

The Brackett News

County narrows search for new EMS director
See story below

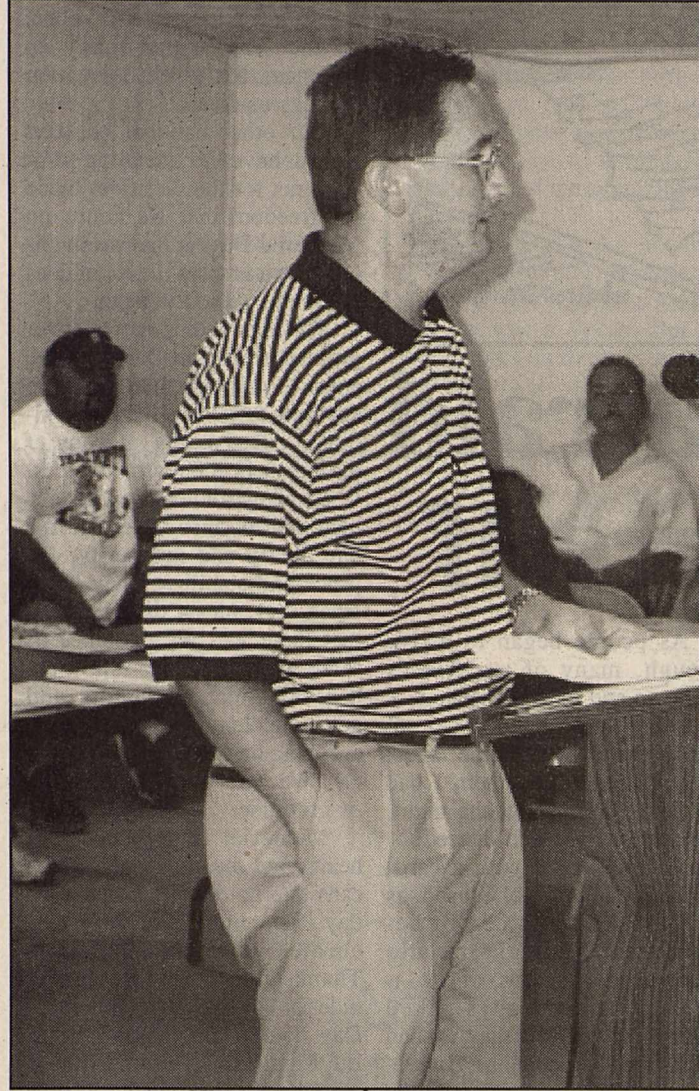
15 year, No.15

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

City manager walks off the job

Depth of city's financial troubles unknown



City's gas debt increasing Photo by J.J. Gundry
J.J. King (left), representing West Texas Gas, addresses the City Council Friday. The city owes West Texas Gas over \$83,000 and the debt is growing.

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

After City Council members suggested Friday that the city manager be suspended without pay, David Luna apparently walked off the job.

Luna has not been to work this week, according to Mayor Carmen Berlanga.

Officials have been in an uproar over the past week after learning about the city's financial status. The city has only \$16,592.62 in total cash assets. Luna said the city has debts of \$108,724.95, but Berlanga said the debt is actually much larger.

The council will look further into the city's debt during a workshop today at 3 at City Hall.

Total cash assets of the city have decreased \$572,583 or 97 percent over the last five years.

The city owes \$83,034 to West Texas Gas, and that bill is expected to be over \$88,000 by the end of the month.

J.J. King, representing West Texas Gas, told the council Friday that the city would have to pay at least half of the outstanding balance by June 1 or the company would terminate its contract, leaving the city without a gas supplier.

"We want to work with the city, but this is a substantial amount of money," King said.



Discussing financial concerns Photo by J.J. Gundry
Brackettville City Council members Francisca "Chica" Garza (left) and Bonnie Wardlaw discuss the city's finances. The council has a workshop today at 3.

Council members said they were not aware of the debt until last week's monthly meeting.

"We should have been aware of this long before the debt got to \$83,000 — that's a lot of money," Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca "Chica" Garza said.

Luna told Garza that he made the mayor aware of the debt.

The city manager said the city's financial problems arose because of state mandates with the waste transfer station. According to figures presented to the council, the city has spent



Luna

\$36,214.50 in labor and \$18,574.78 in materials on the transfer station to comply with the mandates.

The council asked to be provided with itemized expenses from the transfer station, but Berlanga said Luna did not provide any invoices.

The council also discussed the city manager's salary and cash advances he has received.

Luna made \$89,699 during the last fiscal year, but the mayor said his salary should have been \$53,879. Berlanga said the increased amount of salary was due to cash advances, but Luna argued that the figure included salary paid in lieu of vacation time.

When asked by council members who authorized the salary advances, Luna said it was the aldermen who signed the checks.

Council members were presented with several checks made ■ See DEPTH/Page 5

Two killed in roll-over

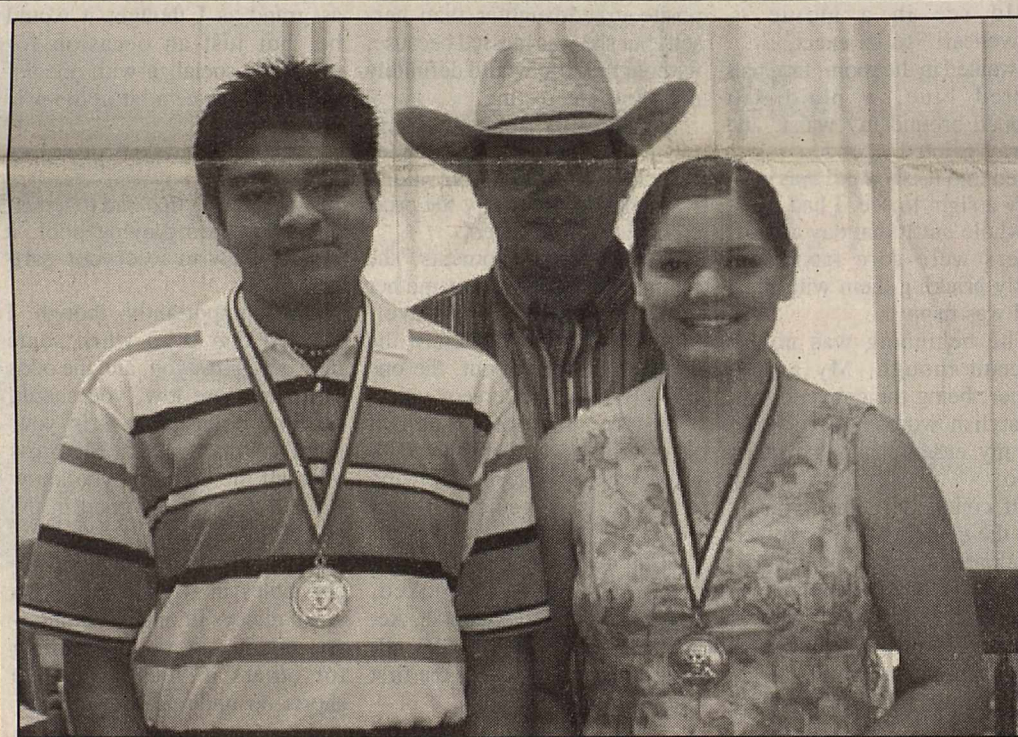
Two Eagle Pass residents died last Wednesday and two other family members were injured after their truck rolled over three times on Highway 277, 11 miles south of Del Rio.

Maria Lopez, 27, the driver of the vehicle, and Alfonso Lopez, 11, both died in the accident. Graciela Mata, 40, and Viviana Lopez, 14, were injured and transported to University Hospital in San Antonio.

According to Department of Public Safety reports, Maria Lopez was driving north-bound in her 1998 Dodge pickup when she veered off the east side of the roadway and over corrected, causing the vehicle to roll three times. The driver and two rear seat passengers were ejected from the truck.

Viviana Lopez was the only one of the four that was wearing her seat belt, according to the report.

The case is under investigation by DPS Trooper Tully Welch.



Lamar Medal recipients Photo Special to The Brackett News
Brackett High School seniors Pedro Pacheco (left) and Kami Berg (right) were recently presented the Lamar Medals and accompanying scholarships by Richard Slubar, master of Las Moras Masonic Lodge. The Lamar Medal, named after Mirabeau B. Lamar, a Mason who was the second president of the Republic of Texas, is awarded annually for outstanding achievements.

Water board approves changes to district rules

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors approved changes to its rules last week.

Brian Sledge, an Austin attorney who represents the district, presented the changes during a rehearing on the rules earlier this month.

Sledge recommended that the board not take action on the changes until the public had the opportunity to review the proposed revisions to the rules.

The directors met Monday and Tuesday to adopt the changes, but both days opted to postpone the conclusion of the hearing. The board adopted a resolution approving the changes last Thursday, pending Sledge's approval.

The directors granted motions for the rehearing last month during a special meeting. The motions were in response to the revisions to the rules that were adopted on Jan. 7.

One of the major proposed changes to the rules is the addition of a new class of users. In addition to current users, who can claim historic use for the past 10 years, there are now a class of users referred to as historic users, who can claim historic use from June 1, 1972 through Dec. 31, 1991.



Sledge

The debate over the groundwater resources in Kinney County made it to the state capitol during the current legislative session. Sen. Frank Madla said the local water district "has had some difficulties and some problems that I felt needed to be addressed."

He said an important objective of the district was that it "would be funded through ad-valorem taxes and export fees, rather than production fees paid by the local landowners."

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

INSIDE	
■ School donation	Wal Mart made a donation to Brackett High School last week for Project Graduation and the beautification of the high school grounds. Community/Page 4
■ NHS inductions	The Brackett High School National Honor Society inducted its new members last Thursday night at a ceremony in the high school auditorium. Community/Page 5
■ Good Citizen	Megan McWilliams has been named Brackettville's DAR Good Citizen for 2003-04 by the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter of DAR. Lifestyles/Page 6
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Commissioners search for new EMS director

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

One of two finalists for the EMS director's position was interviewed by the Kinney County Commissioners Court Monday.

Steve Audd of Texas City and Gene Bell of Galveston were selected as finalists for the position. Audd was interviewed Monday, but Bell did not attend the special meeting.

County Judge Herb Senne is going to have a follow-up interview with Audd this week. He said he hopes to have the position filled "as soon as possible."

"We did not offer the job to Steve because the other person had not interviewed yet," Senne said.

Lee Sweeten has been serving as the interim EMS director since Carolyn Rutherford resigned from the position last month. Rutherford is now employed with the Texas Department of Health.

The two finalists were selected among five applicants by a screening committee, which was made up of Senne, Sweeten, Commissioner Pat Melancon



Rutherford

and Dr. Catherine Young, the county's medical director.

"That committee could not have picked two better people," the judge said.

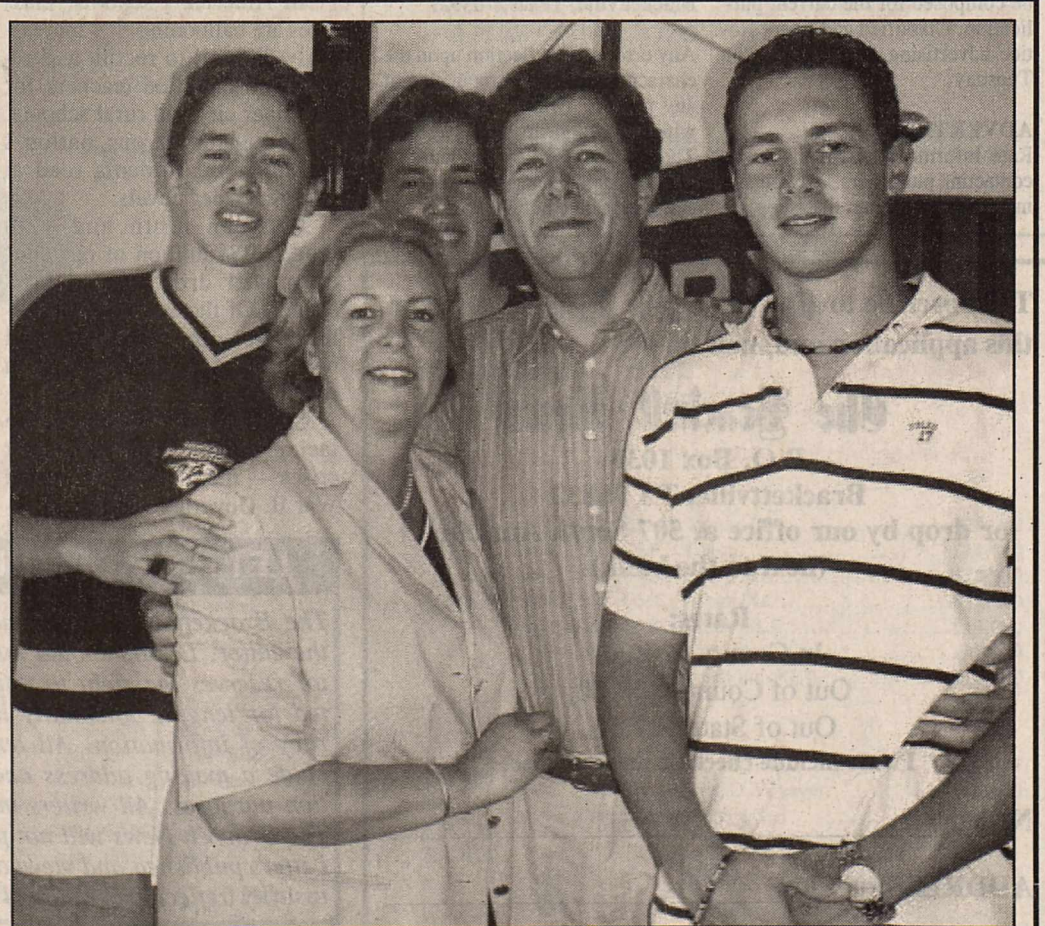
"Both of them are well qualified."

Rutherford also served in an advisory capacity on the committee.

"I don't think Carolyn's shoes can ever be filled," Senne said. "Maybe we can duplicate them in time, but I don't think they can ever be filled."

"She was a tremendous asset to Kinney County and still is. Kinney County is a part of the TDH region that she works for, which is why we were able to get her down here to serve in an advisory capacity on the selection committee."

If the position is not offered to one of the two finalists, the county may advertise the opening once again. Senne added that there were three other applications that were turned in past the deadline.



Visiting the states Photo by Bill Haenn
Family members of Brackett High School exchange student Maarten Vos of the Netherlands visited the Brackettville Rotary Club last week. Attending the meeting were Michael (from left), Marianne, Lawrence, Otto and Maarten.

Texans want a choice in health-care delivery

By ANITA BRADBERRY
Special to The Brackett News

COMMENTARY

Texas lawmakers are faced with many difficult decisions this legislative session as they look for ways to fund the state's budget with a projected shortfall of several billion dollars.

If legislators keep their campaign promises not to raise taxes, the only way to balance the budget as the constitution requires may be through spending cuts in health and human services and education. Such cuts would have widespread impacts on the lives of literally millions of Texans and their families — especially in the delivery of health services.

The Texas Association for Home Care is asking the members of the 78th Legislature to increase — not cut — the level of funding for home care so our elderly, disabled and frail citizens can continue to receive quality care in their homes. This care is one of the best alternatives to more costly nursing homes or hospitals.

A whopping 87 percent of Texans from all walks of life and all incomes and educational levels agree with that position.

Recently, the highly respected Scripps-Howard Texas Poll reported this finding after polling 1,000 Texans on the topic of home care.

The survey also found that 85 percent of Texans favor legislation requiring the state to increase rates to home care providers to at least equal to the rate of inflation.

Texans, by an 87 percent margin, said they would be very to somewhat concerned if home care services might no longer be available to their families or communities. This is strong sentiment for assuring that Texans have a choice in the delivery of health services will continue to be available.

And, for good reason. Home care allows elderly and disabled Texans to be cared for in their homes and in surroundings that are comfortable and familiar to them. But Texas ranks last in the

nation in reimbursement rates. If the level of funding for home care is not increased, the home care programs that serve more than 140,000 Texans will be put in danger.

The Texans Health and Human Services Commission found that state reimbursement for certain community care programs covered administrative and quality control costs for only 27 percent of the providers and only 47 percent of the services delivered. This forces providers into the untenable position of decreasing quality control and oversight, while maintaining responsibility for delivering quality services in compliance with licensing and program standards.

The Texas Poll shows clearly that Texans want to have a choice in the kinds of health care they can provide for their elders and disabled relatives.

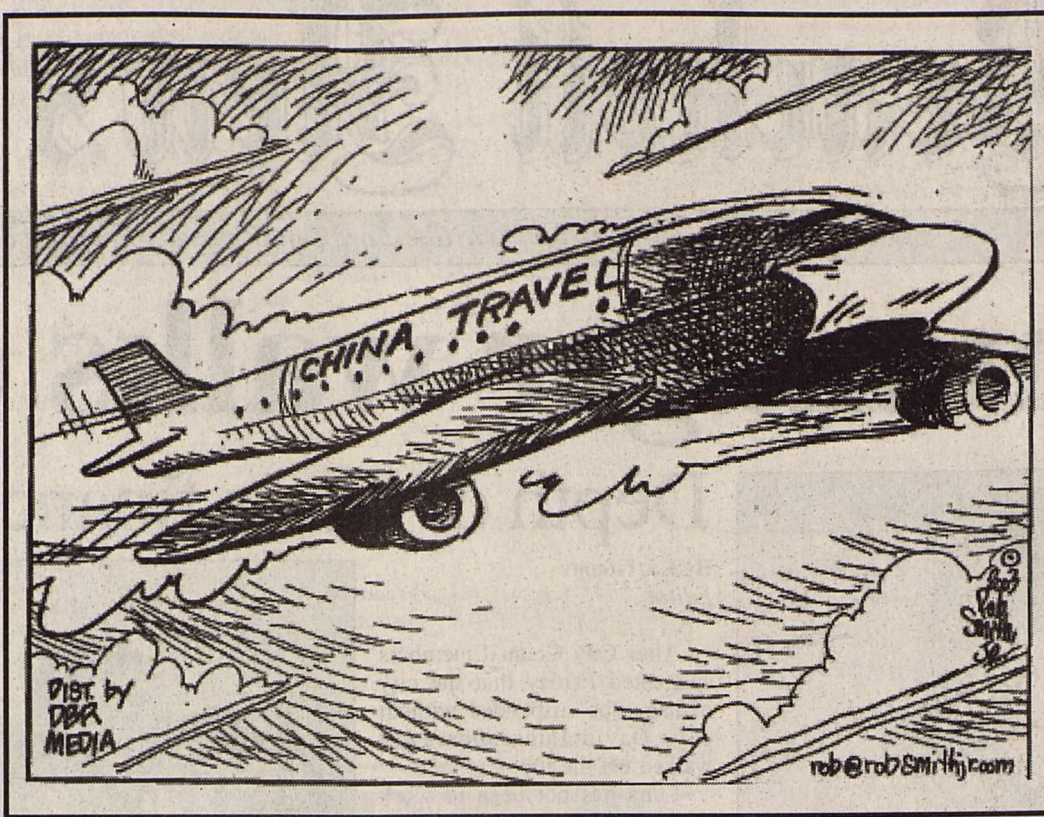
Raising reimbursement rates not only gives Texans a choice in health care delivery, it makes good economic sense.

There are also more than 40,000 Texans currently on waiting list to receive health care in their homes because the state doesn't have the money to pay for their care.

But nursing homes and community hospitals cost far more than providing home care. Most health-care professionals agree that people who receive help in their own homes with everyday basic needs such as bathing, dressing, medication administration, preparing meals and other necessities, prefer that type of care to alternatives.

It is up to our elected officials to ensure Texans keep that choice and, at the same time, Texas spends its tax dollars wisely.

Editor's note: Anita Bradberry is executive director of the Texas Association for Home Care, a statewide trade association based in Austin that represents over 500 home-care companies in Texas.



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Remembering the price of freedom

As we approach the Memorial Day weekend, let us step back from the usual festivities associated with the kick-off of the summer season and reflect on the service that many an American has given our nation to make us free.

Our other national holidays would have no meaning if it were not for the sacrifices made for freedom that we honor on Memorial Day. It may seem cliché, but it is true: Freedom does not come without a price.

We may sometimes take for granted the many liberties we enjoy in America, but they have all been earned through the ultimate gift given by so many of the members of our armed forces.

So many soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines have died for our liberty and prosperity, for peace and stability. They knew when they put on their uniform that there was no guarantee of safety and went off to follow orders without questioning and acted obediently with patriotism and commitment to their country. We owe them a huge debt of gratitude.

Memorial Day touches the hearts and memories of Americans like no other national holiday. The Fourth of July celebrates our independence. Thanksgiving expresses gratitude for our blessings. Veterans' Day honors those who served. But Memorial Day honors those who made the ultimate sacrifice to preserve that independence and those blessings.

Memorial Day combines the meaning of every other national holiday. It is on this day that we remember and pay tribute to the brave men and women who throughout history gave their lives upholding our freedom.

No other country in the world has sacrificed so many of its sons and daughters to secure not only its own freedom, but that of other nations. Foes after foe have thought Americans were too soft and too selfish to sacrifice their lives. More than a million heroes have proven them wrong.

This Memorial Day, I hope we will all take some time to remember the meaning of that day. Our freedom was earned by that heroic multitude who fought with unrivaled courage and gave their lives for their country.

Memorial Day is a time to reflect on those sacrifices and remember them in our prayers. It is a time for us to show those who gave their lives that their country loves them as much as they loved it.

Don't ever be afraid to express yourself



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

I stood in the doorway of my small home as my grandmother snapped a picture of me. Beside me, a few inches shorter, stood my junior escort. This was a first — the beginning of many firsts — I was going to prom.

That night I didn't know what to expect and I didn't know how people would take me.

I say this because I was not dressed like all the other girls, in lavish, flowing gowns or made up faces. I did not have my hair primed and primped, and I did not wear shoes that made me inches taller than I already was.

The theme was Hollywood, and while my fellow party-goers stood decked out in something you would see at the Academy Awards, I was something you would see in a movie — "Braveheart" to be exact.

I walked in the room, face half painted blue, a plaid kilt wrapped around my waist, and a spray-painted, wooden sword stuffed into its sheath. I was definitely a sight to see. I had made the whole outfit that day and my fingers were sore from constantly pricking them with pins, but I was happy.

The beginning was not so pleasant though. My grandmother, being the conventional, yet stylish woman that she is, saw my ensemble as a fashion taboo.

Of course, arguments arose over the matter. Many hurt feelings floated around the house for a while, but when it came down to Saturday morning, she was right next to me, translating the sewing mumbo jumbo. It was actually sort of a day of bonding.

As people began to arrive though, many of my friends came up and looked shocked. A nice shocked though. They all asked about my costume, and I was pleased to tell them I had made it. Throughout the night, I played around and danced.

I even danced with a cardboard version of Mel Gibson, as William Wallace, the "Braveheart" hero. Of course, pictures were taken of the two of us.

Some of the guys joked around, saying that they wished their dates had come as "Braveheart," while others quoted the movie every time they saw me. Most though, wanted my sword, and hid it from me on numerous occasions.

All in all, the evening was nice. I learned that prom wasn't as grand as I thought it would be, but just an occasion for people to socialize with one another and dance a bit in the process.

I also learned that cucumbers and chocolate covered strawberries don't taste that bad together, and that when playing pool, it is very easy to lose your partner.

Most importantly, though, I learned that even when some may be against you, and the odds of success are low, you should keep on doing what is in your heart no matter what. Express yourself the best way you know how. It really feels good in the end.

Another thing, crawling under tables in wrap-around kilts is not always in one's best interest, but it may be entertaining for others if you don't have shorts on underneath.

That night, as we walked into prom, no one even looked, stared or made rude remarks. Actually, nothing was said at all, maybe because we were the first ones there.

Federal funding remains in doubt as local school districts face severe budget cuts

By SUSAN FROST
Special to The Brackett News

In America's schools, class sizes are ballooning. It's increasingly difficult to recruit and retain well-qualified teachers for our inner city and rural schools.

A quarter of our nation's eighth grade students read at "below basic" levels.

Between ninth and 12th grades, 1.4 million of our children will drop out of high school. Of those who enter college, close to 30 percent will have to take remedial courses in reading, writing or math.

States across the country are facing rapidly growing budget crises — the worst since World War II. Governors and state leg-

islators are being forced to slash education funding in order to meet balanced budget mandates.

Yet, even as states and local school districts cut vital services and lay off teachers, doubts are being raised about whether Washington will fulfill its promise to fully fund the No Child Left Behind Act, the landmark education legislation put forward by President Bush.

Congress has yet to decide, for example, how much federal money should be invested in the next school year. The U.S. Senate wants to add \$6.5 billion in new investments over and above the president's budget, while the House has proposed practically no increases.

This is not the time for the

COMMENTARY

federal government to renege on its commitment to improve the educational opportunities offered to our nation's most at-risk children. If Washington turns its back, millions of children will be left behind.

The Alliance for Excellent Education, a national nonprofit organization advocating on behalf of America's six million at-risk middle and high school students, is urging Congress and the president to agree to the Senate's \$6.5 billion education investment.

This investment is a necessary down payment on the promises made in the President's No Child

Left Behind Act. It would help our schools and students meet the requirements of the new law and work toward the goal of raising student achievement in every classroom in the country.

This investment must be enacted if we are going to give every child the opportunity to graduate from high school, prepared for college.

At a time when homeland security is such a priority for the nation, we must remember that investing in our children's future is our best defense.

Editor's note: Susan Frost is the executive director of the Alliance for Excellent Education, a national policy, advocacy and research organization based in Washington, D.C.

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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!

We all cannot be brilliant, but anyone can be dependable.

Do you have something to say about a local issue? Write a letter to the editor today!

The National Amber Alert Network Act is already saving the lives of America's children

Three hours or less - those few precious hours can mean life or death for an abducted child. According to the Department of Justice, 75 percent of child homicides occur within three hours of an abduction. The sooner we rescue a child after he or she has been kidnapped, the better their chance for survival.

It is those startling facts that spurred my colleagues in the Senate to pass the "National Amber Alert Network Act" in a 92-0 vote in January.

An AMBER Alert, which stands for "America's Missing: Broadcast Emergency Response," is activated by law enforcement to find a child by triggering electronic message boards and broadcast messages throughout the area in which the

abduction occurred. An AMBER Alert has gone out as quickly as within 17 minutes of an abduction, giving law enforcement personnel a jump start on safely recovering a kidnapped child.

Thus far, AMBER Alerts have been credited with saving the lives of 43 children in America. That's 43 children who will live to see another birthday; 43 children who will have a chance to make a difference in our world; and 43 families who will be spared the agonizing loss of a child.

One little girl did not have those opportunities. Her life was cut short. Her name was Amber, and she was a Texan. But her legacy lives on through the alert system that now protects America's kids.



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Last year more than 451 children were reported missing or abducted in Texas. We know that the sooner we find these children, the greater chance they have for survival, and that's why making the AMBER Alert system a national one is so critical. Currently, more than 80 cities, regions and states have AMBER Alert plans. By creating a national system, with a coordinator in the Justice Department, we can use the system across state

lines to help recover abducted children. The legislation I introduced and the Senate passed does just that. Now the House of Representatives must act quickly to approve the program, and ensure the National AMBER Alert Network will become law to protect our children and grandchildren.

The alerts have proven so effective that one abductor who saw an AMBER Alert in California released the child on the side of the road because he knew it was only a matter of time before he would be caught.

One of the best ways to protect our children is to prevent them from becoming targets for kidnapers. The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has compiled the fol-

lowing tips to help children and parents adopt preventative measures:

- Teach your children to run away from danger.
- Never let your children go places alone.
- Know where and with whom your children are at all times.
- Talk openly to your children about safety.
- Practice what you teach.
- Consider installing an alarm system in your home.
- Have a list of family members who could be contacted in case of an emergency.
- Be alert to and aware of your surroundings.
- Consider varying your daily routines and habits.
- Report any suspicious per-

sons or activities to law enforcement.

Remember that you are your best resource for safeguarding your family.

The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children has a host of additional online resources for children and families, which can be downloaded at www.missingkids.com.

Texas is home to some of the warmest, most kind-hearted people in the country. Most of our citizens could never dream of hurting a child. But for Amber's sake, and for every family that has lost a child, let us all take these safeguards to heart. We can help reduce the chance for our children to become victims, and redouble our efforts to protect our children from harm.

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\$17,520

PRE-OWNED WEEKLY SPECIALS

*Artwork for illustration purposes only.

<p>Trucks</p> <p>P7278 2003 Dodge Quad Cab.....\$22,800</p> <p>1694A 2001 GMC Sonoma Ext. Cab.....\$12,700</p> <p>P7275 2001 Chevy C2500 Ext Cab.....\$19,800</p> <p>P7273A 2001 GMC C2500 HD CC SLE.....\$26,700*</p> <p>2340A 2002 GMC CrewCab.....\$26,475</p> <p>1771B 1999 Dodge Ram 1500.....\$10,975</p> <p>2346B 2002 GMC 2500 CC DSL.....\$33,195</p> <p>P1711A 2002 GMC EXT Cab SLE.....\$22,475</p> <p>2519A 2000 GMC SLE EXT CAB.....\$19,750</p> <p>2480A 1998 Chev. RC (Extra Clean).....\$10,475</p> <p>P7213A 2002 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$21,375</p> <p>2125A 2000 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$15,875</p> <p>P7233A 2001 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$20,875</p>	<p>Cars</p> <p>2187A 2001 GMC Sierra.....\$17,685</p> <p>2544B 2002 Dodge Ram 1500 Quad Cab.....\$20,500</p> <p>P7290 2002 Chevy Avalanche.....\$22,200</p> <p>2682A 2001 Chevy C1500 SportSide.....\$22,500</p> <p>1998B 2000 Pontiac Sunfire.....\$9,975</p> <p>2106A 1999 Cadillac Seville.....\$24,875</p> <p>P7258 2003 Mercury Gd Marquis.....\$18,800</p> <p>2256A 2000 Buick LeSabre.....\$13,900</p> <p>P7267 2003 Pontiac Grand AM.....\$15,500</p> <p>1998B 2000 Pontiac Sunfire.....\$9,800</p> <p>P7250 2003 Buick Century.....\$15,600</p>	<p>SUVs</p> <p>P7228 2003 Buick Century.....\$16,495</p> <p>1215A 1999 Cadillac Deville.....\$17,575</p> <p>7192B 1999 Oldsmobile Intrigue.....\$8,400</p> <p>2679A 2001 Neon Highline.....\$9,400</p> <p>P7220A 2002 GMC Yukon XL SLT.....\$29,900</p> <p>2515A 2002 GMC Yukon SLE.....\$27,500</p> <p>P7283 2003 GMC Envoy SLE.....\$24,800</p> <p>P7264 2003 Chevy Trailblazer LS.....\$24,800</p> <p>P7265 2003 GMC Envoy SLE.....\$25,700</p> <p>2115A 2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$27,895</p> <p>2339A 2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$28,475</p>	<p>Minivans</p> <p>2168A 2000 Chev Venture.....\$12,875</p> <p>2083A 1999 Plymouth GD Voyager.....\$13,400</p> <p>P7292 2002 Chevy Astro LS.....\$18,300</p> <p>3577B 2001 Chevy Tahoe LS.....\$24,700</p> <p>2666A 2001 GMC Yukon.....\$24,800</p> <p>2556A 2002 GMC Yukon XL.....\$28,800</p> <p>2529A 2002 GMC Yukon XL.....\$27,800</p> <p>P7166A 2000 GMC Jimmy SLE.....\$13,800</p> <p>P7280 2000 Cadillac Escalade.....\$31,800</p> <p>P7274 2001 Ford Expedition XLT.....\$18,400</p>
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Hall: Granddad lived his whole life by a formula

Granddad Hall was a stubborn man. He lived his whole life by a formula. All I ever saw him wear were bibbed overalls, most were nearly worn out, his best pair were saved for church.



But I Could Be Wrong
Chuck Hall

He drove a tractor in third gear, three-quarters throttle, with the plow six inches deep. He worked Monday through Friday, half a day on Saturday, went to town for groceries Saturday afternoon and church on Sunday — no matter what.

He traveled light, kept on schedule, and didn't stop for anything but gas until he got where he was going. I inherited some of that.

One summer my brother and I went to Colorado to spend the whole summer with Grandma and Granddad.

One evening, around the first of July, if memory serves me correctly (so much for the whole summer), Granddad announced to Grandma that he was going to work a half day in the field, come in, clean up, eat, and at 1:00, he was going

to "take the boys to Texas." At precisely 1:00, Grandma wasn't quite ready. Granddad loaded my brother and I and headed South.

They lived about a hundred yards from the county road. I thought when we got to the road, he'd go back, chew her out, and we'd all proceed. It's about 2½ miles on the gravel road to the pavement. I was sure that he'd turn around there.

About Lubbock, it dawned on me that he wasn't going back for Grandma.

I've often wondered how chilly the reception was when he returned home. Knowing Grandma, she was probably still getting ready to go to Texas.

But I could be wrong.

Wal Mart donation helps with Brackett High School projects

Wal Mart made a donation to Brackett High School last week for Project Graduation and the beautification of the high school grounds.

Pedro Pacheco, senior class president; Megan McWilliams, president of the National Honor Society; Doug Sanchez, treasurer of the National Honor Society; and Jose Pineda, secretary of the National Honor Society; graciously accepted the check from Carlos Sanchez, manager of Wal Mart in Del Rio.

The students were accompanied by John Paul Schuster, BHS principal.

For the past two years, Wal Mart has graciously contributed to Project Graduation.

Project Graduation is an all-night party hosted by the school for graduating seniors. The night is filled with games, food, fun and prizes. The funds donated to this project help with the success of this evening.

This year, Brackett High School was the recipient of the Wal Mart beautification Program.

Funds received for this program are to be used for beautification of the campus, which will include shrubs, trees, benches,



Photo Special to The Brackett News

BISD donation

Carlos Sanchez (second from left), manager of Wal Mart in Del Rio, presents a donation to Brackett High School students Doug Sanchez (from left), Pedro Pacheco, Megan McWilliams and Jose Pineda.

etc. "Brackett ISD realizes the success of any program depends

on the kindness and generosity of the community and businesses," Schuster said. "We are

honored to have such a generous contributor as Wal Mart in our community."

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2003 Chevrolet Suburban	17,519 miles	SN 4996
2003 Chevrolet Suburban	18,827 miles	SN 5010
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2002 Chevrolet Venture Van	32,495 miles	SN 5053
2002 Pontiac Bonneville	25,643 miles	SN 4941
2002 Chevrolet Suburban	20,483 miles	SN 4956
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	6,716 miles	SN 4963
2002 Pontiac Bonneville	10,949 miles	SN 4991
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	20,238 miles	SN 5017
2002 Chevrolet Tahoe	37,317 miles	SN 5028
2002 Chevrolet Cavalier	24,520 miles	SN 5026
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	27,450 miles	SN 5031
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Sportside Ext.	33,331 miles	SN 5034
2002 Pontiac Grand Am SE	17,497 miles	SN 5042
2002 Buick LeSabre	28,120 miles	SN 4937
2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	33,692 miles	SN60162A
2001 Chevrolet Prizm	22,575 miles	SN 4969
2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	30,311 miles	SN 4981
2001 Chevrolet Silverado HD	48,152 miles	SN10338
2001 GMC Sierra 1500	25,956 miles	SN 5010
2001 GMC Yukon XL	27,101 miles	SN 4868
2001 Chevrolet Tahoe	27,890 miles	SN30843A
2001 Olds Aurora	22,317 miles	SN 5032
2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	32,234 miles	SN 5033
2001 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	29,318 miles	SN 5037
2001 Pontiac Montana Ext. Cab	23,836 miles	SN 5040
2000 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	19,812 miles	SN70563A
2000 Buick Century	29,468 miles	SN 4980
2000 Buick LeSabre	29,560 miles	SN 4985
2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	39,832 miles	SN 5005
2000 Chevrolet Suburban	42,120 miles	SN30633A
2000 Chevrolet Silverado	28,211 miles	SN 5023
2000 Pontiac Grand Am SE	66,032 miles	SN 5018A
2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	28,734 miles	SN 5023
2000 GMC Jimmy	40,072 miles	SN 5050
2000 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup	31,243 miles	SN 5052
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Depth of city's financial troubles unknown

Continued from Page 1
 out to Luna, including one for \$7,655, but the mayor said it was unclear which checks were actually advances. Luna has been deducting \$100 from his weekly paychecks to repay the city.

Newly-elected alderwoman Bonnie Wardlaw asked Luna if he would approve a salary advance of more than \$7,000 for another employee.

"It would depend on the situation," he said.

Luna defended his job performance to the council.

"I did the best I could with what you gave me," he told the council. "You don't send a soldier to war without ammunition. I know the best I could do may not be good enough for some people, but that does not mean it's not good."

Wardlaw said the City Council had lost control.

"We need to regain control of the city and regain respect for the mayor," she said.



Discussing financial concerns

Brackettville Alderman Tomas Gomez (from left), Mayor Carmen Berlanga and City Council members Francisca "Chica" Garza and Bonnie Wardlaw discuss the city's financial woes Friday during a meeting. The council has a workshop today at 3 at City Hall.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Goat producers to gather on July 21-23 in Seguin

SAN ANTONIO — A gathering of goat producers is scheduled July 21-23 at the Guadalupe County Fairgrounds and Coliseum in Seguin.

Hundreds of producers, exhibitors and extension agents from a number of states are expected to attend the event organized by Texas Cooperative Extension. Industry leaders from Texas and other parts of the country will serve as speakers and conduct hands-on demonstrations, according to Robert Elledge, Texas Cooperative Extension agent in Kinney County.

One of the most comprehensive programs offered to the meat goat industry, the gathering provides a practical forum for animal health and care, a review of the current state of the industry, and a

close look at marketing issues.

"The meat goat industry has experienced unparalleled growth over the past decade," said Dr. Rick Machen, conference coordinator. "Our two previous gatherings have been called the best educational opportunities ever offered for those interested in meat goat production. This year's program is just as strong, with a special full morning dedicated to meat goat marketing information. Five topics will be addressed, including selling live goats and a retailer's perspective."

The second day sessions include a barbecued goat dinner.

For more information, call Elledge at 563-2442, or contact Machen at (830) 278-9151 or by e-mail at rmachen@tamu.edu.

BHS juniors and seniors celebrate with annual prom at Las Moras Inn

BHS celebrated its annual prom Saturday night. Las Moras Inn was the scene for the fun. It's a perfect place for a dance, having been used by the military for that purpose many years ago.

The students "put on the dog" wearing their finest to the gala.

Thanks to sponsors Mr. and Mrs. Marquardt, Mrs. Curry and Mrs. Crumley for their hard work on the prom.

Also, thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Schuster for helping chaperone the prom.

Teachers didn't finish their clean up work on prom night until 1:30 a.m. Thanks for all that you do.

Athletic Banquet

The annual BHS Athletic Banquet is tonight at the Civic Center. Sponsored by the Booster Club, it's a nice time to tell ath-

letes and their coaches that we have appreciated their efforts all year long. The BHS cheerleaders will also be recognized at the banquet.

Fighting Tiger Band

Thanks Mr. DCamp and Tiger Band members for a fine job this semester. From all indications, we will have a sizable band next year.

The concert presented Tuesday night included the Tiger Band, an area jazz ensemble and a mass band that included this year's sixth grade students.

School Activities

Check with the principal of your school for a list of end-of-school activities. Also, many of these activities and their times and dates are listed at the Brackett ISD web site, www.brackett.k12.tx.us.

School Board

The School Board continues



Making A Difference

Taylor Stephenson

To plan for the future. To date, we have completed a district improvement plan approved by the board after submission through the Brackett District Advisory Council.

The board is also reviewing a plan submitted through the Superintendent's Advisory Committee that includes plans for dealing with some of the concerns of the public.

Also, the board is compiling the long-range building plan which will guide the board and administration in building projects for about 10 years into

the future.

The last piece of planning is preparation of the school budget for 2003-04.

We await action from our legislators and governor as they try to agree on a plan to fund public schools for the next biennium.

Locally, Dixie Brown and I, with input from campuses through principals, are trying to balance a budget in these very difficult times.

BISD has a good fund balance, and it will be maintained through the adoption of a balanced budget.

Most of our funds are allocated from states sources, and these folks have pledged to cut state government through their election campaign slogan of "no new taxes." We'll know soon how this all ends up.

Have a great week!



Photo Special to The Brackett News

Senior NHS members

Senior NHS members include (from left): Doug Sanchez, Eliot Stone, Elizabeth Threadgill, Jose Pineda, Maria Martinez, Megan McWilliams, Jared Hobbs, Tammy Smith and Pedro Pacheco. Not pictured: Kami Berg and Laura Negrete.

Brackett's NHS inducts new members

The Brackett High School National Honor Society inducted its new members last Thursday night at a ceremony in the high school auditorium.

Megan McWilliams, president, served as master of ceremonies.

NHS officers serving for the 2002-03 school year include: McWilliams; Laura Negrete, vice president; Jose Pineda, secretary; Doug Sanchez, treasurer; and Elizabeth Threadgill, reporter.

Pledge members for the 2002-

03 school year are: Kami Berg, Megan McWilliams, Laura Negrete, Doug Sanchez, Eliot Stone, Jared Hobbs, Maria Martinez, Jose Pineda, Tammy Smith and Elizabeth Threadgill.

Probationary members for the 2002-03 school year and this year's inductees include: Beth Ballew, Amanda Davis, Hector Febres, Chestin Clark, Pedro Pacheco, Arnold Pinales, Trey Smith, Ashley Thourot, Eli Woolsey, Stephanie Coronado, Dietrich Davis, Stacey Castilla, Sarah Meyer, Emily Petrosky,

Ashley Smith, Blanca Talamantes and Beau Watkins.

Probationary members for the upcoming 2003-04 school year introduced during the program include: Clarissa Aguirre, Juliann Ashabranner, Tillman Davis, Jaclynn Duncan, Cody Edwards, Courtney Frerich, Monica Gonzales, Whitney Hobbs, Brandon Kluzek, Allison LaMascus, Whitney Massingill, Kristen Meyer, Cody Robinette, Oscar Sierra, Shanae Simmons, Celina Terrazas and Kody Yeager.



Photo Special to The Brackett News

Probationary NHS members

Probationary NHS members for the 2003-04 school year include, back row (from left): Juliann Ashabranner, Oscar Sierra, Shanae Simmons, Cody Edwards, Kody Yeager, Whitney Hobbs, Courtney Frerich, Brandon Kluzek, Tillman Davis and Whitney Massingill. Front row: Cody Robinette, Kristen Meyer, Clarissa Aguirre, Monica Gonzales, Jaclynn Duncan, Allison LaMascus and Celina Terrazas.

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McWilliams named Good Citizen

Megan McWilliams has been named Brackettville's DAR Good Citizen for 2003-04 by the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

She was presented the award on Saturday at the chapter meeting at the Holiday Inn of Uvalde.

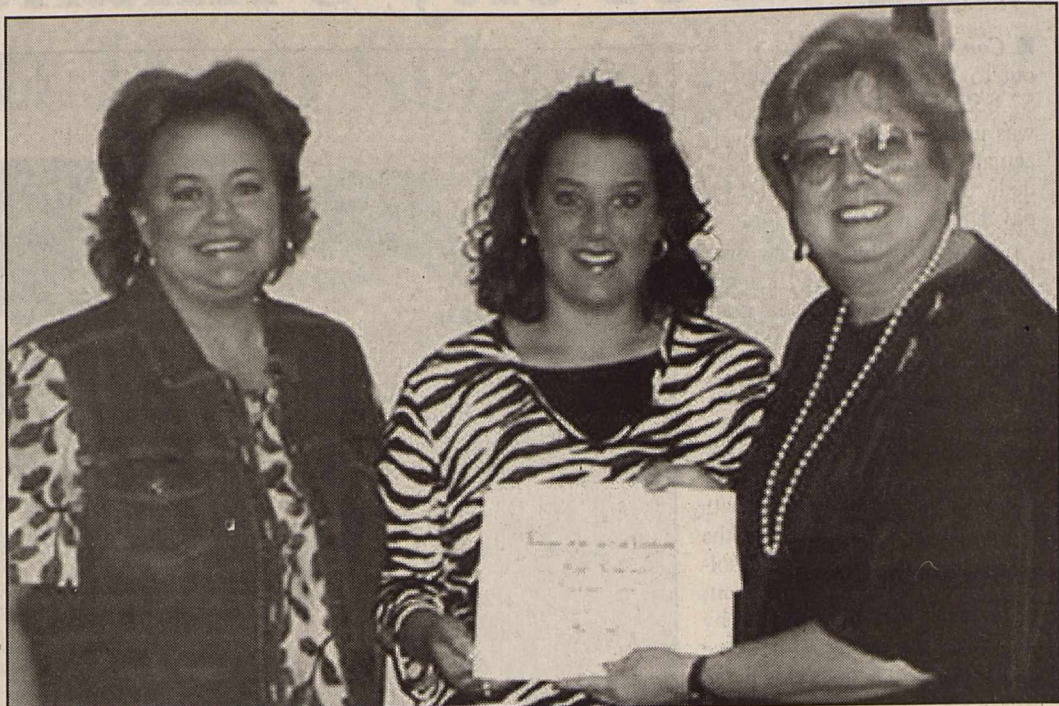
Megan, the daughter of Alan and Xyan McWilliams, is a senior at Brackett High School. She is ranked third in her class of 37 with a 4.125 grade-point average and has been accepted to Texas A&M University.

Megan has been on the A-B honor roll all of her high school years. She has received the National History and Government Merit Award, National Science Merit Award, U.S. Mathematics Merit Award, was named an outstanding student in English, algebra and biology, and for three consecutive years has received the All-Scholar Athlete Award.

She is currently serving as president of the National Honor Society, the History Club and 4-H Club. She is vice president of the Science Club and a member of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes. She has competed in UIL literary competition, calculator application, social studies competition, and was a member of the one-act play crew.

Megan played varsity volleyball and was a regional qualifier on the golf team. She volunteers as a baby-sitter during PTO meetings and is a tutor to elementary students in the "English as a second language" program.

Megan was presented a certificate, Good Citizen pin and a



Brackettville's DAR Good Citizen

Brackett High senior Megan McWilliams (center) is presented the DAR Good Citizen award by Charolette Corey (right) as her mother, Xyan, looks on.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

monetary award by DAR member Charolette Corey.

Katie Kothman of Uvalde and Vickie Toalson of Pearsall were also presented DAR Good Citizen awards at the luncheon.

Billie Jean Davis is chairman of the Good Citizen Committee.

During the regular meeting, the opening ritual was led by regent Pat McKelvy, assisted by chaplain Bea Carmichael.

Diane Dooley led the Pledge of Allegiance to the flag of the United States of America, Dorothy Martin led the group in singing "The Star Spangled Banner" and Maldaly Mitchell

led the American's Creed.

The president general's message was read by Helen Fryar, Freida Rogers gave the national defense report, and an Indian minute was presented by Shirley Cabada.

Minutes of the previous meeting were read by secretary Betty Lawrence. The financial report was given by treasurer Sharon Gass.

The DAR Hill Country Council members will be celebrating Flag Day on Saturday, June 14, at 11 a.m. at the Inn of the Hills. The Kerrville chapter will be hosting the event and the

fifth-great-nephew of Gen. George Washington will be the guest speaker.

New members Joanna Barker, Ann Pedersen and Barbara Woodman were welcomed.

Prospective names of Susan Guylor Knowles, Gay Huffman, and Lasche Huffman McReory were presented for consideration. They will be voted on at the September meeting.

Following the meeting, the members gathered with the family of Katherine Sutherland Scott for the dedication of her DAR grave marker at the Hillcrest Cemetery in Uvalde.

A balanced diet proves valuable for potbellied pigs

It may seem ironic to put a pig on a diet, but obesity in potbellied pigs can negatively affect your pet.

Obesity is an increasing problem in potbellied pigs and can lead to many different health and healthcare problems, according to Dr. Bruce Lawhorn, a professor and extension swine veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

"Generally speaking, the heaviest mature weight for even the largest frame potbellied pig should not exceed 125 to 150 pounds," Lawhorn said.

A feeding strategy for potbellied pigs should furnish an ad-

equated, balanced diet that prevents excessive weight gain, Lawhorn believes.

Potbellied pigs seem to gain weight very easily. Overweight potbellied pigs usually are about 25 pounds more than their ideal weight, and anything greater is categorized as obese.

"I have seen some potbellied pigs that are 125 to 150 pounds heavier than their frame size will allow," Lawhorn said. "It's a miracle that these potbellied pigs can walk around. Many can't."

Extremely overweight potbellied pigs experience lameness due to the stress of carrying excess weight, Lawhorn added.

Another characteristic of ex-

tremely obese potbellied pigs is that their eyelids are often forced closed by facial fat. Weight loss is necessary before it can be determined if their closed eyelids result from a medical problem or obesity.

Lawhorn said owners should be aware that obesity makes it difficult for veterinarians to perform even a basic physical examination. For example, the slightest excitement and exertion rapidly increases the pig's temperature and pulse rate, making it difficult to take accurate vital signs.

"Fat deposits surrounding the lower neck area, a site where blood is drawn, make blood collection very difficult," Lawhorn

said. "It is also very challenging to collect urine samples from obese male or female potbellied pigs. If body fluids cannot be collected, test cannot be performed."

"If that were not enough, ultrasound and radiographs are hindered by the extreme thickness of the body walls," Lawhorn added.

Anesthetic risk during surgery also increases because inherently small chest and lung capacity of the potbellied pig is compounded by obesity. Lawhorn said there is also a higher risk of post surgical complications such as heart, kidney or multi-organ failure.

"Putting a potbellied pig on a balanced diet helps to ensure a healthier pig," Lawhorn said.

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BISD HONOR ROLL

The following is Brackett Independent School District's Honor Roll, as provided by the district, for the fifth six weeks grading period:

Middle School

All-A Honor Roll
■ **Eighth grade:** Justin Calk, Joshua O'Neill, Austin Shewbert, Kara Yeager.
■ **Seventh grade:** Bailee Allen, Meghann Davis, Bianca Stewart.

A-B Honor Roll

■ **Eighth grade:** Dolores Cano, Robert Davis, Laura Meyer, Ivan Pinales, Danika Schmidt, Micheal Stephenson, Emily Valenzuela.
■ **Seventh grade:** Heather Baggett, Jesus Balderas, Travis Bonner, Amber Castilla, Daphne Hunt, Conrad Moore, Gustavo Resendez, Evelyn Rojas, Maria Sanchez, Ashley Stephenson, Gabriela Talamantes, Anolda Watkins.

Elementary School

All-A Honor Roll
■ **Sixth grade:** Katie Braesicke, Serenity Gammill, Laura Swinson.
■ **Fifth grade:** Cody Clark, Brooklyn Gose.
■ **Fourth grade:** Katie Bowlin, Kelsey Bruce, Bryan Calk, Stella Guajardo, Haley Hale, Ayland Letsinger, Janine Rex.

■ **Third grade:** Tariq Cherradi, Jon Michael Clements, Lauren Duncan, Adam Garcia, Brittany Hale, Stevie Lowrance, Ismael Morales, Salvador Pacheco, Nevada Payne, Joelson Terrazas, Ashley Wardlaw, Daulton Woodson.
■ **Second grade:** Meghan Flores, Selina Gerardo.

■ **First grade:** Judy Adams, Korlee Allen, Arturo Castillo, Clarissa Cruz, Clay Flores, Dolores Garza, Hannah Johnson, Anthony Martinez, Karina Martinez, Zachary Pevehouse, Dustin Sanchez, Shelby Schu-

ster, Haley Smith, Gabriel Walker.

A-B Honor Roll

■ **Sixth grade:** Laura Adams, Summer Allen, Brooke Bowlin, Emily Calk, Jessie Jones, Miranda Letsinger, Becca Mann, Bianca Martinez, Maribel Rivas, Gracie Rocha, Veronica Talamantes.

■ **Fifth grade:** Chyenne Billings, Chris Blake, Charles Conoly, Shaun Davis, Amanda Flores, Lauren Hernandez, Aracely Martinez, Maria Martinez, Jay Proulx, Raul Rivas, Michael Rosetti, Andy Schmidt, Isaac Talamantes, Nydia Talamantes, Katie Yeager.

■ **Fourth grade:** Sarah Davis, Mike Flores, Abby Gutierrez, Nichole Lira-Steinberg, Sofia Lozano, Tyler McDonald, Sahara Rodriguez, Victor Roman, Icela Rueda, SuSu Seargeant, Josh Smith, Sam Stewart, Roberto Torres, Erica Villanueva.

■ **Third grade:** Francisca Flores, Jackie Gonzalez, Amanda Herrera, Emily Holmes, Banner Kerr, Ernesto Ortiz, Yanira Perez, Megan Resendez, Ricardo Rojas, Reece Smith, Shandel Villarreal.

■ **Second grade:** Priscilla Aguirre, Brooke Brown, Cesar Castillo, Ryan Clark, Crystal Garcia, Yeika Garcia, Sariah Guartuche, Rolando Gutierrez, Lucas Hurt, Austin Pettett, Jonathan Pinales, Adam Resendez, Marissa Villarreal.

■ **First grade:** Wyatt Blake, Mckenzie Castillo, Isaiah Clementz, Edgar DeLeon, Jose Falcon, Shannon Gammill, Marisol Gomez, Ernan Hernandez, Steven Maldonado, Peter Martinez, Paul Resendez, Jr., Isauro Rivas, Marlinda Rivas, Alberto Rocha, Consuelo Rodriguez, Nereyda Salazar, Brandon Sandoval, Kendall Seballos, August Stephenson, Landon Tuck, Damian Villarreal.

Hernandez addresses Rotary Club

By FRANCES McMASTER
Contributing Writer

Fred Hernandez, district attorney of the 63rd Judicial District of the state of Texas, addressed the Brackettville Rotary Club last week at the Las Moras Restaurant.

Hernandez was the guest of Tino Guzman, Rotary program chairman for the month of May.

Hernandez gave Rotarians an overview of his job. He is responsible for trying cases in Edwards, Kinney, Terrell and Val Verde counties. This is one of the largest judicial districts in the state.

He covers the 63rd and part of the 83rd District with two assistants. Because of his heavy caseload, he can only come to Brackettville every two to three months.

The job of the district attorney is to try felony cases, but he is also in charge of juveniles. These cases are increasing, Hernandez said, and the ages of the perpetrators are getting younger and younger.

As an example, he said that he had recently been called by authorities in Sanderson about a problem they had concerning a 13-year-old boy.

Juveniles are required to be kept in a facility separate from adults and Sanderson has none; neither does it have procedures for making bond. Del Rio has a facility, but the law requires that no more than 10 juveniles can occupy a cell block. The laws also say that they can be held for a maximum of six hours. If the facility at Del Rio is full,

they may be sent to a hotel used for this purpose in San Antonio.

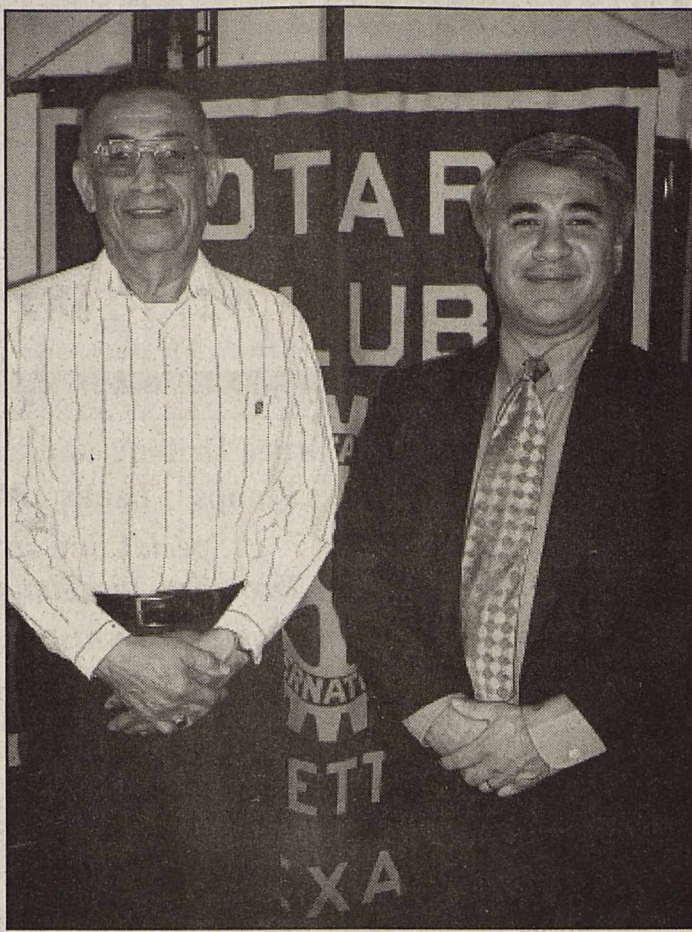
There is no bond given in cases of murder, and cases are prioritized according to when the arrests are made. Hernandez mentioned that two teen-agers recently had to stay in jail awaiting trial for murder for around a year and a half.

If the charges against a teenager are serious, and if he or she is 15 years of age, the accused can be certified and tried as an adult. If found guilty as an adult, they will be imprisoned with (and endangered by) older, hardened criminals.

Hernandez mentioned a case involving a 15-year-old juvenile who was tried as an adult, but because he plea-bargained and gave testimony on a co-defendant, he was sent to a juvenile facility instead of prison. In such cases, the juvenile's record is reviewed when he or she becomes 18, and if they have behaved, they may be released on parole. In this case, the juvenile had frequently caused trouble and was sent to serve time in prison.

Texas is rapidly approaching a situation that existed some 10 years ago when prisoners were released because of overcrowding in prisons, Hernandez said. Another area of concern is the recent cutting of funds for juvenile justice by the legislature, which means that counties may have to raise taxes to provide facilities for juvenile offenders.

In answer to questions, Hernandez said the drug situation has gotten worse in the past three years, and more females



Addressing the law
Tino Guzman (left) welcomes District Attorney Fred Hernandez to the Brackettville Rotary Club meeting.

Photo by Bill Haern

are involved. There are more intentional types of drug related crimes.

For instance, drug dealers are paying young people to back-pack drugs across the long stretches of unguarded border. Double-crossing a dealer can easily lead to murder, Hernandez added.

Hernandez came to Del Rio after practicing in Austin for some 10 years. He worked in the District Attorney's Office under Judge Tom Lee. When Lee ran for district judge, Hernandez ran for and was elected district attorney.

Hernandez is married and has one child.

Beta Sigma Phi elects officers

The Beta Epsilon Omicron Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi sorority recently elected a new slate of officers.

Pam Melancon will serve as president, Donieta O'Keefe as vice president, Elizabeth Goebel as secretary and Connie Miller as treasurer.

Founders Day 2003 was celebrated with a beautiful patriotic dinner at Slater Hall. Doneita O'Keefe did an outstanding job transforming the hall into a red, white and blue wonderland.

Mary Frances Partlow was welcomed as a new pledge.

Dee Curry was presented the Woman of the Year Award. Congratulations to Dee!

Connie Miller announced that "Colors of Friendship" will be the theme of 2003-04.



A tree of thanks
Members of the Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports team planted a tree on Fort Clark Sunday to thank the association for the usage of land to construct a shooting range.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

Cheese ball puts zip into snacking

Today's cheese ball will put zip into the snacking and make plain old crackers appear special. This one cheese ball won't last long.

Surprise Cheese Ball

Here is what we need: one 8-ounce package of softened cream cheese; 1/4 cup of shredded colby-monterey jack cheese; 3 to 4 tablespoons of cilantro, minced, or parsley; 2 to 3 tablespoons of grated onion; 1 tablespoon of chili powder; 1 tablespoon of garlic salt; 1/4 teaspoon of crushed red pepper flakes; 1/8 teaspoon of ground cumin; 1/8 teaspoon to 1/4 teaspoon of hot pepper sauce; 1/4 cup of



Goodies
From G.G.

Vada
Baldree

minced fresh parsley. In a medium-size mixing bowl, beat the cream cheese until it is smooth. Then add the next 10 ingredients and mix well. Cover and refrigerate for at least one hour. Shape into ball and roll in parsley, cover and refrigerate for eight hours or overnight. Serve with crackers.

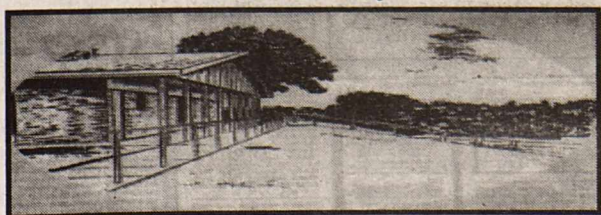
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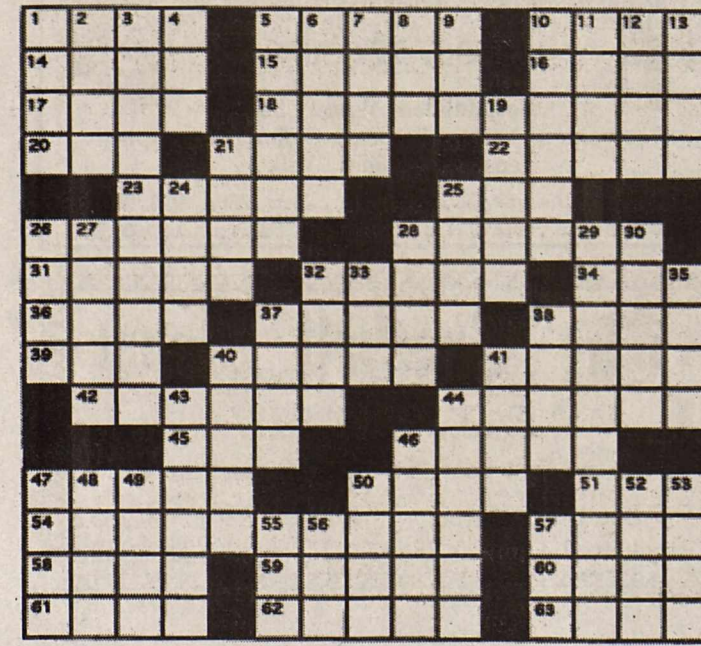
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 10 Sound of shock
 14 Heidi's home
 15 Sharp
 16 Hipbones
 17 Finn
 18 Subject of the middle pages
 20 Scottish weather forecast
 21 News-caster Lindstrom and name-sakes
 22 4 Holy Roman Emperors
 23 Actress born in Rome
 25 Cockney dwelling
 26 Friend
 28 Northern Europeans
 31 Remove the lid
 32 Greeting for Dolly
 34 Bigwig, for short
 36 Pallid
 37 Vending machine purchases
 38 Glass item
 39 Gods: Lat.
 40 Christmas decoration
 41 Use an épée
 42 Gorge
 44 Londoner's sausage
 45 Part of an addr.
 46 Sea
 47 State
 50 Of a generation
 51 Biologist's room
 54 Bacteria killer
 57 Head problem
 58 Cards
 59 Covering for 38
 60 1975 Wimbledon champ
 61 Fit together
 62 Complaint to a proctologist
 63 Dance movement
 1 Minoo and others
 2 Make arrangements
 3 Part of the United States
 4 Recipe abbr.
 5 Friller
 6 Indian, for one
 7 Bakery purchases
 8 Mel the Giant
 9 Spot
 10 Talented
 11 "Thanks ___"
 12 Farm building
 13 Tablets
 19 Famous lover
 21 ___ school
 24 All right
 25 Hookers
 26 Campus area
 27 1987 Indianapolis 500 champ
 28 Murder
 29 Matthew, Mark, Luke or John
 30 Inasmuch



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: ARTICLES OF CLOTHING

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 22.....Bo Hagler	May 25.....Jennifer McDaniel
May 22.....Ruben Talamantez	May 25.....Paula Samaniego
May 22.....Demitreus Williams	May 25.....Dolores Wilson
May 23.....Mike Bizzell	May 25.....Kathy Wilson
May 24.....Bernie Allemeir	May 26.....Phil Coburn
May 24.....Willie Allemeir	May 26.....Blanca Ortega
May 24.....Lorenzo Guajardo	May 27.....John Garberich
May 24.....Gladys Lewis	May 27.....Lester Meyer
May 24.....Esteban M. Pena	May 28.....Rene Diaz
May 25.....Tammy Coggins	May 28.....Dorothy Oliver
May 25.....Ermenia Hernandez	May 28.....Vern Price
May 28.....Leticia Vela	

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Skini	11. Pants
2. Blouse	12. Parka
3. Coat	13. Pedal pushers
4. Dress	14. Shirt
5. Duster	15. Skirt
6. Gown	16. Suit
7. Jacket	17. Sweater
8. Jeans	18. Trousers
9. Muumuu	19. Vest
10. Pajamas	20. Windbreaker

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's best to stick close to home this week. Domestic concerns are uppermost on your list of priorities. Later in the week, steer clear of a moody friend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You need to be aware of a family member's sensitivity on certain issues. Being more understanding will go a long way. This weekend, a financial decision has to be faced.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) There's no need to dread that upcoming social engagement. It'll be much more enjoyable than you'd anticipated. Romance could be the happy result.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) It's a productive week for you at work. However, the opposite is true of domestic chores. If need be, hire some extra help to get things done.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You accomplish much when you're part of the team. One co-worker in particular has valuable ideas. Over the weekend, catch up on some needed rest.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You know how to keep a secret this week. That certain friend appreciates this fact. Later in the week, your mate craves some one-on-one attention.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You take the lead on the job this week. This enhances your status with bigwigs. A financial opportunity is possible if you're open to it.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Too much is happening at work. If you're unable to sort it all out, take things one at a time. By week's end, you're able to see more clearly.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Avoid any risk-taking when it comes to your finances. Things are too shaky right now to seek out new investments. This weekend, be sensitive to family members' feelings.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your self-confidence inspires others this week. However, avoid being overly cocky. This weekend, your mate's needs are most important.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It's hard for you to concentrate this week. Put forth every effort to eliminate those distractions. Later, an inconsiderate family member has you fuming.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A bigwig on the job is in quite a mood and will have a tendency to nit-pick with you. Try not to lose your temper. This soon passes.

The miracle of God's hand is witnessed at birth and death

On Monday, May 12, I was privileged to be a part of the death of Santos Ramirez at Val Verde Regional Medical Center in Del Rio.

Often times we don't see God's hand in what we do on a daily basis. Monday morning I went to the hospital to be with a patient who was having knee surgery.

In the early start for my day, I had forgotten that it was also my week to be the volunteer chaplain for the hospital. Around 10 a.m., I was paged by the hospital operator to let me know that the chaplain's beeper had been left at the front desk for me.

How they knew I was there when I didn't even know that I was there as the chaplain can only be the work of God. God knew where I was needed.

Just before noon, the beeper went off! I was needed on the fourth station for a family. The nurses let me know that they felt



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Ken F. Sellers

Santos Ramirez was near death and the family was gathered in the room.

I introduced myself to the family that was present and offered a prayer of thanksgiving for Santos' life and a prayer of comfort for his family to know that they would be eternally with Santos in the Spirit and the presence of God.

As the afternoon wore on, some family left and others arrived. Each touched their loved one and spoke to him of their love. I recommended that they speak to him to let him know that it was OK for him to go with God and his loved ones who had gone before. I am told

with authority that the hearing is still present until the very end. There were memories shared, laughter enjoyed and tears shed as the family gathered to see Santos off.

The staff of Val Verde Regional Medical Center, and especially the nursing staff on fourth station, were very attentive, very respectful and very helpful to the family and myself as we all ministered together in this most difficult of moments.

At 4:15 p.m., Santos left his frail mortal vessel and joined God where pain and tears are no more.

The family stood around the bed touching the shell that had contained Santos' soul and each other. Their prayers had been answered and Santos' struggle was at an end.

For four plus hours, I had been an integral, intimate part of the Ramirez family.

As in birth, also in death we witnessed the miracle of God's

hand in our mortal and eternal lives. God had brought me to the right place at the right time to represent God's compassion, mercy and final healing for Santos and the Ramirez family.

I thank God for God's call on me and the graciousness of the Ramirez family, who received God through me into their midst with faith in God's good purpose.

The promises of God were fulfilled within the presence of all that entered that hospital room Monday afternoon.

God's miracles are in full view always. Sometimes our wide open eyes are distracted and miss them. God's love and mercy are visible and miracles available 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.

Catholic church holds mass for senior class

Back in the "good old days," high school graduation also included a special celebration called baccalaureate.

My dictionary says "baccalaureate" is a sermon or address delivered to a graduating class at commencement. However, when I was in high school, a baccalaureate service was held the Sunday before graduation in one of the local churches.

In the midst of the parties and celebrations, graduation is a time for our seniors to remember that God needs to be and is a part of their lives. We send them off to college, the military or a job in the "real" world and we need to be sure they know that they have the support of people who care about them and that they will always have God's support. It is also a time for us to let them know how special they are.

We have a very special senior class at Brackett High School this year. I know, I say this every year, but every year there is something special about that particular class. I had most of these kids several years ago in fourth grade — they have grown a lot since then.

When we were on the bus going to Three Rivers to one-act play competition, we were admiring the wildflowers blooming along the highway. Some of the kids started talking about the wildflower collections they had done for my science classes, and believe it or not, some of them still remembered some of the flow-



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

ers they collected.

At the time this class was in fourth grade, my husband was the high school golf coach. I asked one of the boys in my class if he wanted to play golf when he got into high school, and his answer was an emphatic "no!"

When I asked him why not, his answer was that he didn't want to wear those dumb pants — meaning, of course, knickers! He has certainly done quite well in football pants!

Anyway, this upcoming Sunday at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, we will have a special Mass for the senior class.

I'm sure most of the churches in town recognize their seniors, but this celebration is for all members of Brackett High School Class of 2003, not just the members of our parish.

So if you know a senior, or are a senior (thanks for reading my article), please encourage class members to attend this special service. Parents and family members are welcome also.

Everyone is welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

God Bless You!

It's not too late for forgiveness

Have you ever felt like you have disappointed God? What did you do about it? How did you make things right?

It's wonderful to know that when we have disappointed God, that he doesn't stay that way forever.

There is a light at the end of the tunnel. There is grace and forgiveness for anyone who goes to God with a truly repentant heart. Proverbs 24:16 says that "a righteous man falls seven times, and rises again."

He doesn't hide for the rest of his life in disgrace. He gets back up! He goes on with his life! He says, "Lord, I acknowledge that I messed up, but nothing in this world is going to keep me in the dust of depression. I'm getting myself up and I'm coming back to you! Please help me!"

Personally, I have a lot of respect for any man who can

own up to his faults and past failures — a man who can dust himself off and say, "Lord, I'm back and I remain your humble servant."

Maybe you're thinking, "Dave, it's too late for me now. I'm too old and I can't change the mistakes of the past."

Well, you're right about not being able to change the mistakes of the past, but you're dead wrong about it being too late. As long as you have breath in your lungs and blood pumping through your veins, you still have time.

Remember the thief on the cross (Luke 23)? He said, "Jesus, remember me when you come into your kingdom."

Did Jesus say to him, "No way, dude. You had your whole life to come to me. Now, it's just too late!"

No! Jesus said, "Today, you



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

will be with me in paradise." 1 John 1:9 says that, "If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive us our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

The next thing that you need to do is ask for mercy. When we look at Psalms (the mercy Psalm), the very first verse says, "Have mercy on me, O God." And in verse 10, David pleads, "Create in me a clean heart, O God and renew a right spirit within me."

This is something that can happen to you, today. If you

repent of your sins and simply say, "Lord you are right and I am wrong. And I truly mean it! Please forgive me."

Once we admit out sins and ask for his mercy, we need to appreciate the outcome.

Don't be like Judas (Matthew 27) who betrayed Jesus for 30 pieces of silver. Afterwards, Judas was seized with remorse, but he never apologized!

He never said, "Lord, I'm sorry! I blew it! I was wrong! Please forgive me for what I've done!"

That's all he would have had to say. It would have been so simple and he would have been off the hook — he would have been forgiven. But no, in a fit of depression he hung himself. Now, it was too late.

Come back to Christ today. God will not be disappointed and neither will you.

Take your time and enjoy life

Whether you are a youth heading out into the world after graduation or an adult who has experienced more years in life, there will always be a temptation to gather the desires of your heart to yourself as quickly as possible.

Most people would like to have a loving spouse, a family of your own, a nice house, a good vehicle, and the many comforts that life offers through gadgets, machines and other technology. But, "To everything there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven." (Ecclesiastes 3:1)

Allowing your choices to be hurried is like playing a game piece on a scrabble board to get a "triple letter count" in a word when there was something better in front of your eyes that you aren't seeing that would bring you a "triple word count." The



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

triple letter count may have seemed attractive at the time, but the best choice would have been the triple word.

Fast foods, fast games and fast relationships have caused us to be a nation that has not required us to practice patience. We have an entire generation that has grown up wanting the "quick fix" and the rewards of life that have been slowly earned by generations of the past.

Parents desiring to give their child better things than they grew up with have placed possessions into their child's hands

that actually take a mature person to properly value and use in a way that will bring true happiness, true freedom and true maturity to their child.

Other possessions placed prematurely into the hands of their child may remove the opportunity for a child to grow and develop skills that will help them mature in responsibility, logical thinking, social communication, respect for authority, humility, love, trust, charity and a powerful relationship with their creator and God, Jesus Christ.

When we, ourselves, "jump the gun" in decision making and do not take the time to look over the entire situation and pray for God's wisdom that we may choose his best for us, we set ourselves up to entangle our life with "second best" or worse, missing the time and place for God's best.

Make the most of your life, don't be in a rush to have it all "right now" and let the walk you have with God be an adventure where, through your patience in waiting, he rewards you at the right season with his best for you.

"This I say then, Walk in the Spirit, and ye shall not fulfill the lust of the flesh. For the flesh lusteth against the Spirit, and the Spirit against the flesh: and these are contrary the one to the other: so that ye cannot do the things that ye would. If we live in the Spirit, let us also walk in the Spirit." (Galatians 5:16-17, 25)

"For they that are after the flesh do mind the things of the flesh; but they that are after the Spirit the things of the Spirit." (Romans 8:5)

Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

You learn the ways of the people you associate with

"But Mom, why? I should be able to go if I want to. In a couple of weeks I graduate. That ought to mean something," said Jessica, pushing the limits.

Sandy was losing patience, but managed to stay calm.

"We have gone over this too many times Jessica," she said. "Your Dad and I know for a fact that there was alcohol available to the kids last year at some of the graduation parties. We have good reason to believe that will happen at the party you want to go to."

"So what," Jessica blurted out. "Wake up to the 21st century. If I want to drink, I will sooner or later."

"21st century or not, it's still illegal," Sandy said decisively. "Your Dad found out that the police and sheriff are going to be cracking down on minors drinking this year. Some bad things have been happening over the past several years and the community is doing something about it. There will be parents who will be arrested and punished for making alcohol available."

"You don't trust me," Jessica said angrily.

"Up to this moment Jessica, you've shown yourself to be a pretty responsible teen-ager," Sandy continued. "Dad and I respect that. What we don't trust



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

is the ability of some adults to make the best moral decisions regarding making alcohol available at the party.

"Your decision to go to this particular party is not in keeping with the good decisions you've made up to now. For that reason, Dad and I must make this decision for you. There are some other parties. How about

us talking about them and choose one we know is going to be alcohol free."

Long ago a very wise man said, if you associate with impious people, you will learn their ways (Sirach 13:1).

Limit the time you spend among fools, but frequent the company of thoughtful people. (27:12) Spend your time with people who share your values and who keep the commandments. (37:12)

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.

Christ is the true Lamb of God

Just about everywhere in the Bible we read about sheep. How, for example, King David in his youth took care of his father's sheep and later wrote Psalm 23 about how the Lord takes care of His sheep.

Our Scripture reading is another beautiful verse asserting God's loving care: "He tends his flock like a shepherd: He gathers the lambs in His arms and carries them close to his heart; he gently leads those that have young."

The dependence of sheep on their shepherd is a true analogy of our dependence as people on God.

As sheep, especially the lambs, depict our dependence on God, so they also remind us of the measure God has taken for our salvation. Lambs were sacrificed in the Old Testament to take away sin, which pointed to Jesus Christ, the true Lamb of God offered up for the sins of all humankind.

He is the Passover Lamb. St. Peter asserts very plainly, "You

were redeemed with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect."

Now that Christ has purchased us and made us His own, He takes very good care of us. He guides us in the paths of righteousness for His name's sake. He shields us from our enemies. He bestows on us goodness and mercy all the days of our lives.

In thankfulness, we obey His voice, serve Him and give Him His due.

With sheep, that would be wool. With people, it is many more things — our talents, our possessions, and most of all, our hearts and selves.

Come and celebrate the goodness of God's grace and mercy each Sunday morning at 9 a.m.



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Nathan Lafrenz

Praise the Lord for his goodness

O give thanks unto the Lord, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever.

Let the redeemed of the Lord say so, whom he hath redeemed from the hand of the enemy:

And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the North and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness in a solitary way; they found no city to dwell in. Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them.

Then they cried unto the Lord in their trouble, and he delivered them out of their distresses.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

And he led them forth by the right way, that they might go to a city of habitation.

Oh that men would praise the Lord for his goodness, and for his wonderful works to the children of men! (Psalms 107:1-8)

Praise the Lord!

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MIDDLE RIO GRANDE DEVEL- OPMENT Council Automation Technician. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is looking to fill three (3) part time job openings for Automation Technicians, one to be housed at the Carrizo Springs Central Office building located at 307 W. Nopal, one housed at the Uvalde Workforce Center located at 216 West Main Street, and the third to be housed at the Del Rio Workforce Center located at 1927 Bedell Avenue in Del Rio. Positions requires a bachelors degree in computer science or related field; years of experience may substitute for formal education with at least three years of responsible experience in (1) implementing and administering relational databases in a Windows NT/2000 environment with SQL and Terminal Services, (2) providing LAN support in a hybrid network environment involving MS Windows NT/2000 and NetWare 5.X, and (3) providing maintenance and technical support by phone and in person to customers on applications operation and maintenance of computer systems and peripherals. Salary will be commensurate with experience for the region. The rate of pay will be between \$13.79 and \$17.60 per hour with an average between 20 to 30 hours per week; work schedule may vary on a weekly basis based on agency needs. In-region and out-of-region travel with overnight lodging may be required. Qualified applicants may apply at the Carrizo Springs Central Office with the original official application, resume, and copies of transcripts to be sent to Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Executive Director, P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aides and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Our Voice or TDD telephone number is (830) 876-1260 and our voice main number is (830) 867-5355.

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COMPETITIVE SEALED PROPOSALS will be received by the Brackett Independent School District at the Superintendent's Office located at 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas at 3:00 p.m. on May 28, 2003 for a Cafeteria Addition for Brackett I.S.D. Proposals shall include the information requested in the Contractor's Qualification Statement Form. Proposals will be publicly opened and amounts read aloud. The District will evaluate and rank each proposal in relation to selection criteria in proposal within 60 days. Contract Documents may be examined and obtained with deposit of \$100.00 at the following locations: Office of Taylor Stephenson, Superintendent, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas 78832 and John S. Graves & Associates, Inc. Architects, 202 Homby Place, Uvalde, Texas 78801. The Owner reserves the right to waive formalities, reject any or all proposals, and award the contract to the most advantageous proposal. Proposal shall include a Certified Check or Bid Bond in the amount of Five Percent (5%) of proposal. 100% Performance and Payment Bonds will be required.

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