

The Brackett News

Commissioners hire an interim EMS director
See story below

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Bank reluctant to give loan to city



Discussing finances

Brackettville City Council members Mary Flores (from left), Tomas Gomez Jr., Mayor Carmen Berlanga, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Bonnie Wardlaw and Johnny Samaniego discuss the city's finances Tuesday.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

City Council hires auditing firm to handle municipality's finances

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Brackettville city officials were expecting to approve a loan Tuesday night to pay off the municipality's debts, but instead found that the Bank & Trust was leery of lending the money to the city.

"The bank is just not willing to sign on the dotted line just yet," said Carl White, representing an investment firm out of San Antonio. "The bank wants to be sure the city has its house in order and has taken steps to correct its problems so this won't happen again."

White said that Sid Cauthorn of the Bank & Trust asked the city to provide its anticipated revenues and operating expenses for the last four months of the fiscal year.

"They are committed to

working with the city," White said. "Their only problem is they're not convinced the city has fixed the problem yet."

The City Council tabled action on the loan until White and Mayor Carmen Berlanga could meet with Cauthorn.

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

Berlanga said last week that the city has only \$5,348.67 in cash assets, while it has \$204,766.44 in outstanding debts, including over \$80,000 to West Texas Gas. The gas company threatened to terminate services with the city, but has given officials until Nov. 1 to pay the outstanding balance.

The council hired Hardin and Newsome of Del Rio Tuesday as its auditors and to perform financial services for the city.

State Champions



Twisters qualify for World Series

Photo Special to The Brackett News

The Southwest Twisters recently went undefeated in 12 games to win first place in the NSA state softball tournament in Beaumont. Now the Twisters will be competing in the NSA World Series in Beaumont on July 19-27. The Twisters, who won the NSA Best Dressed Team Award, also qualified for the World Series in Panama City, Fla. In addition, Nat Terrazas received the Manager of the Year Award. Team members include: Richelle Morales, Nadine Terrazas, Angelica Montejano, Sam Munoz, Dani Villarreal, Melanie Gonzales, Laurie Gomez, Emily Johnson, Monique Pedraza, Crystal Dickinson, Caitlan Alva and Ana Lucy Corona, manager Nat Terrazas coach Jerry Montejano, coach Ernie Garcia, coach Richard Villarreal, coach Joe Garcia and team mom Olga Garcia.

Historical marker reflects legend of Seminole scouts

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Kinney County's annual June-tenth celebration included something a little extra special this year.

The Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts were honored with a Texas Historical Marker at their camp site on Fort Clark.

"Subject markers commemorate topics significant in Texas history," local historian Bill Haenn said. "The Seminole Scout camp on Fort Clark commemorates a particularly significant subject — a community. A community of exceptionally unique people — people who are the stuff of legends."

"To be legendary, you must have something handed down from an ancestor, a tradition of accomplishments, and individuals whose fame promises to be enduring. The Seminole people embody that legacy."

Haenn said he hopes the historical marker "will educate all who read it as to the importance of this place and the legacy of the Seminole Scouts."

"The Seminoles happened to be a very cost-effective arrangement for the Army because they were always producing more scouts," he said. "Oral tradition recounts that when a male child was born in the Seminole camp,

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Historical marker

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Sterling "Smiley" Goodlow (left) and Erica Meyer unveil the new Texas Historical Marker commemorating the Seminole Scout Camp on Fort Clark.

INSIDE

Taylor Stephenson

Have you ever seen Brackettville and Kinney County greener in June? The rains and cool temperatures have been wonderful.
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Chuck Hall

Several years past, the mascot for Del Rio High School was the Wildcat. Until recently, I was never sure exactly what that was.
Lifestyles/Page 4

Dave Crowe

Too many married couples are living in a hell that they unintentionally created by spending too much time judging their mates.
Religion/Page 7

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Commissioners name Burch interim EMS director



Working for the community

County Judge Herb Senne (seated) visits with Steve Burch, the county's new interim EMS director. Burch has over 20 years of experience in EMS.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

After months of searching, Kinney County now has a new EMS director. Nebraska native Steve Burch was hired on an interim basis last week by the Commissioners Court.

County Judge Herb Senne and Commissioners Joe Montalvo, Nat Terrazas and Francie Wylie all voted to hire Burch. Pat Melancon was absent.

Burch has over 20 years of EMS experience, including 14 years of management, 13 years of field work, seven years of teaching experience and five years of Level II trauma center experience. He is a licensed paramedic with an associates degree in paramedicine.

"We want to see how he runs for three or four months," Senne said. "If his ability proves to be close to his capabilities, as we see in writing and were evident in his interview, then we will take the interim word out of the title."

"He has a set of credentials that are astounding. The places he's been and the success stories that he's been able to tell would make anybody happy to

have him a part of our community. He will prove to be a great asset."

Burch worked for the EMS Department on a part-time basis for a week before being hired.

"I love Kinney County," he said. "I have been looking for a place to settle in and call home for 30-plus years, and I have finally found it."

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

"Carolyn brought this from a very-small town South Texas EMS to something that has a high standard and a high quality," Burch said. "I am going to bask in her glory and take off from where she left off. I know I can improve from there, but she laid some excellent groundwork."

Burch said his top priority is to work on community involvement with the EMS Department.

"We need the citizens to be more involved in EMS," he said. "We're here to serve the people, and we would like them to become involved in EMS."



Pineda, Ashabranner win awards Photo Special to The Brackett News
Jose Pineda (left) and Juliann Ashabranner (right) were awarded the Ronnie Armbruster Fighting Tiger and Tigerette Award recently by Connie Armbruster at the annual Athletic Banquet, sponsored by the Booster Club.

Brackett set to host football, tennis and volleyball camps

Brackett will be hosting its first-ever high school volleyball camp on June 30 through July 3, along with the Sixth Annual Tigerette Volleyball Camp and the 2003 Brackett Tiger Football Camp on the same dates.

The first-ever high school volleyball camp will run from 1 to 4 p.m. It will be led by Brackett High graduate Lindsey Brotherton.

Brotherton has just concluded a four-year collegiate volleyball career and has been named the head volleyball coach at Lexington High School.

The camp will focus on correct passing, setting and spiking techniques, as well as team offense and defense.

The cost for the camp is \$30 and the fee is due by June 20. For more information on the camp, call Brotherton at (830) 563-3303.

The annual Tigerette Volleyball Camp is for students entering the fifth through ninth grades in the upcoming school year.

The four-day camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost of the camp is \$30, which includes a T-shirt for campers that register by June 10.

For more information, call Rhonda Marquardt at 563-5181.

The 2003 Brackett Tiger Football Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brackett

Football Complex.

The camp is open to students entering sixth through ninth grades in the upcoming school year. The cost is \$30.

The camp will include instruction on the Tigers' offensive and defensive schemes, offensive skills with the football, defensive and offensive drills, a variety of football games and an orientation of Brackett's strength and conditioning program.

All participants will receive a camp T-shirt. To ensure a camp T-shirt, registration must be turned in by June 23.

To pick up a registration form, call Brackett athletic director David Yeager at 563-2491 Ext. 190 or at 563-9344.

Find local sports news in *The Brackett News*

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