

The Brackett News

City Council rejects proposal recognizing Mexican ID cards
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15 year, No. 24

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Berlanga holds on to mayor's post



Carmen Berlanga

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Despite a verbal resignation last week, Carmen Berlanga has no intentions of relinquishing her post as mayor of Brackettville.

Berlanga said Tuesday she will continue to serve as mayor, but offered no further comment.

The mayor verbally resigned from her position during the City Council's monthly meeting last week after citizens continued to express dissatisfaction with the city's financial woes.

The community has been in

an uproar since learning in May that the city was over \$200,000 in debt and that cash assets had decreased by 97 percent.

The City Council fired David Luna as city manager last month, but citizens argued that Berlanga, as the city's mayor and chief executive officer, was responsible for the city's financial situation.

"I'm out. You asked for my resignation and for me to step down. I'm gone," Berlanga, who has served as mayor for 11 years, said during the meeting.

According to state law, the mayor's resignation must have

been in writing and signed by Berlanga before it became effective.

In recent weeks, the mayor, who has been running the day-to-day operations of the city, has argued that the city operates under a city manager form of government, even though local statutes don't support the claim.

If the argument is true, citizens asked the mayor how it would be legal for the city to be operating without a city manager.

"The mayor mentioned that the city was not financially stable — everybody here knows that,"

local businessman Wes Robinson said. "The question everybody wants to know is who is ultimately responsible for that."

"You maintain that we're underneath the city manager form of government and that you're just a figure-head that runs the meetings. How is what you're doing right now legal if we're underneath the city manager form of government?"

Lydia Tipps asked when the city was going to hire another administrator, and the mayor replied, "as soon as we have some money."

"You have enough money to

pay one more person," Tipps said. "Why can't you start looking for somebody?"

Berlanga responded: "We will as soon as we get our fiscal reports in and know how much money we don't have and how much potential we may have. We're working on our budget. We just can't pick someone up right now."

Freshman council member Bonnie Wardlaw asked whose decision it was to decide when it would be time to hire someone.

"The five people on the council decide that," Robinson answered.

Newman named Brackett High's new counselor

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Ken Newman of El Dorado has been named the new high school counselor at Brackett ISD.

"Ken is going to be great," Brackett Superintendent Bobby Templeton said. "He has a lot of experience. He has been a principal and counselor. He has done great everywhere he has been, and hopefully he will do great here, too. I think he will fit in well with the community."

Newman began his career in education as an elementary physical education teacher at San Angelo ISD in 1971. He has also worked as a principal and counselor at Schleicher County ISD, and was most recently a guidance counselor at Irion County ISD.

"Ken led a staff to exemplary status and a mentor school in Region XV," said Steve Peters, Irion County ISD superintendent. "He is dedicated to student progress and success. Mr. Newman is a collector and disaggregator of student assessments and has the knack to provide guidance to each student based on his or her needs."

"Ken is self-motivated and self-directed, which is one of the reasons we hired him. He has provided our kids with a fresh outlook, organized the financial aid parent workshop for parents, and he has had the opportunity to visit our secondary students regularly," Peters added.

Newman and his wife, Kathy Jo, have two children: Gentry, 18, and Emily, 15.

He succeeds Michelle Frerich

"Ken is going to be great. He has a lot of experience. He has been a principal and counselor. He has done great everywhere he has been, and hopefully he will do great here, too."

Bobby Templeton

as Brackett's high school counselor.

Frerich will now serve as the counselor at Jones Elementary School. She replaces Kay Qualia, who retired in May after five years with the school district.

"Michelle is looking forward to a new challenge," Templeton said. "I've only been here a short time, but from what I can see, she is definitely a solid person. We're lucky to have her."

Junior high teacher Angie Meeks also retired in May, and elementary school teachers Janna Bowlin and Kimberli Cummings, both resigned. Those teaching positions will not be filled.

"There was a decline in enrollment this year and because of that, we had to restructure some of the staff," Templeton said. "Those positions are not going to be filled at this time."

The superintendent said the district is fully-staffed.

"We are lucky. Most schools in the state of Texas are looking for people, sometimes frantically. We're in good shape. We're fully staffed and ready to start the year," Templeton added.



Photo by J.J. Guidry

Finalizing the paperwork

Kinney County Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess (from left) signs the paperwork finalizing the new detention center as County Clerk Dora Sandoval, County Judge Herb Senne and Treasurer Janis Floyd look on.

Detention Center finally a reality

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

There has been talk of a new detention center in Kinney County for over five years.

The negotiations finally ended this month as county officials set the wheels in motion for the new 320-bed facility which will house federal prisoners.

"The fire is lit and we're cooking now," County Judge Herb Senne said.

Five years ago, county officials began exploring the feasibility of running a detention center with tax-based financing. The

commissioners opted to pursue a privately-funded facility.

"It's been a frustrating drive, but the project is finally put together," said Bob Prince, the regional director of marketing for CiviGenics, a Massachusetts-based company which will operate the detention center.

Riata Texas of Midland will fund the \$8.43 million facility.

"There is zero financial risk for the county," Senne said. "If it started today and ended tomorrow, the county has zero obligation."

The total cost of the project includes \$7.2 million for general construction and built-in

furnishings and equipment; \$543,548 for architectural engineering, construction, management and project administration fees; \$399,400 for development and interim finance costs to Riata Texas; \$238,000 for land costs; and \$50,000 for a betterment allowance and contingency fund.

"This is a big deal for us and a big deal for Kinney County," said Mike Patton, a marketing specialist with CiviGenics.

"We've all faced a lot of difficulties over the last several years, but we have been constantly working and it has all come together."

The detention center will be

on 60 acres of land, located on Highway 131, approximately 1.3 miles south of the Highway 90 intersection.

Senne said construction on the facility will begin immediately. Officials expect the facility to be completed in nine months.

Prince expects to hire approximately 60 employees to operate the detention center.

"We will want to hire local personnel, as much as we can," he said. "We think there is a good labor pool here and in the surrounding counties. We will pay

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Wes Robinson	I guess there are drawbacks to starting a column. The worst is everyone with a complaint thinks it should be the subject of your next column. Opinion/Page 2
Bobby Templeton	In any school and most public institutions, there are always people who are out on the front lines, meeting, leading and directing. Opinion/Page 2
Roger Baker	Any preacher will tell you that people sleep in church. Lots of people do it, and if the truth be known, once or twice I've taken a brief nap. Religion/Page 7
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Photo by Kathy Wilson

Shopping spree winner

Robert Smith of Fort Clark Springs walked away with \$775.55 in meat products last Thursday morning after winning a 60-second shopping spree at Super S Foods. Smith was one of 47 lucky shoppers to win Super S Foods' 30 Year Anniversary Shopping Spree at each of the stores in South and Central Texas.

Water board set to discuss new budget this afternoon

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will meet this afternoon at 1 for a workshop to begin preparing a new budget.

The district is nearing the end of its first-ever fiscal year, but its financial status is unknown. At the board's regular meeting earlier this month, directors refused to release copies of its financial report.

The directors voted to table the financial report presented by Darlene Shahan, the board secretary. She said the document would not be released until it was approved by the board.

The Brackett News has requested a copy of the document under the Open Records Act.

The directors did, however, vote to consolidate the line items for legal fees and professional fees into one line item for professional fees, which includes the district's attorney, auditor and consultant. The board also added a \$500 line item for open records requests and adjusted

the line item for collection fees from the Appraisal District.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, local businessman Wes Robinson asked the board: "I would like to know if the \$17,500 that Brian Sledge testified before the Senate sub-committee that he had received for his services is included in the financial statements. According to Chapter 36, any gifts are supposed to be accepted by the district publicly, and I don't recall you ever doing that in a meeting."

The directors declined to respond. The board also refused to release its proposed management plan. Director Bob Young reviewed the document during the meeting.

Zach Davis, a former board member, asked if copies of the plan would be made available.

"It's termed personal and confidential by our attorney," Shahan said. "That's what the attorney put on the top of the document. When our attorney says it's OK to release it, we will release it, but we can't release something they've marked 'privileged.'"

Don't forget the Alamo!

Did you know that Texas is the second-most popular travel destination in the United States?

With summer upon us, Texans are busy mapping out their vacations. The good news is that an exciting vacation doesn't have to include travel agents and complex flight arrangements. Texans can find some of the country's greatest destinations right here in the 23rd Congressional District.

Take a stroll down the River Walk in San Antonio, explore our west or set up camp at one of the many recreational spots in the southwestern region of our state. The opportunities are endless! I have created a list of hot spots and summer events that are sure to provide an exciting and meaningful vacation.

Big Bend National Park

You can enjoy sightseeing by personal car, backpacking, jeep touring, camping, fishing, float trips, hiking and wildlife viewing just to name a few of the many activities. Commercial float trips on the Rio Grande are available through outfitters just outside the park.

Alpine/Marfa

The two cities host a Labor Day weekend that features the Big Bend Balloon Bash and the Marfa Lights Festival.

There are few more amazing sights than the contrast of colorful hot air balloons in the morning West Texas sky above the Alpine Valley against the Davis Mountains, except perhaps for the mysterious and unexplained Marfa Lights, seen by motorists almost every night of the year. If you're looking for wide open spaces and a touch of



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

mystery this Labor Day weekend ... go West!

San Antonio

San Antonio is the home of the Alamo and the River Walk I am proud that more than 2.5 million people visit San Antonio each year to see the 4.2 acre complex known worldwide as "The Alamo."

The Alamo is open every day of the year except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Visitation hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The jewel of San Antonio is the River Walk. After the Alamo, it's the most visited attraction in the state!

The River Walk offers a variety of attractions and activities including riverboat rides, live music, art galleries, great shopping, and world class restaurants.

Del Rio

The Lake Amistad National Recreation Area is situated on the U.S.-Mexico Border and near the city of Del Rio.

Lake Amistad is known primarily for excellent water recreation including: boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving and water-skiing.

Areas surrounding the lake provide opportunities for picnicking, camping and hunting. Ciudad Acuna is just a short

drive from the lake where visitors can cross the border for an afternoon of shopping and authentic Mexican cuisine.

For more information on the lake and the recreation area, visit www.nps.gov/amis or call (830) 775-7491.

Garner State Park

Profound canyons, crystal-clear streams, towering mesas, and chiseled limestone cliffs are among the many sites that you will discover within this intriguing terrain.

Garner State Park is found in the northern part of Uvalde County. Located 30 miles north of Uvalde and 7 miles north of Concan, Garner State Park has 10 acres of awe inspiring riverfront.

The park offers camping, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, swimming in the Frio River, miniature golf, paddle boat rentals, juke box dancing at the concessions building, and bike riding.

"Friends of Garner State Park" has introduced a new program called "Cowboy Sunset Serenade." This program gives an overview of the history of the American Cowboy through songs and cowboy poetry. These performances are held from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

For more information visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner or call (830) 232-6132

There are hundreds of ways to make Texas your vacation destination this summer. Take joy in the natural beauty and wonder of our state and invite a friend "down" to share in the fun.



BISD will miss Brown

In any school and most public institutions, there are always people who are out on the front lines, meeting, leading, directing and being the official, and sometimes unofficial, standard bearer for the organization they belong to.

These are the people that others recognize at restaurants. These individuals may or may not be talented, but they do stand out. They may or may not be hard workers, but they are recognized. Competent? Maybe. Noticed? You bet.

To borrow a sports analogy, this would be the coach and the star quarterback. In business, it would be the CEO and the Hollywood actor paid millions to be the pitch man.

To be sure, they are integral to success, but it makes me think



Making A Difference

Bobby Templeton

about all of the others on the team and in the company who get little or no credit, but are just as indispensable.

What would the team be without the other coaches, cooks, drivers and equipment managers? What would the company be without the factory workers who keep the products flowing or the accountants who keep it all balanced?

These people are an organizations true heroes. They show up everyday. They ask for nothing but what they earn, and they flat out get the job done. They take pride in their work and find triumph in that. Any leader will tell you these people are rare.

Brackett ISD is losing one such person. Her name is Dixie Brown. She has been the business manager at BISD for many years and is now in the fledgling stages of her retirement.

From the first moment I came to work here, she really impressed me. She looked after the schools money like it was her own and was not afraid to give her opinion.

This is a major reason why schools all over the state are nearly broke, but BISD is in fine shape. She cared and took care of business. Our kids and our staff were lucky to have her. Good luck Dixie.

Big Mama Sez!

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Some local citizens may have choice for free mail delivery

I guess there are drawbacks to starting a column like this. The worst, so far, is everyone with a complaint thinks it should be the subject of your next column.

I have enjoyed talking to everyone who has approached me and I don't want to hurt anyone's feelings. However, everyone needs to realize this column will not fix your problems or change things. It will only bring awareness to the issue. Only you, the citizens, have the power to change things.

The most recent issue to catch my eye concerns our local postal service. As many of you know, a number of years ago, everyone had to pay for their Post Office box.

Subsequently, the United States Postal Service was required to provide one free form of delivery. Because there was no free form of delivery in Brackettville, everybody got their box for free.

Several years ago, a rural route was established between the Rocksprings Post Office and Brackettville's. I assume this was for the purpose of delivering



Between Us

Wes Robinson

mail to residence along F.M. 674.

It also gave our local Post Office a loop hole, allowing it to charge certain citizens and businesses for their Post Office boxes.

Essentially, if you are located within one block of the rural route and within the city limits of Brackettville, you have no option other than paying for your box.

According to our postmaster, through no fault of the Post Office, this is due to the fact that the city has no ordinance allowing mail boxes to be placed in the city's right of ways.

This item was on the last city agenda, but was tabled because the council wanted to notify the citizens that it would affect. In my opinion, this was a very wise and considerate decision by the

council. So for those of you located within one block of the rural route, who would desire the option of not paying for a Post Office box, now is your chance. Write a letter to the City Council or attend the next meeting and let your voices be heard.

The rural route runs from our Post Office to the intersection of Spring and Ann Street, and then north, all the way to Rocksprings.

There are some conditions. You will only receive mail on Monday, Wednesday and Friday. You will also have to erect a mail box according to U.S. Postal Service regulations.

I also encourage those of you who believe rural boxes would detract from the looks of our city to speak up. If you don't speak your mind now, you really don't have the right to complain later.

Personally, I think this is an easy decision. Citizens should be given the option.

While my business will continue to pay for its box because of the convenience, I don't believe everyone should have too.

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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.

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Job Shadowing

Sponsor Jennifer Harris (from left), Marisela Talamantes, Jose Castillo, Ivan Pinales and Cesar Ortiz recently visited The Brackett News office as a part of the Middle Rio Grande Job Shadow Program.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

City Council rejects proposal recognizing Mexican ID cards

U.S. House passes legislation regulating cards

The Brackettville City Council rejected a resolution last week that would recognize Mexican consular ID cards as an official form of identification for Mexican nationals residing and working in the city.

"About two months ago, the Mexican consular came to visit with us and brought a brochure," Mayor Carmen Berlanga said. "All they're asking for is support in accepting this as an identification card for Mexican citizens. Some of them only have that as an identification card."

Council members Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez Jr., Johnny Samaniego and Bonnie Wardlaw all opposed the resolution.

"I think, given the problems the city of Brackettville has, we need to be focusing our attention elsewhere besides the Mexican consulate ID cards. I don't see where that would benefit Brackettville," Wardlaw said.

Garza said the issue should

not have even been brought before the City Council.

"The first question I had when I read this was, we don't have a police force, how are we going to enforce this? It's up to the United States government what they will accept as ID and what they won't," she said. "I talked to the Border Patrol, and the only acceptable form of ID is a green card."

The ID card that's proving popular with Mexicans living in the United States, particularly illegally, could face U.S. regulations under a measure endorsed by the House.

The amendment, approved on a 226-198 vote last week with near-solid Republican support and Democratic opposition, directs the State Department to develop regulations governing foreign consulates' issuance of consular IDs.

The amendment would impose penalties for foreign governments that don't meet U.S. regulations, including: Main-

taining computer databases to prevent duplicate or fraudulent issuance of cards; requiring recipients to notify the consulate of address changes; and sharing cardholders' identities with the State Department.

House immigration subcommittee Chairman John Hostetler, R-Ind., the bill's author, describes it as necessary in light of the FBI's concerns that the cards are vulnerable to fraud and pose a national security risk.

"It is important to note that this amendment does not address the acceptance of these documents in the United States, nor does it prohibit their issuance, so long as the foreign mission complies with the requirements in the amendment," Hostetler told the *Dallas Morning News*.

The U.S. government has yet to take a stance on the cards, which bearers use to open bank accounts, get driver's licenses in the 13 states that recognize the matricula, and access other services. A task force for months

has been trying to work out competing views between various federal agencies.

Rep. Ciro Rodriguez, the San Antonio Democrat who chairs the Congressional Hispanic Caucus, denounced the provision as "anti-Hispanic."

"One thing that needs to be clarified in their muddy argument is the fact that immigrants cannot use matriculas to obtain work authorizations, the right to vote, to obtain public benefits, nor do they provide an immediate form of legalization status," he said.

The Mexican government, which has issued more than 1.4 million of the cards since 2002, describes its matricula program as a way of identifying and registering Mexicans who live abroad in hopes of better serving them. Though new fraud-resistant features have been added to the card, which has been in existence since the 1870s, Mexico has yet to set up a computer database of all recipients.

Annual Angora goat sale successful

Encouraging signs for the mohair industry where seen in the strong demand for fine, high-yielding, uniform fleeced bucks and does at the 16th Annual Haby, Lockhart, Ross, Speck Angora goat production sale.

The sale was held July 19 at the Hill country Youth Exhibit Center in Kerzville.

This year's catalog was dedicated to the John Dittmar family.

Dittmar has been active in the Angora goat business for over 50 years. John and Mary Louise's three children are still

helping with the goats. Connie and Lewis Bratton have their own flocks now and are active in the Mohair Council. Johnny keeps up with the Angoras and meat goats. Delores and Dr. Castleberry still do embryo transfers.

Officials reported that 87 lots of yearling bucks and does grossed \$50,825 for an average of \$584, including 24 does that averaged \$502 and 63 bucks that averaged \$615.

The high-selling buck was a Speck buck purchased by Jimmy Holman of Sonora for \$2,600.

Pam and Cal Hengst of San Angelo bought the second-high buck bred by the Speck family for \$1,900. Dee Hadorn of Harrah, Okla., took home a Ross buck for \$1,600.

The high-selling doe was purchased by the Paul Grafe family of Boerne for \$1,200. Larry Jennings of Sonora bought the second-high doe for \$950. Chuck Violet of California paid \$825 for the third-high doe. The top three selling does were bred by the Specks.

Volume buyers included Pam and Cal Hengst of San Angelo,

17 head for \$10,725; the Balch Ranch of Sonora, 10 head for \$5,050; and Stephanie Ayers of Uvalde, eight head for \$3,850.

Other volume buyers were Denny Ray Speck of San Angelo, Scott Mitchell of Sanderson, William Whitworth of Boerne, Russa McSwain of Corpus Christi, Allen Stieler of Rocksprings, and Chuck Violet of California.

"The partnership sincerely appreciates the buyer's faith in the mohair industry and their faith in HLRS fine haired Angoras," Doris Haby said.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, July 14
 12:07 p.m., A Border Patrol Agent reported a one-vehicle accident on Highway 334, about 14 miles outside of Brackettville. Deputy Michael Schaefer reported that the subject involved in the accident was found three to four miles south of where the accident occurred. He requested EMS assistance.
 3:40 p.m., A man requested assistance at his residence because he was having problems with his son.
 4:40 p.m., A woman turned in a license plate that she had found.
 7 p.m., A man said a maroon Grand Am twice ran the stop sign at the intersection of Fulton and Brown Street.
 7:41 p.m., A woman said a Grey Matrix ran through the stop sign on Pafford Street.
 7:59 p.m., Deputy James Blankenship said he was unable to catch up to a white pickup truck driving at a high rate of speed through Brackettville. Officials at the Cline checkpoint were notified.
 9:25 p.m., Sergio De Paz Toledo, 23, of Nacogdoches was arrested by Trooper Ashley on outstanding warrants. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.
 9:50 p.m., A jailer reported that two prisoners at the Kinney County Jail were fighting.

Trooper Ashley, Deputy Blankenship and Capt. Jesse Garcia took care of the situation.
Tuesday, July 15
 7:50 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported two dogs that got out of their fence.
 9:55 a.m., An anonymous caller reported a loose cow on Highway 90, near the A.J. Foyt Ranch.
 10:50 a.m., A woman reported that her purse had been stolen out of her vehicle, while it was parked in front of her mother's residence on E. Veltman Street. She said the windows of the vehicle were down and the doors were unlocked. The woman said the subject also took a bite of a piece of barbecue chicken that was inside the car.
 3 p.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent reported a traffic accident at the intersection of Highway 90 and Spring Street.
 9:05 p.m., A woman reported kids playing on her fence and trying to pull the posts down at her residence on Pafford and First Street.
Wednesday, July 16
 5:20 a.m., A man reported that a roof had blown off a trailer at Kickapoo Trailer Park.
 5:40 a.m., A man reported that part of the Super S Foods roof had blown off. The store manager was notified.
 5:43 a.m., A man reported that a telephone pole was about

to fall down on Ann Street, next to The Brackett News.
 7 a.m., A member of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department reported a meter loop down at the Kickapoo Trailer Park on Fulton Street. He said a hot wire was laying on the ground. Central Power and Light officials were notified.
 1:10 p.m., A man and a woman reported two people fighting in a small white truck at the corner of Fort and Gove Street.
 1:32 p.m., Ben Tovar, 45, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Manny Pena for public intoxication, resisting arrest and assaulting a police officer. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.
 4:55 p.m., A woman reported gun fire in Unit 31 on Fort Clark Springs.
 6:05 p.m., A Stop N Shop employee reported that an individual driving a white Pontiac LaMans pumped \$15 worth of gas and drove off without paying for it.
 8:20 p.m., A 911 caller reported an individual lying on the ground near Highway 90, about five miles east of Sycamore Creek. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene. He found the man, Brian Bentz of South Carolina, walking on the shoulder of the road. The man said he had been hitch-hiking

from New Mexico and was very tired and perhaps a little dehydrated. Ring gave the man some water to drink and a ride into Brackettville.
Thursday, July 17
 11:04 p.m., A man reported dogs barking near his residence on W. Fulton Street. The dispatcher was unable to reach the city employee that was on call.
 11:07 p.m., A man reported a one-vehicle rollover about 14 miles east of Brackettville on Highway 90. Deputy Ring was dispatched to the scene where he found a white 1995 Chevrolet Tahoe lying on its top. Five females were travelling in the vehicle. The driver and front-seat passenger both suffered minor injuries and were transported to Val Verde Hospital in Del Rio by Kinney County EMS officials.
Saturday, July 19
 9:16 p.m., Deputy Cody Shannon reported that a dog was hurt near the apple trees at five points. City officials were notified of the situation.
Sunday, July 20
 7:20 a.m., A man reported that he had been stung by bees at his residence about 3 miles east of Brackettville. He requested EMS assistance.
 10:45 a.m., A woman reported a two-vehicle rollover on Highway 90, about 10 miles east of Brackettville. No injuries were reported.

OBITUARY

Alfred G. Melancon

Alfred G. Melancon passed away in Houston on July 21, 2003, at the age of 74.

Melancon was preceded in death by his son, John Jacques, and daughter, Denise Sanchez-Hidalgo.

He is survived by his wife: Jackie Veltmann Melancon of Houston; his sons: Michael Melancon of Pleak and Pat Melancon of Brackettville; daughters: Monique Mascio and Jackie Melancon of Houston, Celeste Bahar of Galveston and Danielle Plaza of Uvalde; and 14 grandchildren.

Services will be held at St. Francis DeSales Catholic Church in Houston and interment will follow at the Veterans Cemetery.

BRIEFS

Luna attends fire training school

COLLEGE STATION — Leo Luna, a fireman with the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department in Brackettville, Texas is attending the 74th Annual Municipal Fire Training School July 20-25. The school, attended by nearly 2,000 students representing about 750 cities from more than 25 states, is being held on the Texas A&M University campus this week.

Fireman can choose a course at the school from a list including: fire fighting, fire prevention, fire department officer development, fire service rescue practices, specialized fire protection and public safety emergency service dispatcher.

Luna is being sponsored by Val Verde/Kinney County Farm Bureau and Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies by contributing towards the cost of the school. Since volunteer firemen are interested in attending this school to help do a better job for fire fighting and fire prevention, 125 County Farm Bureaus and the Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies in the statewide program have sponsored 125 fireman at the school.

"Texas Farm Bureau Insurance Companies believe volunteer fire departments have been very effective in reducing the amount of loss involved by fire in rural areas," said Kenneth Dierschke of San Angelo, Texas Farm Bureau president. "It is our hope in sponsoring this program that the fireman will help the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department to better serve the residents of Kinney County."

Breast cancer program is Saturday

Dorothy Phillips, a breast cancer educator, will be providing an inservice on the latest self exams, breast cancer prevention and detection information on Saturday from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. at the Church of Christ Fellowship Hall in Brackettville. The program will be followed by a Longerberger Basket party, featuring the annual Breast Cancer Awareness basket. Proceeds of the sale of this special collector's item basket go to the American Cancer Society. All women are invited to attend. No child care available. Please bring a dessert or treat to share. Drinks will be provided.

Booster Club hosts golf tournament

The Brackett Athletic Booster Club is hosting a golf tournament on Aug. 2 at Fort Clark Springs. The entry fee is \$30 each for a four-person scramble, mulligans are \$5 each with a maximum of two. Lunch, beverages and door prizes are included. Carts will be available. For more information or to register for the tournament, call Candy Hobbs at 563-2591 or 563-5236.

Drawing for painting is set for Aug. 1

The winner of a Bud Breen painting being raffled off to raise funds for the Southwest Twisters' trip to the NSA World Series in Beaumont on July 19-27 will be announced Aug. 1 at 1 p.m. at the Bank & Trust.

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2773A 2003 GMC 2500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$27,995	P7329 2002 C3500 Crew Cab Dually 4X4.....	\$30,000	2473B 1998 Lincoln Mark 8.....	\$15,995
P7333AA 2002 Chev. Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$25,000	2388A 2000 Nissan Frontier.....	\$12,995	2679A 2001 Dodge Neon.....	\$8,995
2340A 2002 GMC 1500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$24,995	2845A 2000 GMC Sierra.....	\$11,995	P7313 2003 Buick LaSabre.....	\$17,995
2663C 2002 Chev. Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$24,995	P7242A 2001 Dodge Ram 1500.....	\$12,995	2816A 2001 Oldsmobile Aurora.....	\$16,995
2856A 2001 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$22,995	2557A 2002 Silverado Ext. Cab.....	\$20,995	2774A 2000 Volvo S-80.....	\$24,995
2855A 2001 Chev. Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$26,995	S U V ' S		2749A 2000 Nissan Altima.....	\$10,995
2682A 2001 Chev. Silverado Ext. Cab.....	\$20,000	P7309 1997 Chevrolet Blazer LS.....	\$9,500	V A N S	
P7199 2001 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab.....	\$22,150	P7264 2003 Chevy Trailblazer.....	\$22,995	2880A 2001 Olds Silhouette Premier.....	\$16,995
2689A 2003 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab.....	\$22,995	2556A 2002 GMC Yukon.....	\$26,500	2168A 2000 Chevrolet Venture.....	\$11,995
2929A 2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab.....	\$18,595				
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- ACROSS**
1 Completely involved
5 Cut
9 Channing
14 General Bradley
15 Was carried along
16 Single
17 Soggy ground
18 ___ calling!
19 Prominent
20 Continued effort
23 Bakery purchase
24 Be dishonest
25 Mary Todd's man
28 Gossip
32 Enjoy one's RV
34 Do a grammar exercise
35 Talk wildly
37 Business transaction
38 Horrors!
- DOWN**
39 Ship
40 Commedia dell' ___
41 Misplace
42 Trees
43 Church sections
44 Piece of playground equipment
46 Beginner
48 Units of measurement: abbr.
49 Vowel
51 Arthur
52 Causing to be remembered
58 Asian nation
61 Residents: suff.
62 Inking
63 Due
64 Canadian native
65 Hodgepodge
66 On edge
67 Transmit
68 Actress Carter
- DOWN**
1 Frolic
2 Pierre's girlfriend
3 Young salmon
4 Sins
5 Wants badly
6 Wander
7 Small
8 Punitive
9 Dreaded disease
10 African lily
11 Nonsense
12 Numeral
13 Conducted
21 Emerald Isle
22 Saltpeter
25 Opposed
28 Word with egg or drum
27 Those French ladies
28 Like a saint in a painting
29 Eliminates errors
30 Musical number
- 31 Pulls hard
33 Movie based on a book
34 Neurological disorder
36 Sleeveless garment
39 Closer to the ground
43 Word with rug or code
45 Get even for
47 Handled badly
50 Stories
52 Items of cookware
53 Common French verb
54 Ending for six or seven
55 Unoccupied
56 Diamond
57 Liverpool slammer
58 Tiny amount
59 Wonder
60 Fastener

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1 through 68 indicating starting points for across and down words.

ROARING TWENTIES

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

Today's Category: BEVERAGES

Word search grid with letters: C O C O A K C A N G O C, D R E E B J N S H D R O, D D N K E O S C S E K L, S I S N B D N K V N J A, W D A R D U A I D G J D, D V U L P S R N I A U O, B O S I O D D S O P I S, B D C U W O G D S M C D, C K B E S A K I C A E K, M A R G A R I T A H D L, S C S S C H C T O C S I, S W A T E R I A T I A M

1. Juice
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____
6. _____
7. _____
8. _____
9. _____
10. _____
11. _____
12. _____
13. _____
14. _____
15. _____
16. _____
17. _____
18. _____
19. _____
20. _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- July 24.....Travis Wilson
July 25.....Cecilia Ann Pena
July 27....Francisco Alejandro
July 27.....Ken Curry
July 27.....Daniel Martinez
July 27.....Lane Nowlin
July 28....Angelica Cervantes
July 28.....Tom Fierova
July 28.....Eleanor Garza
July 28.....J.D. Samaniego
July 30.....Sterling Goodloe
July 30.....Mickey Larson

Roaring Twenties Solution:
1. Beer 11. Margarita
2. Bourbon 12. Milk
3. Champagne 13. Punch
4. Cocoa 14. Saki
5. Cognac 15. Scotch
6. Cola 16. Screwdriver
7. Juice 17. Soda
8. Kool-Aid 18. Vodka
9. Lemonade 19. Water
10. Mai tai 20. Wine

ZOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

- ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) It's a great week to track down old friends and catch up with current events. The same holds true for family members who live at a distance. This weekend, a home improvement project beckons.
- TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You need to get out of that rut and find some intellectual stimulation. Go to a museum or attend a lecture at a local college. You'll be surprised how much this revs your creative juices.
- GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're the calm in the middle of that storm at home. Fortunately, you feel comfortable this time being the peacemaker. Later in the week, seek out feedback on a work project.
- CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) A little pampering will go a long way with your mate. You re-kinde that warmth and passion. Over the weekend, window shopping delights you both.
- LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A slight financial misunderstanding can easily be straightened out. Perhaps the bank is at fault. Later, some surprising information proves beneficial.
- VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) There's usually a good reason for most things. This is especially true where your mate's mood is concerned. A heart-to-heart chat clears the air.
- LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) This week, you allow personal problems to take center stage. As a result, important work could get neglected. Try to separate the two for more effective results.
- SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A surprise comes your way via the mail. Perhaps it's that special invitation you've been anticipating. In any event, you're pleased.
- SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) It seems others have more faith in you this week than you have in yourself. Dispel those self-doubts. They're ultimately baseless.
- CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) It's best to get everything out in the open with your mate. Holding in resentment is bad for the relationship. Later in the week, your stress is eased.
- AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A friend's career news takes you completely by surprise. However, there could be an opportunity for you as well. Talk this over in detail.
- PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) You're generally a frugal person. However, don't let this descend into cheapness. Once in a while, you have to open that wallet!

Awake to a new life in Christ

Any preacher will tell you that people sleep in church. Lots of people do it, and if the truth be known, once or twice I've taken a brief nap between the scripture reading and the offertory myself.

Someone once asked me if I was upset when I saw people asleep in church. I replied that of course I wasn't offended, God spoke to a great many people during their dreams — Jacob's ladder, Joseph's dreams of the stalks of grain, the Revelation of John — all cases of God moving when people were asleep.

My hope is that those I occasionally see sleeping in the pews are ready with fresh insights directly gleaned from their Creator! I sometimes laughingly ask bleary-eyed parishioners things like, "What part of the sermon really spoke to you today?"

Most people that sleep in church do so because they are truly comfortable, but sometimes because they're not engaged in

what's going on around them.

I don't think occasional nodding-off in church is a very big problem, but falling asleep the rest of the week can be deadly dangerous.

We see commercials warning us not to drive if we're unable to stay awake, but how often do you hear Christians remind each other to "wake up" and to "stay alert?"

Sleep in church if you must — preachers know that part of their job is to keep you awake! But the big challenge is not the naps on Sunday but the malaise of Monday through Saturday.

We cannot be complacent believers, content with only a brief moment of encounter with God early on Sunday to insulate ourselves from evil for the remaining week.

I'll accept your nodding as agreement on Sunday, but nodding during the week and you'll discover that you've agreed to permissive displays of sexuality



First United Methodist Church
Rev. Roger Baker

on television, profanity on the radio, denial of the right of individual prayer in the classroom, and exclusion of the Christian perspective from discussion of local and national political issues.

Get a bit dozy and you'll never notice that you've failed to study your Bible or pray with your children. Go right to sleep and you'll never notice that some people fail to treat people without "white" skin as brothers and sisters.

Keep sleeping and you'll miss the suffering of Christians trying to escape poverty through ill-conceived activities, such as illegal immigration and vice

addictions.

Sleep too long and you won't hear the cries of the needy. Catch a really long nap and you won't need to visit the sick. Stretch out for a really good rest and you won't have to go out and visit those in jail.

You can probably even sleep right through prayer time — no need to pray for our law enforcement officers, no reason to stay up and remember those service members in harm's way.

Jesus calls us to wake-up to a new life in Him. Just as he described Jairus' daughter as "only sleeping" (Mark 5:39), perhaps we too need to be awakened to a new life in Christ.

If you're discovering a "wake up" call of your own, come worship with us this Sunday. The pews are padded, the AC works fine, and we sing familiar hymns, all starting at 10:45. That's late enough to sleep in just a little bit... and if you need it, we'll find some coffee, too!

The fear of God is a paradise of blessings

Marta tried to be firm with her daughter: "You may not hang that poster in your room, Colleen."

"But Mom, Princess Di was a great person. It's not her fault that this man wrote a book about his love affair with her."

Colleen's assessment of the British princess was not in agreement with her mother's.

Marta paused collecting her thoughts.

"Just what is it that makes someone great, Colleen?" she asked.

"Well," Colleen answered, "Princess Di supported a lot of worthy causes and helped a lot of people. And she was beautiful."

"Yes," Marta answered. "The princess made many appearances, and her appearances helped many charities to raise money. But it remains to be seen whether her good works go much beyond appearances on behalf of worthy causes."

"I still want to put the poster up in my room, Mom!" Colleen said with certainty.

"You must remember, Colleen, you reveal something of yourself to others by those you honor and by those who become your idols," Marta said.

"It's worthy to aspire to good works and to great beauty and even wealth. Certainly the princess achieved those things. But even for the



Empowering Families
Dr. Donald Smith

rich and beautiful, there can be a dark side that people don't know or choose to ignore. The princess carried on affairs with men other than her husband even while she was married and raising two beautiful children.

"While there was great wealth and charity and beauty on one side, there was immorality and dishonesty on the other side. When you approve of one, you approve of the other," Marta said.

"I guess you're right," Colleen sighed. "It seems like everywhere you look, you see the good side and then the dark side of the rich and famous."

Long ago, a very wise man said that things such as charm, beauty, wealth and vigor bring delight to the eye, but it is the fear of God that leaves nothing wanting and is a paradise of blessings. (Sirach 40:11-27)

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.

God's holiness helps you overcome temptations

Pray for God's spirit of holiness to be upon you that you may have the power to be obedient in faith to perform his works. Being filled with God's holiness strengthens you to overcome the temptations of the flesh.

Before you accepted Jesus as your Lord and Savior, you were a servant of sin, but afterward you became obedient to righteousness.

God's word says: "Let not sin therefore reign in your mortal body, that ye should obey it in the lusts thereof. Neither yield ye your members as instruments of unrighteousness unto sin: but yield yourselves unto God, as those that are alive from the dead, and your members as instruments of righteousness unto



Gateway Ministries
Bob & Charollette Corey

God."

The apostle Paul continues to say, "I speak after the manner of men because the infirmity of your flesh: for as ye have yielded your members servants to uncleanness and to iniquity unto iniquity; even so now yield your members servants to righteousness unto holiness. For when ye were the servants of sin, ye were free from righteousness. What fruit had ye thine in those things whereof ye are now ashamed?"

For the end of those things is death. But now being made free from sin, and become servants to God, ye have your fruit unto holiness, and the end everlasting life. For the wages of sin is death; but the gift of God is eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord." (Romans 6:12-13, 10-23)

God began the good work in you when your spirit was saved by grace, but you have to keep choosing that which is holy to become perfected in your soul (mind, will and emotions).

Your soul is controlled by your choices, even more, your habitual choices. Changing wrong habits and choosing right habits draws you into that realm of holiness by using the power of his Holy Spirit to accomplish it.

He tells us to "put on the new man," "putting away lying, anger and sin not, do not give place to the devil, quit stealing, labor with your hands, let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying (building up), that it may minister grace unto the hearers, grieve not the Holy Spirit of God, whereby you are sealed unto the day of redemption, let all bitterness, wrath, anger, clamor, evil speaking and malice be put away from you and be kind to one another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you." (Ephesians 4:24-32)

Choose holiness and prosper in your soul. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Keep the Lord's presence with you at all times

Some times at Mass we sing "In Remembrance," a song that begins with Jesus offering the cup and bread to His disciples and asking them to eat and drink in remembrance of Him.

But as the rest of the song unfolds, the vision of remembering Christ begins to expand.

"In remembrance of Me, heal the sick. In remembrance of Me, feed the poor. In remembrance of Me, open the door and let your brother in."

As I think about these words, I think about how receiving the cup and bread bring Christ's presence to me. However, the

song also suggests there is another special way to bring Christ's presence to my life, not just during communion on Sunday, but every day.

Go out and do some tangible act of love in remembrance of Him, it suggests. Feed a hungry person, open a door, send a card, cry with a friend, give a gift, say "I'm sorry," visit a shut-in, hug a child. But pause and do them deliberately in the name of Jesus.

That is what sets them apart and makes them special. That is what transforms them into acts of remembrance.



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Lynn McNew

All the small expressions of love done in His memory could be chain links of presence that run through my days, through all our days, binding them with a sense of communion.

While coming out of the Post Office one day, I saw an elderly woman drop keys that had

spilled from her full hands and rolled under her car. "Let me get them for you," I said.

It's a small thing, Lord, but I do this in memory of You, I thought. And somehow the mere act of kneeling down and groping for the keys became an experience of presence, as full as bread and wine.

Lord, help me keep Your presence ever with me, by doing some loving act every day, especially in Your name and memory. You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God bless you!

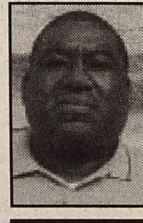
The Lord is righteous in all ways

The Lord is righteous in all his ways, and holy in all his works. The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth.

He will fulfill the desire of them that fear him; he also will hear their cry, and will save them. (Psalm 145:17-19)

He that hath the Son hath, and he that hath not the son of God hath not life.

These things have I written unto you that believe on the name of the Son of God; that ye may know that ye have eternal life, and that ye may believe on the name of the Son of God.



St. John's Missionary Church
Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

And this is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us: and we know that he hears us, whatsoever we ask we know that we have the petition that we desired of him. (1 John 5:12-15)

Praise the Lord!

Construction set to begin on new detention center

Continued from Page 1

In addition to housing federal inmates, the detention facility will include office space and an evidence storage facility for the Kinney County Sheriff's Office.

"The detention center will help us tremendously," Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess said. "We're hoping we can get some female prisoners in there instead of putting them in Wackenhut (Detention Center in Del Rio), and maybe get a cheaper rate."

Female prisoners cannot be housed in the local county jail, but officials have discussed hold-

ing female prisoners in the new detention center.

"The financiers and the operator are both very sensitive to county needs. If we feel like we need those accommodations made available, I'm positive they will make accommodations for us," Senne said.

The sheriff said the county plans to continue to house federal prisoners in the 28-bed local jail.

"My intention is to house federal prisoners here to offset the expense of the dispatchers because we'll still have to have dispatchers anyway," Burgess said.

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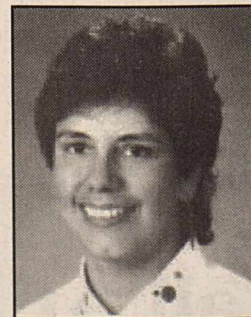
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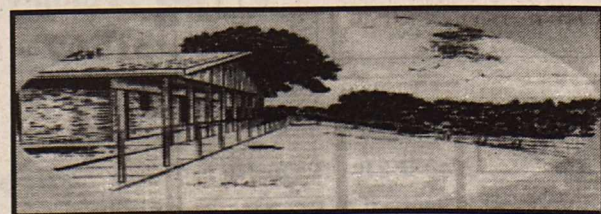
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