

The Brackett News



Miller responds to group's allegations

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14th year, No. 27

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Golf tournament set for Saturday

The Brackett Athletic Booster Club will hold its 2nd Annual Golf Tournament on Saturday.

The four-person scramble still has openings for players. Registration begins at 11, with a shotgun start at 11:30.

The registration fee is \$30 per person, and carts are available for rent from the golf club. A barbecue lunch will be served, and many door prizes to give away.

For information or registration forms, call Candy Hobbs at 563-2591.

Agents apprehend 114 in Brackettville

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents made 114 apprehensions in Brackettville during the period of July 29 through Aug. 4, officials announced.

There were 773 total apprehensions made in the Del Rio Sector, including 274 in Eagle Pass, 107 in Carrizo Springs, 67 in Del Rio, 47 in Uvalde, 45 in San Angelo, 33 in Abilene, 25 in Comstock, 17 in Llano and eight in Rocksprings.

Agents in the Del Rio sector seized 205.86 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$164,688.

Agents apprehend 114 in Brackettville

UVALDE — The Uvalde Arts Council is unveiling its 2002-2003 Grand New Season. The festivities will start Friday night at 7:30 at the Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House.

Entertainment for the evening will include John Barnes and Toni Hull and friends, including Dan Wynn and Taylor Langford. Also the "Not so Ready for Primetime Singers," consisting of Art Sutton, Paul Kimble, Wayne Whitaker, Chip Wood, Steve Cox and John Barnes.

Tosca and Greg Haag will join the activities by staging an Abbott and Costello skit, the unforgettable "Who's on First?"

Admission is free. For more information, call the Opera House at (830) 278-4184.

Water board adopts district rules

By J.J. Guidry
Editor

It took two tries for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District to adopt rules, but the second attempt was successful.

After holding its second public hearing in three weeks, the Board of Directors voted 4-2 Tuesday night to adopt the policies.

Board members Don Hood, Darlene Shahan, Hadley Wardlaw and Bob Young voted to approve the rules, while Zach Davis and Cecil Smith were in opposition. Director Henry Fuentes was absent from the meeting.

"I don't agree with some of the rules, but we have to start somewhere," Wardlaw said. "We can always change the rules if we need to."

Davis asked the other directors: "Why are we adopting the rules if we're saying they need

■ See WATER BOARD/Page 2



Public hearing on water conservation rules draws packed courtroom. Kinney County citizens filled the District Courtroom at the Courthouse Tuesday night for a public hearing on the rules of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District. The Board of Directors passed the rules on a 4-2 vote.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Rules have immediate impact on local farmer

By J.J. Guidry
Editor

Justin Burk had to go to his banker Wednesday to renew a loan to continue to operate his farm in Kinney County.

But, for now, the loan has to wait.

Burk will no longer be able to farm here under the rules passed by the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Tuesday night.

Under the new rules, wells drilled prior to Jan. 1, 2002 are limited to the lesser of annual historic use or 2.5 acre-feet per acre of land. In Burk's case, he has historic use of 7 acre-feet,

but he is limited to the lesser 2.5 acre-feet.

"If we're limited to 2.5 acre-feet, I will have to call the bank and tell them there is no way to pay out of it," said Burk, a Del Rio resident who grows alfalfa in the western part of the county.

The newly-adopted rules do not limit the "beneficial, non-wasteful use" of wells drilled after Jan. 1, 2002 that are not used for agriculture.

"Alfalfa, to grow, exist and produce, has to have 7 acre-feet," Burk said. "There are all kinds of historic data that shows that has been pumped for years down there, way before I was

"Anybody that has ever paid an REA bill on one of those pumps knows that you don't want to pump one ounce more than you have to. To stay in business, you have to keep that to a minimum, and we're just trying to keep our livelihood going."

Kinney County farmer Justin Burk

there.

"We have the best water-saving device we can use. Anybody that has ever paid an REA bill on one of those pumps knows that you don't want to pump one ounce more than you have to. To stay in business, you have to keep that to a minimum, and

we're just trying to keep our livelihood going."

Burk addressed his concerns about the rules during the public-forum portion of the Board of Director's meeting Tuesday night.

"If the water is not being used, we can have exceptions,"

said Hadley Wardlaw, a board member. "If they come in and show a need for it, we can give them more water."

Lynn Sherman, a water attorney for the Native Valley Cooperative and a former executive manager of governmental affairs for the Lower Colorado River Authority, disagreed.

"I don't see a provision that exists in the rules that gives you the authority to do that," Sherman said. "Frankly, you don't have the procedures in place to even be able to make such an exception, even if the rules provided for an exception."

■ See RULES/Page 2

Fort Clark members host meeting Saturday

Simpson named board president

By J.J. Guidry
Editor

Jack Simpson is the new president of the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors.

Simpson was unanimously elected by the directors last Thursday at a special meeting to replace Shirley Hadsell, who resigned from the board on July 20.

Glen White was chosen by the board to replace Simpson as vice president.

Following the appointment, Simpson made the following statement:

"Down through the years, in my profession, I've had the opportunity to be shot at, stabbed, whipped up on," he said. "I've worked with rapists, criminals of all sorts, murders. I've had a gun put to my head two times with the hammer cocked. These are things that I've had to go to court with, and deal with the judge and the jury, and they believed me when I said what happened."

"At Fort Clark Springs, I have come across an enemy which is tremendously vicious — I think even more vicious than the things that I've had happen to me in the past. These are things that are called untruths. Things that you cannot combat. Things that get twisted and turned, and bent out of shape because of the things that happened."

"People would rather hear a good, juicy story than to hear the truth. When they do hear the



New leadership on the board. Jack Simpson (left) and Glen White visit during a break in last week's special meeting at Fort Clark Springs. Simpson was named the new president of the Board of Directors, and White is succeeding Simpson as vice president.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

truth, they refuse to accept the truth.

"What I would like to do is see to it that if any of you have a

question about a truth, I would ask that you would call and ask about the truth before you spread a rumor."

Board of Directors votes to send letter to membership answering allegations

By J.J. Guidry
Editor

Members of Fort Clark Springs will hold a special meeting Saturday morning at 10 at the Service Club to remove four members of the Board of Directors.

Over 400 members signed a petition requesting the special meeting to vote on removing Shirley Hadsell, Jack Simpson, Carol Miller, Glen White and Frank Cheaney from the board.

Hadsell, the former president, resigned July 20. Her seat on the board was filled by Bob Williamson. The remaining two directors are Mona Miller and Tom Saylor.

Several questions concerning the legalities of this weekend's meeting have been raised, and those questions may have to be answered in the court system.

"Maybe some kind of arbitration or some kind of decision can come about by the attorneys meeting and discussing this," said Simpson, who was appointed last week to replace Hadsell as president.

"We want it to go the right way, whichever way it is. If it means that the board is going to be taken off, I would like to see it done in the proper manner. If we're going to stay, I would like to see it done in the proper manner. Whichever way is right, I think that's the way we need to go, and the courts need to decide that."

Officials from the Preserva-

tion Society, the group which initiated the petition, said they are following the Fort Clark Springs Declaration and bylaws and are in consultation with an attorney. But the association's attorney, Haygood Gulley, said the membership meeting is not legal.

Early last week, the directors released a statement which said: "The board must call a special meeting for the purpose of removing a director, when the request is made by at least 400 holders of memberships entitled to vote."

"As of July 29, the board has not been presented with a request or petition from members for a special meeting. Therefore, any meeting called by a director, or members of a group, constitutes no more than an assembly. Any action taken at such assembly would have no legal effect upon the association."

During a special meeting last Thursday, the directors voted to send a letter to the membership responding to allegations made by the Preservation Society. The measure was passed 5-2 with Saylor and Mona Miller opposing.

"I'm getting phone calls and I'm getting e-mails from people that are not here," Carol Miller said. "They have only gotten basically one side of what has been going on."

Williamson added: "I'm getting the same type of calls. This thing is really getting out of hand."

CORRECTION

In last week's edition of *The Brackett News*, it was reported that Darlene Shahan said: "It's hard to keep track of the enemies," during a Kinney Groundwater Conservation District Workshop. Shahan actually said "entities" and not "enemies." We sincerely regret this mistake.

INSIDE

■ **Steven LaMascus**

Once again, I have been stunned by the idiocy of some Americans. Yep, some fat guy is suing Burger King and McDonalds because he says it is their fault that he is fat. Opinion/Page 2

■ **Taylor Stephenson**

Welcome to Brackettville, Maarten Vos from the Netherlands. Maarten is our Rotary exchange student. He will play football and basketball this year. Community/Page 3

■ **Practice begins**

The Brackett Tigers are embarking on a new season after beginning football workouts Monday. Brackett is coming off an 8-2 campaign. Sports/Page 4

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EDITORIAL

Harsh reality of water district's rules hits home with Kinney County farmer

While discussing the adoption of rules for the Kinney County Groundwater District Tuesday night, members of the Board of Directors admitted certain policies need to be changed, but voted to adopt the measures anyway.

Less than two hours after the rules were approved, the harsh reality of the policies hit home.

Director Don Hood said: "I don't think the farmers have one single problem, as far as I'm concerned."

We disagree.

As the rules stand now, one farmer has already been put out of business.

Justin Burk will no longer be

able to produce alfalfa in Kinney County with the limitations imposed by the district.

We certainly agree with the notion that the district needs to have rules in place and that the natural resources in this county have to be protected, but board member Zach Davis is right when he says the directors are "putting the cart before the horse."

As Davis pointed out, state law mandates the adoption of a management plan before the adoption of rules.

"You set the rules, then you work the management plan around the rules," Hood said. "No matter what in the world

somebody is trying to tell you, that is not the way it works."

Apparently, Mr. Hood was not listening when Texas Water Development Board officials visited our community last month.

The Texas Water Code says a district has to adopt a management plan, and "adopt rules necessary to implement the management plan." The district has rules, but no management plan.

For months, the district has ignored the concerns expressed by the agriculture community.

It is a shame four board members were ignorant of the rules' effects before they voted to approve them.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fort Clark Springs directors will be sacrificed

We have a fine working Board of Directors. Look who is on it and what they have done on their own time without pay:

Frank Cheaney researched and wrote many grants to get money to fix fort buildings.

Glen White built cases for historical displays and is a volunteer handyman.

Carol Miller has spent weeks learning fort accounting software from the system programmer.

Shirley Hadsell has done volunteer work in the RV Park, including mowing with a push-mower (she resigned from the board July 20 to pursue a job).

I saw Jack Simpson sweeping up around the restaurant.

A petition, with supposedly over 400 signatures, including those of Directors Mona Miller and Tom Saylor, is being circulated to remove the other five directors.

The GM, following the board's guidelines and operating with board approval, is getting Fort Clark straightened out. The GM owns two fort homes. She does not have to work. Therefore, she does not have to kiss senior staffs' butt or kowtow to members who wanted exceptions to the rules.

I live here and can see daily improvement — road shoulders being mowed, despite excess rain; garbage being picked up quickly; the pool cleaner than in

all the years I have been a full member.

At the last board meeting, someone said a vote at a special meeting would remove these five board members. When asked about the absentee members, someone said they don't count.

To fire a good GM with a vested interest in this fort's well-being, our five best directors will be sacrificed with this vote. The two remaining directors will appoint anyone they want and the majority of the members will not be able to do anything until the next election.

I count. Absentee members count. We need to speak out.

Pat Moffatt

Teacher offers public resignation from district

To Taylor Stephenson, BISD superintendent:

You may consider this letter my formal resignation as a teacher employed by the Brackett Independent School District.

I thoroughly enjoyed my work, teaching. I can site many, many success stories. My career has encompassed 26 years of teaching, the last 16 of which I have been employed by the BISD.

While I thoroughly enjoyed and have been quite successful at my work teaching, I cannot, nor will not, continue working

under the supervision of elementary school principal, Paula Renken.

During the 26 years that I have worked as a teacher, I have had many supervisors and/or principals. Most were caring, compassionate, considerate, ethical and competent; or they demonstrated at least some of these traits. Those who did not, were generally short term or migrant type workers.

The last two years, under the direction of Ms. Renken (and others it seems), have been intolerable.

It is my belief that Ms. Renken, intentionally, knowingly, and with sanctioned direction, singled me out of the crowd to pressure for subsequent departure.

I fully intended to work as a teacher in the BISD for the next four years; thereby ending a career with 30 years experience. Many teachers do. It is unfortunate (for many) that I can no longer work in the environment or setting which currently exists in the BISD Elementary School.

Janelle Senne

Director should be concerned for animals' health

To preface my comments, I must say that I have absolutely no personal interest in my subject.

I do not now, nor do I plan in the future, to stable, horses at Fort Clark Springs.

Several weeks ago, a member of the Fort Clark Board of Directors was instrumental in rescinding a policy regarding negative Coggins tests for horses coming onto the fort.

All responsible horse owners always carry negative Coggins papers with them for all horses being hauled.

This is just common sense

(also known as "horse sense"). It doesn't have anything to do with laws saying you "have to" or "don't have to" have negative Coggins tests within so many feet of anything.

One horse brought onto the fort without a negative Coggins test could cause every horse in the stable to be destroyed. Is the Board of Directors ready to face the inevitable lawsuits that would come as a result?

It appears that the director who insisted on rescinding the negative Coggins rule did so just to show that she could, with absolutely no concern for the ani-

mals' health and well being.

As stated above, I have no issue in this particular instance, but I was the victim of a similar situation where one of the finest mares I ever owned had to be destroyed because of no requirement for a negative Coggins on other horses coming into the stable. She was only one of the 33 destroyed.

I urge the Fort Clark board members to show some common sense and reconsider this issue.

It should always be a matter of what is right, not who is right.

Kay Gilbreth



Courts flooded with ridiculous cases

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

Once again, against all odds, I have been stunned by the mercenary idiocy of some Americans. Yep, some fat guy in, I believe, New York, is suing McDonalds and Burger King and etc., because he says it is their fault that he is fat. And the sad thing is that he found some shyster attorney who was low enough to take the case. This slimy gold digger alleges that he wouldn't be fat if McDonalds and Burger King had just told him that their food was fattening.

Now he wants a gazillion dollars in damages for their failure to save him from himself. This doofus was on the Today Show or some thing like that with his crusading attorney. He did pretty well until he opened his mouth. Illiterate is not the word for this guy.

If he ever attended school he didn't pay attention on that day. His attorney had, apparently, dressed him up in a suit, but even a nice suit can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear.

The only possible reason for this court suit was that this worthless nitwit thought he saw an easy way to make some cash without having to do any actual labor; and his attorney, one of the poster children of the breed, no doubt, thought it sounded like a good idea. After all, he didn't get in on the tobacco suits and a lawyer has to make a killing, I mean a living, somehow, doesn't he? The astounding part of this is that it will actually go

to court. McDonalds, and whatever other businesses that are named in the suit, will have to spend a lot of money to defend themselves against a plainly frivolous lawsuit.

The lazy fool who is suing them is not out a penny. His shyster is no doubt doing the legal work on the halves. Any judge who sees this case should immediately throw it out and put the lawyer and his so-called client in jail for criminal greediness and being stupid in public.

This country is being flooded with absolutely ridiculous court cases. Those filing the cases are not interested in justice but only in profit. They are too lazy to work and too cowardly to steal so they sue other people to get their dirty money.

There is no shortage of crooked or at least conscienceless attorneys willing to take the case if it looks like it will turn a buck or give them a little free publicity. Judges haven't got the guts to tell the greedy worms go jump in the lake, so the case gets before a jury.

The jury is picked by the lawyer to be composed of a bunch of worthless loafers just like the one who filed the case so the innocent are found to be guilty of some fantasy wrong and the worthless twit and his morally bankrupt lawyer get wealthy while the rest of the country sits by and wonders how in the world anything so stupid and idiotic ever got to court in the first place.

The examples of this trend are endless. The couple who sued a movie company because

their idiot son went to see Smokey and the Bandit and then killed himself by trying to jump a river in his Trans Am.

Then there was the infamous woman who sued McDonalds because she burned herself with the coffee. I wonder what she expected to get when she ordered "hot" coffee?

And how about the crook who broke into the store to steal, hurt himself in the process, and then sued the storeowner for his injuries? Yeah, and he won the suit! Can you imagine any sane person finding the storeowner at fault because a thief broke into his store? I can't imagine where the lawyers in this case found twelve people that monumentally stupid.

This is merely another perfect example of the decline and fall of the United States of America. We have lost touch with reality and it is getting farther and farther away each day. We are accepting the ludicrous as commonplace, and the insane as reality. Reality and logic are the only things not acceptable in this modern version Wonderland.

The president has sex in the Oval Office with a young woman not his wife and it's okay. But a preacher says a prayer aloud in the hallway of the Whitehouse and he is arrested. We can't outlaw pornography on library computers, but it is illegal for our children to mention God or the Lord Jesus Christ in a public school. Yep, makes me proud of how America has evolved into a "civilized" nation.

Water board adopts district rules

Continued from Page 1

to be changed."

The board held its first public hearing on July 16, but decided to further discuss the rules at a workshop the following week. Smith, the board chairman, said the first hearing "was too soon to pass what we had."

During the two-hour hearing on Tuesday, 19 citizens made comments to the board in the crowded District Courtroom in the Courthouse.

Most of the concerns expressed to the board were from members of the agriculture community, but others were in favor of passing the rules immediately, including officials from Fort Clark Springs.

"I think we're going to be able to work with the farmers," Wardlaw said. "I don't think that is going to be a problem. We're not trying to put anybody out of business."

"I don't think the farmers

have one single problem, as far as I'm concerned," Hood added.

One farmer did have a problem. Justin Burk told officials he could no longer produce alfalfa in Kinney County under the new rules.

"I am not in compliance right now, the way the new rules read," Burk told the directors.

Following the public comments, Davis motioned that the district first develop and approve a management plan before adopting its rules.

"State law specifically mandates the development and adoption of a groundwater management plan by the district before the adoption of rules," Davis said. "The district has not yet developed such a plan. We have been advised by our special legal counsel, Jace Houston, on several occasions that we should develop a management plan, and then develop and ob-

tain good science by which to develop and then adopt substantive rules for the regulations of groundwater pumping."

Hood disagreed: "You set the rules, then you work the management plan around the rules. No matter what in the world somebody is trying to tell you, that is not the way it works."

Davis told the other directors that he agreed with the administrative and procedural rules, but said the substantive rules included "arbitrary numbers."

"To me, it all leads back to the lack of science," he said. "We do lack science for adopting today the substantive part of these rules. I think we're making a big mistake to go forward with those sections of the rules."

"I've heard it said by other board members here that we're getting the cart before the horse, and we are when it comes to the substantive rules. We have no basis for them," Davis added.

Rules have immediate impact on local farmer

Continued from Page 1

Kinney County Attorney Tully Shahan told the board members: "You don't make any exceptions."

"You get with the agriculture people tomorrow, you set an agenda, and you sit down and try to work something in your rules that will help Justin Burk."

Director Zach Davis asked

Shahan: "You're saying, start tomorrow modifying our rules."

Shahan replied: "This guy is in a bind, and I sympathize with that. There are some things that need to be addressed. You have to start somewhere, and I agree with the rules being passed."

"That's beautiful rhetoric, but we kept asking to establish this prior to adoption," Davis

said. "The board will meet again Aug. 20 at 5:30 to discuss the issue in a workshop."

"Agriculture has brought this county a long ways, and it will continue to do so," Shahan said. "Don't look back. Let's not gripe about the rules being passed, let's do something about it."

Big Mama Sez!
Before undergoing a surgical operation, arrange your temporal affairs. You may live.

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Miller responds to allegations made by Preservation Society

By J.J. Guidry
Editor

Fort Clark Springs board member Carol Miller responded to several allegations made by the Preservation Society during a special meeting last Thursday. Miller was responding to a letter the Preservation Society sent out the previous day to the membership.

Following are statements from the letter and Miller's responses:

Preservation Society: "In the last several months, we have lost 18 of our most loyal and dedicated employees, many who have worked here for many years, including the entire Maintenance Department and the department head of accounting."

Miller: "Only one was dismissed, the rest of them left on their own accord, including the workers in the Maintenance Department and the department head of accounting."

Preservation Society: "There have been 21 grievance letters submitted in writing and which were basically ignored."

Miller: "If there was a grievance letter that is covered under our employees' manual, that is an issue that is between the employee and management. Maggie (Kerr, general manager) has said that she will be glad to bring anything there is. I don't think she knows of 21 grievance letters."

"If they are there, then who was working up here in a confidential situation that would give this kind of information out? Obviously, not a real good Fort Clark employee."

Preservation Society: "We have been in violation of our TNRC permit (garbage and transfer station)."

Miller: "No, we have never been. There was a complaint. They have to address all complaints. Evidently, this person that complained seemed to have a pretty good knowledge of what's going on."

"They complained because our garbage is being picked up by a contract service using our truck and delivered at our transfer station, but they are not direct employees of Fort Clark."

"After talking with the TNRC — realize this is a state agency and they aren't real fast

on some of this — there is a letter coming to us that will say we are in compliance. There is no problem."

"This is something that has been discussed, that the board members all agreed."

Preservation Society: "Gross negligence of our 18-hole golf course has resulted in the possible loss of five or six of our greens."

Miller: "The golfers know that we have had a fungus problem out here. The Scott's man was down here and took a look at it. They have treated it."

"On the greens, they have replaced a lot of areas with sod, and they're doing more Monday."

Preservation Society: "In addition, the Health Department has been contacted concerning the apparent unhealthy conditions of our swimming pool."

Miller: "The entire board went down and met with Dr. Gary Garrett, Ph.D., with Texas Parks and Wildlife. He explained that in any spring-fed pool, when there is a lot of water going into a pool, you're liable to get other things in."

"There is a constant flow of

water in here and a constant flow out. The green that was in it was coming from the spring. There is no point in putting chlorine in it because in less than 24 hours it's out and it has done a lot of damage down-stream in the creek further down."

"All board members knew and had been at the meeting with Dr. Gary Garrett. He said it is being treated exactly the same way as the spring-fed pools at state parks."

"If the Health Department had been contacted and there is concern, they've never contacted us."

Preservation Society: "There has not been a complete financial statement for the association since April 2002."

Miller: "At the May meeting, the April (financial statement) was approved. After having the department head of accounting quit, there was not one put out at the June meeting."

"I had the May financial for the association — not the Las Moras or the impound fund — at the July meeting."

"But this isn't the first time this has happened, even under the department head of account-

ing that quit. There were a couple of months where we were two months behind."

"We will be up to date by the August meeting. We will have June and July, plus all the budget changes that were made in April that never got put in before."

"Plus, we will have things that have not been done all year. If you come in pre-pay, this goes into an account, and each month we need to take some of this pre-pay and put back into revenue. It hasn't been done all year because there hasn't been a program that they've been able to figure this out with. We now have a program ... and will be up to date."

Preservation Society: "Monies received from our insurance company for hail damage to the association buildings in November 2001 was used to pay property taxes instead of repairing the damaged buildings."

Miller: "I believe the hail was in October. Again, Mona (Miller) wasn't on the board at the time, but Tom (Saylor) was. Maggie discussed with the board prior to paying taxes that we did have the money. She was

concerned about it. This check came in, and we said fine, that's in the general fund, let's use it. At that time, there was no discussion from Mr. Saylor on this issue. There wasn't any sort of question raised."

"What would they have us do? Borrow money or go to the impound fund and borrow?"

"This is the first year — I don't know when it was started, but I know it's been at least three or four years — that money has not been borrowed from the impound fund to pay taxes."

Saylor disagreed with Miller's comment, stating: "That took place in February, and I was out of state."

Preservation Society: "The ballots will be tabulated by the auditing firm of Schuler and Schuler."

Miller: "Schuler and Schuler will not be tabulating the votes. In going in and talking with Schuler and Schuler and discussing conflict of interest, and once they realized our attorney said that this was not a meeting that would have any effect as far as the board was concerned ... they (said) they would not be counting the ballots."

Exchange student from the Netherlands arrives in Brackettville

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Welcome to Brackettville, Maarten Vos from the Netherlands.

Maarten is our Rotary exchange student for Brackett ISD. He will play on the Tiger football and basketball teams this year.

Host family for the first semester of school will be Gilbert and Yolanda Rueda. Gilbert is a border patrolman. Yolanda teaches at Jones Elementary.

Maarten arrived in Brackettville Sunday night. He will stay with Bill Haenn for the first week

to get oriented to the school and the community.

He is thrilled to be in Texas having looked forward to coming to the U.S. for five years. Best wishes for a grand year!

Thanks to the Rueda family for being his family the first semester of school.

New Band Director
Our band, under the direction of new band director Ann Davidson, has begun its summer practices.

Davidson's music degree is from Texas Tech, and she is a fully-certified band director. Welcome to Brackettville, Ann.
Eye of the Tiger

I was in Castroville this past Wednesday and saw a tiger come into the station for a soft drink. I recognized the tiger — who had already spotted me). It belonged to the Brackett High School cheerleaders.

Cindy Brandt was taking the enthusiastic group to camp. It is a great bunch of young ladies with lots of spirit!

Preparing for School
New teachers will come to work this Friday. All other staff will report Monday.

This year we have eight new teachers — three are elementary and five are high school and junior high.

We're getting ready for students. Check with principals and campus secretaries to see if you need to complete anything

before school begins.

I'm sure new students should come in to register. Students who did not turn in their sched-

ules at the junior high or high school, should come in and get that taken care of ASAP.
Have a great week!

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Tuesday, July 30

6:38 p.m., Star Sitareh Barharloo, 17, of San Antonio, was arrested for possession of drug paraphernalia by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley. Barharloo was released the next day on a paid bond and for time served.

Wednesday, July 31

2:02 p.m., A woman reported a grey and white air jack missing from a tire shop behind

Davis Hardware store.

9 p.m., Deputy Manuel Pena Jr. responded to a harassment call.

Thursday, Aug. 1

10:30 a.m., A 911 call was received. A maroon Buick car was in a ditch, on Highway 277 near Sycamore Bridge. Deputy Pena was advised.

Friday, Aug. 2

1:45 p.m., Deputy Larry

Robinson responded to an argument at a local restaurant.

Sunday, Aug. 4

7:45 a.m., Constable Cordelia Mendeke escorted a juvenile.

9:15 a.m., A woman reported loose goats on F.M. 3199.

9:40 a.m., A man reported a possible electrical short. The Fire Department was notified.

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PERSONNEL:
Publisher: Jewel Robinson; Office Manager: Dimple Henry; Editor: J.J. Guidry; Staff Writer: Steve LaMascus; Typist: Maria Alicia Duran; Typist: Kathy Wilson; Ad Salesperson: Becky Tuck

USPS 003987
Published weekly on Thursday by The Brackett News. Entered as Second Class Matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, 78832.

DEADLINES:
Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for advertising to be



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BHS begins workouts

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

The Brackett Tigers are embarking on a new season after beginning football workouts Monday.

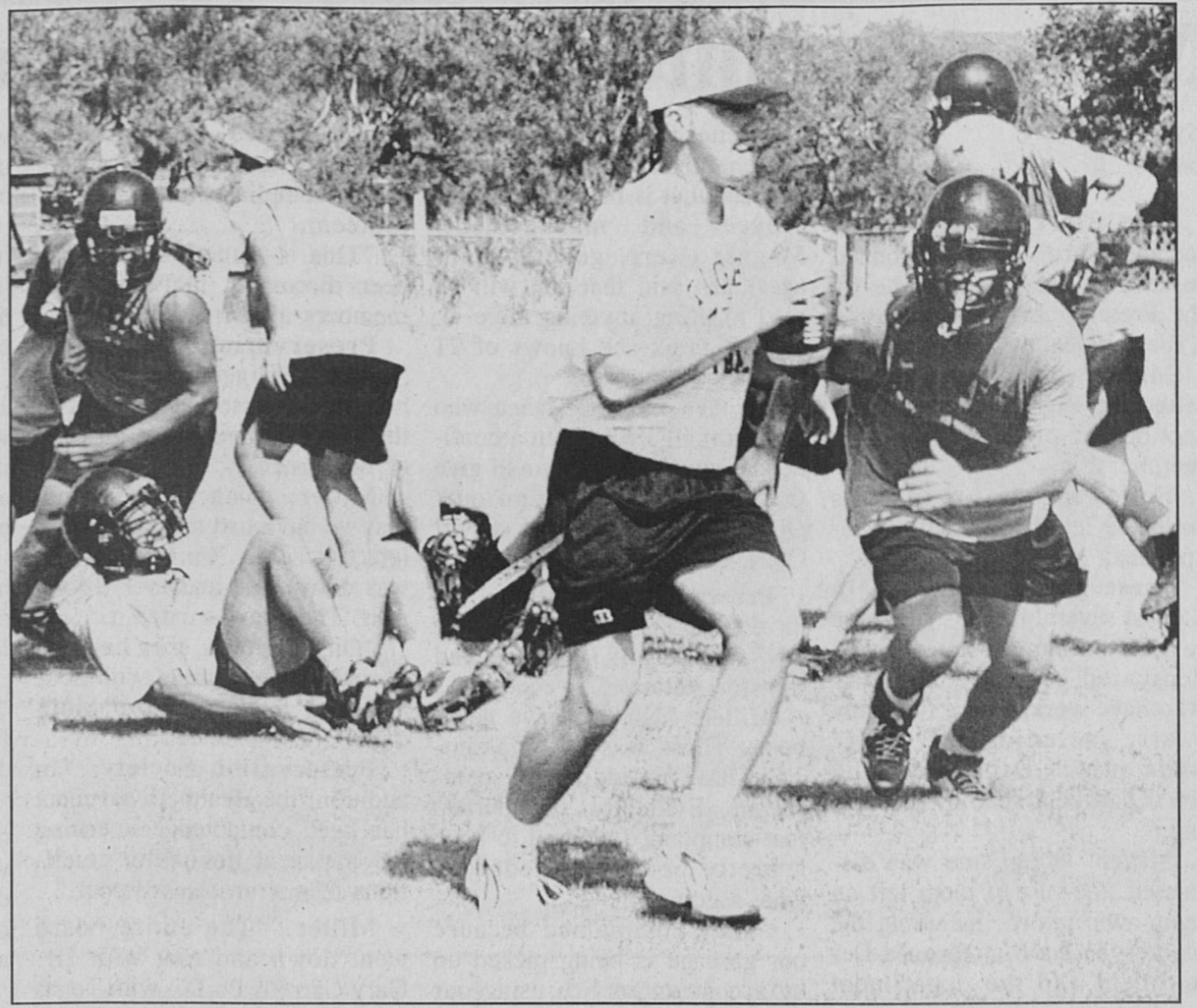
Brackett is coming off an 8-2 campaign. The Tigers finished second in conference last year after losing to Poth 27-25 in a game that determined the district championship.

"We're excited to have all the kids back in camp," BHS head coach David Yeager said.

"We're excited just because of the progress we made over the off-season with the strength-and-conditioning program and the summer workouts. It is nice to be back on the football field," he added.

The Tigers will see their first competitive action on Aug. 17 with a 10 a.m. controlled scrimmage in Leakey.

Brackett will host a scrimmage against Junction on Aug. 23 before opening its season against Lytle on Aug. 30.



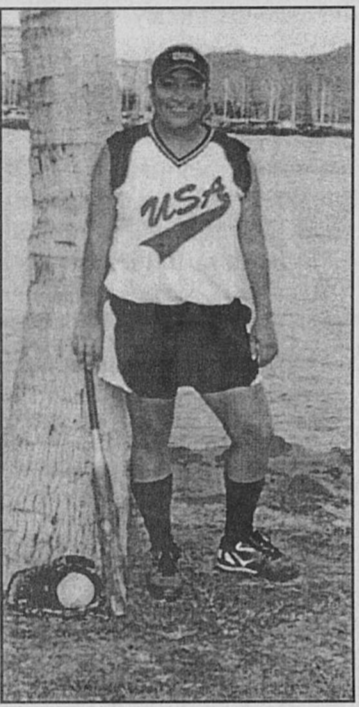
Defending the option

Brackett coach Ricky Creel runs the option as the Tigers work on defensive run support during Tuesday's practice. The high school team began two-a-day workouts Monday.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Special thanks to all those who volunteered their time and support during my fundraisers and for all the generous donations during this year. Your contributions gave me the opportunity to go to Honolulu, Hawaii to join Team USA and be one of two students to represent Brackettville on the girls softball team on July 17, 2002. I'm proud to say my team did great and came in 2nd. It was and will be a lifetime experience full of memories.

Words cannot express my appreciation to my family.
Love you all,
Vanessa Marie Castillo



School to build new fitness center

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

Brackett high school and middle school athletes will soon have a new fitness center to work out in.

The School Board agreed to build a new fitness center during a special meeting last week.

The trustees accepted the low bid of \$91,681 from Mike Bizzell of Brackettville. The district received two other bids — \$114,400 from Jay Miller Construction Company of Del Rio and \$118,000 from Tom Page and Company of San Antonio.

Bizzell's bid included completion of the project in 90

BY THE NUMBERS

The following are the bids made to Brackett ISD for the construction of a new fitness center:

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Mike Bizzell | \$91,681 |
| Jay Miller Construction | \$114,400 |
| Tom Page and Company | \$118,000 |

days.

"I suspect as soon as the papers can be worked through, we will be starting on the facility within two or three weeks," said Taylor Stephenson, BISD's superintendent.

Currently, all the weights are housed in the field house. The new facility will be constructed south of the field house at Tiger Stadium.

"Our difficulty has been having access to the weights for girl athletes while the boys are dressing and showering," Stephenson said. "We want to have the facility where both boys and girls will have easy access"

Athletic director and head football coach David Yeager said the new facility will offer numerous benefits.

"It's going to allow us to have boys and girls in there working out at the same time," he said. "It will allow more coaches to

be observing, instructing and helping the student-athletes. Plus, it gives us a lot more space and room.

"It's going to be a tremendous addition to our athletic program. It's going to make us better in the playing arenas."

Yeager said weight-training is continuing to become a more important part of high school athletics.

"Right now, we have to work on getting bigger, faster, stronger and more explosive," he said. "You can't stand still, you have to keep moving forward and weights is a very important part of that."

The trustees awarded the bid as it was proposed, but also discussed other options concerning the construction of the facility.

"We are looking at adding sidewalks and a cover between the fitness center and the field house," Stephenson said. "We may put in the rest rooms now, rather than waiting for some time in the future. Plus, we're looking at air conditioning."

"We'll be looking at some of those things later and trying to minimize the cost of it," he added.

School district adds parking at football field

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

Brackett football fans should have an easier time parking this year at home football games.

The BISD School Board agreed last week to purchase a piece of property north of Tiger Stadium for \$17,370 from Pat Rose to allow more room for parking.

"We get our biggest crowds at the football stadium, and our biggest safety problem at that facility is parking," said BISD superintendent Taylor Stephenson. "Everyone now double-parks on the street, and when you come out it is a nightmare."

Stephenson said school district officials had been studying parking at the stadium "for some time."

"This will give us 50 feet all the way around the north side of the field, and we should have room for 50 to 60 parking spaces," he said. "We would direct the traffic one-way around and they could park diagonally. Traffic will enter on the west side of the stadium, and go out the opposite direction on the east side."

Athletic director and head football coach David Yeager said the additional parking is a welcomed improvement to the stadium.

"It will help our fans and support system out, giving them better access," he said. "We will be able to make our football facility more attractive by having more property around it to do some things."

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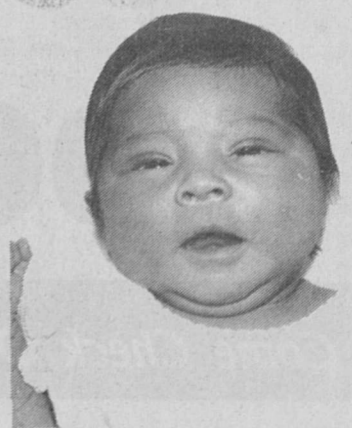
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It's a girl!



♥ Jorge Luis and Leticia (Chata) V. Meza are proud parents of Theresa Meza, born June 24, 2002. Grandparents Jose Vela Lopez and Graciela de la Rosa de Vela from Spofford and Juan Meza Alvarez and Anita Villa Torrez from Cristales Coah. ♥

Learn about EMS before criticizing

EMS Update
By Carolyn Rutherford

I need your help understanding about a lot of things. A number of you readers are older and wiser than I, so I need your help.

This is my fourth summer in Brackettville. Each year has brought both pleasure and major pain to me. Right now, I am really hurting.

Why is it that your EMS crews work their hearts out to try to save a life and get criticized for "taking a dead person to the Emergency Room?" Believe it or not, this is what I got wind of today.

First off, when we receive a call for help, we make instant decisions that literally make the difference between life and death. Then, once we get to the scene of the problem, we have about three or four seconds to judge what needs to get done.

When someone is not breathing and has no heartbeat, we make an instant judgment based on our training, observations and experience. If the person does not meet the criterion for obvious death and has no papers instructing us not to perform cardiopulmonary resuscitation, guess what? We must perform CPR.

Only God decides who lives at that point, and I have experienced many miracles where someone looked dead and had no pulse, and yet with the help of a few, dedicated folks, survived to walk out of the hospital. Several of these miracles were children and young adults.

That didn't happen the other day, but we who work hard to

save lives, did our very best to give our patient the best possible chances to survive. And you know what? We were blasted by certain people for "taking a dead person to the hospital."

I guess what I'm trying to say is: Why don't you who have such strong criticism of what we are trying to accomplish here take a CPR course? Better yet, why don't you turn your negative attitude into a positive one by taking an EMS course?

You know, the other day, not one of the folks watching us struggle to do our best offered to assist us. Our last EMT course that was offered was cancelled because only three people from Brackettville signed up for the course.

My father (God rest his soul) used to say: "If you're not part of the solution, you're part of the problem."

Everytime we perform CPR, we perform it all the way to the hospital. We only pause for seconds to perform skills that are necessary to improve the chance of restoration of vital signs. This means we get thrown around in the ambulance and have to "treat on the run."

In 23 years in EMS, I have always continued CPR all the way to the hospital. You have to. You don't stop. Can you — in your wildest imagination — know how hard this work is? Do you truly appreciate it?

We have people come by the station all the time, dropping in to say thanks or let us know they care. Where are you?

As far as the other contention, that all we want is the \$600 we charge for transport, is flatly

untrue. If we had our way in EMS, we would not, repeat not, charge for our services.

Reality these days is that insurance, Medicare and Medicaid represent the largest percentage of payors in our service. Those institutions dictate what can or cannot be charged.

Why would we transfer a "dead person" while going to the physical and emotional stress just so we would bring in a billing of \$600, of which Kinney County and Kinney County EMS might receive \$80 to \$100?

For those who criticize us for doing our jobs, here's some "reality therapy" for you:

Suppose the next time we are called for CPR and our patient is related and loved by you. I bet you would want us to do our level best to preserve or save the life of that precious person.

You know what makes us different from you? Even if we knew who the "criticizers" are, we treat them like all our patients — as the precious people you are, despite your unpleasant attitude.

My last little thought is just this: Instead of talking to folks outside of EMS when you have

questions about how we run EMS, why not instead give me a call?

Even if I am not at the EMS Building, I am always available to speak with our customers. Yes! Kinney County, you are our customers, because through your county taxes, you pay partially for this service.

Better yet, come by the station and I will not only welcome and address your concerns, but maybe you will learn just how hard EMS works all the time. Maybe a spark of interest will ignite and maybe you will join us.

But, we're here, as always, and ready to help out. Please, if you have an emergency, call 911.

Our primary unit is staffed with the minimum TDH required personnel — at least two certified individuals. Any other units sent out while the primary unit is committed to the scene may be staffed with less than TDH required staffing, through a personnel variance.

If you have any questions about EMS operations or if you want to sign up for EMS training, please call us at 563-9090 between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Rotarians discuss new year

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

will be Maarten's first host family.

The Brackettville Rotary Club discussed its budget for the upcoming year last Thursday, as plans for fund-raisers.

Rotarians welcomed J.J. Guidry, a returning member.

Three years from now will be Rotary International's centennial celebration. Each club will be planning an appropriate project of significance to the community to be completed by that time. The Brackettville Club is in the process of researching and selecting its enterprise.

Maarten Vos, Rotary's exchange student for the coming year, arrived Sunday from the Netherlands.

Gilbert and Yolanda Rueda

Arrangements have been made to enable Maarten to come out for football since he is very interested in sports.

Rotarians expressed excitement about his arrival, and Maarten is excited too, according to his family. His mother told Bill Haenn that Maarten has been "sitting on his luggage" he is so eager to get started on his adventure.

Members credited last year's exchange student, Matthias Katzfuss from Germany, with providing a very positive experience. Because of this, Rotarians expressed an eagerness to welcome Maarten, who will be present at next week's meeting and will be reporting on a regular basis.

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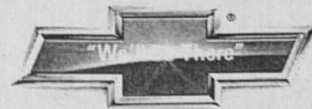

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1 Family members
4 "Pardon me?"
8 Famous mission
13 Bucks
14 Bob
15 Legally binding
16 Likewise
17 Files
18 on; incited
19 Star of the film
22 Letters
23 Portrait holders
24 Indignation
28 Ammonia and sodium hydroxide
29 High school student
32 One of Donald Duck's nephews
36 Prefix for date or room
38 European
39 Depraved
40 Obvious
41 Suffix for infer or refer
42 Scale parts
43 Soccer great
44 Classic car
45 On land
47 off; begin
49 Supermarket
51 Cheapen
56 Porch item
58 Soarers
61 "What's in ___?" (Juliet)
63 Roseanne's maiden name
64 In order
65 Naval detection apparatus
66 even keel; steady
67 Entry
68 Annapolis student
69 Benign skin tumors
70 3 months in Marseille
DOWN
1 Island whose capital is Valletta
2 Obstinate creatures
3 Push
4 Odd fancy
5 60 minutes
6 Unoriginal one
7 Seed covering
8 Get even for
9 Fall back
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11 Manner
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13 Instance
20 May Clampett; Jethro's cousin
21 Map within a map
25 Stopped
27 Roof piece
28 Fish line-fishhook connection
30 Without repetition
31 Virginia
32 Writer Walter ___
33 Save up
34 Resist successfully
35 George or T.S.
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40 Soap
44 Peaceful spot
46 Dole
48 Dresses up
50 Joint
52 Spree
53 Take ___; sit down
54 Massachusetts
55 This: Sp.
56 Macho: abbr.
57 Celebes ox
59 Freeway division
60 Seaport for 10 Down
62 West

1. "Banana", 2. Truman Capote; 3. Ronald Reagan; 4. Woody Guthrie; 5. Kissin'; 6. John Augustus Larson in 1921; 7. Mountains; 8. Annapolis; 9. Drums; 10. Gallaudet College

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—forward, backward, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: CAR MODELS

| | | | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| T | C | E | N | T | U | R | Y | R | M | A | C |
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Trivia Time by Walter Branch

1. What Japanese World War II battle cry meant "Long live the emperor"?
2. What famous author described himself as an "alcoholic, drug addict, homosexual and genius"?
3. Who was the fifth U.S. president to be shot?
4. What folk singer died of Huntington's chorea?
5. What affectionate act was banned in England during the plague?
6. Who invented the lie detector device?
7. What features are pushed up during the geological process of orogeny?
8. What word strictly defines a non-religious person?
9. What instrument did Don Henley play as a member of the Eagles?
10. What is the only U.S. institution of higher learning for deaf people?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

| | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| August 8..... Mildred Borden | August 11..... Ted Seidl |
| August 8..... Clinton Brown | August 11..... Sandi Vance |
| August 8..... Joe Henry Castro | August 12..... Bernie Cervantes |
| August 8..... Amanda Del Bosque | August 12..... Elise Huntsman |
| August 8..... Mildred Harvey | August 13..... Nina Batson |
| August 8..... Pamela McClure | August 13..... Ray Entrikin |
| August 8..... Martha Montalvo | August 13..... Tom Bohne |
| August 8..... Adam Sandoval | August 13..... J.J. Guidry |
| August 8..... Louise Wood | August 13..... Georgia Logue |
| August 9..... Savannah Massingill | August 13..... Megan McWilliams |
| August 9..... Margaret Piepflow | August 13..... Ron Ring |
| August 9..... Howard Wakefield | August 14..... Roland Boyesen |
| August 10..... Ashley Castillo | August 14..... Sarah Davis |
| August 10..... Vanessa Castillo | August 14..... Audie Herrington |
| August 10..... Bea Dorrell | August 14..... Roger Stephens |

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Home matters take center stage this week. As a result, you tend to neglect some work duties. By week's end, you're back on an even keel.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You find yourself at a crossroads concerning your career. Change is in the offing. You'd be wise to embrace it.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Romance sizzles this week for singles. Couples face an important financial decision. Consider this carefully since it will affect your future.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A financial adviser has good advice. This isn't the time to be squeamish. Remember, a certain stick-to-it-iveness is what it's going to take.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While you'd like to take a trip, you'll find it will be related to business instead of pleasure. Watch your wallet while out and about. You may not be in the safest area.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A slip of the lip could cause hurt feelings with a friend. Instead of tattling, be discreet. This person is relying on your ability to keep a secret.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) There's nothing like the satisfaction of a job well done. You experience this by midweek, once you complete an important project. This weekend, eschew the use of credit cards while shopping.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While finances are looking better, you still need to consider a career matter. While it could be risky, it will be worth it in the long run. Over the weekend, family members seek your input.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Financial opportunities are yours for the asking this week. This is a direct result of all your hard work. Feel free to pat yourself on the back.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You may think you're being reasonable, but a friend doesn't see it the same way. In fact, you're being downright stubborn. Make more of an effort to compromise with this person.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your best approach to those in authority this week is to remain low-key. Bigwigs have important matters to attend to without distractions. Later in the week, you do receive the recognition you deserve.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Contracts and legal agreements are on the table. Read through everything carefully. The commitment you make will be for several years.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:

| | |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Accord | 11. Grand Prix |
| 2. Camry | 12. Le Sabre |
| 3. Caprice | 13. Mazda |
| 4. Century | 14. Mustang |
| 5. Civic | 15. Riviera |
| 6. Continental | 16. Sabre |
| 7. Corolla | 17. Saturn |
| 8. Corvette | 18. Skylark |
| 9. Cougar | 19. Taurus |
| 10. Grand Am | 20. Thunderbird |

Live life one day at a time Lead me into righteousness

First United Methodist Church
By Rev. Ken F. Sellers, Jr.

Still pondering the rhetoric at Fort Clark Springs . . . it appears to me that things are going to get worse before they get better! The petition group is going to hold their own vote and the Board is scheduling a different vote.

In the Gospel according to Matthew Jesus speaks to us of "anxiety," the kind of worry that begins small and then mushrooms into thinking the very worst is coming. Jesus says (6:25), "I say to you, do not be anxious for your life, as to what you shall eat, or what you shall drink; nor for your body, as to what you shall put on. Is life not more than food, and the body clothing?"

Is life not more than "being right" about an opinion of how Fort Clark Springs should be run? Sure, each person has the right . . . no, the responsibility, to try and get corrected things perceived wrong. However, each of us is just as likely to be wrong in our opinion as we are to be correct. I can remember a job situation as a young man in which I was so very frustrated (read anxious here). I was a college-educated, hardworking

member of the Facilities Management staff of the Southwest Regional Office of the Internal Revenue Service. I saw a waste of taxpayers' money everywhere I turned. I saw long-term employees more concerned about their coffee breaks than about efficient use of government funds. To say the least, I was so concerned about what I perceived as "wrong" that I felt compelled to quit when my suggestions about change were ignored. My father, who was very dumb at the time, tried to get me to accept that the time would come when I would be the "sage" whose ideas were adopted.

As I look back from over thirty years of personal growth, my old man (as I fondly call him now at 92 years of age) was a lot brighter than I knew. In many positive ways the Internal Revenue Service has changed for the better over those same thirty years, but could still use some significant alteration. The fact that the IRS didn't listen to me in 1969 has not caused the agency to fail as I certainly thought it must.

The Apostle Paul writes, in his first letter to the church at Corinth (6:5-8), "I say this to your shame. Is it so, that there

is not among you one wise man who will be able to decide between his brethren, but brother goes to law with brother, and that before unbelievers? Actually, then, it is already a defeat for you that you have lawsuits with one another. Why not rather be wronged? Why not rather be defrauded? On the contrary, you yourselves wrong and defraud, and that your brethren." There are wise, honest people on the Board. There are wise, honest people involved with the petition drive. There are lawyers involved on both sides. Before the issue of which vote shall prevail in court, neighbor going to law with neighbor, sit the wise, honest people down together and let them create a voting atmosphere that is mutually acceptable to both sides. To wait for the lawyers and some strangers (the court) to decide will be accounted to all of you as "shame" and "defeat" for all of you will lose relationships, and probably even some of your precious money.

Visit us at First United Methodist Church for worship this Sunday at 10:45 am. Help us continue to seek to re-create our relationships with God and each other in a manner that promises love not hate.

St. John Missionary Baptist Church
By Pastor William P. Adams Sr.

Give ear to my words, O Lord, consider my meditation. Harken unto the voice of my cry, my King, and my God: for unto thee will I pray.

My voice shall thou hear in the morning, O Lord: in the morning will I direct my prayer unto thee, and will look up.

For thou art not a God that hath pleasure in wickedness: neither shall evil dwell with thee.

The foolish shall not stand in thy sight: thou hatest all workers of iniquity.

Thou shalt destroy them that speak leasing; the Lord will abhor the bloody and deceitful man. But as for me, I will come into thy house in the multitude of thy mercy; and in thy fear will worship toward thy holy temple.

Lead me O Lord in thy righteousness because of mine enemies; make thy way straight before my face. For there is no faithfulness in their mouth; their inward part is very wickedness, their throat is an open sepulchre; they flatter with their tongue.

Destroy thou them, O God;

let them fall by their own counsels; cast them out in the multitude of their transgressions; for they have rebelled against thee.

But let all those that put their trust in thee rejoice: Let them ever shout for joy, because thou

defendest them: Let them also that love thy name be joyful in Thee.

For thou, Lord wilt bless the righteous: with favor wilt thou compass him as with a shield. Psalms 5. Praise God.

Wanting to Peek

By Rev Brother J
Contributing Writer

You could tell it was near the end of the school year because there was so much excitement in the air. I was excited about school being out but also worried about my grades. Maybe you weren't worried about your grades but some of us sure were. We would carefully watch the teacher work on her grade book those last weeks of school. Some of us would use silly excuses (like going to the pencil sharpener four or five times or going to the waste basket numerous times) to go by her desk and try to peek at our grades. I don't know how she did it but we were never able to see our grades till the final day. The

Bible says that it will be that way about who is allowed to go to heaven: There will be a day (judgment day) when we all stand before God and give an account of our life. The books (God's grade books) will be opened (Revelation 20:12) and we will know who is going to be allowed into Heaven and who is not.

If we've repented and trusted Jesus for salvation our names were written in the Book of life (Revelation 20:15). If we have disobeyed God and chose to reject Christ then our name was not written there and we will be sent to a place of torment and suffering (forever). Make sure you have Christ in your life today. See you in church on Sunday.

OUTDOORS

Licenses going on sale with new Worldcom format

By Henry Lutz
Contributing Writer

Austin, Texas — New hunting and fishing licenses for 2002-03 will be available beginning Aug. 15, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is urging customers to buy early and avoid the Labor Day Weekend rush. All current annual hunting and fishing licenses expire on Aug. 31. Texas issues 3.2 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through 28 TPWD field offices, more than 100 state parks and at most sporting good retailers across Texas. License buyers will see a new look to their hunting and fishing licenses this fall with the transition to a new format implemented by WorldCom. WorldCom is in the second year of a five-year contract to handle TPWD license sales. Rather than the sales receipt printout license of recent years, new printing technology has enabled TPWD to provide better graphics and a more user-friendly product. The new version will resemble the traditional Texas license with detachable game tags around the license. Hunters will also note the new required game log on the back of their license this year. In addition to tagging a harvested animal, hunters will need to fill out harvest record information on their license. A blue square Texas Parks and Wildlife logo is part of the new format and will differentiate the license from previous versions.

Anyone planning to hunt mi-

gratory game birds such as dove and waterfowl must be certified under the Harvest Information Program. Certification requires answering a few brief questions when purchasing the license. Hunters of migratory game birds should verify that HIP certification is printed on their licenses.

Annual resident hunting and fishing licenses cost \$19 each and a combination hunting and fishing license costs \$32. For the avid outdoorsman, the Super Combo license includes a resident combination hunting and fishing license plus all seven state hunting and fishing stamps for \$49. Sold separately, the face value of the Super Combo package is \$82. Senior sportsmen can purchase the discounted Senior Super Combo license for \$25 or the \$10 senior combination hunting and fishing license.

Wherever licenses are sold, several other items for the 2002-03 season are also available beginning Aug. 15, including Annual Public Hunting Permits and entry forms for Big Time Texas Hunt drawings.

The Big Time Texas Hunts program offers the opportunity to win one or more guided hunts with food and lodging provided. In addition to the Texas Grand Slam — a once-in-a-lifetime package of four separate hunts for desert bighorn sheep, white-tailed deer, pronghorn antelope and mule deer — the Big Time Texas Hunts categories include the Texas Exotic Safari, Texas Whitetail Bonanza, Texas Waterfowl Adventure, Texas Big Time Bird Hunt, Texas Premium Buck Hunt, Texas Heritage Hunt, and new this year . . . the Texas Gator Hunt. Entries for the Big Time Texas Hunt drawings are \$10 each and must be purchased before midnight on Nov. 2. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase, and entries may be purchased as gifts for others. Purchasers must be 17 years of age or older. Proceeds from the Big Time Texas Hunts are dedicated to providing more public hunting opportunities and funding wildlife conservation and research programs in Texas.

God is watching over you

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

When you were a child did somebody hurt you and make you cry? Did somebody ever try to beat you up? Did you cry out to your parents for help? Did your parents rise up in rage about it? Were your parents ready to go to "Fisty Cuffs" with the person that hurt you? Even worse, if someone were trying to kill you, would your parents get mad and try to protect you? God gets just as enraged, and more so, when the devil tries to hurt his children.

If the devil tries to hurt you, just imagine your Heavenly Father having the reaction that David describes in 2 Samuel 22:4-51 when the King Saul, himself, was seeking to kill David. David first cried out in faith, "I will call upon the Lord, who is worthy to be praised; so shall I be saved from my enemies." When the spirits of de-

pression and death felt like they would overwhelm David, he believed that his heavenly Father heard his cry and came rushing to his aid as any Good parent would. "Then the earth shook, because He was angry. Smoke went up from His nostrils, and devouring fire from His mouth; coals were kindled by it." (Nobody wants to make your Heavenly Father mad.) "He bowed the heavens also, and came down with darkness under His feet.

He rode wings of the wind. He made darkness canopies around Him, dark waters and thick clouds of the skies. (Sounds like a thunderstorm) "From the brightness before Him coals of fire were kindled. The Lord thundered from heaven, and the Most High Uttered His voice. He sent out arrows and scattered them; lightning bolts, and He vanquished them. He sent from above, He took me, He drew me out of

many waters." (troubles) "He delivered me from my strong enemy, from those who hated me; for they were too strong for me. He also brought me out into a broad place; He delivered me, because He delighted in me.

The next time you feel like your enemies might overtake you or if you feel that the problems around you may succeed in bringing you down, remember that your Father in heaven delights in you.

He will never leave you, nor forsake you. He will bring you into a broad place, a place where you do not feel penned in by danger, but where you have "breathing room" and security. He will deliver you from the Evil one. The righteous blood of Jesus Christ has paid the price for your sins and covers you so that the Father calls you righteous. Rejoice and praise God because He has given you the victory. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Be a friend at all times

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Mom, what's where mean?" ten-year old Jenny asked. Startled at her daughter's question, it took Barb a few seconds to compose herself. "When did you hear that word Honey?" she asked. Jenny could sense anxiety in her mother's question. "Some kids at school were arguing and calling Lori a whore. It made her cry. Is it a bad word Mom?"

"Sweetheart, let's you and I go to the kitchen and enjoy a cupcake. We can talk about this alone." "Maybe I shouldn't have brought it up," Jenny said. "But I really felt bad for Lori. She's a nice girl." Barb put her arm around her daughter. She could see sincerity in Jenny's eyes. "Honey I'm glad you did bring it up. I feel good that you trust me enough that you're willing to talk about such an issue.

I'm sure Lori's a nice girl. What do you think the word where means?" "Well Mom, I'm not really sure. I think it has something to do with sex and it sounds like it's a bad word," Jenny answered. "You're right," Barb said. "It's a very old word that refers to someone who takes money in exchange for having sex. When it's used to identify someone it's a very derogatory term. It sounds like the kids you heard were using it on purpose just to make Lori feel bad.

A word like that is not a joke. It can destroy someone's good name. It sounds to me like Lori needs a friend." "But what can I do Mom? I don't want to fight with those kids and I don't want them calling me names," Jenny said. "Honey," Barb said, you don't have to fight with anybody. But you can say some nice things to Lori. Long ago a very wise man said, 'a blow from the

tongue smashes bones (Proverbs 28:17)' but, 'a kind mouth multiplies friends (Sirach 6:5)' and, 'a soothing tongue is a tree of life (Proverbs 15:4)."

This column is brought to you by the St. Henry DeOsso Family Project working in Brackettville to strengthen family, faith and education.

Sanjiv R. Kumar, M.D., P.A.
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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

God Created the Church to be a Family for ALL His Children.

Sunday Schedule:
Bible School at 9:30 am
Choir Practice at 10:15 am
Worship at 10:45 am
First United Methodist Church, "Home Away from Home"
Child care available upon request. 563-2823

Welcome! Church of Christ

808 N. Ann 563-2616
Sunday A.M., 9:30 Classes - 10:30 Worship
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

The Brackett Independent School District announces its participation in the National School Lunch/Breakfast Program. The school district offers a choice of healthy meals each day. Children may buy lunch for \$1.10 (Elementary) and \$1.25 (Middle and High School), breakfast for .50 cents (all grade levels). Children who qualify under U.S. Department of Agriculture guidelines may get meals free or at a reduced-price of .40 for lunch and .30 cents for breakfast. All meals served must meet nutrition standards established by the U.S. Department of Agriculture. If a child has a disability, as determined by a doctor, and the disability prevents the child from eating the regular school meal, the school will make substitutions prescribed by the doctor. If a substitution is needed, there will be no extra charge for the meal. Please note, however, that the school is not required to make a substitution for a food allergy, unless it meets the definition of disability. How to get free or reduced-price meals for your child? You must complete the Application for Free and Reduced-Price Meal Form and return it to the school. Please call the school for further information: 830-563-2491.

