

The Brackett News

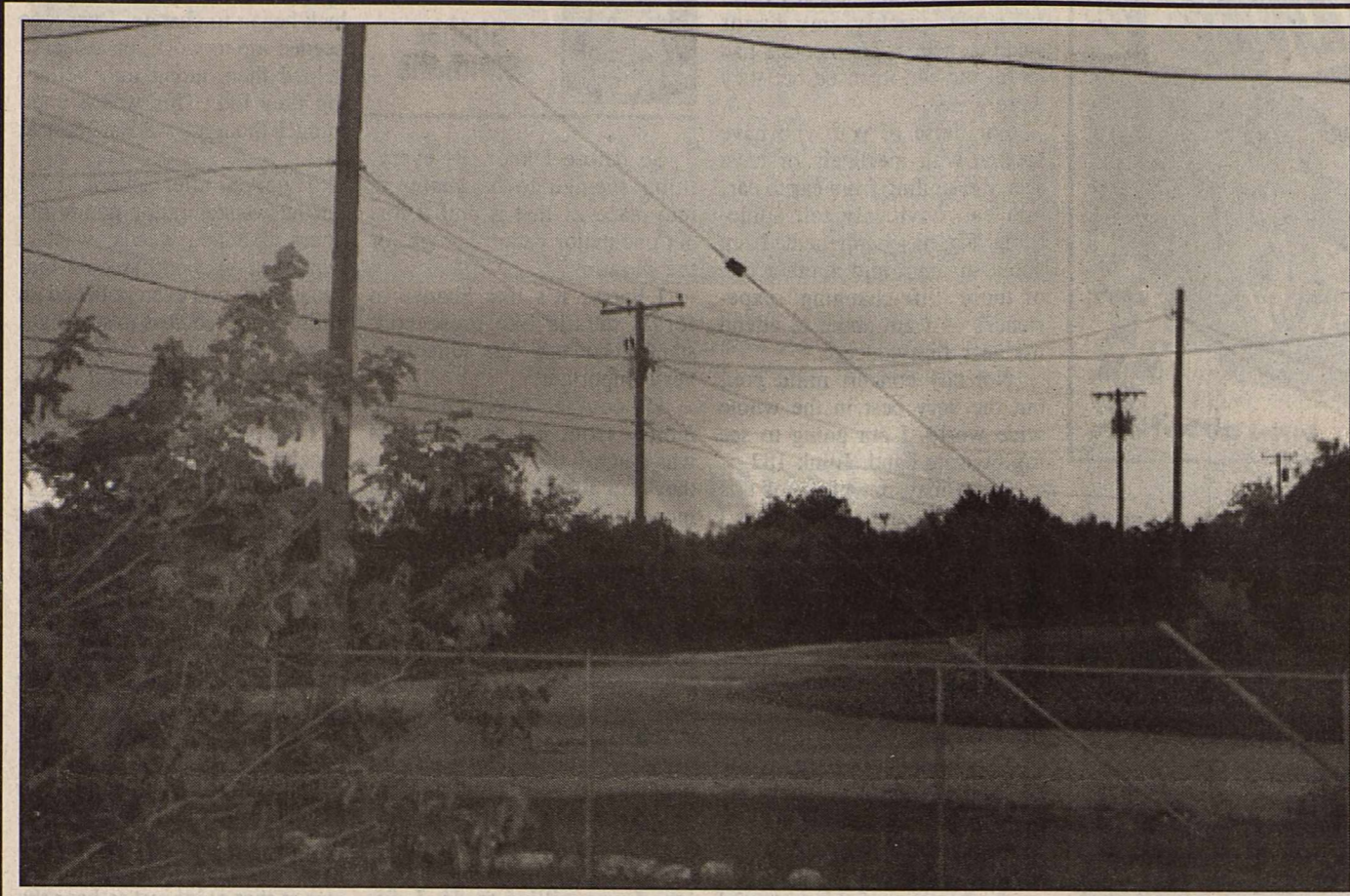


Ashabranner, Swinson
earn trip to state meet
See story, Page 7

16th year, No. 13

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



A stormy night

A tornado, complete with a hail storm, flew through Kinney County last Wednesday evening, but little damage was reported within the county. This photo was taken from Del Pfranger's residence on Fourth Street.

Photos Courtesy of Del Pfranger

Early voting is underway

Over 100 citizens turn out in first week of balloting for city, school elections

Citizens in Kinney County have been turning out to vote early in the upcoming May 15 elections.

As of noon Wednesday, 131 citizens had voted in the Brackett ISD election, 118 in the Brackettville city election and 38 in the Fort Clark MUD election.

"We've had a great turnout so far," said Susan Esparza, early voting clerk for the BISD election. "Last year we had over 400 early voters, but they all came at the last minute. This year the first two days were really busy. I think we're going to have a really good turnout."

Early voting for all three elections continues through Wednesday. Polls will be open from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. on election day.

All registered voters in the county are eligible to vote in the school board election. The city election is restricted to voters who reside in Brackettville and the MUD election is limited to Fort Clark residents.

In the city election, Joe N. Garza Jr., J.J. Guidry and Ponce Padron have all filed to run for mayor.

Seeking the Place 1 position on the council are incumbent Camilo Cruz Jr., Richard Guajardo and Tully Welch.

Three candidates have filed to challenge incumbent Mary Flores for her Place 2 seat — Matt Bland, Ramon "Dido" Garcia and Stephanie "B'Ann" Gomez.

CITY ELECTION

Candidates in the upcoming May 15 elections:

City of Brackettville

■ Mayor: Joe N. Garza Jr., J.J. Guidry, Ponce Padron.

■ Alderman, Place 1: Camilo Cruz Jr., Richard Guajardo, Tully Welch.

■ Alderman, Place 2: Ramon "Dido" Garcia, Stephanie "B'Ann" Gomez, Matt Bland, Mary V. Flores.

■ Alderman, Place 4: Francisca "Chica" Garza.

■ Alderman, Place 5: John Samaniego, Lydia Tipps.

Brackett ISD

■ At-Large Trustees (three positions): Tony Ashley, Susanna T. Castillo, Roy Jay Harris, Tom Swinson, Sara Terrazas.

Fort Clark MUD

■ At-Large Directors (three positions): Ken Callnan, Don Ralston, Gregory Stone, Bob Young.

Council member Johnny Samaniego, Place 5, is being challenged by Lydia Tipps.

Tony Ashley, Susanna T. Castillo, Roy Jay Harris, Tom Swinson and Sara Terrazas are seeking seats on the school board.

Ken Callnan, Don Ralston, Gregory Stone and Bob Young are running for the Fort Clark MUD board.

Controversy follows Garza

Word of Joe Garza's campaign for mayor of Brackettville has reached Kenedy, Austin and beyond.

The retired educator of 29 years has come under fire as the news of his campaign spread across Texas.

The *Brackett News* has received numerous phone calls and e-mails concerning Garza's efforts to seek public office.

Garza is facing J.J. Guidry and Ponce Padron in the upcoming May 15 city election.

After anonymous defamatory letters about Garza were sent to voters throughout the city, he distributed a written response entitled "Set the Record Straight."

"Instead of setting the record straight, he chooses to lie," said Joe Baker, editor and publisher of *The Countywide*, Karnes County's community newspaper.

In April 2002, Garza, former superintendent at Kenedy ISD, was indicted by a Karnes County grand jury on two charges of

tampering with a government record and three charges of aggravated perjury.

"The (Kenedy ISD) board and the state, along with their attorneys, heard a complaint filed by a disgruntled employee that was the basis for the tampering with government records indictment and ruled in my favor," Garza said in his political flyer.

Baker said the statement is "a bald-faced lie — there's just no nice way to say that."

"The State Board for Educator Certification investigated and determined that Garza violated the professional educator's code of ethics. This led to a two-year punitive restriction placed on Garza's superintendent's certificate and a settlement whereby Garza agreed to retire from education," Baker said. "SBEC ruled in favor of the complainant — not Garza."

Michael Shirk confirmed the suspension of Garza's certification. See **CONTROVERSY**/Page 5

Water board joins coalition for lobbying services

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District has agreed to join a coalition for legislative lobbying services.

The district's directors agreed to pay the minimum monthly dues of \$100 to join the Texas Groundwater District Coalition for Legislative Services.

The group is headed up by Jace Houston, general counsel of the Harris-Galveston Coastal Subsidence District and former counsel for the local groundwater district.

Board members Chuck Hall, Don Hood, Christopher Ring, Darlene Shahan and Cecil Smith voted to join the coalition, while newly-appointed director Dub Miller opposed the decision.

"I am 100 percent for it," Hood said. "When the legislature tried to change our rules,

the lobbyists came to bat for us and I think they were instrumental in getting the legislature to just quit what they were doing. I'm all for it. Unfortunately, you have to have a lobbyist involved. It's just a fact of life."

The board agreed to pay the minimum fee of \$100 per month to participate.

"We'll never be able to hire a lobbyist of our own," said Smith, the president of the board. "For \$100 a month at least we'll have some representation."

Hood said he thought \$100 a month was "very reasonable."

Smith said he was trying to get the funds donated to pay for the services through the remaining five months of the fiscal year. Ring said he would donate the first \$100, and more if neces-

"When the legislature tried to change our rules, the lobbyists came to bat for us and I think they were instrumental in getting the legislature to just quit what they were doing. I'm all for it."

Groundwater Board Director Don Hood

sary." Officials said the district could stop participating in the coalition at any time.

"If we decide four or five months down the line this is not for us, we can just quit paying our dues and we're out of it," Smith said. "We don't have to sign a contract. We're just a member as long as we pay our monthly dues."

Miller and Hall both expressed concerns about the district's financial situation.

"I'm not saying this isn't a good expenditure, but we have to look at every nickel we spend from here on," Hall said.

Miller asked if any of the board members had contacted other groundwater districts that had voted against joining the coalition.

"Edwards County was in a similar situation," Smith said. "This is starting in the middle of our fiscal year. We had not programmed any money for it. Some of the places did not have the money to join. Edwards just didn't have the money to spend \$100 a month."

"Uvalde County hired their own lobbyist. They will join this after their lobbyist's contract runs out on Dec. 1."

Some districts are paying up to \$1,000 to participate in the coalition. Shahan said the fees were based on the number of participating districts.

Hall said he was against the distribution of votes among members based on the amount of the contributions. Districts get one vote for paying \$100 to \$249, two votes for \$250 to

\$499, three votes for \$500 to \$749, and four votes for \$750 or more.

"The more you put in, the more votes you get. It looks like to me somebody can just buy a vote," Hall said.

The deadline to join the coalition was last Friday. The local board met last Thursday to discuss the issue, but took no action after discovering that the agenda for the special meeting was not legally posted.

The agenda for the 4 p.m. Thursday meeting was posted on Tuesday and did not meet the 72-hour requirement of the Texas Open Meetings Act.

Former City Councilman Wes Robinson pointed out the illegality during public forum after Smith had called the meeting to order.

INSIDE	
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■ Garza's past	Joe N. Garza Jr., whose stewardship of Kenedy ISD was embroiled in controversy, is running for mayor of Brackettville, his hometown. Community/Page 5
■ City streets	The three mayoral candidates all agree that city streets are in dire need of repairs, but they have different ideas about how to fund them. Community/Page 5
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BHS has six qualify for state UIL meet

Six Brackett High School students have qualified to compete in the UIL state academic meet this week in Austin. The event starts today and continues through Saturday.

Beth Ballew, Sarah Meyer, Tony Rosetti, Shanae Simmons, Ashley Smith and Ashley Thourot will represent BHS at the state competition.

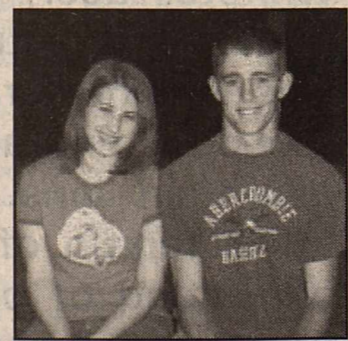
Students qualified for state by placing in the top two in their respective events at the regional meet held last month in San Marcos. BHS had 20 students compete at the regional level.

Rosetti won first in extemp persuasive speaking at the regional meet, while Shanae Simmons took top honors in editorial writing.

The accounting team of Ballew, Meyer, Smith and Thourot placed first. Individually, Thourot took first, Meyer finished third and Ballew was seventh.

Meyer also took sixth in computer applications, while Emily Petrosky was fourth in prose and Star Smith was ninth in social studies.

Petrosky and Tillman Davis

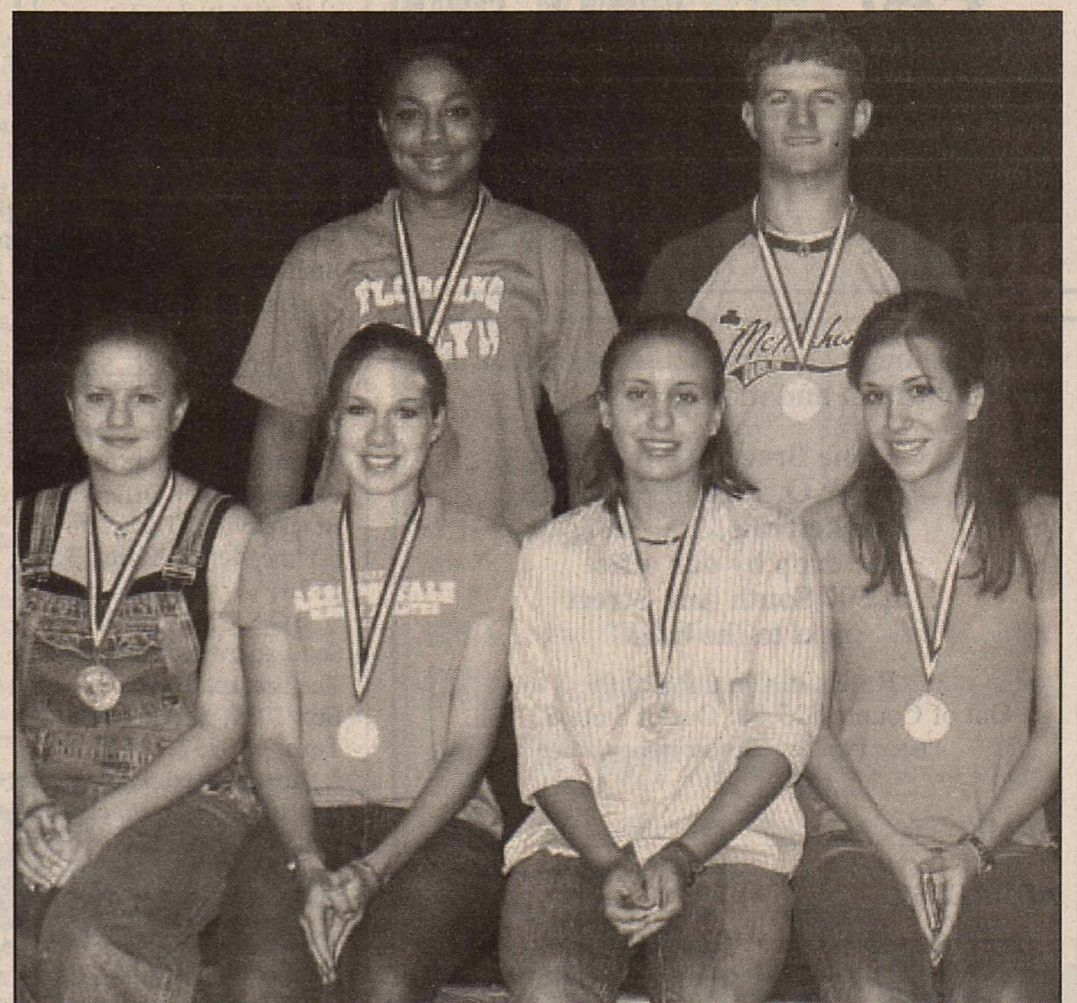


Petrosky and Davis

previously qualified for state, competing in cross-examination debate in March. Davis and Petrosky won the District 30-AA meet, while Rosetti and Beau Watkins qualified as alternates by placing third at District. Cody Robinette and Dana Bonner took fifth at the district competition.

"This has been an exceptional year for Brackett High School in UIL academic competition," said Cindy Brandt, UIL coordinator. "Each student who competed in any event is a winner."

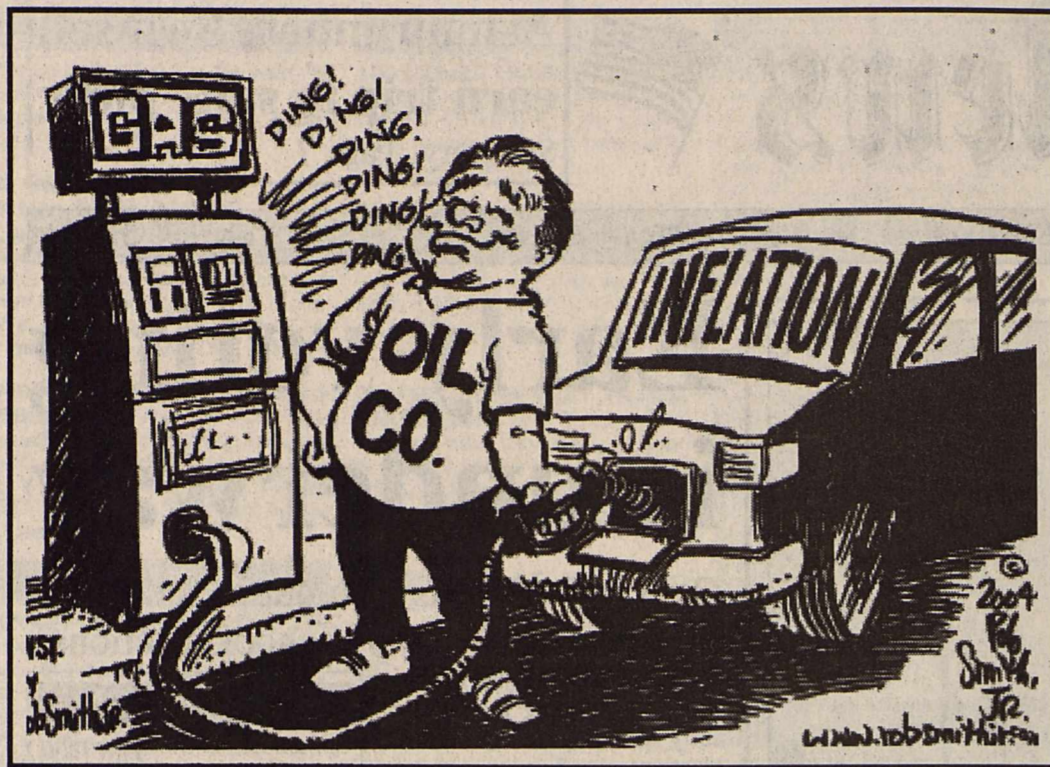
"Congratulations to all district and regional winners and to all state qualifiers."



State qualifiers

Representing BHS at the state UIL meet will be, top row (from left): Shanae Simmons and Tony Rosetti. Bottom row: Ashley Thourot, Ashley Smith, Sarah Meyer and Beth Ballew.

Photos Special to The Brackett News



Reaching for stars ... and the dollars

Pick up any paperback mystery on today's bestseller list and the pages will come alive with stories of cyber crime, toxic chemical weapons or feats of genetic and biological wizardry. The settings for many of today's most popular television shows are crime labs, science halls and emergency rooms.

But America's fascination with science, medicine and technology is not merely fictional — our leadership in new and emerging fields is very real. And Texas is leading the way.

After joining the Senate Appropriations Committee in 1997, I realized that Texas fell drastically behind in federal research and development dollars. I launched a campaign to elevate the profile of Texas institutions and boost their share of federal funding.

Branches of the federal government, from the Defense and Energy departments to the National Institutes of Health, rely on the academic world to conduct research projects on their behalf. Nearly 60 percent of all funding for academic research comes from the federal government. Texas needed to get a larger slice of the pie.

For the past five years, I have convened annual higher education summits in Washington D.C. to bring together Texas' academic leaders and senior Administration officials to help build new research partnerships.

I'm pleased to report that our hard work is paying off. According to a newly released study, federal research funding for Texas colleges and universities has increased dramatically in recent years.

The RAND Corporation announced that Texas higher education institutions took in \$1.26 billion in federal research



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

more in fiscal year 2002, up more than \$100 million from the previous year.

This survey shows that through greater collaboration and our annual summits we are transforming Texas into a science powerhouse. I've always known our schools perform groundbreaking work. Now federal decision makers are recognizing Texas' excellence as well.

These dollars are important for attracting top scientists, professors and students to Texas, as well as expanding our horizons and building a broader base of knowledge. These research dollars have an important economic development impact on our state. For every \$1 invested, Texas gets a \$5 economic boost, fostering commerce and creating new jobs.

The vast and varied research projects being conducted around the state run the gamut from wind energy research to finding a cure for cancer. And their discoveries impact us all, from the big city to the small rural town. Let me share a few examples with you.

I recently announced an important partnership between the University of Texas System and Sandia National Labs, our nation's leading nuclear weapons laboratory.

Sandia's strength in biotechnology, engineering and microsystems research will be complemented by the brilliant and innovative minds in the UT System. This partnership will enable

Texas students and professors to take part in important research efforts that contribute to the defense of our homeland.

Texas Tech University is cultivating a center of excellence at its Institute for Forensic Sciences. The major focus of the Institute is to assist those combating terrorism attacks through forensic methods, clearly an important priority as we face terrorism in the 21st century.

Texas A&M continues to stand out with its agricultural leadership shown through its Vegetable and Fruit Improvement Center. At the Center, researchers and students alike are working to create healthier fruits and vegetables infused with vitamins and proteins.

The Houston scientific community has recently formed the NanoHealth Alliance that includes the University of Houston, Rice University, MD Anderson and the UT Health Science Center among others.

The Alliance provides unique national resources of material science, biotechnology and medicine, and will study how the emerging field of nanotechnology, a science measured in billionths of a meter, can impact the medicines we take.

As you can see, the work being done all around the state is more exciting than any work of fiction. Our schools are contributing to the safety, health and well being of not just Americans, but people the world over.

In January, I helped launch The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, bringing together our state's premier research academics to forge new alliances. Together our universities and local and federal leaders will continue to partner toward our goal of making Texas a state of science.

Columnist works for tickets to see 'world's best concert'

Tears welled up in my eyes. Never had I experienced such intense emotions of pure and utter joy. I clicked each key carefully yet quickly, my hands shaking with excitement. I had to fill out the form before they were gone.



Yo Shanae

Shanae Simmons

For those of you who have spoken with me lately or have seen me smiling from ear to ear, you can obviously tell something big has happened. I am about to jump into another one of those "life-changing" experiences — I am about to attend my very first concert.

Not any concert mind you, but the very best in the whole wide world. I am going to see my favorite band, Blink 182.

Some may not know of this super great band and to them I must say you're missing out big time. They not only have great lyrics that never seem to escape from one's mind, but they are some of the funniest guys I have ever heard, not to mention their not bad looking either (Tom's my favorite).

This band has been in my life for a few years now, and only once before have I even got close to having the opportunity to see them live in concert.

At the time of this potential thrill ride, I was not "old enough." Now having "matured," I am whole-heartedly ready to embrace the perks that come with my old age.

The beginning of my adventure has been rocky, like having many potential cancellations of my dream for going to such an exciting event.

At first, I was going alone, because I couldn't seem to find anyone to go with. Then I forgot a big part, how was I going to get there? But maybe the biggest problem, at least for my parental units, was that it was on a school night and all the way in San Antonio.

Eventually I overcame all these obstacles, I found hidden Blink fans amongst some friends, I found a great, responsible driver (last column's prince charming), and I soothed the worried minds of my grandparents.

So before I knew it, everything seemed to be snapping into place ... that is until I forgot one major detail: Dough for the show.

I know, it's like Shanae to forget details like these constantly, but this was something very important.

Of course, asking for the money from my grandparents was out of the question since they had already spent so much money on prom, and they made it quite clear that I couldn't call to casually chat with any other family members who had just happened to "forget" about my 17th birthday. So I had to do what most teens dread, I had to work for it.

The tickets were just in my grasp — I could feel it, I just needed to put up a little green. So that's when I got to work. I immediately made flyers with my lovely face on them, explaining jobs I was willing to do. I distributed them passionately to all my victims, I mean neighbors, and waited impatiently to get calls.

It took a little while and I wondered what I had done wrong. I mean, I said it was for a good cause, sending Shanae to the place of her dreams to see the guys of her dreams. I smiled brightly and made sure to speak politely saying ma'am and sir. What had I forgotten?

Suddenly, it came to me. I needed to be more persistent, harass them further.

After my discovery, I walked around my circle, knocked on the doors of the innocent, called them on the phone, and left sweet yet suspicious messages.

I even tried to call my aunt and uncle, to talk them into loaning me some money, but they weren't home and my grandmother walked in just when I got to the part of my message tell-

ing them that this was their "favorite niece calling for her favorite auntie and uncle."

Then suddenly, it seemed my luck began to change. Everyone needed me to work, or at least I helped them along into believing they did. This was a good thing I thought, well at least at first.

I worked after school, early on the weekend, for hours and hours. I pulled weeds, washed windows, washed cars, dusted, vacuumed, and even polished an entire RV. Needless to say, I got pooped fast but my wallet definitely was whining. Soon enough though, before I knew it, I not only had enough for the concert of my dreams, but I had gone way over my goal.

My grandmother then lent me her credit card, which I used to purchase the tickets off the Internet, and then I paid her in fresh, well-earned cash.

I cried in joy as I filled out the forms, sometimes having to stop to dry my eyes, causing me to lose my place in the "Internet line."

The seats weren't as good as the original ones I had my eyes on, but honestly, I was willing to sit outside of the amphitheater at that point just to hear the angelic voices of the coolest band in the universe.

I now hold the tickets in my work worn hands, and though I was chased by a bee creature, ran into a cactus getting covered with pokies, accidentally spilled ammonia all over my feet, hurt my finger, got approximately 23 mosquito bites, and lastly found some interesting creatures in my hair when finally having the opportunity to take a shower, I will still say that it was completely worth it and I would do it all again if I had to.

I am about to see Blink 182 and I am totally psyched. I don't know what will happen once I see my boys, but I doubt it will end in tears of sadness, but rather those of joy.

Who knows what will come, so we must wait and see. So until we meet again, I will have to say stay in your seats because the show is just about to begin.



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For information call (830) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (830) 563-2077 evenings.

Big Mama Sez!



The older I grow the more I distrust the familiar doctrine that age brings wisdom.

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The Brackett News

The Brackett News (USPS 003987) is an entirely locally owned, independent newspaper published weekly on Thursday for \$20 per year in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas, by The Brackett News, Inc., 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, (telephone: 830-563-2852, fax: 830-563-9538) and entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.



This year's NHS pledge members are, back row (from left): Chestin Clark, Dietrich Davis, Eli Woolsey, Hector Febres and Star Smith. Front row: Beau Watkins, Ashley Thourot, Amanda Davis, Beth Ballew, Sarah Meyer, Emily Petrosky, Ashley Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Stephanie Coronado, Stacey Castilla and Arnold Pinales.



Probationary NHS members inductees this year are, back row (from left): Kody Yeager, Jaclynn Duncan, Whitney Massingill, Shanae Simmons, Tillman Davis, Oscar Sierra and Brandon Kluzek. Front row: Juliann Ashabranner, Cody Edwards, Courtney Frerich, Whitney Hobbs, Clarissa Aguirre, Monica Gonzales, Celina Terrazas, Kristen Meyer and Cody Robinette.

NHS inducts new members

The annual induction ceremony of the Brackett High School National Honor Society was recently held in the high school auditorium.

Emily Petrosky, president of the National Honor Society, served as master of ceremonies.

Other officers for this school year are Beau Watkins, vice president; Sarah Meyer, secretary; Blanca Talamantes, treasurer; and Eli Woolsey, reporter.

Carolyn Conoly was the guest speaker for the induction ceremony. Conoly is a graduate of the University of Texas with a degree in English and news

broadcasting.

Before relocating to Brackettville with her husband and family, Conoly was an anchorwoman for a television broadcasting station in Corpus Christi.

Pledge members for the 2003-04 school year are Beth Ballew, Amanda Davis, Hector Febres, Chestin Clark, Emily Petrosky, Ashley Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Beau Watkins, Stephanie Coronado, Dietrich Davis, Stacey Castilla, Sarah Meyer, Arnold Pinales, Star Smith, Ashley Thourot and Eli Woolsey.

Probationary members for the 2003-04 school year and this

year's inductees are Clarissa Aguirre, Juliann Ashabranner, Whitney Massingill, Kristen Meyer, Cody Robinette, Oscar Sierra, Shanae Simmons, Celina Terrazas, Brandon Kluzek, Tillman Davis, Jaclynn Duncan, Cody Edwards, Courtney Frerich, Monica Gonzales, Whitney Hobbs and Kody Yeager.

Probationary members for the upcoming 2004-05 school year introduced at the ceremony are Dana Bonner, Stephanie Bonner, Alanna Conoly, Jessi Crane, Lilianna Hernandez, Danielle Moore, Rachel Swinson and Brand Wylie.



NHS probationary members for next year are Rachel Swinson (from left), Lilianna Hernandez, Jessi Crane, Alanna Conoly, Brand Wylie, Danielle Moore, Stephanie Bonner and Dana Bonner.

BUSINESS



Grand opening

Dr. Kent and Suzanna Lowery participate in a ribbon-cutting ceremony with members of the Kinney Chamber of Commerce at the grand opening of their new chiropractic practice in Brackettville. Their office is located in the building next to the Chevron Stop & Shop. Office hours are Monday and Wednesday from 8 a.m. to noon, and Tuesday and Thursday from 1 to 5 p.m.

Photo by Wes Robinson

OBITUARY

Billie Jean Hale

Billie Jean Hale, known as "B.J." to everyone, was born June 1, 1952, in Uvalde to Herbert and Earlene Tidwell. She attended high school in Crystal City and college at Southwest Texas Junior College.

B.J. married Kenneth Hale on Nov. 4, 1971. B.J.'s mother passed away at an early age and she assisted in the raising of her younger brother, even after she married. Kenneth and B.J. were blessed with three children and two grandchildren of their own.

B.J. was very active in the extracurricular activities of her children and was a member of many booster clubs and support activities. She was well known for attending all of the games when her sons played sports, even to the extent of helping to transport the entire Senior League baseball team for games. She was a second-mother figure to all of her children's friends, and to this day is still called "mom" by most of them.

In late 1999, B.J. was diagnosed with cancer and began a year's long battle with this dreaded disease. She faced each day and each new development with a brave determination and optimistic outlook. She was an inspiration to all who witnessed this battle.

Even in the middle of the struggle, she assisted in the day-to-day operation of the business she co-owned. She also served as an officer of the Kinney County Chamber of Commerce as secretary.

B.J.'s children and grandchildren were a great joy and inspiration in her great struggle.

Alas, even the bravest spirit sometimes cannot defeat Mother Nature, and her frail human body gave in to the damage done treating her disease.

She passed away, at home, in her sleep the afternoon of Tuesday, April 27, 2004, and entered a world free of pain and sorrow.

B.J. is survived by her husband: Kenneth; daughter: Susan Hamilton and husband Rob of Chilton; sons: Chris Hale of Houston and son Tim Hale and wife Robin of Junction; grandchildren: Tania Hamilton and Zane Hale; brother: Charles Tidwell and wife Lisa of Kerrville; aunts: Doris Thompson of San Antonio, Glenda Johnson of Harlingen and Thelma Dickerson of Weslaco; and uncles: James Tidwell of Florida and John Tidwell of Texas.

B.J. chose to be cremated and her ashes will be interred later with her mother and father in Crystal City.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, April 26
8:09 p.m., A man reported a loud noise near his residence on Fulton Street.

8:23 p.m., Sentry Security reported an alarm sounding at the south corridor of the Brackett High School Annex. Reserve Deputy Cordelia Mendeke was dispatched to the scene. She said the building was secured.

Tuesday, April 27
9:30 a.m., A Kinney County Appraisal District employee reported a man out of control in the office.

5:14 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported that his wife had passed away at their home in Unit 15. Justice of the Peace John Ford was notified.

5:42 p.m., A man reported that his wife shot at him at their residence in the Kinney County Estates. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene. He said the couple had been arguing but managed to work out their differences.

10:56 p.m., A man requested assistance at his residence on N. Gove Street.

Wednesday, April 28
7:15 p.m., A 911 caller reported a one-vehicle rollover on

Highway 90 in Val Verde County. Del Rio DPS officials were notified of the accident.

Thursday, April 29
1:35 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance at the Teen Center.

1:05 p.m., Alert Alarms reported an alarm sounding at a local ranch.

5:20 p.m., Fort Clark Springs security reported vandalism going on at the swimming pool.

5:22 p.m., A woman reported that her neighbor was putting his trash with hers at her residence on N. Sweeney Street.

9:36 p.m., A woman reported that her dog would not stop barking at something in the corner of her fence at her residence on E. Louise Street.

Friday, April 30
6:47 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported that a white 18-wheeler ran her off the road while she was coming back from Del Rio.

7:35 p.m., A man reported a fire at a local ranch. Deputies Ramon Gutierrez and Donald Page were dispatched to the scene and found that it was a controlled burn.

8:05 p.m., An official with the Val Verde Sheriff's Office reported a burglary at a ranch about 31 miles from Brackettville on Hamilton Lane.

10:21 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that girls kept calling her house and harassing her over the telephone.

11:09 p.m., A woman reported a man who was threatening his daughter with a knife at a residence on Sweeney Street.

Saturday, May 1
12:38 a.m., A woman reported finding a knife in the grass at a residence on Sweeney Street.

6 a.m., A 911 caller reported a broken window at the Stop and Shop.

11:14 a.m., A Brackettville woman requested assistance at her residence on N. Gove Street.

11:32 a.m., A 911 caller requested assistance.

2:05 p.m., A man requested assistance at his residence on W. First Street. Deputy Karl Chism was dispatched to the scene. The man said that two bags of tools valued at about \$600 were taken from the front porch of his home.

6:27 p.m., A woman reported that an air compressor, camera

bag full of tools were taken from the porch of her residence on N. Brown Street.

10:24 p.m., An unknown caller reported a possible intoxicated driver in front of him, driving a black Malibu, near Fritter Park.

Sunday, May 2
10:09 a.m., A woman reported a one-vehicle accident on Highway 90 close to Fritter Park. DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez was dispatched to the scene. He said there were no injuries, but reported that a highway sign was down. Texas Department of Transportation officials were notified.

4:47 p.m., Ft. Clark Springs security reported four-wheelers trespassing on Highway 90 East, just across from the Burger and Shake.

7:26 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported that a man was going to leave her residence at Rock Ledge Manor in her truck and that she did not want him to.

Monday, May 3
12:43 a.m., A woman reported items missing from the porch of her residence on N. Brown Street.

WIPFF'S
FURNITURE & APPLIANCES

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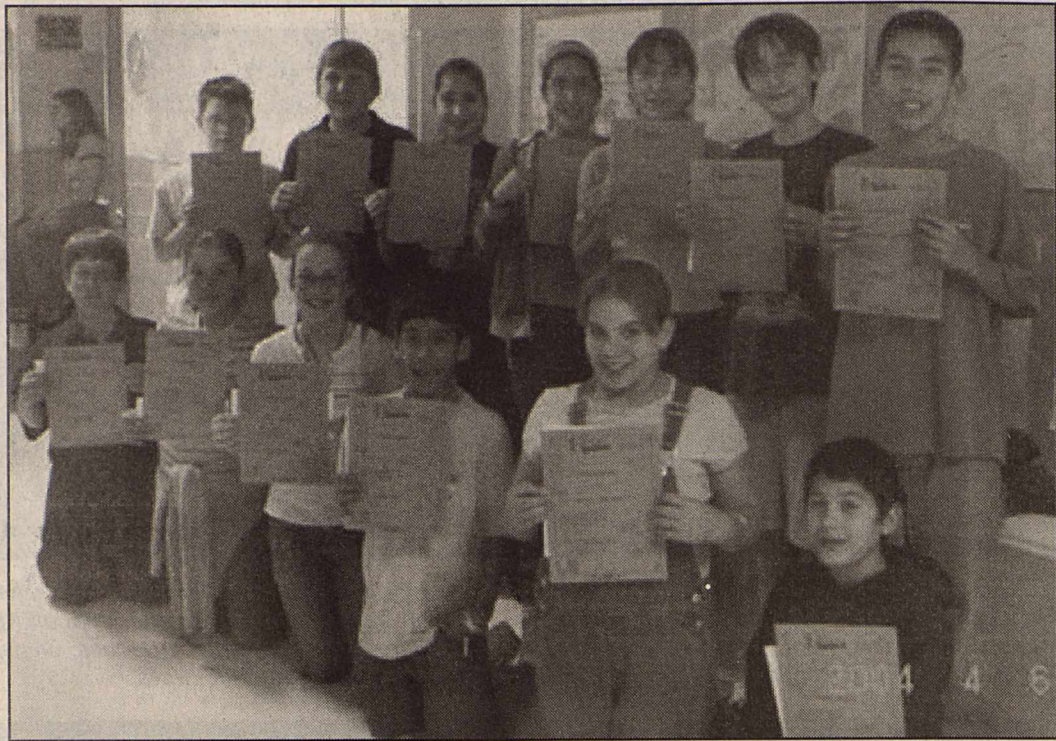
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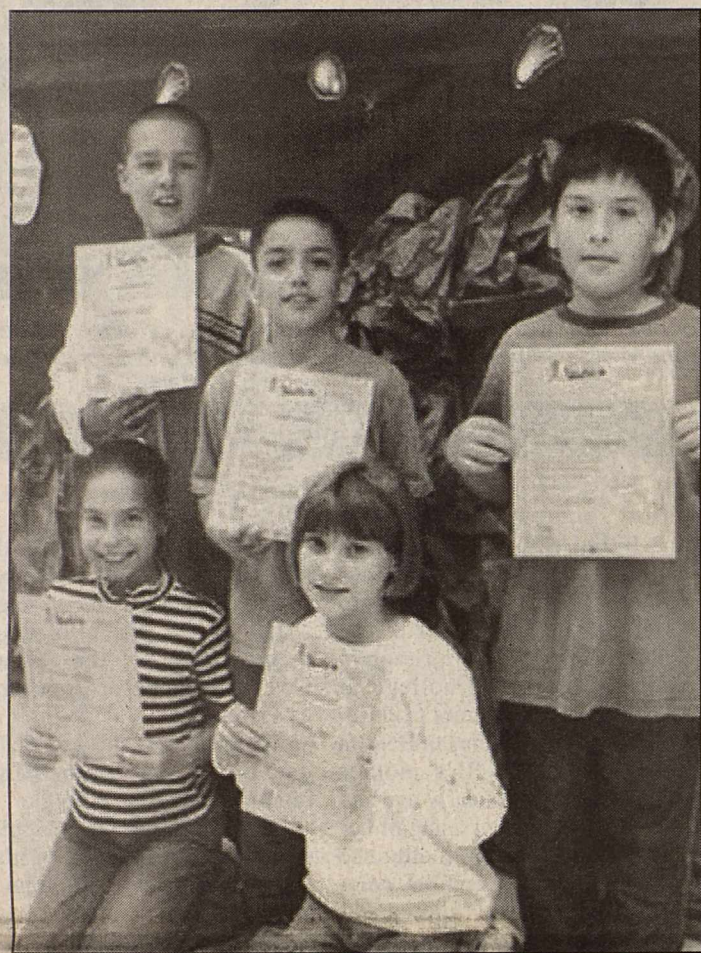
SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS!



These students read 360 minutes of fun reading, and turned in their reading trackers to qualify for a Six Flags Ticket. Kindergarten through sixth-grade students were eligible to participate. Sixth grade winners include, top row (from left): Cody Kirkland top, Charles Conoly, Elidia Molinar Elena Molinar, Brooklyn Gose, Paul Novel and Lawrence Salazar. Bottom row: Shaun Davis, YeMi Moore, Katie Yeager, Daniel Molinar, Lauren Hernandez and Brayen Chacon. Not pictured: Steven Brinker and Ramon Gutierrez.



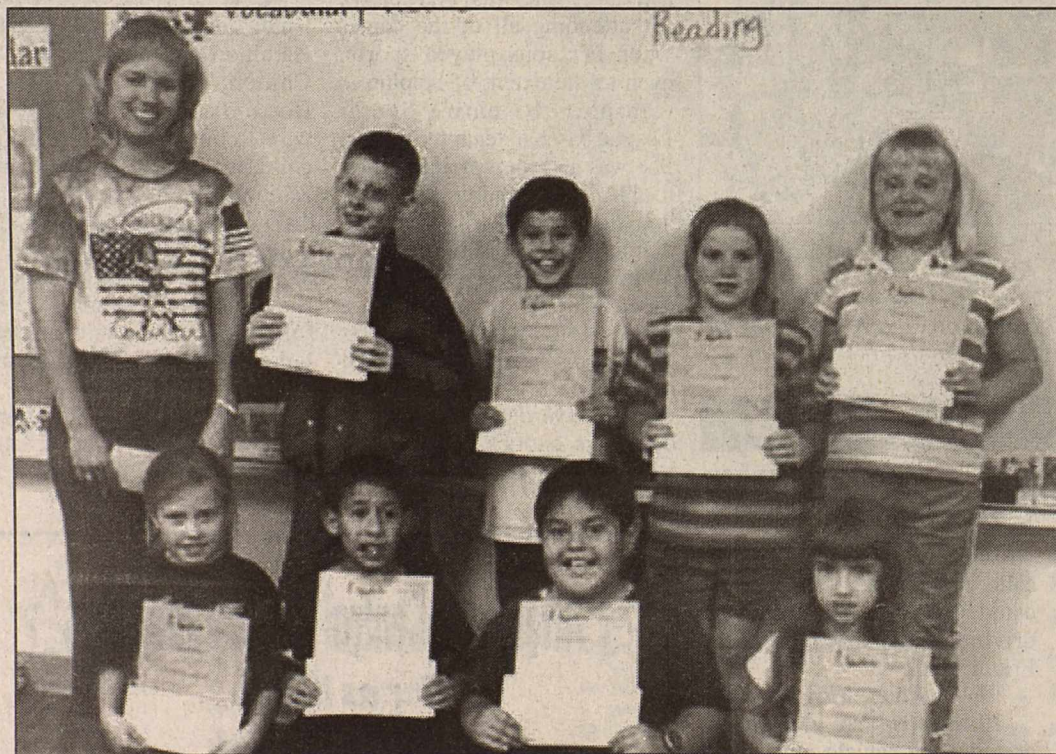
Fifth grade winners include, top row (from left): Tyler McDonald, Areli Reyes, Erica Villanueva, Marisol Aguirre, Sahara Rodriguez, Robert Torres, Brenda Pacheco and Manuel Pena. Bottom row: Sarah Davis, Abigail Gutierrez, Bianca Cruz, Courtney Kirkland, Michael Flores, Joshua Smith and Icela Rueda. Not pictured: Haley Hale.



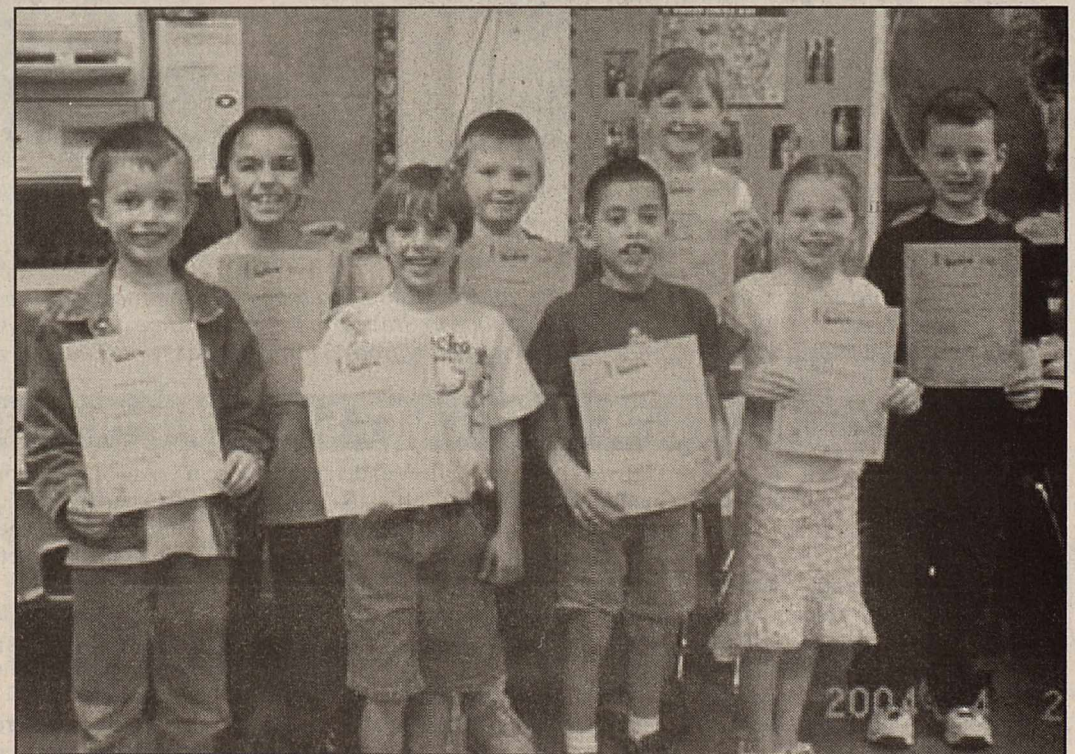
Fourth grade winners include, top row (from left): Banner Kerr, Keith Castillo and Joel Talamantes. Bottom row: Emily Holmes and Brittany Hale.



Third grade winners include, top row (from left): Raul Talamantes, Priscilla Aguirre, Lucas Hurt, Michael Martinez, Orlando Talamantes, Tony Flores and Meghan Flores. Middle row: Jorge Villarreal, Homero Hernandez, Vanerick Domenech, Vanessa Villarreal, Mercedes Ocasio and Marissa Villarreal. Bottom row: Ethan Justice, Briana Garza, Rolando Gutierrez, Daniel Falcon, Kyle Rinaldi and Cesar Castillo.



Second grade winners include, top row (from left): Christy Price (teacher), Zachary Pevehouse, Garon Rueda, Korlee Allen and Shelby Schuster. Bottom row: Hannah Johnson, Paul Resendez, Clay Flores and Shannon Gammill. Not pictured: Arturo Castillo and Johnny Lopez.



First grade winners include, top row (from left): Marco Novel, Logan Hurt, Madison Frerich and Blake Duncan. Bottom row: Davis Wade, Joaquin Solis, Dante Luna and Morgan Brown. Not pictured: Siarra Falcon.



Kindergarten winners include, top row (from left): Gage Brown, Hannah Baggett, Elle Johnson and Emma Palmer. Bottom row: Laura Novel, Jeyson Price and Marissa Flores.

Have you preserved your photos?



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Karnes County newspaper reports on Garza's questionable job history

By JOE BAKER
The Countywide

Former Kennedy ISD superintendent Joe N. Garza Jr., whose stewardship of the Kennedy school district through September 2002 was embroiled in controversy, is running for mayor of Brackettville, his hometown.

While leading the Kennedy school district, Garza was the target of numerous complaints and lawsuits by school administrators, teachers, parents and students.

The controversy reached a peak in the summer of 2001 when Garza re-assigned a large group of elementary school teachers, in some cases to non-elementary positions in what the teachers characterized as retaliation for complaints brought against him.

After hundreds of Kennedy residents and San Antonio area television media packed the following school board meeting, Garza rescinded the re-assignments, but the controversy was far from over.

In April 2002, Garza was indicted by a Karnes County grand jury on five third-degree felony criminal charges. Two of the indictments alleged that Garza tampered with a government record and the remaining three indictments accused Garza of lying to a Karnes County grand jury under oath.

In September 2002, the State Board for Educator Certification (SBEC) investigated Garza for allegations of ethical misconduct. At the conclusion of their investigation, SBEC asserted that they believed they could prove to an administrative law court that Garza did indeed violate the professional educator's code of ethics.

In exchange for SBEC's agreement to not prosecute the matter, Garza signed an agreement accepting a two-year re-

Mayoral candidates discuss city roads

All three candidates seeking the mayor's post agree that Brackettville is in dire need of street repairs, but they have different ideas about how to fund them.

Joe Garza, J.J. Guidry and Ponce Padron discussed the city's streets during a "Meet the Candidates" forum last week at the BISD Auditorium.

Garza said his primary goal if elected was to "keep the city operating in the black," but he also said he was in favor of a general obligation bond to fund street repairs.

The candidates were asked what they would do if the city had an extra \$100,000 to spend.

"I would use that money for consultants and make an

all-out effort to try and obtain money on a long-term basis through obligation bonds," Garza said.

"I would put the responsibility back on the taxpayers. You would have to make the decision as to whether or not you were willing to spend the money to improve the streets. But in my opinion, this is the only way that we're going to be able to fix these streets. You're talking big money."

Guidry, a former City Council member, said he opposed an obligation bond.

"First and foremost, if the city did have \$100,000 in extra funds, I wouldn't spend it all. I would keep some of it in reserves to help build financial security," he said.

"The streets are in horrible shape and they definitely need to be a priority, but I am not in favor of a long-term bond. I would not like to see our city go into any debt that isn't immediately necessary."

"I think, based on years past, there is enough money generated to fix our problems, we just have to spend that money wisely and we have to be responsible to the citizens that we represent."

Padron said he would want the citizens to prioritize the needs of the city.

"We need to get city involved and let the citizens know what we're doing," he said during the forum. "Let's see what they want to do. What are their priorities?"

striction on his superintendent's certificate, which made it illegal for him to work as a superintendent in the state of Texas during the restriction period. SBEC characterized the restriction as a "punitive sanction" for Garza's professional misconduct. Additionally, in exchange for SBEC dropping the case, Garza agreed to retire from education by the end of 2002.

Shortly before the SBEC sanction had been imposed, the Kennedy school board approved a settlement with Garza ending his employment with the district. The agreement paid Garza \$46,325 — the remainder of his employment contract and also allowed Garza to continue on paid administrative leave long enough to qualify for full retirement benefits worth an estimated value of \$4,000 per month. In exchange for this, Garza agreed to resign and signed a release freeing the school district from future claims or legal action re-

lated to breach of contract or other legal action taken by Garza against the school district.

The school board and Garza reached their agreement on Aug. 29 — one day before the SBEC sanction was imposed on the superintendent.

Garza moved away from Kennedy shortly afterward.

District Attorney Lynn Ellison dropped the criminal charges against Garza once it became certain that Garza would be leaving his position at the school district.

In a political ad being circulated in the Brackettville community, Garza states that the board and the state ruled in his favor, when in fact, SBEC documents show that they sided with the complainant — not Garza.

Garza makes no mention of the two-year punitive restriction placed on his superintendent's certificate in the political ad.

Garza's brother, Robert Garza, who at one time repre-

sented the superintendent as his attorney, coincidentally is running for mayor of Del Rio in the upcoming May 15 election.

Garza defends accusations against him in the political ad and states that "beer joints" owned by him are legitimate businesses.

"I truly resent being referred to as a crook," Garza states in the ad.

The ad goes on to detail "harassment" Garza has suffered since filing his candidacy. Garza said that about 20 of his signs have been set on fire, stolen, mutilated and otherwise destroyed.

"These unscrupulous, deplorable and reprehensible acts of piracy occurred during the morning hour of April 22," Garza states. "I am appalled and ashamed that some people in this town have degenerated to such depths and resorted to such corrupt tactics as have been employed against me."

Ballew awarded Ford scholarship

BHS senior Beth Ballew has been awarded a \$1,000 scholarship by Del Rio Ford Lincoln Mercury LTD, and Ford Motor Company.

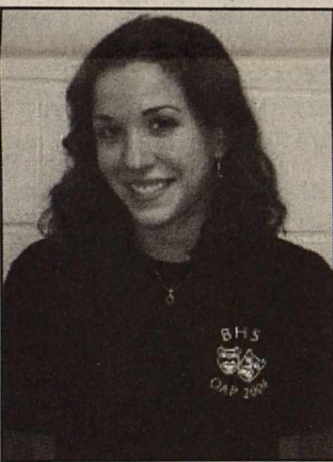
Ballew, the daughter of Jimmy and Jamie Ballew of Brackettville, plans to study civil engineering at Texas A&M University in College Station.

The scholarship is one of 626 awarded by Ford Division, Ford Motor Company Fund and the Ford Dealers to FFA members who are high school seniors planning to attend college in the fall of 2004. The Built Ford Tough Trucks FFA scholarship program recently celebrated its seventh full year.

Individual participating Ford Dealers are awarding 621 scholarships. Additionally, five \$1,000 national scholarships are being awarded on behalf of Ford Division.

The Built Ford Tough Trucks FFA Scholarship Program is designed to recognize FFA members' talents and accomplishments while encouraging their past and future academic achievements.

Built Ford Tough Trucks and Ford Motor Company Fund sponsor these scholarships as a



Beth Ballew

special project of the National FFA Foundation.

Del Rio Ford Lincoln Mercury Ltd. is proud to support FFA and the Built Ford Tough Trucks FFA Scholarship Program.

For 55 years Ford has supported FFA, and for more than 50 years, people all over America have been putting Built Ford Tough Trucks to work.

Ford knows the value of hard work, and believes that hard work should be rewarded. That's why Ford has increased the Built Ford Tough Trucks/FFA Scholarship Fund each year since its inception. Educating the leaders of tomorrow is just another way of ensuring a successful future.

Ashley seeks seat on school board

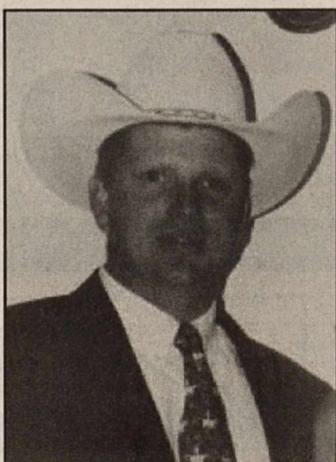
My name is Tony Ashley and I am running for one of the positions on the Brackett ISD School Board.

I have lived in Brackettville since 1997. My wife Leisha is a life-long resident of Kinney County and she is a former student of Brackett ISD. My two boys, Webb and Walt, are currently enrolled in Jones Elementary School.

I would like to take this time to ask for your support in the upcoming election. I would like to be given the opportunity to work with the current board members to continue to improve the school where our children are being educated.

I believe that every child in our community deserves to be treated fairly and given every chance to excel during their years at Brackett ISD.

I believe the teaching staff and administration should be given the tools they need to perform the task of educating our children. I would be open to the ideas of parents and staff alike so that I could make the best decisions with regards to our



Tony Ashley

children's education.

This is an exiting election with five good candidates making a run for the open positions. I believe that this speaks well of our community that so many are willing to volunteer their time for the betterment of our children and our school system.

No matter which candidate you support, please remember to vote either in the current early voting period or on May 15 at the Brackett ISD Main Office.

Property owners to be sent notices of appraised value for tax year 2004

State law requires county appraisal districts to annually notify property owners about changes in their property's value. On May 15, the Kinney County Appraisal District will mail notices of appraised value to approximately one-third of the county's property owners showing their 2004 proposed appraised value.

Bill Haenn, chief appraiser of the district, reminds property owners that the notice of appraised value is not a tax bill.

"Please do not pay — this is not a tax bill," Haenn said.

Haenn emphasized the importance of this notice and the key information that it contains.

"A property owner has the right to appeal to the Kinney County Appraisal Review Board on any disagreement with the property's value, exemptions, ownership and other actions taken by the Appraisal District. However, the property owner

may not protest the amount of taxes on the property," he said.

The appraisal review board, more commonly called the "ARB," is an independent panel of citizens responsible for hearing and settling protests from property owners who disagree with some action taken by the appraisal district.

The notice includes instructions on how and when to file a protest and a protest form.

What should a property owner carefully review?

"Look at the proposed value for 2004," Haenn said. "The notice shows the land's value and the value of any improvements on the property as of Jan. 1 of 2004."

An improvement is any building, structure, fence or any other type of fixture on the land.

The notice of appraised value also includes current year information on exemptions granted on the property. It also provides

last year's value for comparison.

Homeowners that qualify for property tax homestead exemptions have a limitation on their home's appraised value, beginning with the second year that they qualify their home for a homestead exemption.

The appraisal district may not increase their home's taxable value by more than 10 percent for each year since the last re-appraisal year. The notice reflects both the appraised market value for the homestead and the taxable or assessed value.

Notices sent to property owners with new improvements, properties which were subject to a cyclic reappraisal, or whose value increased more than \$1,000 also will include "estimated" taxes.

These "estimated" taxes are based on the new taxable value and last year's tax rates. Taxing units will set final 2004 tax rates in August and September. Final

tax amounts may vary from these "estimated" amounts.

Haenn asks property owners to check the legal description and mailing address to be sure that there are no mistakes.

"If the appraisal notice has an old address, please let the appraisal district know. The post office forwards mail to a new address for a short time, and tax bills do not go out until October," Haenn added.

A property owner is responsible for informing the appraisal district of the correct mailing address. A property owner is liable for additional penalties and interest on a tax bill that is not paid on time.

"If you do not receive a notice of appraised value and want 2004 information about your property, please call the appraisal district at 563-2323," Haenn said. "The general deadline for protesting to the ARB is June 15 for this year."

BRIEFS

Booster meeting set for Tuesday

The Brackett Athletic Booster Club will meet on Tuesday at 6 p.m. in the BISD Hunt Library to discuss the high school Athletics Awards Banquet.

The awards banquet is slated for May 20 at 6 p.m. at the Civic Center. Non-athletes and family members will be charged \$5 per person. The junior high athletic hamburger supper will be held on May 17 at 6 p.m. at the Fort Clark Springs Swim Park. Family and non-athletes will be charged \$2 per person.

Support Group to meet tonight

The Cancer Support Group meeting will be held at the Frontier Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Ann and El Paso Street tonight at 6:30. This group includes survivors, those who are currently receiving treatment, in remission and their caregivers and family. There is a pot luck supper, and the main dish will be provided.

4-H club to meet on Tuesday night

The Kinney County 4-H Club will be holding its junior and senior meeting on Tuesday at 7 p.m. Officers will meet at 6:30. Officers and club managers for 2004-05 will be elected at the meeting.

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Vote J.J. Guidry for Mayor

Mayoral candidate J.J. Guidry is hosting a community celebration with a

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Paid Political Advertisement, J.J. Guidry, P.O. Box 297, Brackettville, TX 78832

As of September 22, 2003, I, Camilo Cruz, Jr. was sworn in as City Councilman, I made myself accessible at local, public locations on regular occasions where people could come and make their opinions known. I came into this position at a time in which the city was financially troubled. Since then the city has driven a very long road in a short time. I think we still have quite a ways to go. There's a lot to be done in Brackettville. Know that if something needs to be done for the city and if it is what's best for the city and a responsible thing to do, that's something I will be in favor of. It is time to end the old ways of looking at our community and to develop a new path. The time has come to create a feeling of integrity and trust in our local government. The citizens of this town need to know that the Council is the checks and balance to the Mayor and has the responsibility to investigate allegations of incorretness so that the trust of the public can be defended and maintained. I would greatly appreciate your vote for City Councilman. Thank you

Pd. Pol Adv. Paid for by Camilo Cruz, PO Box 263 Brackettville, TX 78832

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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.

Today's Category: FOREIGN CAPITALS ANNE IVN IL REB DCANAVAHSKSD EKAKKWDZIEAE GODNAUAJRNT S DSTBPGIAOTW LGTLAEADPDIG EOILOSRHINAN SNND OHRDRD OGI SDRNDHDDAL OJ UEEGWATOG OBI RUBHMC A I R O M E B A L G I E R S B W N B

HAPPY BIRTHDAY May 7.....Gloria Jimenez May 8.....Randal Davis May 8.....Guadalupe Lumberas May 8.....Rosa Smith May 9.....Bruno Arreola, Jr. May 9.....Betty Bickel May 9.....Robert Nelson May 10.....Melvin Crownover May 10.....Damarius Flores May 10.....Tammy Frerich May 10.....Martin Lumberas May 10.....Elizabeth Pacheco May 10.....Dillon Wilson May 11.....April Crumley May 11.....Jill Woodson May 12.....Dorothy Haga May 12.....Russell Newton May 12.....Christina Reschman

Roaring Twenties Solution: 1. Algiers 2. Beijing 3. Berlin 4. Bern 5. Bogota 6. Brussels 7. Buenos Aires 8. Cairo 9. Canberra 10. Dublin 11. Havana 12. La Paz 13. London 14. Madrid 15. Oslo 16. Ottawa 17. Paris 18. Rome 19. Santiago 20. Vienna

HOROSCOPES by Charles Cooper ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Watch what you say this week. You could inadvertently spill someone's secret. Don't give this friend a reason to distrust you. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You need to take a few steps back this week from work. If not, you could easily go on overload. This would render you unproductive for some time to come. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Someone you'd considered a friend surprises you with a gross betrayal. It's definitely time to rethink this relationship. In the future, go with your instincts. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're at a crossroads where romance is concerned. Perhaps you're not getting everything out of the relationship that you need or want. If so, look for ways to make this better. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're not at your best on the job this week. However, you still manage to get things done. Later in the week, romance is highlighted. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your inquisitive mind is a help to you this week where work is concerned. It could be a good time to begin a course of study related to that. Over the weekend, quiet pursuits are best. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You discover that someone you'd looked up to isn't all you thought. Ride this disappointment out. Your views of this person were very unrealistic. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Friendships are satisfying this week. One friend in particular has some fun ideas. Be sure, though, not to neglect work duties. LEO (July 23 to August 22) Take some steps this week to shore up your financial picture. Eliminating debt should be the first priority. This weekend, stick close to home. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You're at your most proficient this week at work. This earns you the recognition you deserve. Later in the week, feel free to mix business with pleasure. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your mind is sharp as a tack this week. Whatever's assigned to you is immediately and efficiently addressed. A unique opportunity comes your way later in the week. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Don't allow annoying family members to rile you up. In the end, it's really none of your concern. The weekend finds you seeking out intellectual stimulation. (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.

Truth is a special gift from God

Remember the word "rhetoric?" It used to mean a study of the use of words, especially as given in speeches. A "rhetorical" question meant a question used to draw in a listener or reader to understand a point from a new perspective.

Rhetoric was one of the traditional ancient areas of study, right alongside things like arithmetic, reading and geography.

Rhetoric competitions might involve speeches or debates. Clever speakers would use words that would excite, enrage and enthrall the listeners. Special gestures, methodical staging, careful phrasing — all these were part of the art of rhetoric.

Today, "rhetoric" seems to have a nasty slant. All too often it seems that rhetoric means arguing a point using any device expedient. Rhetoric no longer means presenting a specific view of the truth. It has given way to words like "spin" and "slant."

And what gets lost in the process is the truth. I won't bore you with a list of dubious publications or poorly researched ar-

ticles. We've all seen the TV reports, heard the radio and perhaps read the pamphlets. Rhetoric today seems a lot more about selling or repelling than telling.

The tragedy in this change of the word "rhetoric" is not the loss of an art I deeply appreciate. Surely there are many conclusions possible from any given set of facts. But when people begin to substitute facts with convincing fantasy or exaggeration, the new rhetoric of "spin" creates a distorted truth. And as Christians, we value the truth — even when it is difficult to digest and points out weaknesses in our own perspective.

An example: Director Mel Gibson's movie "The Passion of the Christ" is incredibly difficult for many people to watch. The graphic depictions of the suffering of Jesus aren't for the weak-hearted. It's not a "pop-corn" movie.

Many reports have highlighted an apparently anti-Semitic tone in the movie.

Some people feel that Mr. Gibson should have toned-down



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

the dialog or perhaps trimmed scenes that might inspire sentiment against modern Jews. Mr. Gibson declined, preferring to stay with the uncomfortable version of Jesus' last hours found in the Gospels.

Those who find the Gospel accounts uncomfortable in places must make a decision — to embrace their message or to reject it. Gibson could have edited the movie into a sanitized version presentable to any group, but he chose to stay true to the text.

I find this decision to be courageous and in the best tradition of the Christian ethos.

Pharisees tried to trip Jesus while praising His allegiance to the truth (Matthew 22:15-22), but Jesus used a simple truth as

his reply. On one occasion He healed a woman who told the truth in faith. (Mark 5:31-34)

The Gospel of John implies that truth was created by Christ. (John 1:17).

Jesus even claimed the title of truth as His own. (John 14:6)

Today, especially in election times, it is easy to lose sight of the gift of truth. As Christians I think we should carefully guard the truth as a special gift from God. This means honesty in our daily lives, direct speech in our public dealings, and private lives that reflect the Gospel. It isn't easy. It comes at a cost of convenience and personal pleasure. But it is a part of being a Christian, and it is being truthful in the best sense of the word.

At First United Methodist Church we're finding new ways to be true to Christ in all we do.

Join us Tuesdays at 10 a.m. in Slaton Hall for our Bible study on prayer. Sunday we worship at 10:45 a.m., right after Sunday School at 9:30. Please join with us as we search for the truth that the Gospel brings!

Don't be friends with fools

"But Dad," Jason whined. "You shouldn't be the one to tell me who my friends can be?"

"Listen Jason, as your parents, Mom and I are responsible to teach you right from wrong," Bill said sternly. "We are responsible for teaching you how to choose the right kind of friends."

Jason wouldn't give up: "Jack and I have been friends since first grade. I thought we were supposed to be loyal to our friends no matter what."

"You're right, son," Bill said. "But there comes a time when loyalty leads to trouble. Knowing when it's time to break off a loyal friendship comes from wisdom and experience. Up to this point you've made friends among kids who won't be a bad influence. Mom and I are proud of you for that."

"Dad, aren't you being judgmental?" Jason asked. "Just when did you become God?"

Bill said nothing. He looked at Jason. Before Bill could speak, Jason put his head down and apologized.

"I'm sorry Dad. I shouldn't have said that. I know you want what's best for me."

Bill put his arm on Jason's shoulder: "Son, I'm not being judgmental, just a good par-



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

ent. It is God who is the great judge and in the end He will judge us all, including your friend Jack.

"God also expects that we should not place ourselves in unnecessary risk. Over the past year Jack has been following the wrong crowd. His new friends lead him to make decisions that result in trouble at school and with the law."

"Long ago a very wise man said if you touch pitch expect to blacken your hand and when you associate with an impious man you learn his ways." (Sirach 13:1)

"The wise man also said to limit the time you spend among fools." (Sirach 30:1-3)

"You can always be friendly and let Jack know that God loves him, but you don't have to spend time with him and follow in his ways."

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.

'Mother' and 'love' are often synonymous

In these United States of America, the weekend to follow the publication of this issue of *The Brackett News* will be dedicated to Mothers' Day.

The 20th of June will be Fathers' Day.

Then, of course, those who decide such matters have added innumerable other "days:" Martin Luther King's Birthday, Lincoln's Birthday, Presidents' Day, Memorial Day, Flag Day, Independence Day, Labor Day, Christopher Columbus Day, Veterans' Day, Thanksgiving Day, New Year's Day.

And let's not forget the many "days" throughout the year on which we are invited to "remem-



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

ber" a variety of "important" (to whom?) issues and services.

But Mothers' Day stands out in the minds and hearts of many. For those many, "mother" and "love" are synonymous.

My Mom was 74 years old when a neurology team removed a malignant tumor from her brain.

I remember the instructions

the doctor gave her as he released her from Wilford Hall Hospital. I heard him say, "Mama Scanlan, under no circumstances are you to get out into the sun."

She lived with me at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church in McAllen for another year after that, before God called her to himself.

One incident among many stands out in my memory. It was summer time, July if I remember correctly. It was another hot day, outside temperature in the 100s.

Yours truly was cutting the grass in front of the rectory, soaking wet with perspiration.

As I rounded one corner, I spied my Mom walking toward me with a large glass of water for "her little boy."

She had paid little attention to "Mama Scanlan, under no circumstances are you to get out into the sun."

She thought about someone else, as she usually did, rather than about herself.

She demonstrated to me what Jesus of Nazareth meant when he said: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friend."

After all, this kind of love is the *giving* kind. In this instance, "mother" and "love" were synonymous.

The Spirit of the Lord is mighty

"Then went Samson down, and his Father and mother to Timnath, and came to the Vineyards of Timnath: And behold, a young Lion roared against him."

"And The spirit of the Lord came mightily upon him, and He rent him (tore apart) as he would have rent (tore apart) a kid goat, and he had nothing in his hand: "And when he came unto Lehi, the Philistines shouted against him: And the Spirit of the Lord came mightily upon



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

him, and the cords that were upon his arms became as flax that was burnt with fire, and his bands loosed from off his hand." (Judges 14:5-6, 15:14) Praise God!

SPORTS

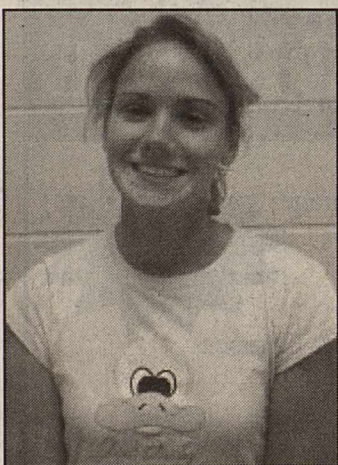
Ashabranner, Swinson earn trip to 2A state track meet

Juliann Ashabranner and Rachel Swinson earned a trip to the state track meet after helping the Brackett Tigerettes to a seventh-place finish at the Region IV-2A meet Saturday in San Angelo.

Brookshire Royal and Lexington won the regional event after both teams finished with six points. Van Vleck was third with 56 points, Navarro and Refugio tied for fourth with 42 points, Little River Academy was sixth with 38 points, and Brackett and Wallis Brazos each finished with 34.

The top two finishers in each event at regionals qualifies for the state meet, which will be held May 14-15 in Austin.

Ashabranner finished second in the 1,600-meter run with a time of 5:32.51. Chelsea Erv



Juliann Ashabranner



Rachel Swinson

of Salado won the event with a 5:28.84.

In the 3,200-meter run, Riviera's Brooke Wright took the gold with a 12:10.90, while

ing Ashabranner to compete in both distance events.

Swinson qualified for state in the 400-meter run after taking second in the event with a time of 59.58. She finished behind Blanco's Chelsea Harvey, who had 59.48.

Swinson also anchored the mile-relay team of Courtney Frerich, Stephanie Coronado and Divina Pena that took third with a 4:12.49. Little River Academy won the relay with a time of 4:09.20 and the Van Vleck team was second with a 4:10.75.

The Tigerettes' distance team set a new school record after posting a time of 4:09.79 in the prelims.

Frerich also placed eighth in the 300 intermediate hurdles after being clocked at 51.51.



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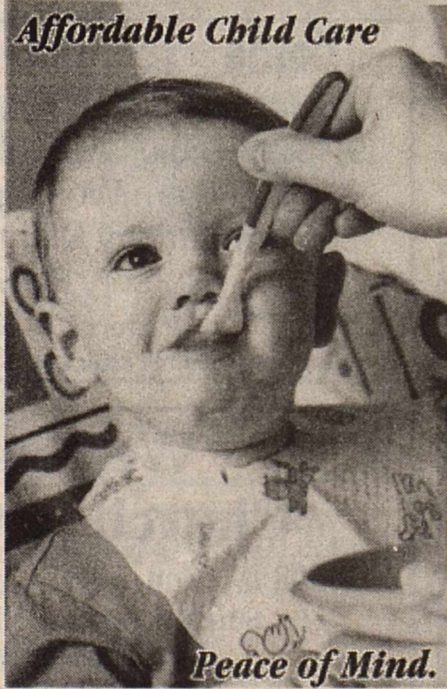
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PALED	SORAS	ELM
EMIT	SHRED	LEDA
WAS	SOOTY	SITES
STRAIT	FLOORS	
ALL	ARENT	
SMOTE	KNOW	ASH
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OREO	MONET	WELL
TERN	STORY	ERLE