Brackettville was arrested for assault with bodily injury and resisting arrest by Deputy Manuel Pena Sr. Carlton was released on a personal recognizance bond the next day.

**Sunday, July 7**  
3:17 a.m., A man reported a reckless driver on Highway 90 east.

3:45 a.m., Stephen Dillion Shelby, 28, of Longview was arrested by Deputy Pena for reckless driving. Shelby was released the same day on a cash bond.

8:03 a.m., Trooper Ashley responded to a one-vehicle accident.

11:42 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to a report of a stolen vehicle from Maverick County.

**Monday, July 8**  
A 911 call was received. A wrecker was requested on Highway 90 west. Ralph's Wrecker from Del Rio was notified.

## Agents rescue undocumented immigrants

U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended an undocumented immigrant Saturday walking on F.M. 393, south of Crystal City.

The man told agents he was one of six Mexican Nationals who had been stranded for a day and a half on an island when

Turkey Creek rose out of its banks and flooded the surrounding areas. Del Rio Sector Air Operations was contacted and a helicopter responded to the area and rescued the four from the island. All of the men were in good condition and required no

medical assistance. Also on Saturday, agents from the Carrizo Springs Station performing an immigration check encountered an individual with several outstanding warrants from the state. The man was turned over to troopers.

**The Brackett News**  
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**First Baptist Church (SBC)**  
Corner of Ann and Veltman  
Pastor: R. D. Holloway 563-2245  
Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service - 11 a.m.  
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.  
Evening Service 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

## Water board votes to compensate Shahan as interim general manager

By J.J. Guidry  
Staff Writer

Darlene Shahan will now be compensated for her time serving as interim general manager of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District.

Shahan is also a member of the Board of Directors and serves as secretary.

Directors Zach Davis, Henry Fuentes, Don Hood and Bob Young agreed to pay Shahan \$9 an hour. Shahan and Hadley Wardlaw both abstained from the vote, and board president Cecil Smith was absent from the meeting.

Shahan told the board that she felt \$9 "would be fair."

"I think an hourly basis would be the best right now," she said. "I don't ever know when I'm going to be working on groundwater stuff."

Shahan said she spends four to four-and-a-half hours a day doing work for the district.

The district has \$12,000 budgeted for the position.

**Public Hearing**  
Board members decided to publish an agenda in the newspaper for a public hearing to discuss and possibly adopt the district's rules.

Shahan said the district's attorney, Jace Houston, still needed to review the proposed rules, but added that the direc-

*"I think an hourly basis would be the best right now. I don't ever know when I'm going to be working on groundwater stuff."*

**Darlene Shahan**

tors should have copies of the rules before the end of the week.

**Attorney Fees**  
The board voted to pay \$2,900 to Houston for attorney fees. He charges the district \$100 an hour for his services.

"That's for the time he has worked up until about two weeks ago," Shahan said. "That's not just for his time. He's also billing us for his expenses."

**Operating Loan**  
The directors voted to draw \$5,000 on its operating loan from the Bank & Trust.

**Meeting Time**  
The board agreed to move its regular meeting time from 1:15 in the afternoon to 5:30 in the evenings. The regular meetings are scheduled on the first Tuesday of each month.

Shahan made the request, adding that a number of citizens told her they would like the board to meet outside of the workday so they could attend. "I would prefer meeting in

the evenings because it knocks a hole in my work day to come up here," Shahan added.

**Copies of Proposed Rules**  
The board agreed to make copies of the districts rules available to the public. Copies of the rules will be placed in the Courthouse, the County Library and at the main office at Fort Clark Springs.

"The general public needs to see our rules," Shahan said. "I've had a lot of requests for copies of the rules."

Young said the board needed to insure that the public had easy access to the proposed rules.

"It would be real good if these local folks could read that thing and not be hit with it at the time of the hearing," Fuentes said. "We need to let them start studying it."

**Public Forum**  
The directors voted to limit citizens to five minutes when speaking during the public-forum portion of the meetings.

Shahan suggested that the board consider setting limits on speaking "so we're not here for hours on end."

"We just want to make sure everybody can be heard and that they get adequate time," Young added.

In addition, Shahan reported to the board that the groundwater management area designations letter had not yet been sent.

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# Calling out for help *The gift of freedom from God*

Gateway Ministries  
By Pastor Charollette Corey

During this time of crisis, many people have been calling out for help. You may be one of those. Whether you have had trouble with the weather or financial trouble, relationship troubles, or just "troubles" in general, God is there for you. He has said, "I will never leave you nor forsake you. So we may boldly say: 'The Lord is my helper; I will not fear. What can man do to me?' (Hebrews 13:5-6). 'The effective, fervent prayer of a righteous man avails much.' (James 5:16) We know that 'Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.' (Matthew 5:6) We know that through faith in the final sacrifice of Jesus Christ, and faith in the power of spiritually appropriating that blood for ourselves, our heavenly Father God looks at us through the blood of his son, and, by our faith in Christ Jesus, calls us righteous. (Romans 3:22-25, 5:17, 9:30) Your prayers are heard and avail much, (hold much weight with God). 'Let us therefore come boldly to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy and find grace to help in time of need.' (Hebrews 4:16) 'God is our refuge and strength, A very present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear, Though the earth be removed, And though the mountains be carried into the midst of the sea;

Though its waters roar and be troubled, Though the mountains shake with its swelling. ' (Psalms 46:1-3) You may say of the Lord, 'He is my refuge and my fortress; My God, in Him I will trust.' (Psalm 91:1-16). 'Therefore whoever hears these sayings of Mine, and does them, I will liken him to a wise man who built his house on the rock: and the rain descended, the floods came, and the winds blew and beat on that house; and it did not fall, for it was founded

## Floods and Droughts

By Rev. Brother J  
Contributing Writer

I remember helping my grandfather during the hard times of the drought of the 1950's. My job was to drive the feed wagon (an old pick up that smoked and rattled).

A few years after the drought broke he planted many acres of cotton and it looked as if he was going to have one of the best cotton crops ever. Just as they started to pick the cotton a hurricane blew in from the Gulf of Mexico and they lost the whole crop. This was very confusing to me as a young boy. It wasn't till after I accepted Jesus as my Savior and Lord and I started reading the Bible that I realized that God did not make the earth and the climate the way it is today. Originally a mist watered it and there were no seasons or

on the rock." (Matthew 7:24-25). Remember you can always call on God and he will hear you. "Call to Me, and I will answer you, and show you great and mighty things, which you do not know." (Jeremiah 33:3). Jesus said, "And whatever you ask in My name, that I will do, that the Father may be glorified in the Son" (John 14:13-14). Just call on the name of Jesus Christ and he will answer you. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

storms (you didn't need air conditioners or heaters), food was in abundance all year around (Genesis 1:29-31, 2:15-16). But God put a curse on the earth because Adam and Eve disobeyed him (Genesis 3:17-19). The Bible promises several things that are going to take place in the future concerning earth and man. The earth is going to be plagued by droughts and floods and even famines (Matthew 24:7) and finally to be destroyed by fire (2 Peter 3:10-13) and not water (Genesis 8:21-22).

God promises he is going to make a new heaven and earth (Revelation 21:1). He also promised to reward those who have accepted Christ; they will get to enjoy the new creation forever and ever (Revelation 22:12, 2 Peter 3:11, 15). See you in church on Sunday.

## Choose to do the right thing

Empowering Families  
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Hi Mom, what's for supper?" 11-year-old Steve asked as the door shut behind him.

"Something you like. Go clean up and then your father wants to talk to you in your room." Steve nonchalantly walked into his bedroom. "What's up, Dad?" Jose looked serious as he spoke. "Sit down, son." The smile disappeared. "Am I in trouble for something, Dad?" "That depends, son," Jose answered. "Lonnie's dad called this afternoon. He asked about a pocket knife you took from Lonnie and didn't return."

"How did he know about that?" Steve nervously asked. "Sounds like you have the knife," Jose said. "Want to tell me about it?" "Dad, you know that Harry Potter T-shirt I had? Well Lonnie borrowed it and when I asked for it back, he said he didn't have it. Well, I know he has it because I saw his brother wearing it the other day." "So, how did you get the knife?" Jose pressed. "He owes it to me, Dad. He wouldn't return my shirt, so I borrowed his knife. I told him I would give it back when he returned my shirt. Now he's mad." "Did Lonnie give you permission to borrow the knife?" Jose asked. "No," replied Steve. "Steve, look me in the eye. It's never right to take something belonging to someone else. No matter what your motivation, it was stealing, not borrowing. You've been taught Christian values and that

means obeying the Commandments. One of them says it is wrong to steal (Duet. 5:19)." "But Dad, Lonnie stole my T-shirt," Steve whined. "God doesn't allow us the freedom to steal and call it borrowing or to use others as an excuse. A very wise man long ago said that to steal is to profane the name of

God (Proverbs 30:9). You cannot be an example to Lonnie when you do what you accuse him of doing (Romans 2:21). Now get the knife and we'll visit Lonnie." *This column is brought to you by the St. Henry DeOsso Family Project, working in Brackettville to strengthen family, faith and education.*

## Water board members

Continued from Page 1

The board members said they are looking forward to the meeting with the Texas Water Development Board officials. "They should know their business and they should be able to answer some questions that we have," board member Bob Young said. "Everybody on this board that I know has taken a lot of time to learn and study as much as we can. We really don't ever project anything unless we get valid data." When discussing the water study, Young told Sherman that he did not want to use the term "science" loosely. "I want to make sure it's not opinion and that it's absolute data," Young said. "There is a lot of 'science' out there that is quoted by people that really is not science at all. I can tell you that for a fact." Sherman agreed: "I think there are a lot of uncertainties about the hydrogeology of Kinney County, which is one of the reasons that we feel that it is important to go get the science and the analysis that has never been done in this county before. 'Part of our offer is to sit down with the

district to help the district find a consultant that they are very supportive of. It would be y'all's decision as to who you would hire," he told the board. Young said he was "very, very skeptical about anything that is said" until officials have more data. "This board was elected by an overwhelming majority for conserving the water," he said. "We have a lot more people in this county than just in Pinto Valley that we have to be responsible to, especially the springs. As long as I am here, I will never, ever vote for anything that would harm those springs." In a letter to the groundwater conservation district, the Native Valley Cooperative offered to pay for a "study of the hydrogeologic characteristics of Pinto Valley, its aquifers and recharge capabilities, and the effect of water production on surrounding areas and environmental features, including Las Moras Springs."

Local officials told Sherman they were interested in a study of the water resources of the entire county, not just in Pinto Valley. "You have others with interests in other parts of Kinney County," Sherman said. "We welcome them to make the same offer that we're making.

"To do the kinds of studies that we're talking about, the cost is significant, but the data that can be produced from them is incredibly valuable, particularly whenever you're getting ready to get into position where you're going to start limiting what someone can pump or can use for any particular purpose." Young said the district had to look at the county as a whole. "I have to make decisions based on what's best for the whole county," he said. "I can't make a decision based on what's good for a part of the county. 'I'm a fair man, but I'm not going to swallow everything that somebody says to me without really good data, I can tell you that much.'" Young added.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church  
By Rev. Nathan Lafrenz

During the week of the Fourth of July, I have been reflecting a lot about the issue of freedom.

We are so blessed as Americans to enjoy freedoms that most of the world can only dream about. I'm afraid that since we are so accustomed to our freedoms we take them for granted.

Freedom of speech, religion, assembly, vote, search and seizure without just cause, etc., are just part of the freedoms that we enjoy without perhaps even being aware of how special these freedoms are.

I think also we take our freedom in Christ for granted as well. Through Christ's death and resurrection we have been liberated from the tyranny of sin.

Sin and death no longer have the last word of our existence. There are many slaveries in our world besides the political slavery that many in the third world live under. We enjoy so

many liberties in our nation, yet the bonds of slavery ensnare so many of us.

We live under the lure of consumerism that leads us to believe that if only one has enough money or consumer goods then one is free.

In reality, the rat race to earn and buy more surely enslaves as any political slavery.

So many of our citizens live under the bondage of drug and alcohol addiction which enslaves millions of us and our families. The slavery of sexual promiscuity causes untold suf-

fering with consequences of single parenthood, sexually transmitted diseases, prostitution and economic deprivation. Only through the liberating power of Christ can we receive the liberation we need to live in freedom from these slaveries. So on July 4 I celebrate the freedoms enjoyed under our Constitution, and I rejoice in the freedom granted to me through Christ.

Come and celebrate this gift of freedom each Sunday morning at 9 at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

## Truth in his heart

St. John's Missionary Church  
By Rev William P. Adams Sr.

Lord, who shall abide in thy tabernacle?

Who shall dwell in thy holy hill?

He that walketh upright, and worketh righteousness, and speaketh the truth in his heart.

He that backbiteth not with his tongue, nor doeth evil to his

neighbor, nor taketh up a reproach against his neighbor. In whose eyes a vile person is contemned; but he honoureth them that fear the Lord.

He that sweareth to his own hurt, and changeth not.

He that putteth not out his money to usury, nor taketh reward against the innocent. He that doeth these things shall never be moved. Psalms 15

## The fight for freedom

Continued from page 2

That means we will forever squat on this patch of Cuban soil.

GITMO was a well kept secret — until it was chosen as the holding area for the detainees captured during the U.S. war on terror.

The mission of the Media Support Center, where I work, is to provide media escort for the 20 or so radio, print and TV journalists who land here once each week to cover the detainee story.

Typically, the media contingent consists of a few national organizations, like CNN, FOX, Newsweek and The Associated Press.

A scattering of international media have visited — representatives from Russia to Italy to Venezuela to Japan. We have had some heavy hitters — CNN's Bob Franken, Newsweek's Pulitzer Prize winning writer Roy Gutman, and FOX Network's Bill O'Reilly (who arrived last Saturday).

That has made this job even more interesting. I pick their brains apart about journalism as I facilitate their mission — to get a good story. I don't always agree with their angle, but I'll address that in my next column.

Most of the media visitors, though, have been local TV affiliates and newspapers who emphasize the local angle, which I believe is the most important story to tell.

They want to interview service-members from their coverage area, and we accommodate that.

We take the media on a 20-minute ferry ride across Guantanamo Bay each day so they can visit Camp X-Ray, where the detainees were being held (they were moved in late April to Camp Delta, a recently constructed more modern facility). We then take them to Camp Alpha, where U.S. forces live. The media are allowed limited access to Camps X-Ray and Delta, which hasn't made Army public affairs personnel extremely popular.

Most of the fuss revolves around what we call OPSEC (Operational Security). Civilian media sometimes believe we use OPSEC as a crutch when we don't want to answer their questions — an incorrect assumption. That issue, too, will be addressed in my next column.

Media are allowed to shoot still and video photography of the camps from a distance. As escorts we monitor their efforts, answer questions about the detainees, our armed forces and the war on terror.

It has been an incredibly interesting and rewarding job from academic, professional and military perspectives. It is every bit as interesting as I had

hoped, and, as stated earlier, the experience will nicely complement my classroom instruction when I return in September.

I'm not in Communist Cuba, although I sleep about 300 meters away from the "fence line" Jack Nicholson spoke of in "A Few Good Men." (Getting Cuban cigars might be tough. We are restricted to the base.)

One recent highlight: I got a rare tour inside Camp X-Ray when the detainees were there, something granted because of my position in public affairs. As I walked through the camp, near the cells, I tried not to make eye contact and I ignored the constant taunting. It was truly a unique learning experience.

As for my extracurricular life at GITMO:

■ Many of us eat at the dining facility, cook food bought at the commissary, or eat at McDonald's. Sometimes, I make a trip to "The Jerk House," where I can eat great Jamaican food. Two other eating establishments serve food and "refreshments." Really, food choices are a bit limited here.

I can say with great enthusiasm that I miss home-cooked meals and eating at some of my local favorites, such as Brackettville's Crazy Chicken.

We also have "The Iguana Crossing Coffee House" here. Starbucks it ain't, but it's better than Taster's Choice.

■ One fish, two fish, red fish, blue fish... This is a wildlife refuge. Many iguanas inhabit the island. Not the pet variety, but iguanas you can saddle up and ride.

We also have what the locals call "banana rats," cute little creatures who hang around in trees. Other pests include scorpions, boa constrictors, lizards and land crabs. Some of these creatures find their way into your bed at night. And, there must be 1,000 species of fish in these beautiful Caribbean waters.

■ Sailing and boating are available leisure time functions. I have my boating license at GITMO, so if I get time I go fishing or skiing, or just float all night as far out into the Caribbean as is allowed.

■ Transportation is limited. We have one vehicle on our side of the island. Usually, we rely on riding old school buses (it's lovingly tabbed "GITMO Rapid Transit") to transport us to our destinations on each side of the island.

Bus schedules are posted, but the buses don't always arrive on time. It's sort of like catching the cable guy. They have "GITMO Beaters" for rent here. The monthly rate is about three times what the car is worth. They

are truly eyesores, some pieced together like Frankenstein — perhaps a door from an old Toyota Corolla on one side, a hood from a Chevy Metro and a trunk lid from a Yugo. They run, but barely. Probably better suited for scrap.

■ Friendly, laid back Jamaicans drive the buses. In fact, Jamaicans and Filipinos comprise a large part of the civilian work force at GITMO. Some of them pull triple duty — your breakfast cook might be your barber in the afternoon and your bartender at night.

So, life is good. The aforementioned is a constant reminder of why we're here, of why we have soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines worldwide fighting for liberty and for peace. It is all part of the "freedom package" that Americans enjoy.

What do I miss the most? A no-brainer — family.

Family, too, is what we're fighting for. I miss spending time with my daughter. She arrived in Cuba this week for a two-week visit.

I miss my two sons, both of whom are on active duty in the Army. The family is just too spread out now, but I am thankful my sons and daughter can enjoy the things that make freedom and our nation the best in the world.

This, too, reminded me. Dateline NBC was here last week working on a story about an Army MP whose wife had recently given birth to quadruplets — two sets of identical twins.

The Dateline producer asked him in five different ways if he regretted leaving his wife and newborns to come to GITMO, to take part in the fight for freedom. Each time he said no, responding with sincerity and an unwavering loyalty to his mission that nobody could question.

When I later spoke with the Dateline producer, she was dumbfounded by the dedication of this soldier and asked if all soldiers would remark similarly. I said resoundingly, "yes."

I think we won over another media representative that day. She was compelled to offer an impromptu hug right before he boarded the Coast Guard boat to depart. They had grown close in two short days. It was an emotional scene.

One American paying tribute to another, an obvious offering of moral support, as if saying: "We're in this together for the long haul." What President Kennedy had in mind, I'm sure.

■ Editor's note: Warren Byrd is a master sergeant with the U.S. Army Reserves. He is also a journalism professor at Delta State University in Cleveland, Miss.

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# Rain finally arrives

**Making a Difference**  
By Taylor Stephenson

Rain finally came to Kinney County, and it turned everything green! Some of us had a couple of inches while others had as much as 10 or 11. Rain clouds hung around for a week. I have not heard of property damage in Kinney County. We were fortunate. The counties to the east of Brackettville had much more than they needed.

A low-pressure system aloft in the upper atmosphere pumped in huge amounts of moisture. Flooding was immense along the Guadalupe, Medina and San Antonio rivers. Towns and cities to the southeast of San Antonio continue to flood as the rivers flow toward the Gulf. Traditionally, July is a dry month for this part of the world.

Golf courses at Fort Clark are greener than I have seen them

in July for many years. A combination of rain and increased watering has brought the courses back. Golf courses should be beautiful and green. When they are, players will come to play.

**Band Director**  
At school, all teachers have been hired except a band director. BISD will have a band program this next school year, so we continue to look.

We have advertised in newspapers throughout Texas. BISD has notified some 30 universities of the vacancy. We have advertised on the internet on Brackett ISD's web page, with Texas Music Educators Association and Texas Bandmasters Association. We are listed on New Mexico Music Educators vacancy list. My research shows that there are many more schools looking for band directors than there are band directors available. We have been

searching for a good director since last February.

Teachers have been much more difficult to find this year than in the past. There is a tremendous shortage in Texas. If the demand continues to exceed the supply, our state will face difficult days ahead.

**New Mexico Trip**  
My New Mexico trip was a fun one. Clayton is in the northeastern corner of N.M. It is twice the size of Brackettville. There is a tremendous community spirit in the town and school district. I lived in Clayton from 1962 through 1985, so we know the families well. It was fun to visit friends and talk about the good old days.

**Roofing Projects**  
BISD's roofing is still in progress. In a week or two, the built-up roofing should be completed. We will begin with metal roofs on the old and new gyms. Have a great week!



**Installation of Masonic Lodge officers**

The Las Moras Masonic Lodge recently held its 125th installation of officers, which include, top row (from left): Bob Burkepile, senior deacon; Wes Robinson, treasurer; Chuck Hall, secretary; and Tully Welch, junior deacon. Bottom row: Tom Ertle, senior warden; Richard Slubar, master; and Jim Stafford, junior warden. The officers were installed by Robinson, the district deputy grand master, and Hall, who are both former masters of the Las Moras Masonic Lodge.

Photo by Jewel Robinson

## DPS offers suggestions for keeping kids out of hot seat

As Texans creep closer to the hot summer season, it's time to take steps to ensure your child's car seat or booster remain safe and comfortable for summer use.

Here are some tips for "summerizing" your child's car seat or booster:

- Cover the car seat or booster with a towel or blanket when you're not in the car to help keep it cooler.

- Check the car seat's metal clips before placing a child in a car seat, so they don't get burned by a hot clip.

- Don't use after-market harness strap covers or pads to place over car seat straps to protect children wearing tank tops or spaghetti straps.

- Instead, use pieces of old T-shirts. Cut and place them between the car seat straps and the child.

- After-market covers are too bulky and change how the seat is fitted.

- Replace and destroy any seat that was installed in a vehicle during a crash, even if the child wasn't in it.

- Car seats can sustain unseen damage from the physical forces expended during a crash.

- Kids grow out of seats before you realize it.

- Check the weight and height limits listed for the current seat and replace it if your child has outgrown the limits.

- Check for car seat recalls. Visit the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's website for an updated list <http://www.nhtsa.gov>. Follow the link to "Recalls."

- To find a certified child passenger safety technician in your area, go to the NHTSA site (<http://www.nhtsa.gov>) and follow the links to "Child Passenger Safety/Technician Contact Locator."

## DRT Library obtains The Bexar Archives

From 1717 through 1836, the governments of Spain and Mexico collected in San Antonio de Bexar — the then-capitol of Texas under Spanish and Mexican rule — an amazing series of official documents detailing the military, civilian and political life of the Spanish province of Texas and the Mexican state of Coahuila y Texas.

These records, which have become known as The Bexar Archives, constitute the most complete and detailed primary source in existence for the study of colonial Texas.

Now, in cooperation with the Center for American History at the University of Texas at Austin, UPA has published The Bexar Archives on microfilm, reproducing in its entirety more than 250,000 pages of manuscript documentation and more than 4,000 pages of printed material on colonial and regional history.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) Library Committee voted to purchase this collection in its entirety, according to Caddell-Smith Chapter member Pat McKelvy.

The scope of the documentation contained in The Bexar Archives is as vast as the territory whose affairs are recorded.

The earliest documents deal mainly with the affairs of the Canary island settlers, religious matters and relations with the Indians. At the opening of the 19th century, friction along the Texas-Louisiana border, Anglo-American incursions, smuggling and troubles over Indian raids and atrocities became prominent topics.

The Mexican Revolution of 1810, with its counterpart in Texas the following year, is vividly recorded, as are the Gutierrez-Magee invasion of 1812-1813, the battle of Medina in 1813, the Champ D'Asile incident in 1818, Dr. Long's expedition in 1819, the coming of Moses Austin in 1820, Mexican independent regime in 1821, the Fredonian Rebellion in Nacogdoches in 1827, and the independence of Texas in 1836.

However, to enumerate only the high points of Texas history covered in The Bexar Archives is a disservice to the collection, because these records also

cover in detail virtually all aspects of life in Spanish and Mexican Texas.

The archives provide comprehensive documentation for general governmental administration of the province; the establishment of presidios, settlements and missions; the French threat of the 18th century; the founding of San Antonio, Espiritu Santo and other settlements; relationships between the clergy and the military; administrative investigations; fortifications, livestock raising; mail communication; transportation; fencing; grazing, commerce; slavery; agriculture; legal proceedings; foreign intervention and infiltration; 18th century imperial struggles; shipwrecks off the Gulf Coast; colonization; efforts to consolidate imperial control and establish better communications; revolutionary movements; and the collapse of the Spanish Empire.

The types of documents that make up The Bexar Archives are diverse, each in its own way illuminating different aspects of Texas history. Copybooks reporting trials of smugglers,

highwaymen, thieves, trials of murderers, deserters from the military and others who failed to comply with Spanish and Mexican law give the reader an eyewitness view of judicial processes in early Texas. Royal orders and other official communications record the administrative and financial techniques used by the government. Letters, dispatches, legal papers and other documents composed by officials, soldiers, and clergymen provide vivid accounts of 18th and 19th century life.

There are reports of inspection tours, reconnaissance trips, explorations, settlements and expeditions against hostile Indians abound, and numerous diaries, inventories and lists of Indian gifts. Various additional records include petitions, orders, itineraries, decrees, other legal documents and "residencia" reports.

The collection should be available at the DRT Library on the grounds of the Alamo in San Antonio within the next month. The library is open to the general public as a research facility.

## Goodies from G.G.

A friend whipped up an "Oh so good" meal in no time for two people using one small left over chicken breast.

How?  
First, remove any skin, then frugally pick off each tidbit of meat, no matter how small, cutting larger pieces into bite size. Set aside.

In a large pot, bring 4 cups of water to a boil that has been seasoned with 4 or 5 chicken bullion cubes, 1 tsp. poultry seasoning and a pinch of parsley if desired.

Now get out that handy can of biscuits and cut each biscuit into quarters (kitchen scissors or pizza cutter is great). Drop in boiling water. Reduce heat and cover. Boil gently about 10 minutes. Liquid will be reduced.

Immediately, when done, add one can cream of chicken soup, undiluted and chicken pieces. Mix well. You will have good thick "soup" to serve with the chicken and dumplings.

A large green salad and fresh fruit makes a complete, quick, inexpensive meal.

## Maintenance is key to reliable air conditioning

YUMA, Ariz. — With summer temperatures often topping the 120-degree mark, homeowners here tend to listen carefully when their air conditioning contractor offers advice.

And what advice is he most likely to offer?

"Make sure your central air conditioning system has been checked out thoroughly before the start of the peak cooling season," cautions Frank Gilmore, co-owner of Quick Refrigeration Company.

In essence, both the homeowner and the dealer have their work cut out for them during a heat-scorching period of five months beginning in May.

"Homeowners should change the air filter at least once every 30 days during intense heat periods," advises Gilmore. "That's because the air conditioner has to work much harder, resulting in more frequent dirt buildup on the filter. In some of

the area's dustier farm communities, the filter may have to be replaced more often."

In addition, contractors should inspect an air conditioning system twice a year — in spring and fall — and clean the evaporator and condenser coils during each visit, Gilmore says.

Failure to adhere to an annual maintenance program in an area like Yuma could lead to the failure of a major component, such as the condenser fan motor, or

one of the many capacitors in the electrical system. That's bad news for both the homeowner and air conditioning contractor, who may have to endure stifling heat for up to two hours if the repairs involve components in the outdoor condenser.

Even with regular biannual checkups, air conditioners in an area like Yuma may have a much shorter life cycle than units in other parts of the country.

## BUSINESS

### RGEC, RioNet announces new employees

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative is pleased to announce the hiring of Del Rio's Shawn Stanley as manager of accounting and finance, and Geraldo "Lalo" Garcia of Uvalde as accountant at the Brackettville headquarters.

Stanley is a graduate of Texas A&M University, where he received his bachelor of business administration degree in accounting. He was previously employed by Hardin & Newsome, CPA's of Del Rio.

Stanley and his wife, Amy, are the parents of two children, Keane and Sailor.

"I am happy to be a part of the RGEC family, and I look forward to serving the members of the co-op," Stanley said.



Stanley

Garcia is the father of one son, Eli-seo.

"I feel very fortunate to have been hired by Rio Grande ECI," Garcia said.

RioNet Internet Service has hired Barbara Oliver of Uvalde as a call center dispatcher.

Oliver brings a wealth of personal experience in the customer relations field to her position.

She and husband, Gary, are the parents of two children, Casin, 21 and Jennifer, 19.



Oliver



Congratulations goes out to Crystal Snow Juarez who received her Bachelor of Arts in Psychology from the University of Texas at San Antonio on May 11, 2002. Crystal is a 1998 graduate of Brackett High School. She is the daughter of Trine Juarez and Leonel G. Juarez. Her grandparents are Gregorio and the late Mercy Juarez. Also Juan and the late Consuelo Rodriguez. Congratulations to her achievement. Good luck in her future. God bless. We are all very proud of you, Crystal.

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Convenient Location on HWY 90  
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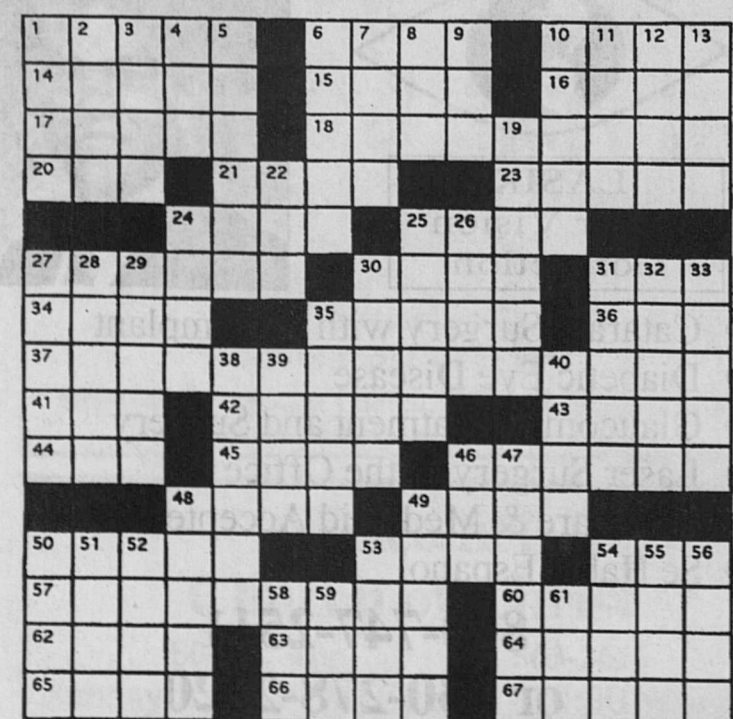
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**\$117 per mo.**  
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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

- |                                 |   |                               |                              |
|---------------------------------|---|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <b>ACROSS</b>                   | American or around                              | specialists: abbr.            | 35 River creature            |
| 1 Group of students             | 37 Become violently angry                       | 2 Songbird                    | 38 Luxembourg's neighbor     |
| 6 Miss in Mazatlan: abbr.       | 41 Dues   | 3 Town in Italy               | 39 Part of a refrain         |
| 10 Carpet type                  | 42 Tell the misdeeds of                         | 4 Haloed mile.                | 40 Variable star             |
| 14 Sticky stuff                 | 43 Bravos                                       | 6 Part of the skeletal system | 46 Machine wheel             |
| 15 Metal container              | 44 Former div. of a large nation                | 7 Smelly problem              | 47 La Bohème and Tosca       |
| 16 Wind                         | 45 Sir Guinness                                 | 9 king                        | 48 Sole features             |
| 17 Russian workers' group       | 48 Flocks of birds                              | 10 Alarm                      | 49 Gaits                     |
| 18 Lacking the necessary skills | 49 Father                                       | 11 Tramp                      | 50 Examination               |
| 20 Piece of sports equipment    | 50 Quinine water                                | 12 Is sneezy and feverish     | 51 Ron Howard role           |
| 21 Lean                         | 53 Notoriety                                    | 13 Delight                    | 52 Word with Blue or White   |
| 23 Uneven                       | 54 Inquire                                      | 19 Spaniard's cash            | 53 Manicure kit item         |
| 24 In need of moisture          | 57 One who has a disorder of the nervous system | 22 Topsy-turvy era            | 54 "calling!"                |
| 25 Domed building wing          | 60 Tom apart                                    | 24 Unaided                    | 55 Kennedy and others: abbr. |
| 27 In abundance                 | 62 Ledge  | 25 E.T.                       | 56 Joint                     |
| 30 Lotion ingredient            | 63 Part   | 26 Elegant                    | 58 Paid player               |
| 31 Linger                       | 64 Solitary purchases                           | 27 Barbed spears              | 59 32,000 ounces             |
| 34 Russian lake                 | 65 Golf shop                                    | 28 City on the Rhone          | 61 Territory of 38 Down      |
| 35 Wordsworth or Shelley        | 66 Numbers                                      | 29 Stratum                    |                              |
| 36 Word with                    | 67 Meaning DOWN                                 | 30 Type of committee          |                              |
|                                 | 1 Tax   | 31 Kitchen item               |                              |
|                                 |   | 32 Lane                       |                              |
|                                 |   | 33 Actress Sharon             |                              |



**Trivia Time Answers** (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.  
1. Enamel; 2. Jack Daniels; 3. The Mississippi and the Missouri; 4. Leon Uris; 5. Life of Brian; 6. Root beer; 7. Blood; 8. Mary Tyler Moore; 9. St. Nicholas; 10. Fallow

**ROARING TWENTIES**

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions— forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: **YOUNG ANIMALS**

Q	Y	E	O	J	K	R	E	F	I	E	H
U	D	J	K	D	Y	I	J	L	A	M	B
W	P	U	P	P	Y	I	G	L	E	T	
S	K	K	C	K	P	K	N	K	I	B	D
W	S	L	H	K	O	I	D	U	I	B	Y
F	A	W	N	K	L	K	Y	U	D	E	
I	W	E	Q	S	L	I	H	N	J	T	A
L	E	A	O	D	I	Y	N	D	H	L	R
L	R	G	W	U	W	Y	C	G	B	O	L
Y	J	L	L	H	O	D	U	A	V	C	I
S	D	E	E	B	G	R	B	E	L	G	N
K	I	T	T	E	N	W	L	A	O	F	G

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**Trivia Time by Walter Branch**

1. What is the hardest substance in the human body?
2. What well-known sour mash whiskey is made in Lynchburg, Tenn.?
3. What two rivers merge at the outskirts of St. Louis?
4. What author's first novel was "Battle Cry," published in 1953?
5. What Monty Python movie was banned in Scotland?
6. What is Dennis the Menace's favorite beverage?
7. What does a horned toad squirt from its eyes when it's angry?
8. Whose legs were featured on TV's "Richard Diamond"?
9. Who is the patron saint of children?
10. What do you call farmland left unseeded for one season?

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

July 11.....Pat Callan	July 15.....Woody Hornburg
July 11.....Loretta Woods	July 15.....Brent Smith
July 12.....Gerald Ivey	July 16.....Carmen Berlanga
July 13.....Claude Roberts	July 16.....Hugh Coates
July 13.....Kenneth Tridle	July 16.....Carmen Hernandez
July 13.....Chase Ward	July 16.....Stevie Juarez
July 13.....Bea Workman	July 16.....Wilma Lewis
July 14.....John McClure	July 17.....Opal Groce
July 14.....Lester Shinabarger	July 17.....Pat McKelvy
July 14.....Lou Sofaly	July 17.....Maria Elena Pena
July 15.....Nancy Frerich	July 17.....Davina Rios

**HOROSCOPES**

by Charles Cooper

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You're tempted this week to just whip out those credit cards. However, doing so leads to unmanageable debt. Use your willpower.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Finances are on your mind this week. Take stock of what you own. You'll be happily surprised at the economic shape you're in.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) While you've got your heart set on your vacation, plans won't be finalized for a while. Be patient. A friend has good news over the weekend.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) Someone close to you isn't being as up front as you'd like. Avoid the temptation to pry. This person will open up when the time is right.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) A certain project you've been working on has you stymied. The best thing to do is to get away from it for a while. Once you clear your head, you can resume working.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) You achieve more this week by gaining the cooperation of others. You don't have to go it alone. Later in the week, enjoy life on the home front.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Travel is possible this week. However, do be sure to get enough rest. This way, you can more readily enjoy seeing the sights and getting out and about.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You're in a somewhat capricious mood this week. However, bigwigs aren't prone to be indulgent. Avoid an unfortunate slip of the tongue.

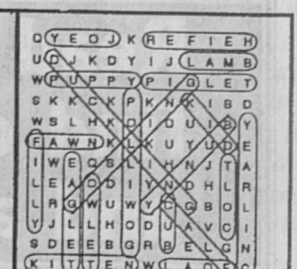
**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) You want to plunge headlong into a new project. However, it's best to finish up what's pending first. This weekend, you keep a low profile.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) You have some difficulty concentrating this week. For some, this is due to a romantic entanglement. Don't let your fear of commitment ruin another promising relationship.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) You can be a bit obtuse at times. Make more of an effort to understand what's being said to you. In particular, listen to what your mate has to say now.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You are able to articulate your romantic feelings with uncharacteristic eloquence. Your mate is delightfully surprised. Over the weekend, cultural pursuits capture your interest.

- Roaring Twenties Solution:**
- Bunny
  - Calf
  - Colt
  - Cub
  - Duckling
  - Eaglet
  - Fawn
  - Filly
  - Foal
  - Gosling
  - Heifer
  - Joey
  - Kid
  - Kitten
  - Lamb
  - Owlet
  - Piglet
  - Polliwog
  - Puppy
  - Yearling



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**ADOPTION**

**Note:** It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

**PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION?** Let us help make this difficult decision easier by sending you information on couples hoping to adopt and anxious to shower your baby with love and laughter. Help with Legal/Medical expenses. Loving Connection For Adoption, 1-800-675-3407.

**AUCTIONS**

**ABSOLUTE AUCTION: JULY 20th**, Pendleton, OR. 2500+- acre recreational ranch on 3+- miles of Umatilla River. Several homes, barns, corrals, cabins. J.P. King Auction Company, LLC, (Lic.#0425652), 1-800-558-5464.

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**\$.37 FOR 1-YEAR** experience. You deserve this much. Plus overtime! More experience means more pay. 12 months OTR required. Heartland Express 1-800-441-4953, www.heartlandexpress.com

**DRIVER-ASAP!** 21 OTR Drivers. Up to 38 cpm + \$40 tarp for OTR. O/O's - up to 90 cpm. Nine months OTR required. Call Melton Truck Lines, 1-800-635-8669, today.

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**DRIVER - FFE TRANSPORTATION** is now hiring drivers for its growing fleet. Start at 29 cents to 33 cents per mile based on experience. Call 1-800-569-9232.

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**DRIVERS, O/O's - RUN** with a company with options. 53 ft. vans, flatbeds or heavy haul. Benefits, outstanding pay. 3 years CDL "A" OTR experience. Call Express Way, Inc., 1-800-835-9471.

**DRIVERS - SW REGIONAL**, home on weekly basis. Teams start .34 cpm, OTR start .32 cpm. Six months OTR experience w/CDL-A. Ask for Harold/Bob, National Freight, 1-800-666-0380.

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**IMMEDIATE CASH! US** Pension Funding pays cash now for 8 years of your future pension payments. Call 1-800-586-1325 for a FREE, no-obligation estimate. www.uspensionfunding.com

**Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

CLASS SRTA SHAG  
PASTE PAUL COIL  
ARTEL INCAPABLE  
SKI LANK EROISE  
SERE APSE  
GALORE ALOE LAG  
ARAL ODIST ALL  
FLYOFF THEHANDLE  
FEE RATION OLES  
SSR ALEC COVEYS  
GNAR PAPA  
TIONIC FAME ASK  
EPTILEPTIC RIVEN  
STILL ROLE ALONE  
TEES ONES SENSE

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**GARAGE SALE**

**SAT. 13TH 8:00 a.m.** 309 E. 3rd (behind house in carport) 2 family, furniture and misc.

**HEALTH**

**ATTENTION! BAYCOL USERS** (Lipobay/Cerivastatin). Death or kidney failure, Rhabdomyolysis. Grossman & Waldman, 1-800-833-9121. Free confidential consultation. Board Certified. No fee/expenses - no recovery. Houston-Principal.

**HELP WANTED**

**THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Development Council** is accepting applications for a Placement Specialist in the Campwood Workforce Center which will serve Kinney, Real, and Edwards county. Primary responsibility is to work extensively with the job order system to perform labor exchange between employers and job seekers. Work with all other center staff and all partners to provide an effective labor exchange between the job provider and the job seeker; reports directly to the Workforce Center Manager. Prefer College Degree in Business Administration or related concentration. Minimum of 3 years work experience in private sector. Will accept two years-related work experience in lieu of direct experience or for each year of college credential. All applicants must be able to use Microsoft Word, a database application and other software applications on a personal computer. Salary range for this position depending on experience starts at \$23,153. All interested persons should submit an application, resume, and copies of transcripts to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, attention Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Executive Director, at P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Application deadline for this position will be open until filled. Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aides and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Our Voice or TDD telephone (830) 876-1260 or main number is (830) 876-3533.

**THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Workforce Division** has a number of vacant positions and is accepting applications for qualified applicants until all positions are filled or needed. Interested applicants should file an MRGDC application at any of the workforce centers listed and should provide copies of transcripts and a resume. Preference will be given to applicants that possess a Bachelors degree in English or Social Studies or a Human Development Field with a minimum of 1 year experience working with customers. Will accept two years related work experience in lieu of direct experience or for each year of college credential. Must be able to travel within and outside the nine-county service region if required. Positions are compensated with consideration for prior direct or related experience on an MRGDC Salary Schedule. Variable hours may be required for certain positions. Dimmit (1) Workforce Case Manager I, \$19,155; Maverick, (2) Workforce Case Manager I, \$19,155; Real (1) Workforce Case Manager I, \$19,155; Uvalde (1) Workforce Case Manager I, \$19,155; Uvalde (1) Customer Liaison, \$23,591; Zavala (1) Workforce Case Manager I, \$19,155. Inquiries from applicants can be made from Mr. Ramon Johnston, MRGDC Deputy Executive Director, P.O. Box 1199, 307 W. Nopal, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834, telephone (830) 876-3533. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aides and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For information please contact our VOICE telephone number (830) 876-3533 or our TDD telephone number (830) 876-1260.

**Community Development Assistant**

**Uvalde, TERM** not to exceed 13 months, full-time, Salary Range-\$24,701-\$32,113 pa, Announcement TX-RD-02-44 opens 7-1-02, closes 7-15-02. Benefits include health/life insurance, retirement, vacation/sick leave, etc. This position may be up to a total of 4 years without further competition. View announcement on the internet at www.usajobs.opm.gov-download application forms from the internet at www.opm.gov/forms/index.htm-For information call (254) 742-9750, TDD (254) 742-9712. USDA Rural Development is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

**RESORT WORK: FIDELITY READER SERVICE** will place 15 new hires, over 18, travel coast-to-coast with young co-ed business group. \$500 signing bonus. 1-877-403-0674, toll-free.

**HELP WANTED**

**WANTED: CARRIER FOR** San Antonio Express News in Brackettville area. Contact Joe 775-0332. Pager 1-888-839-1665.

**EXCELLENT INCOME POTENTIAL!** Become a medical biller. No experience needed. Computer required. Training. ClaimCo., 1-866-MED-CLMS - 1-866-633-2567, Dept. 314.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**SWIMMING POOLS - DEMO** Homesites wanted to display maintenance free pool. Save \$\$\$ with this limited opportunity. Call to qualify, 1-800-794-6839, www.SwimTexas.com. Prices start \$999.

**NOTICES**

**GUN SHOW - JULY 13-14**, Sat. 9-6, Sun. 9-5, Rosenberg, Tx, Fort Bend Fairgrounds (Exit left on Hwy 36S, Fairgrounds on the right). Info: 1-563-923-4003.

**PET SUPPLIES**

**WHAT'S DIFFERENT ABOUT** Happy Jack's Novation Flea-Tick Collar? It works when spot-ons and systemic poisons fail. Patented release gentle to pet. At County Coops.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF INTENT** To Request Release Of Funds. To: All Interested Agencies, Groups and Persons: Nine (9) days after this publication, Kinney County, Texas intends to request the Office of Rural Community Affairs (ORCA) to release Federal funds under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (P.L. 93-383) for Texas Community Development Project Contract No. 722419. The projects judged categorically excluded are Fire Protection Equipment Emergency Medical Services (EMS) van with life support capabilities. An Environmental Review Record for the proposed project has been made by Kinney County which documents the environmental review of the project. The Environmental Review Record is on file and is available for public examination and copying upon request between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday thru Friday at the Kinney County Courthouse. Public Comments on Findings: All interested agencies, groups and persons, disagreeing with this decision are invited to submit written comments for consideration by Kinney County to the address as set forth above. Such written comments must be received at the address specified within eight (8) days after this publication. All such comments so received will be considered and Kinney County will not request the release of funds or take administrative action on the project prior to the date specified in the proceeding sentence. Release of Funds: The County of Kinney will undertake the activities described above with Community Development Block Grant funds under Title I from its Program Year 2002 under grant numbered 722419 from the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974. The County of Kinney is certifying to the Office of Rural Community Affairs that Honorable Herb Senne in his official capacity as Kinney County Judge, consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to environmental reviews, decision-making and action; and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The legal effect of the certification is that upon its approval, the County of Kinney may use the Block Grant funds and it will have satisfied its responsibilities under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. Office of Rural Community Affairs will accept an objection to its approval only on one or more of the bases and the procedures described in 24 CFR Part 58.75. Objections are to be addressed to the Office of Rural Community Affairs, P. O. Box 12877, Austin, Texas 78711. Objections to the release of funds on bases other than those stated above will not be considered by the ORCA. No objections received later than twenty-five (25) days after this publication will be considered by ORCA. Herb Senne, Kinney County Judge, P. O. Box 348, Brackettville, Texas 78832.

**THE BRACKETTVILLE HOUSING** Authority will have it's five year plan and annual plan on display for viewing and comments from May 22nd thru July 12th 2002.

**REAL ESTATE**

**A FREE LIST!** Affordable hunting ranches for sale. 100+ acre tracts, lowest prices. E-Z terms! Texas Land & Ranches. Toll free, 1-866-899-5263.

**BOWHUNTERS RARE OPPORTUNITY!** High fence game ranch liquidation. 150-180 B+C whitetails, turkey, quail, and exotics. \$29,900. EZ terms. Texas Land and Ranches. Toll-free 1-866-516-4868.

**RANCH SALE - 35 acres \$99,900.** Magnificent Colorado ranch at 8,000' elevation. Mix of meadows with spring fed ponds, aspen and pines. Stunning views. Nearby Telluride. Good terms. Call Colorado Land & Ranches, 1-866-353-4809.

**160 ACRES WEST** Texas brush/canyon country. Deer, Turkey, Javelina, Quail, Dove. \$150/acre. 5% down, owner or Texas Veteran financing. Ranch Enterprises, 1-210-697-0168.

**LAND BARGAIN BEAUTIFUL N.E.** Texas piney wood acreage. Private lake and horse stables. As low as \$24,900. Call Texas Land and Lakes, 1-800-707-8988.

**REAL ESTATE**

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Rentals Available

**For Rent - In Brackettville**, 2 bed, 1 bath, fenced yard, partially furnished. \$400 mo. & utilities.

**Double wide - unit 27**, 3 bed, 2 full baths, central a/h, carport \$72,000.

**Double wide - unit 35**, 3 bed, 2 baths, chain link fence, enclosed back porch, 2 lots, many oak trees. \$70,000.

**3 bed, 2 baths**, furnished mobile home, carport \$15,000.

**2 bed, 2 baths**, rock house, great location, jaccuzzi room, spacious family room. \$85,000.

ourourke@the-i.net

**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS:** The Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) is requesting proposals of qualifications from certified vendors, who wish to do business with MRGDC. Respondents who meet the minimum threshold criteria will be placed on the Register of Approved Service Providers from which the Middle Rio Grande Development Council may select for solicitation of bids specific to services that support and fulfill the objectives of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council. The deadline for submission of this RFQ is Wednesday, July 31, 2002 at 3:00 p.m., CST, at the following address: Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 307 West Nopal, P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834. Proposal packets may be obtained by contacting Raul D. Diaz, Fiscal Department at VOICE telephone number (830) 876-3533 or TDD telephone number (830) 876-1260. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

**REAL ESTATE**

**4 NEW LAKEFRONT PARCELS.** Tennessee, near Knoxville Deepwater, main channel access, covered boat docks. U/G utilities. Priced for quick sell \$57,750 - \$65,450. Financing available. Call Lake Developers Partnership, 1-877-505-1871, ext. 1200.

**KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO**  
P.O. Box 1035  
Brackettville, TX 78832  
830-563-2446 830-563-2447

- The Masters Condo unit 1201 1bdr, furnished, garage \$34,000.
- Townhouse lot 116, unit 1 furnished.
- Unit 15 lot 160, 161 (160 Bliss Circle) FCS 3bdr, 2bth manufactured housing enclosed porch, partially furnished, POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCED!
- Unit 32 3br/2bth SOLEB Mobile Home
- Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.
- Unit 27 lot 2 blk O FCS Eagle way 2Br, 2Bt 1180 sq. ft. custom built screened in porch.
- Brackettville - Old Stagecoach House corner of El Paso & Fort 1 bdr/1 bth. FOR SALE OR LEASE.
- Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.

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**HEALTH**

**Unaccounted calories from beverages can sabotage weight loss**

Finding your way to a slimmer figure begins and ends with calories.

Consume too many and your dream dress size will most likely fall well beyond your fingertips.

Many dieters place considerable emphasis tracking what they eat; often paying very little attention (if any) to monitoring the beverages they drink. In the end, all calories consumed — both from solid foods and beverages — account for your total daily calories.

From soda to fruit juices and drinks to alcohol, beverages have helped derail the success of many diets. They are forgotten and in many cases totally disregarded, making beverages a genuine weight loss saboteur.

If you're having difficulty managing your weight, it may be wise to review what beverages you drink, in addition to the foods you eat. According to Karen Miller-Kovach, chief scientist at Weight Watchers International, the following points are worth considering:

■ "Liquid" calories may be perceived differently than "solid" calories by the body's hunger and appetite control centers. (Don't relate this to the feeling of "fullness;" this link is not that direct and can be quite deceiving.)

■ Some research shows that while high-sugar foods are not strongly linked to people becoming overweight or obese, the same is not true with high-sugar beverages. This may be especially true for children and adolescents, where sugared soft drinks like soda and fruit drinks are consumed frequently at mealtime and as snacks. Soda in particular should be consumed in moderation considering a 12-ounce can of soda is equivalent to 11 teaspoons of sugar.

■ Alcohol is especially calorie-laden. Alcohol has 7 calories per gram compared to 4 calories per gram for protein and carbohydrates (including sugar), and 9 calories per gram for fats. For instance, a 12-ounce beer has 150 calories and a 4.5-ounce Pina Colada has 262 calories.

■ Increasingly growing in popularity are sports and energy drinks. Available in a variety of flavors and sizes, many of these drinks boast energy-enhancing qualities. These drinks may contain as many as 125 calories, with 20-30 grams of carbohydrates from added sugar. Other ingredients include caffeine (added for an energy boost) and sodium (to replace salt lost in perspiration during vigorous aerobic activity).

■ A good source for nutritional value in a beverage may be found in "smoothies." A refreshing drink of choice for many, these blended concoctions can sometimes contain more than 600 calories. To ensure your smoothie is high in nutrition and low in fat, opt for heaps of fruit - fresh, frozen or canned. Steer clear of the ice cream or whole milk variety, which are normally high in fat and calories. A better selection includes such ingredients as yogurt, no-fat or low-fat milk, or cottage cheese.

■ Weight Watchers offers the following tips to help you better manage the amount of calories consumed in beverages:

- Serve non-caloric beverages when desirable and appropriate. The exception: low-fat or no-fat milk is always good.
- Choose solid over liquid. Eat fruit instead of fruit juice, vegetables instead of vegetable juice.

Although a great source of Vitamin C and potassium, 100 percent fruit juice lacks the fiber of solid fruit.

■ Think water all the time. Hands down, water is the ultimate thirst-quencher. An essential staple, water is the beverage of choice for in-between meals, at sporting events and whenever thirst strikes.

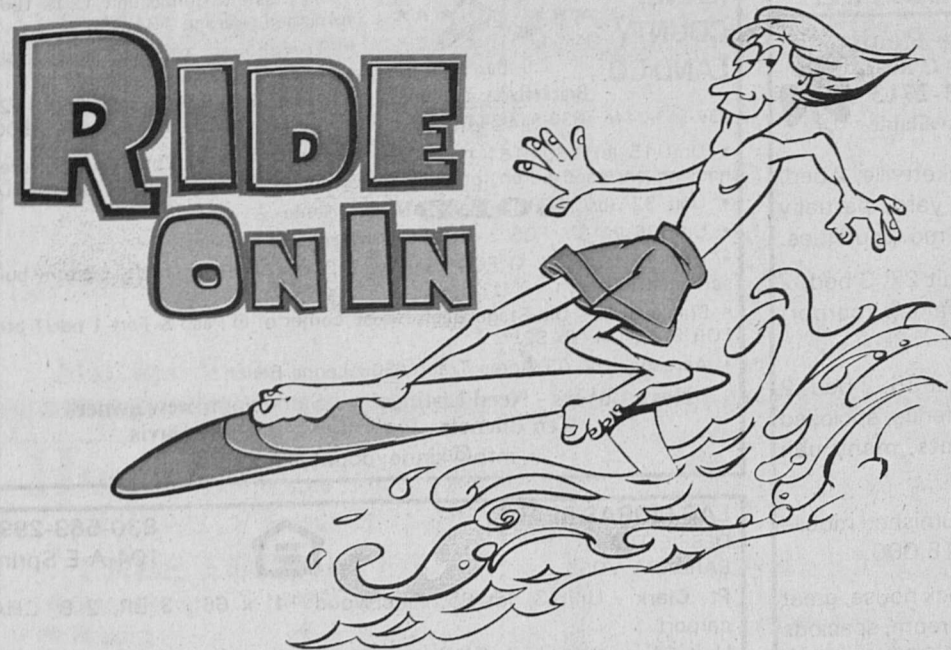
■ Dilute the calories in drinks containing alcohol. Order wine spritzers, use diet soda pop as a mixer in cocktails. Alternate "virgin" and "hard" drinks during social events with extended cocktail hours.

**Pet handling not a problem if kids wash frequently**

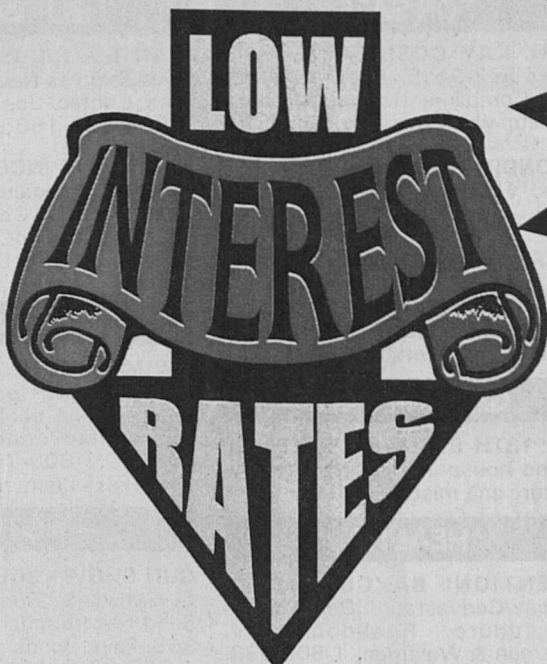
**HOUSTON** — Pets can transmit some types of minor infectious diseases to their owners, but that shouldn't prevent parents from encouraging their children to bond with the family cat or dog.

The majority of infections transmitted from animals to humans aren't serious, said Dr. Maria Rodriguez-Barradas, assistant professor of medicine at Baylor College of Medicine.

Most infections occur when a person comes in contact with dog or cat feces, then touches his or her mouth. Two of the common infections are toxoplasmosis, associated with cats, and giardiasis, caused by dogs. Toxoplasmosis generally causes no symptoms or enlarged lymph nodes in healthy people. Giardiasis can result in diarrhea or cramping. The solution is to frequently wash your hands and your children's hands after playing with pets or coming in contact with possibly contaminated soil, she said. Children also should be reminded never to touch stray animals and to avoid sharing food or kissing pets on the mouth, Rodriguez-Barradas said.



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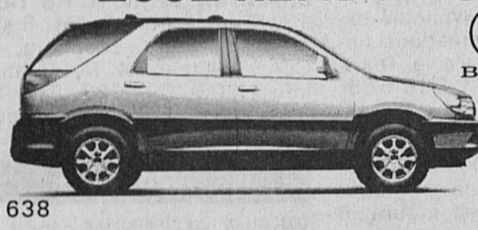
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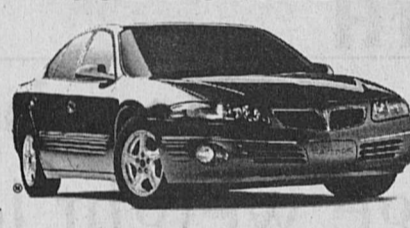
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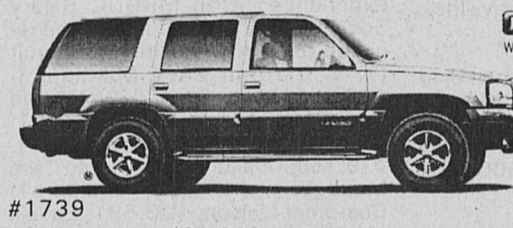
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