

The Brackett News

Have a happy Mother's Day

15 year, No.13

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Honor service members with a Blue Star Banner

Do you have a family member serving in the United States armed forces? Show your neighbors and the community that your family member is serving proudly. Be the first one on your block to own and display the Blue Star Banner, or so called during other war times as the Service Man's Flag, and now called the Service Person's Flag.

The flag is about the size of a 8-by-11-inch piece of paper for window display. It has a red border and a white center with one, two or three blue stars representing the number of family members in the U.S. Service.

Flags are available at the Veterans of Foreign Wars, (816) 756-3390, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., www.vfw.org; American Legion Veterans, (317) 630-1200, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., www.legion.org; the Disabled American Veterans, (877) 426-2838, 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., www.dav.org; and the Vietnam Veterans of America, (800) 882-1316, www.vva.org.

The flags may also be found at the P.X. or B.X. (shopping stores-malls) on military posts or bases. Ask for the Blue Star Banner or the Service Person's Flag.

For more information, contact Monty Montgomery at 563-9770 or us68vet@yahoo.com.

Abrego honored for poetry writing

Greg Abrego of Brackettville has been honored as a "Famous Poet for 2003" by the Famous Poets Society.

He will be presented the Shakespeare Trophy of Excellence and the Greg Abrego 2003 Poet of the Year Medallion during a special ceremony at the society's Ninth Annual Poetry Convention in Orlando, Fla., on Aug. 30.

Abrego is also eligible to present his poem, "We Need a Change," at the convention.

BISD Roundup is Wednesday

Brackett ISD will hold its annual Kindergarten Roundup on Wednesday at 2 p.m. in Room 18 of Jones Elementary School.

The event is for parents (no children) of incoming kindergarten students. Parents will be able to register their child and receive helpful hints to be ready for kindergarten.

May 19 is Quail Appreciation Day

Quail Appreciation Day will be celebrated May 19 at the Dink Wardlaw Agriculture Complex. For more information, call 563-2442.

Frerich, Meil win school election

Gomez earns another term, Wardlaw elected to council

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Tom Gomez Jr. and Bonnie Wardlaw won their respective Brackettville City Council election bids and Mark Frerich and Sondra Meil claimed seats on the Brackett ISD Board of Trustees as Kinney County citizens turned out in record numbers to vote in Saturday's elections.

Gomez was elected to his third term. In the Place 3 race, he received 154 votes, edging out challenger Camilo Cruz Jr. by eight votes. Cruz finished with 146 votes, while June Kaminski had 71.

Wardlaw defeated incumbent Martha Ward McDonald in the Place 1 race. Wardlaw received 163 votes. McDonald, who has been on the council since 1999, received 114 votes and Patricia Barragan finished with 99.

Both council positions have two-year terms.

Frerich and Meil won seats on the School Board of Trustees after garnering 624 and 500

ELECTIONS

Results of Saturday's City Council and School Board of Trustees elections:

City Council	
Place 1	Votes
Bonnie Wardlaw	163
Martha McDonald	114
Patricia Barragan	99
Place 3	Votes
Tom Gomez Jr.	154
Camilo Cruz Jr.	146
June Kaminski	71
School Board	
At-large	Votes
Mark Frerich	624
Sondra Meil	500
Susanna Castillo	282
Martha Gerardo	240

votes, respectively, in the at-large election. Susanna Castillo finished with 282 votes, while Martha Gerardo had 240 votes.

School board members Rose Mary Slubar and Tim Ward did not seek re-election.

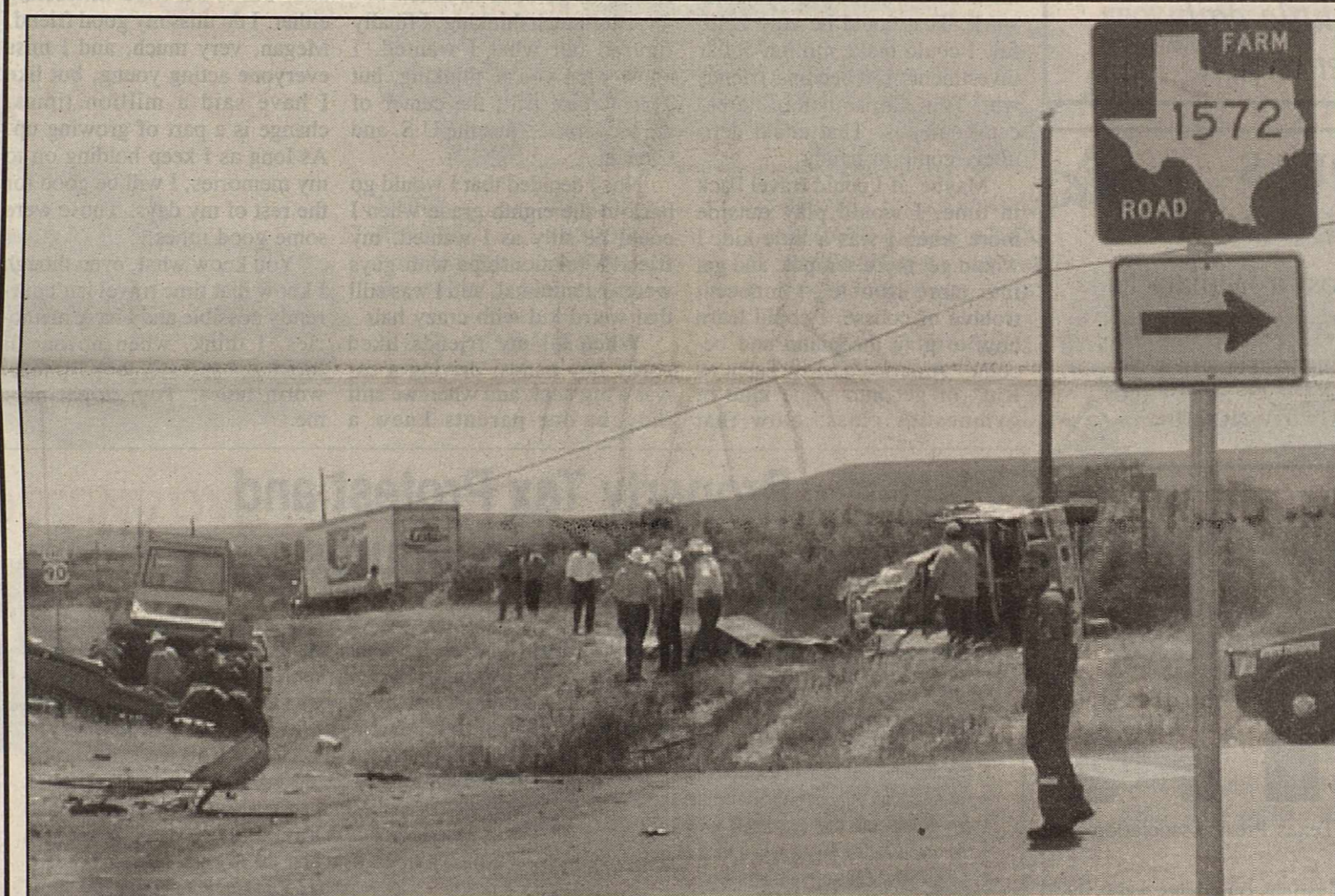
Frerich and Meil will both serve three-year terms.



New School Board members

Sondra Meil (left) is sworn in Tuesday night by Susan Esparza as a new member of the Brackett ISD School Board of Trustees.

Photo by J.J. Guidry



Sabinal man dies in three-vehicle accident

Jose Hernandez, 62, of Sabinal died Monday morning in a three-vehicle accident on Highway 90, 14 miles east of Brackettville. All three vehicles were traveling east-bound. According to DPS investigation reports, Hernandez was driving his 1995 Ford pickup behind a farm tractor being driven by Juan Rodriguez of Uvalde at a very low speed. Juan Ruiz of San Antonio, driving a tractor trailer, topped a hill and struck Hernandez's vehicle, causing it to strike Rodriguez's tractor, according to the report. Hernandez was killed as his vehicle rolled onto its side. Rodriguez's tractor came to rest in a bar ditch and Ruiz's tractor trailer continued approximately 200 feet through a pasture before coming to a stop. Rodriguez and Ruiz were not injured.

Photo by Wes Robinson

Water board set to hold rehearing on district rules

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will host a rehearing on its rules Friday at 5:30 p.m. at the Courthouse.

The directors granted motions for the rehearing last month during a special meeting.

The debate over the groundwater resources in Kinney County made it to the state capitol during the current legislative session.

A number of local citizens gave testimony in Austin as the Natural Resources Committee discussed Senate Bill 1886, addressing the local water district.

The bill was introduced by Sen. Frank Madla, who said the local water district "has had some difficulties and some problems that I felt needed to be addressed."

"In creating the district, there were two important objectives that were emphasized," he said. "The first was that the district would be funded through ad-valorem taxes and export fees, rather than production fees paid by the local landowners. The second objective was that local landowners and that local water utilities would be protected by preserving their historic use and their groundwater rights."

Currently, the district is being supported by ad-valorem taxes and production fees.

Border Patrol experiences little change with new Department of Home Land Security

By FRANCES McMASTER
Contributing Writer

The role of the U.S. Border Patrol has changed since the creation of the Department of Home Land Security.

Paul Berg, chief Border Patrol agent for the Del Rio Sector, discussed those changes at last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting at Las Moras Restaurant.

Berg, a Del Rio Rotarian, was the guest of Tino Guzman, program chairman for May.

The Border Patrol had not been restructured since 1942, but the crisis of Sept. 11 called upon drastic measures to guard America against terrorists.

The restructuring process addressed coordination among many existing agencies and affected 177,000 government employees.

Tom Ridge was made Director of the Department of Home Land Security, now the largest agency in the federal government.

Ridge faced a monumental task. Each agency absorbed into this larger entity had its own structure, hierarchy and meth-

ods of providing service.

One can only imagine the extent of the apprehension within members of each group to be absorbed — fear of the loss of identity, the loss of power and the uncertainty of change.

The existing agencies were divided into five bureaus. The first is management, second is science and technology, the third is information analysis, the fourth is border transportation and security, and the fifth is emergency preparation and response.

The U.S. Border Patrol is included in the fourth group.

Berg said the Border Patrol had not experienced many changes or many problems. He feels that the agency's mission has always been clear, and this has helped.

"If it isn't broken, don't fix it," he said. "The Border Patrol knows its goal, and will get it done."

Berg said the Border Patrol is doing everything it can to subvert terrorism.

It will "gather intelligence, line watch, and interdict anything from parakeets to drugs that special interests might try

to transport across the border.

"If someone or something needs to be checked before crossing, it will go nowhere until it is cleared," he said.

Cooperation between other agencies and foreign countries is commonplace. Berg said the Border Patrol frequently consults Interpol and the Mexican equivalent of the CIA. It also shares information with the FBI and the CIA — something that was not as likely to occur in the past.

Berg said the local sector will be getting more agents in this area. At the present time, the northern border is being reinforced, but Del Rio is still a priority.

He added that prosecutions are up, more criminals are being jailed, and more illegal aliens are being apprehended and returned to their home.

Berg is the head of 10 stations, 42 counties, 13,000 employees, and 58,000 square miles.

Rotary President Dave Alexander, the chief patrol agent in Brackettville, said Berg is a highly-respected and valued leader in his field.



Controlling our borders

Paul Berg (left), agent in charge of the Del Rio Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol, is welcomed to last week's Rotary Club meeting by Dave Alexander.

Photo by Bill Haern

INSIDE

Shanae Simmons

A few weeks ago I saw a movie about time travel. It was very interesting. Actually it was quite amazing. The film is called "Donnie Darko." Opinion/Page 2

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Would you be surprised to learn that there is one simple step you can take to keep your children healthy? It's not a magic drug. Opinion/Page 2

Chuck Hall

I received one of those e-mails the other day. You know the kind I'm talking about. They remind us of the good old days. Opinion/Page 2

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The good old days

I received one of those e-mails the other day. You know the kind I'm talking about. They remind us of the good old days. They're guaranteed to bring a tear to your eye.

I had to respond. I related about listening to western tales on the radio when I was a preschooler. Dad had to twist my ear to get me out of the truck to open gates for him.

I remember vividly the first time I saw TV. We were making the family pilgrimage to visit relatives in Colorado.

Dad would not usually stop at a motel that had TV since that cost a dollar more. This one time he did. I'm not sure if he had softened up or if TV-less motels were in short supply.

As the folks were getting dressed the next morning, I



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

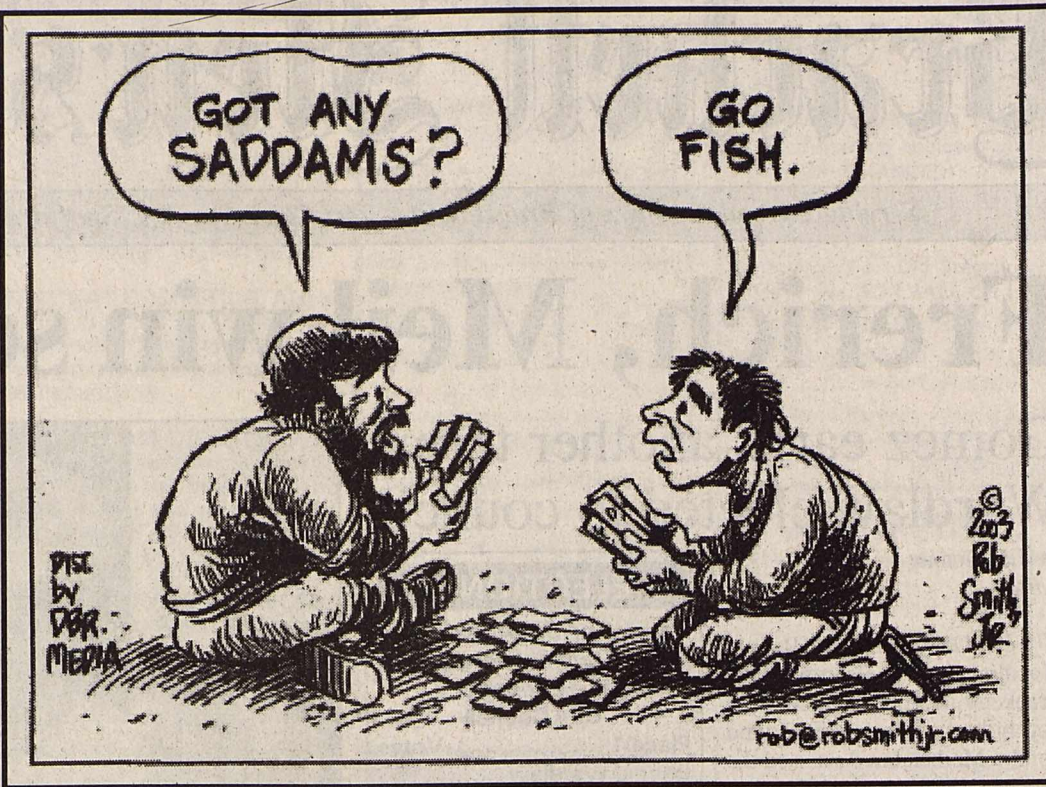
turned on the set. It took a while for the contraption to warm up.

Suddenly, there he was. I viewed my hero, the Lone Ranger, in true-to-life picture form.

He was almost exactly as I had envisioned him to be. He may have been a little shorter. In my mind he was 10 feet tall.

Dad had to twist my eye to get me out of the motel room and into the car.

The trilling days of yesterday. But I could be wrong.



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Vaccinate your infants for their sake

Would you be surprised to learn that there is one simple step you can take to keep your children healthy?

It's not a magic drug. And it won't cost you thousands of dollars. It's a very simple task and one that we all should follow: get your child vaccinated and do it on schedule.

This week marks the ninth annual National Infant Immunization Week (NIIW). Across the nation, efforts are being made to immunize more precious infants.

In Texas, you will see this campaign in full swing as little red boots scoot their way across the state to promote "Shots Across Texas."

Vaccinating your children may sound like an obvious step in raising a healthy child, but life is hectic and this step is too often forgotten or put-off for far too long. Vaccinations offer the single best protection for the health of our children and our future.

In today's society, immunization is no longer a luxury, it's a necessity. We all know the old adage, "you're only as strong as your weakest link." In this case, the weakest link is the unvaccinated child.

We often forget how fortunate we are to have access to vaccinations.

I have first-hand appreciation of vaccinations. You see, I grew up in a public housing complex in South San Antonio. The people living there were poor, but they provided a hard-working, labor force for the city's factories and military bases.

In those days, many of today's vaccinations did not exist. Far too many children suffered serious illnesses that today can be avoided by a simple vaccination.

As chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, I oversee funding for the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). This important administration approves, regulates and monitors all vaccines.

I have diligently worked to increase funding for the FDA. I understand that too many families are without health insurance. This is unfortunate in itself.

But as we work to increase health-care coverage, let's remember that vaccinations are still one of the best and cheapest ways to protect our children's health. They could mean the difference between life and death — especially if adequate health care is not available.

I am proud of the many parents who have helped increase immunization coverage among children in the United States.

Over 90 percent of infants today receive the most critical vaccines by age 2. These efforts have translated into a 95 percent reduction in vaccine-preventable deaths. This is tremendous progress, but we must work to stop any child from remaining unvaccinated. There's just no excuse.

There is no reason for any parent to delay having their children vaccinated. If cost is a concern, there are a host of resources to help. Public health policy wisely picks up the tab for vaccinating anyone who can not afford to pay. Parents can get more information on vaccines, by asking a local physician or calling the National Immunization Hotline at (800) 232-2522.

Remember, there is no better way for you to protect your children from disease than by immunizing them. Protect the littlest Texans by vaccinating your infants on schedule.

Thank You
Thank You for your support. I will do my best to serve our community.
Bonnie Wardlaw

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. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama Sez!



Don't let life's little daily annoyances get to you.

LAS MORAS MASONIC LODGE

The Lodge will host a Lamar Medal presentation May 10 at 2 p.m.
Regular meeting is Monday at 7 p.m.
Visiting Brothers are Welcome

The Brackett News

ADDRESS:
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How fun would time travel be?

Sometimes the world seems like its spinning too fast and it doesn't plan to slow down for anyone. Sometimes you just want to pause time for a while or even go back to when it was comfortable and familiar.

A few weeks ago I saw a movie about time travel. It was very interesting. Actually it was quite amazing. The film is called "Donnie Darko."

After watching, I imagined how great it would be to travel back into time.

One day I could find a secret wormhole that can take me back to the 80s or maybe even a couple of days ago when I remembered where I put my homework. That could be very helpful. I could make million-dollar investments, or become friends with Tom Cruise before he became famous. That could definitely come in handy.

Maybe, if I could travel back in time, I would play outside more when I was a little kid. I would get more scrapes, and get into more trouble — innocent trouble of course. I could learn how to play the piano and become "America's Most Talented Kid" or get into some kind of gymnastics class. Now that



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

would be pretty neat.

There are all kinds of things I could do that could somehow better my present situation. I could go on for days, sharing all of my wants and desires, but then what fun would that be.

Finally, I sat and thought about what I would want above all to be able to, if offered the chance to go back in time.

After much thinking, I finally figured out what I wanted. I know what you're thinking, but Tom Cruise isn't the center of the universe ... just the U.S. and Canada.

No, I decided that I would go back to the eighth grade when I could be silly as I wanted, my friend's relationships with guys were at a minimal, and I was still that weird kid with crazy hair.

When all my friends liked corny boy bands, driving a car was a big deal, and when we still thought our parents knew a

thing or two. Those were the good ol' days.

Recently, I talked to Megan, my best friend that moved away a few columns ago. We were talking about the eighth grade, and how we missed the good times we had back in the day — about two years ago. While chatting with her on the computer, we talked about all the crazy things we did when she was here, and I couldn't stop laughing. I laughed so hard that I cried. We talked about how we wished we could go back into time, but I knew it wasn't possible.

I started to think about where I am now. The present isn't too bad, but it isn't too interesting either. I do miss my good friend, Megan, very much, and I miss everyone acting young, but like I have said a million times, change is a part of growing up. As long as I keep holding on to my memories, I will be good for the rest of my days. Those were some good times.

You know what, even though I know that time travel isn't currently possible and I have memories, I think, when no one is looking, I will still look for those worm holes. Tom might need me.

Property Tax Protest and Appeal Procedures

The law gives property owners the right to protest actions concerning their property tax appraisals. You may follow these appeal procedures if you have a concern about:

- the market or special appraised value placed on your property
- the unequal appraisal of your property
- the inclusion of your property on the appraisal roll
- any exemptions that may apply to you
- the qualification for an agricultural or timber appraisal
- the taxable status of your property
- the local governments which should be taxing your property
- the ownership of property
- the change of use of land receiving special appraisal
- any action taken by the chief appraiser, appraisal district or appraisal review board that applies to and adversely affected you.

Informal Review

(Insert description of appraisal district's informal review process, if any, then give name and telephone number of person taxpayer should contact.)

Review by the Appraisal Review Board

If you can't resolve your problem informally with the county appraisal district (CAD) staff, you may have your case heard by the appraisal review board (ARB).

The ARB is an independent board of citizens that reviews problems with appraisals or other concerns listed above. It has the power to order the CAD to make the necessary changes to solve problems. If you file a written request for an ARB hearing (called a notice of protest) before the deadline, the ARB will set your case for a hearing. You'll receive written notice of the time, date and place of the hearing. If necessary, you may request a hearing in the evening, Saturday or Sunday. Prior to your hearing, you may ask to review the evidence the CAD will use to uphold their determination. The

CAD may ask you for a copy of the evidence you plan to present. The hearing will be informal. You or a designated agent may appear in person to present evidence or you may send notarized evidence for the ARB to review at your hearing. The CAD representative will present evidence about your case. You may cross-examine the CAD representative. The ARB will make its decision based on the evidence presented. The CAD has the burden of establishing the property's value by a preponderance of the evidence presented. You can get a copy of a protest form from the appraisal district office at 412 S Ann St. Brackettville, TX

Note: You shouldn't try to contact ARB members outside of the hearing. The law requires ARB members to sign an affidavit saying that they haven't talked about your case before the ARB hears it.

Review by the District Court

After it decides your case, the ARB must send you a copy of its order by certified mail. If you're not satisfied with the decision, you have the right to appeal to district court. If you choose to go to court, you must start the process by filing a petition within 45 days of the date you receive the ARB's order.

Tax Payment

If you appeal and your case is pending, you must pay the lesser of the amount of taxes due on the portion of the taxable value not in dispute or the amount of taxes due on the property under the order from which the appeal is taken.

More Information

You can get more information by contacting your appraisal district at 412 S Ann St Brackettville, TX (830) 563-2323. You can also get a pamphlet describing how to prepare a protest from the appraisal district or from the State Comptroller's Property Tax Division at P.O. Box 13528, Austin, Texas 78711-3528.

Deadline for Filing Protests with the ARB

Usual Deadline

On or before Jun 15 (or 30 days after a notice of appraised value was mailed to you, whichever is later).

Late protests are allowed if you miss the usual deadline for good cause. Good cause is some reason beyond your control, like a medical emergency. The ARB decides whether you have good cause.

Late protests are due the day before the appraisal review board approves records for the year. Contact your appraisal district for more information.

Special Deadlines

For change of use (the appraisal district informed you that you are losing agricultural appraisal because you changed the use of your land), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

For ARB changes (the ARB has informed you of a change that increases your tax liability and the change didn't result from a protest you filed), the deadline is before the 30th day after the notice of the determination was mailed to you.

If you believe the appraisal district or ARB should have sent you a notice and did not, you may file a protest until the day before taxes become delinquent (usually February 1). The ARB decides whether it will hear your case based on evidence about whether a required notice was mailed to you.

* The deadline is postponed to the next business day if it falls on a weekend or holiday.

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The Brackett News

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CITY/ST/ZIP _____

New Subscription Renewal Change of Address

BISD committee presents report

The Superintendent's Advisory Committee met with me Monday evening to report on their assessment of the citizens' concerns, and recommendations, as appropriate.

The committee, chaired by Don Smith, included Ricky Alvarado, Nakai Breen, Theresa Davis, Tony Frerich, Henry Fuentes, Martha McDonald, Ponce Padron and Lydia Tipps.

They worked hard to try to present citizens' concerns and suggestions that included many of the facets of BISD's operations. The report will be released to the School Board on Monday evening. Copies will be made available to the public after the board reviews the report. I am pleased with the suggestions made by the committee. I

look forward to be able to work with the board and with superintendent-elect Bobby Templeton in the implementation of many of the committee's recommendations.

Cinco de Mayo

The Cinco de Mayo celebration was a good one in Brackettville. The floats, costumed folks, younger and older, horses and marching units were lots of fun.

The Tiger Band, under the direction of Jim D'Camp, marched in uniform and added to the festivities. It was a grand day.

At school on Monday, 40 students from grades 1-6 participated in a student program in honor of Cinco de Mayo that was under the direction of Alma Gutierrez. It was fun to see the dances and to hear the music of



Making A Difference

Taylor Stephenson

Mexico. Our students and teachers enjoyed the program.

State Track Meet

We wish the best of luck to coaches Dusty Brotherton and Rhonda Marquardt, and to representatives of the Tigerettes track team competing at the 2a state meet this weekend.

Juliann Ashabanner will represent BHS in the 1600-meter run. In the 1600-meter relay, BHS will send Divina Pena, Stephanie Coronado, Rachel

Swinson and Stacy Castilla. Alternates will be Courtney Frerich and Tammy Smith. We're very proud of you, ladies.

Board Elections

Congratulations to newly-elected School Board members Mark Frerich and Sondra Meil.

The election was a spirited one, and I wish the best to our newest members.

Thanks to Tim Ward for seven years of service and Rose Mary Slubar for nine years on the board.

Tim and Rose Mary have been dedicated public servants who helped guide the school system to many improvements.

Thanks for a job well done.

Check out the BISD web site: www.brackett.k12.tx.us.

Have a great week!

OBITUARY

Robert C. Miller

Robert C. Miller went to be with the Lord on May 3, 2003, at the age of 77.

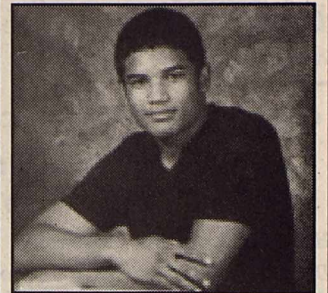
He retired from 3M in 1982 after 39 years.

Miller will always be remembered as a loving husband, dad, grandfather, great grandfather, good friend and golf buddy.

He is survived by his wife: Barbara; daughters: Patricia Miller Koczewski and husband Robert, Mary Jane Miller Whitaker and husband David, and Kristine McGovern; son: Jeffrey Nelson and wife Karen; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

A memorial service will be held Friday at 10 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Thank You

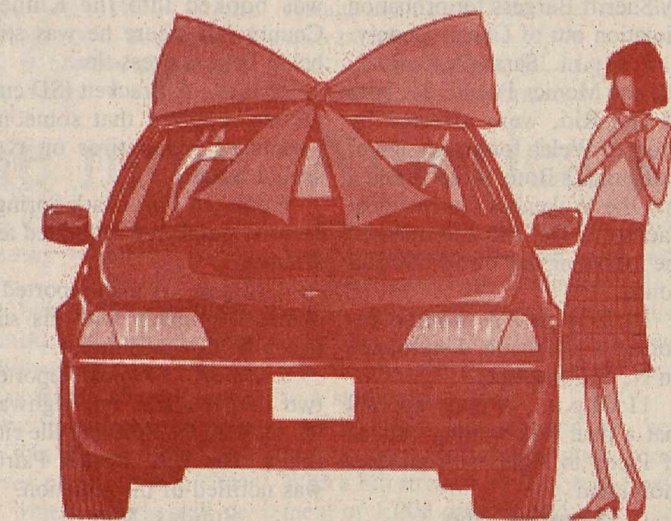


Jesse Hidalgo's family wants to thank everyone from Brackettville who took the time to help out with the cake walk raffle of the Blanket (winner of blanket was Natalie Aggarie) and our B-B-Que, May 4-03. All the donations from ranchers, family, friends, stores, relatives. We are all praying for Jesse's recovery. God Bless Everyone!

Find the latest news in The Brackett News!

Mother's Day Specials

0% APR on GM's Military Discounts



2003 YUKON SLE



GMC #2566

2003 ENVOY



MSRP\$29357
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$3750
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$23,207

2003 2500 HD DSL



MSRP\$41260
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$3750
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$33,760

2003 GRANDE AM SE



MSRP\$19270
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$1436
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$14,082



MSRP\$35642
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC....\$4000
MILITARY DISC...\$750

AS LOW AS \$27,892

2004 GRAND PRIX



2003 ALERO GX SEDAN



MSRP\$18475
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$987
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$13,738

2003 AZTEK



MSRP\$20995
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$1532
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$15,713

2003 SIERRA 1500 EXT CAB

MSRP\$27542
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC....\$2200
MILITARY DISC...\$750

AS LOW AS \$21,592

2003 YUKON XL



#2542

2003 CENTURY



MSRP\$22510
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC....\$1490
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$17,270

2003 SONOMA



MSRP\$16392
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC....\$829
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$11,813

2003 VIBE GT



MSRP\$20970
REBATE\$2000
BROWN DISC.....\$700
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$17,520

PRE-OWNED SPECIALS APR'S AS LOW AS 3.9% *

Trucks		Cars		SUVs		Minivans	
P7278	2003 Dodge Quad Cab.....\$22,800	2125A	2000 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$15,875	1998B	2000 Pontiac Sunfire.....\$9,800	P7264	2003 Chevy Trailblazer LS.....\$24,800
2544A	2002 Dodge Quad Cab.....\$20,900	P7233A	2001 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$20,875	P7250	2003 Buick Century.....\$15,600	P7265	2003 GMC Envoy SLE.....\$25,700
P7266	2003 Chevy C1500 SportSide.....\$22,500	2187A	2001 GMC Sierra.....\$17,685	P7228	2003 Buick Century.....\$16,495	2115A	2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$27,895
1694A	2001 GMC Sonoma Ext. Cab.....\$12,700	2544B	2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab.....\$20,500	1215A	1999 Cadillac Deville.....\$17,575	2339A	2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$28,475
P7275	2001 Chevy C2500 Ext Cab.....\$19,800	P7290	2002 Chevy Avalanche.....\$22,200	2444A	2002 Toyota Corolla.....\$10,400	2577B	2001 Chevy Tahoe LS.....\$24,700
P7273A	2001 GMC C2500 HD CC SLE.....\$26,700	2682A	2001 Chevy C1500 SportSide.....\$22,500	2448B	2002 Mazda Protege Hatchback.....\$12,300	2666A	2001 GMC Yukon.....\$24,800
2340A	2002 GMC CrewCab.....\$26,475			7192B	1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue.....\$8,400	2556A	2002 GMC Yukon XL.....\$28,800
1771B	1999 Dodge Ram 1500.....\$10,975			2679A	2001 Neon Highline.....\$9,400	2529A	2002 GMC Yukon XL.....\$27,800
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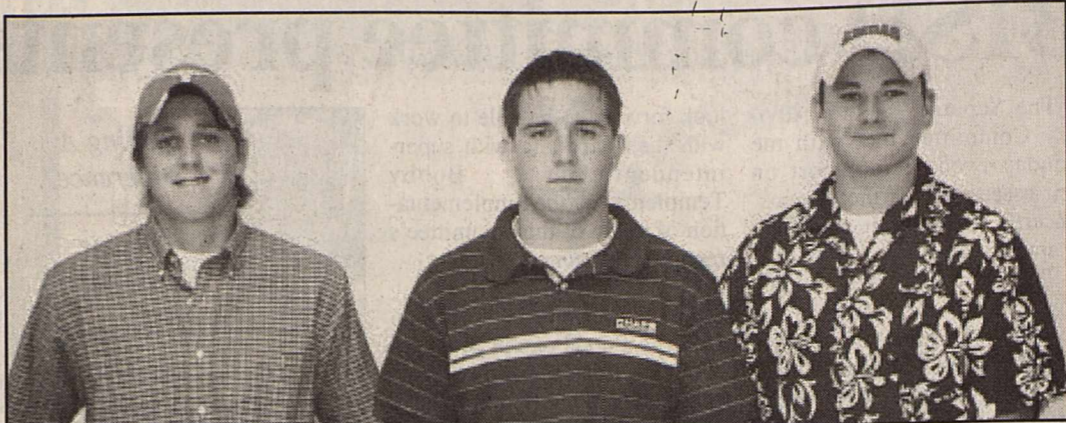
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Students attend Career Days

Brackett FFA students recently attended the South Texas Construction Career Days in San Antonio at the TEEEX Service Center.

It was intended to inform high school students of the wide array of job opportunities in the construction industry.

Students had the opportunity to meet with representatives from area construction companies and colleges, and also to operate various types of heavy construction equipment.



Construction Career Days

Tony Jamail (from left), Chestin Clark and Whitney Massingill recently attended the Construction Career Days. Other Brackett FFA students attending were Ryan Frerich, Arnold Pinales, Brian Rose and Blake Ward.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, April 28

9:20 a.m., Jose Luis DeLeon, 30, of San Antonio was arrested by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley on two outstanding warrants. He was released later that day after paying a \$300 fine, plus time served.

2:07 p.m., A city employee reported that a truck pulling a mobile home needed help on Spring Street near Kinney County Wool and Mohair.

5:11 p.m., A man reported a go-cart racing on E. Louise Street.

6:15 p.m., A man reported an alarm sounding at a residence on E. Fourth street.

6:27 p.m., A Century Alarms employee reported an alarm sounding at the 3-D Cattle Company on Highway 90, about 2 miles east of Brackettville.

6:50 p.m., A 911 caller said he needed water for his vehicle, which overheated on F.M. 693, close to Highway 277.

Tuesday, April 29

11:45 a.m., Ruby G. Duron, 43, of San Antonio was arrested for driving while intoxicated by

DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez. She was released later that day on a personal recognizance bond.

4:39 p.m., A woman said that her daughter had been hit by another student.

Wednesday, April 30
6:44 p.m., A woman said that a Fort Clark Springs security employee was threatening her son. He gave a written statement to the Sheriff's Office.

11:35 p.m., A woman reported a possible missing person. He left for a ranch at 9 that morning and did not return home.

Thursday, May 1

8:05 a.m., A woman reported that her vehicle had been hit at the corner of Henderson and Gove Street.

2 p.m., William Samuel Ritchie, 25, of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess on warrants for speeding and no insurance. He was released two days later for time served.

4:04 p.m., A man reported a reckless driver in a white Chevy

Blazer, headed east on Highway 90, 5 miles west of Brackettville.

9:05 p.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent from the Cline Check Point reported a loose cow on Highway 90.

11:36 p.m., A woman said someone was outside of her residence on N. Gove Street, trying to scare her.

Friday, May 2

12 p.m., Quentin Lynn Clark, 23, of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff Burgess for probation violation out of Comal County.

7:30 p.m., Sarah De La Rosa, 20, and Monica Puenti, 21, both of Del Rio, were arrested by Trooper Welch for possession of marijuana. Both were booked into the Wakenhut Correctional Facility in Del Rio and released the following day on \$1,500 bail bonds.

10:25 p.m., A woman reported a domestic disturbance on N. Brown Street.

11:00 p.m., A man reported that a man was waiting outside of Picos to fight with another individual.

Saturday, May 3

1:20 a.m., Eliazar Garcia Lopez, 25, of Spring was arrested by Trooper Welch on two outstanding warrants for speeding and no insurance. He was released after paying a \$790 fine and serving three days in jail.

7:38 a.m., A Del Rio DPS official reported a vehicle on fire about 3 miles north of Maverick County on Highway 277.

4:10 p.m., Deputy Fritter reported a locked vehicle on North St. close to the Temple Church.

Sunday, May 4

2:35 a.m., A man reported kids fighting at the corner of Thorn and Brown.

6:56 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent reported that a vehicle rolled over on Highway 90, about 3 miles east of Brackettville. No injuries were reported.

9:00 a.m., Juan Antonio Martinez, 33, of Eagle Pass was arrested by Trooper Welch for driving while intoxicated. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he was still being held at press-time.

10 a.m., A Brackett ISD employee reported that someone punctured seven tires on two school buses.

6 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance.

7:12 p.m., A man reported a domestic problem with his sister on E. Edwards Street.

7:19 p.m., A woman reported two illegal aliens on Highway 90, close to the Brackettville city limits. The U.S. Border Patrol was notified of the situation.

Sunday, May 5

12:20 a.m., A man reported a domestic disturbance at his residence on E. El Paso Street. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene. He found the man holding his brother down. After unsuccessfully talking to the man, he placed him under arrest.

Ben Tovar, 44, was charged with disorderly conduct. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he was still being held at press-time.

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Reed: Local museum can be enjoyed by all

By LYNN McNEW
Contributing Writer

Eileen Reed discussed the Kinney County Historical Society at last week's Brackettville Lions Club meeting at Las Moras Restaurant.

Reed, who works as a clerk in the Justice of the Peace office, is the chairperson of the Kinney County Historical Society.

The Historical Society is under the umbrella of the county, which is under the umbrella of the state.

Historical markers are obtained through this group. Most of the county's historical markers are on Fort Clark Springs.

The Kinney County Historical Society is housed in the Filippone Building, as is the Kinney County Museum.

The Kinney County Museum contains pictures and artifacts from the early 1900s to the present. Right now, members are working in continuing to catalog everything.

The Lions Club donated a wedding dress to the museum.

The museum tries to depict all of Kinney County, which was once part of Bexar County. Val Verde County was once part of Kinney County.

There are maps and obituaries from this area. There is also a table with five or six interesting items for people to guess as to what they think these items might be.

Upstairs in the museum are tax rolls from the 1880s through the 1930s, as well as criminal dockets and U. S. Postal Service logs.

Kinney County used to have several small towns which don't exist anymore, including Macy, which was by Spofford; Coshell, north of town; and Pinto, toward Del Rio. There were also several old schools, of which only the Live Oak building remains.

The museum is open on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month from 1 to 4 p.m.

Reed encouraged all Lions present to visit the museum —

there is something for everyone to enjoy.

In club business, there continues to be a problem with bags of clothes, old appliances and other items left in front of the Lions Thrift Store.

When things are left there, the bags are often broken open and items scattered around, causing a problem with littering, which is unsightly and dangerous to people walking down the street.

Also, the Lions no longer have someone who is able to repair appliances and so it is costing a goodly sum of money to haul off these unusable items.

If an individual has something to donate to the store, please call a Lion. The group asks citizens to continue to help our community in a meaningful way.

If you are interested in becoming a member of the Brackettville Lions Club, contact a member. The club meets on the second and fourth Thursday of each month.



New ambulance
EMS staff members Devlin Baker (from left), Lee Sweeten, Neil Carroll and Chris Calk are shown with a new ambulance, purchased through a grant.

Photo by Jewel Robinson

The mule: America's No. 1 work animal

By JAMES C. REESMAN
Contributing Writer

They helped George Washington make his fortune. They are more versatile than horses and more hardy. They possess such a strong sense of self-preservation that they will not allow themselves to be put into situations in which a horse will destroy himself and his rider.

They have pulled more freight and plowed more fields in America than horses or oxen ever did. They are mules.

These are some of the key points made by Ray Melton, local rancher and muleteer who addressed the Fort Clark Springs Historical Society on Saturday.

George Washington was the first American to raise mules for both sale and use on his plantation, Mount Vernon.

Mules are an equine cross-breed, in which a male donkey, a Jack, is bred to a female horse, a mare. The result of such a mating is usually but not always female and is known as a Jenny. Occasionally, a male horse is bred to a female donkey, and the result is known as a Henney mule.

Donkeys have 42 chromosomes and horses have 46. The resulting mule, with 43 chromosomes, is normally sterile. However, there are occasional Jennys who do produce offspring if bred to a stallion or a Jack.

Fort Clark was manned by both cavalry and infantry units. With a full strength cavalry regiment of 1,000 officers and men and another 500 to 1,000 infantrymen, one could expect to find about 1,200 horses on the post at any one time during most of its life. Yet, when the post was deactivated, some 700 mules also were disposed of.

As a member of the U.S. armed forces, the mule served in every American war from the American Revolution through WWII. They were particularly effective in mountainous Sicily and Italy, and in the jungles of Burma.

Mules need to be shod less often than horses. They have a stronger backbone and can carry more weight.

Mules are hardier and more resistant to disease than horses and are currently the most used animal on trail rides.

A mule will eat anything a

goat will eat and eat your wooden fence posts for desert. In drought conditions, he can be turned out even in our local arid pastures and survive when a horse will die.

When Melton was asked how he first became involved with mules, he told how he was invited on a hunting trip that required the use of pack animals.

When he arrived at his host's ranch, he was furnished a mule to ride. He said he was not very enthusiastic about riding such a beast, but went along anyhow.

During the ride, he was knocked off his mule by a low hanging branch. As he fell, his foot caught in the stirrup and he feared, as he fell, that he would be dragged to death. His mule stopped dead in her tracks and stood patiently until the rest of the party came back and found him. He has been fascinated by mules ever since.

Mules are easily trained through gentleness and incremental repetition, but impossible to train with pain or fear tactics. Their sense of self-preservation will bring everything to a sudden halt if such tactics are attempted. Thus, "stubborn as a

mule" became the mule's reputation.

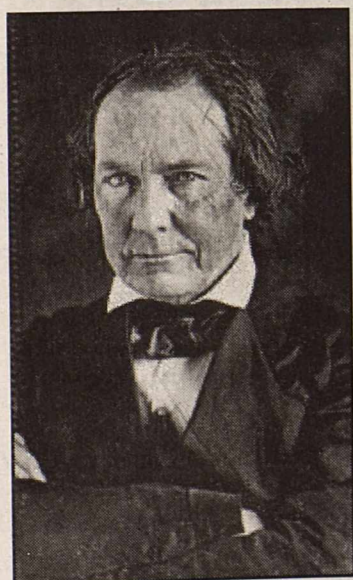
Mules have been successfully trained to compete in all the equine events, including reining horse competition, jumping and even dressage.

A mule named Clemantine was entered in the reining horse competition at the Fort Worth Stock Show two years running. Upon her first appearance, she was the second animal into the ring and she brought gales of laughter from the spectators who thought the whole thing was a prank. When it was all over, Clemantine won the competition, both years.

Mules are now barred from competition there. Yes, horses do the same thing well, but usually a horse specializes in one event. Once taught what to do, the same mule can compete successfully in multiple events.

Even mules make mistakes. Texas Hero Big Foot Wallace is famous for charging a Spanish cannon on mule back. He later admitted that he wasn't all that brave. His mule shied when the cannon first fired, and instead of running away, it ran toward the cannon.

Berg, Pacheco to receive Lamar Medals



Mirabeau B. Lamar

Brackett High School seniors Kami Berg and Pedro Pacheco are this year's Lamar Medal recipients.

The awards and accompanying scholarships will be presented Saturday at 2 p.m. at the Las Moras Masonic Lodge. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The local lodge building is located in the top floor of the original county courthouse at 503 S. Ann St.

Kami is the daughter of Bradley and Linda Berg. She currently holds a 3.83 grade-point average.

She is a member of the Tiger Band and is the current drum major. Kami has also participated in numerous essay, poetry,



science fair and band competitions.

Kami will major in music at Abilene Christian University next fall.

Pedro is the son of Pedro and Maria Pacheco. He has a 3.56 grade-point average.

Pedro is the senior class president and secretary of Family Career Community Leaders of America. He is also a member of the Science Club and the History Club. He has competed in both UIL journalism and speaking events.

Pedro will attend Odessa College where he will major in business administration.

The presentations will be made by Richard Slubar, master of Las Moras Lodge, and Randall Stiles, deputy grand master of the local Masonic district.

The Lamar Medal is named after Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Mason who was the second president of the Republic of Texas. His work resulted in the state of Texas setting up a public school system. He became known as "the father of the Texas public school system."

The Lamar Medal is given for outstanding achievements, whether it be in academic work, citizenship, volunteer work in the community, sports or any other outstanding personal accomplishments.

Beta Sigma Phi hosts meeting

Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met in the home of Janie Meredith on Monday.

President Arlys Simpson called the meeting to order. Six members answered the roll call, due to illness and the departure of Winter Texans. A delicious meal of pizza rolls, pigs-in-a-blanket, cheese-stuffed potato puffs, pineapple cake and iced tea and coffee was enjoyed by all.

Following the business meeting, Janie gave a very interesting program on wildflowers. Over 47,000 pounds of wildflower seeds are planted by the Texas Highway Department every year.

There are over 5,000 varieties of wildflowers, but the most commonly planted ones are bluebonnets and Indian blankets, because these are the only seeds available commercially.

The beauty of the bluebonnets frequently overpowers the beauty of the other wildflowers

growing with them. Janie told the group there is a reason Indian paint brushes are seen growing in the same field as bluebonnets.

The Indian paint brush is a parasite, which wraps its roots around the tap root of the host plant. It has a particular affection for the bluebonnet, hence, they will be seen growing in fields together.

Pictures of some of Texas' beauties were shown. Several sisters present shared their experiences and places they have seen the beautiful Texas wildflowers.

Of course, Texas has Lady Bird Johnson to thank for making our highways so beautiful.

The next meeting will be Monday, May 19, at 5:30 p.m. at the home of Lynn McNew, with Jan Chism and McNew as hostesses.

Two rituals will be performed at that meeting. The Laureate Degree will be given to Doraline Kellar and McNew will receive the Preceptor Degree.

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Need a dish that's quick, inexpensive, feeds the entire family, tastes good and can be frozen for future meals?

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To replace the soup, combine 2 1/2 cups of chicken broth plus a 1/4 cup of cream and a 1/4 cup of flour.



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

Saute sausage until it is no longer pink, then drain well and break into small bits.

In the drippings, cook the onion and bell pepper until clear.

Add remaining ingredients, mixing well, and pour into ungreased 9-by-13 Pyrex (more attractive) baking dish.

Bake at 350 degrees just until heated through and bubbly, for about 20 minutes.

Find breaking news in The Brackett News!

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to express my appreciation and say thank you to all voters in the BISD School Board of Trustees election. The large turnout and support of all candidates shows we have a community that cares. I would like to say a very sincere and heartfelt thanks to everyone who worked so hard and supported me throughout the election.

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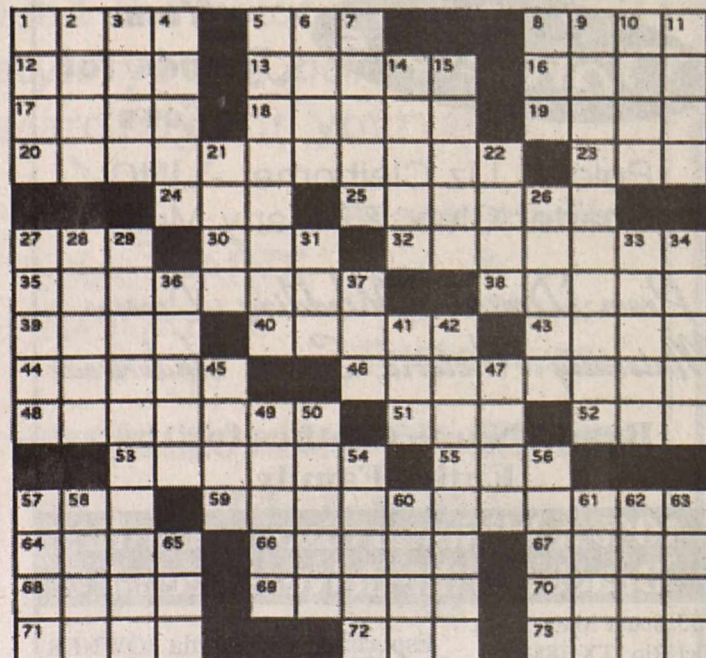
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSS
1 Grumpy person
5 Out of one's mind
3 Villain
2 Prefix for dialysis or globin
3 Deep pit, to a poet
6 Cartoon caveman
7 Brainchild
8 Caroline, to Ted
9 Melody
0 Thoughtful
3 Franklin, to friends
4 Refrain
5 Syllable
5 Pieces of asparagus
7 Men's nicknames
0 Letter for Plato
2 Elaborate residences
5 Like ancient Rome, at the time of its Fall
8 Wooden slat
9 Shape
40 Hurts
43 Increased
44 President whose husband was a president
46 Frostbite complication
48 Youths: slang
51 "Croak"
52 Div. of a former nation
53 Lucky charms
55 Container for 7 Down
57 Taxing time: abbr.
59 Considered carefully
64 One of a pair
66 Flat setting
67 Suffix for prefix or trooper
68 Imitates a cow
69 Strike
70 Foreign prince
71 Otherwise
72 Family tree
member
73 Small
DOWN
1 Fashionable
2 Complete again
3 Former TV sitcom
4 Toot one's own horn
5 Orders
6 Rose's lover, in story
7 Color changers
8 Many times, to a poet
9 Monies advanced to a prospector
10 Common French name
11 Genesis setting
14 Suffix for sea or land
15 out: distributes
21 Rankled
22 Food: colloq.
26 Assessor
27 Take into the family
28 River bank
29 Oz visor, and others
31 Insect
33 Makes smooth
34 Occasion when the Haggada is read
36 Isolated
37 Pull
41 Disobedient
42 Complained in a whining, tearful way
45 Weirdo
47 up: increase efficiency
49 Feels dizzy
50 Capital city
54 Pale
56 Become less and less
57 Qualified
58 Popular backyard feature
60 Second in a series
61 Submissive
62 Indians
63 Like the night
65 Part of Mao's name



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. Two are circled to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: Periods of Time & Measurements

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

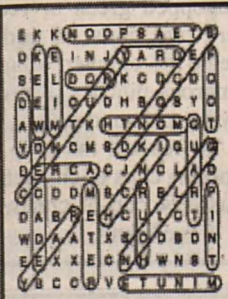
- Day
- Foot
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 8..... Randal Davis
May 8..... Gaudalupe Lumberas
May 8..... Rosa Smith
May 9..... Bruno Arreola, Jr.
May 9..... Betty Bickel
May 9..... Robert Nelson
May 10..... Melvin Crownover
May 10..... Damaris Flores
May 10..... Tammy Frerich
May 10..... Martin Lumberas
May 10..... Elizabeth Pacheco
May 10..... Dillon Wilson
May 11..... April Crumley
May 11..... Jill Woodson
May 12..... Dorothy Haga
May 12..... Russell Newton
May 12..... Christina Reschman
May 13..... Arianna DeLeon
May 13..... Emma Falcon
May 13..... Ryan Garcia
May 13..... Ferne Hickman
May 13..... Mac McDonald Jr.
May 13..... Curley Whittenton
May 14..... Robert Aguirre
May 14..... Valerie Garza
May 14..... Anne Rose
May 14..... Connie Serrano

Roaring Twenties Solution:

- Acres
- Century
- Day
- Decade
- Foot
- Gallon
- Hour
- Inch
- Meter
- Mill
- Minute
- Month
- Pint
- Quart
- Flood
- Second
- Teaspoon
- Week
- Yard
- Year



HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Try to set aside some special time for loved ones. Finding out what's going on in their lives proves enlightening. Later in the week, those in authority are in cantankerous moods.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
Those making vacation plans should look for something which will be mentally stimulating. Vegging on a beach is fine. However, you need something more than that right now.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You manage to maintain your calm this week, despite a controversy at work. Others are drawn to you as a result. Over the weekend, you get some positive feedback from a family member.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
Exercise understanding with your mate. While you may not know yet what the problem is, just be supportive. Eventually, you will find out what's going on.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
Be alert and aware this week. Something is brewing at work. Once you have a handle on this, you can rise to the occasion.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
A great weight is lifted this week. You realize that what you were worried about really is inconsequential. Take this as a lesson for the future.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Don't allow stress to ruin what should be a good week for you. If you tackle one project at a time, everything gets done. This weekend, a child is a source of delight.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
An early-week disappointment sets the tone for the week. However, a social event brightens your mood considerably. Feel free to mix business and pleasure.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
You express yourself eloquently this week. While you won't win over any minds or hearts, others gain a new understanding. Later in the week, trust your instincts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Try to avoid being so close-mouthed with your mate. If you do, you can sidestep hurt feelings. Be open and honest - it's the best approach.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
Ignore that person who's holding a grudge against you. Negativity is toxic. This weekend, you gain excellent financial insight.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Patience isn't exactly one of your virtues. However, strive mightily to be just that. At home, overspending is a problem this weekend.

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Church must seek diversity to continue in its growth

Within my denomination, there are many controversies. Several of them are ongoing.

One in full bloom now is over abortion. Our governing body, the General Conference, meets in 2004 and there are many that wish to change the United Methodist stance on abortion.

The stance reads in part, "Our belief in the sanctity of unborn human life makes us reluctant to approve abortion.

"In continuity with past Christian teaching, we recognize tragic conflicts of life with life that may justify abortion, and in such cases we support the legal option of abortion under proper medical procedures.

"We cannot affirm abortion as an acceptable means of birth control, and we unconditionally reject it as a means of gender selection."

The statement goes on to reject the concept of partial-birth abortion "except when the physical life of the mother is in danger and no other medical procedure is available, or in the case of severe fetal anomalies incompatible with life."

Interestingly, both opponents

and proponents of our current statement see it as ambiguous.

Pro-life advocates want the "loopholes" removed. Pro-choice advocates want more "options" available to the woman facing the situation.

In my viewing of this controversy, I am aided by my clergy brother Rev. Sidney G. Hall of Trinity United Methodist Church in Austin.

He writes, "We see here in microcosm a moral view that expresses the wide diversity of thought within the United Methodist Church.

"My role as a pastor is to help them explore their own options in conjunction with the beliefs and morals they bring to the situation," he added.

It seems to me that there is a very thin line between the church dictating belief and the church promoting faith.

Many of my favorite examples of this dichotomy come from the history of the church. The church, in its studied wisdom, once disallowed the translation of the Bible from Latin into the vernacular out of fear that the untrained reader would



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Ken F. Sellers

misunderstand it.

The church then tried and convicted people like Jan Hus and John Wycliff of heresy because they advocated translation for the people. Jan Hus was killed and John Wycliff's bones were exhumed and then burned to proclaim the rightness of the church.

The church has grown a lot from those days when dissidents were killed for their disagreement with dogma. I personally give thanks for that.

The Bible is not an easy read. It can be difficult to understand.

And so it is that even the church's most faithful find themselves in disagreement over the interpretation of many passages.

There are so many versions of the Bible now because of scholarly disagreement on interpretation that it is hard to know

which to read. So our options seem to be:

1. Make the pastor (or the pope, or the bishop, or the synod, or the head clergy person, etc.) the only person allowed the reading and interpreting of scripture for all people in their respective sect;

2. Form a committee of diverse thought to fight it out; or

3. Accept that the Word of God is a living, growing Word that is applicable to every new generation precisely because it is not so rigid as to be available to a single interpretation!

If the church is to continue in its growth, it must prayerfully seek the proper balance of diversity of thought, Biblical study and guidance of the Holy Spirit, especially where "tragic conflicts of life with life" are involved.

God's appreciation for those who seek to understand God's Word for their life can be found at the many places of worship in Brackettville this Sunday. If you have no church home, come visit us at First United Methodist Church on James Street for worship Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

Don't hate hard work

"Mom, look at this! The year's almost over, but we still have all this homework. I'll never get it done," José said, frustrated.

Maria looked at the homework and then at José. "You must keep trying. You will get it done if you work hard."

"But Mom, can't I watch TV first?" José asked.

"Mi'jo, the TV cannot help you with your math. Keep trying."

José's frustration turned to anger. "Math's hard. It's not fair. Learning's supposed to be fun and this isn't any fun."

Maria pulled up a chair and sat down next to José. "It won't help to lose your temper, Mi'jito. We'll have a snack together and talk about this."

At that José began to calm down. He smiled at the prospect of relief.

Maria busied herself talking as she arranged the snacks on the table.

"Sometimes learning's fun and sometimes it's not," she said. "When something's easy, learning it can be fun. When something's hard, learning is a lot of work. In that case, it takes lots of discipline."

"It's important for you to learn hard work. Your Dad and I work hard all day. Do you know what keeps us going to hard work day after



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

day?"

"No, what?" José asked. "The privilege we have to give you a better future, Mi'jito," Maria answered.

"Every day we look forward to coming home to see you laugh and smile, and even to get angry. That is what makes life very precious."

"Long ago a very wise man said not to hate hard work. (Sirach 7:15) If you learn discipline, you'll find the wisdom needed for your homework. (6:18) Listen to your teachers and you'll learn." (6:33)

Maria looked at the math book on the table then continued: "I am not very good at math, but we can learn together. Tomorrow afternoon I'll meet you at school and we'll talk to your teacher. Then we can work together and you will teach me how to do the problems."

Editor's note: This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working in Brackettville to strengthen family, faith and education.

Churches could learn from the military

I will readily admit that I did not spend much of my time following the war. Oddly enough, I find that I was neither for or against it, and I somehow can understand and respect the view points on both sides.

Because of technological advances that have been made, the news media with their ability to instantly show us what was happening, we all learn a lot about how this war was fought.

One of the things that we heard and saw all through this campaign were bits and pieces about missing service people (MIAs). We learned that it was important to military command that every person was accounted for. The military showed that it was a family (of sorts) that understood the value of each and every individual within its family unit. Even before the fighting calmed, they were busy counting heads.

You know, except for the shooting and tearing up stuff, the



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

military organization would make a good church structure.

I hate to say this, but I sometimes think that they do a better job at watching out for and helping and taking care of each other than we do.

The thing the God placed on my heart this morning was the number of MIAs that we have in our churches. People that were here and are now missing. Some dropped out years ago and many others more recently.

Some of these people are the wounded that have not been able to make it. The wounds may be physical (health concerns) or they may be emotional (they may have been hurt by

some words or actions) and some were wounded by the world, because like Pvt. Lynch, they took the wrong turn.

Sometimes we know their story and just don't have the guts to face them. Sometimes we think bad things about their situation and we just don't want to get involved.

It is not the ones that we know about what's going on that bothers me, as much as those that have just dropped through the cracks. The ones that just disappeared and we never found out what happened.

I'm not just talking about my church, I'm talking about yours as well. Why have we let them go? Why have we let them fade out of sight without mounting a search party?

There should not be a single person that has ever been tied to a church, that the church family should not have kept up with.

If they have found a new church and family that is right

for them, praise God and know that they are being cared for. If not, if they are alone or lost, we are commanded by Jesus to love and care for them. That means that we never stop trying to bring them home. A family cares about its members, a family loves all its members, no matter what.

We have not established the sense of family that Jesus demonstrated to us if we just leave our missing and wounded out there lost — if we just leave them out there in the desert to wither and die alone.

Folks, if the military family will risk life and limb to recover a wounded, lost and even dead comrade, why won't we risk a harsh word and embarrassing silence or a disappointing trip to recover one of ours?

The family looks for the lost members. A family sends out search parties and calls out that person's name. They risk something of themselves because a part of themselves is missing.

The Bible tells us to go the extra mile

Matthew's Gospel (5:41) tells us: "Should anyone press you into service for one mile, go with him two miles."

In May, as the Earth comes to life with fresh color and new growth, God seems to be going out of His way to touch us with beauty and wonder, pouring an extra helping of blessing into the world.

When I was a child, we used to make and deliver May baskets to our cousins and our friends on May Day (May 1).

I don't know where this tra-

dition started or why no one seems to do this anymore, but I do know it was fun to sneak up to someone's door, hang a small basket (usually made of wallpaper samples) filled with flowers and candy on the door knob, ring the door bell and run so you wouldn't be seen.

Did we consider this going an extra mile to do something special for someone we loved?

I don't suppose we did, but I do know we only put these baskets on the doors of people who meant a lot to us. Maybe to re-



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

ally be meaningful, we should have put them on the doors of people we didn't like — or get along with!

This month, why not go out of your way and pour an extra helping of blessing into some-

one's life? Offer an extra portion of your time, money, concern or creativity.

Jesus called bestowing such bonuses going two miles instead of one. He knew that being a two-miler makes the heart strong. So during May, grow strong in heart!

Lord, help me to be a "two-miler" this month, to grow strong in heart.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God bless you!

Let God be remagnified

Make haste, O God, to deliver me; make haste to help me, O Lord.

Let them be ashamed and confounded that seek after my soul: Let them be turned backward, and put to confusion, that desire my hurt.

Let them be turned back for a reward of their shame that say, Aha, aha.

Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually. Let God be remagnified.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

nified.

But I am poor and needy: make haste unto me O God: thou art my help and my deliverer: O Lord, make no tarrying. (Psalms 70)

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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.
166 AIRPORT RD. 2br/2bt enclosed porch, patio, storage, fenced b/y 2 car carport all electric.

Have Buyers - Need Listings! Same name new owner Ken Barnett - Pat Owens - Melissa Davis info@kinneycountyland.com

LAS MORAS REALTY DEBBIE TRANT / BARBARA VOSS 830-563-2997 104 A-E Spring

Unit 15: nice 3 bed, 2 bath doublewide with 12' X 22' recreation room, storage area, fenced yard & double carport, all for \$49,500!

Unit 14: covered RV lot with slab & hook-ups, fenced yard, \$10,000!

Town: 3 bed, 2 bath brick home in choice location on 2 lots. Includes large garage/workshop, fenced yard & metal roof! Ranches & small acreage available.

View listings: www.realestatetxkinneycounty.com

Tejas Properties Phyllis & Les Meyer 615 Hwy 90 EAST 830-563-9911

- Historical Homes For Sale on Colony Row in FCS.
2 Homes on 4 lots across from the school, Good Buy!
3/2 Townhouse on Las Moras Creek, great views.
The Oaks, 2/2/2 Beautiful Home, 2 lots and huge oaks.
2/2 Home with carport, Ward St. in FCS, excellent condition.

We have ranches of all sizes available! www.Tejas-Properties.com

Greg Tom Realty "We have buyers for Hill Country Ranches" www.gregtomrealty.com Tommy Dee Seargeant Agent 512-312-1218 Greg Tom Broker 830-537-3200

REAL ESTATE REAL ESTATE

ABSOLUTE STEAL! 5 Acres - \$19,900. Sacrifice price on beautiful North Texas hill country property. Perfect getaway, retirement or horse set-up. Access to 600 acre private park. Financing. Texas Land & Ranches. Call now, 1-866-516-4868.

65.26 ACRES SOUTHWEST of Rocksprings, loaded with native and exotic game, oak and mesquite cover. \$2200/down, \$433/month. Ranch Enterprises, 1-830-257-5572, www.texasranchland.com

REQUEST FOR BIDS

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS. Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S): Dist/Div: Laredo. Contract 0022-07-024 for FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL IN VAL VERDE County, etc will be opened on June 04, 2003 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 9767. State Office. Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone: 512-416-2540. Dist/Div Office(s), Laredo District, District Engineer, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043. Phone: 956-712-7400. Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL District is soliciting for Student/Athletic, Voluntary, and Catastrophic Insurance Proposals for the 2003-2004 school year. Interested parties need to request proposal forms. Contact: Dixie Brown, Business Manager - Brackett Independent School District, PO Box 586, Ann Street, Brackettville, TX 78832 (830) 563-2491 ext. 113. RFP's will be received until June 2, 2003, at 3:00 p.m.

Incredible Savings! Alamo Trading Company Hwy. 90 W. Brackettville For Sale: Dollar Items, Surplus, Electronics, New Shoes, Clothes, Appliances, Scanners, Toaster Ovens, Hair Care, Eye Glasses, Toys, Dishes, Books, Hunting Knives, Game Calls, Tools, Furniture, CD Music, Rentals, New and Used Dollar store merchandise! New merchandise every week! Sale Every Saturday 9:00 - 5:00

PUBLIC NOTICE NOTICE OF RULEMAKING REHEARING OF THE KINNEY COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District will hold a Rehearing on Rulemaking on May 9th, 2003, at 5:30 p.m., in the District Courtroom of the Kinney County Courthouse located in Brackettville, Texas. REHEARING ON RULEMAKING 1. Call to Order. 2. Public hearing on proposed District Rules, comments to proposed District Rules, and possible action to repeal, amend, and/or adopt certain District Rules. 3. Adjourn. ISSUED this 28th day of April, 2003, in Brackettville, Texas, on the recommendation of the Acting General Manager. I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above NOTICE OF HEARING of the Board of Directors of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District is a true and correct copy of said Notice. I have published a true and correct copy of said Notice in the Del Rio News-Herald and Brackett News, and will post said Notice on the bulletin board in the Kinney County Courthouse, located in Brackettville, Texas, in accordance with the Texas Open Meetings Act and District rules. A true and correct copy of said Notice was furnished to the Kinney County Clerk, in which the above named political subdivision is located. Dated this 28th day of April, 2003 Kinney County Groundwater conservation District By: Darlene Shahan, Secretary/ Treasurer

OVIEDO'S MACHINE SHOP Gustavo Rodriguez, Owner/Manager RADIATOR, MUFFLER SERVICE & ENGINE REBUILDING HIGH PERFORMANCE MUFFLERS FLOW MASTER, MAGNA FLOW 801 AVE. G • 830-774-2576

NOTICE OF ACCEPTANCE OF APPLICATIONS FOR FEDERAL AGRICULTURE ASSISTANCE FUNDS In accordance with Public Law 108-10, Section 209, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is administering the distribution to agricultural producers of \$10 million in federal agriculture assistance funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Credit Corporation. On May 1, 2003, TDA will begin accepting agriculture assistance fund applications at local water irrigation district offices and other designated locations in the Rio Grande Valley from agricultural producers who rely on irrigation water from the Rio Grande and who were impacted by decreases in water allocations due to Mexico's noncompliance with the 1944 U.S. - Mexico Water Treaty during the 2002 crop year. Eligibility Criteria. To be eligible for agriculture assistance funds: 1. An agricultural producer's farming acreage must be located in: Cameron, Hidalgo, Kinney, Maverick, Starr, Webb, Val Verde, Willacy or Zapata counties; 2. The acreage on which the agricultural producer is farming must have been eligible for water allocations for agricultural use in the Rio Grande Watermaster system through irrigation water rights either individually or through a water irrigation district (eligible acreage) during the 2002 crop year; and 3. An agricultural producer must have had the right to farm eligible acreage on January 1, 2002. Producers meeting established eligibility criteria are eligible to receive assistance under this program, regardless of crop variety or intended agricultural use. The distribution of assistance will be based upon the number of acres eligible for allocation of water for agricultural use. Submitting an Application. Applications will be accepted beginning May 1, 2003. Applications forms are available at local water irrigation district offices, at local Texas Cooperative Extension (TCE) offices, at local Farm Service Agency (FSA) offices and from the Rio Grande Watermaster, as well as on TDA's Web site at: www.agr.state.tx.us. Applications submitted from a producer directly to TDA will not be accepted. Applications from producers purchasing water from a water irrigation district must be submitted to TDA through the producer's local water irrigation district office. Individual water rights holders (independents) in counties where there are water irrigation district offices must submit applications at their local water irrigation district office. Independents in counties where there are no water irrigation district offices (Kinney, Starr, Webb, Val Verde and Zapata counties) may submit applications at their county FSA office or at the closest water irrigation district office. Applicants must submit their application to their local water irrigation district offices or other designated locations in order to have the amount of acreage eligible for assistance certified at those offices. Eligible acreage for independents will be certified using records provided by the Rio Grande Watermaster. Local water irrigation district offices and other designated locations will then be responsible for forwarding completed applications to TDA for processing. Applicants will also be required to complete an application for a State of Texas Payee ID number, as part of the application for the agriculture assistance funds, if they do not already have this number on record with the Office of the State Comptroller. These forms will be provided by TDA as part of the application packet. Deadline for Submission of Applications. The deadline for submitting an application for agriculture assistance to water irrigation district offices or other designated locations for certification is by close of business on June 16, 2003. TDA will distribute funds after all valid applications are processed. Further Information. More information about the agriculture assistance application process can be found at local water irrigation district offices, TCE and FSA offices, and Rio Grande Watermaster offices or on TDA's Web site at: www.agr.state.tx.us. Producers may also contact Steve Bearden, Regional Director for TDA's Valley Regional Office located at 900-B East Expressway 83, San Juan, Texas, telephone (956) 787-8866, for more information.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle