

The Brackett News

Remember:
Daylight Savings
Time on Sunday

16th year, No. 38

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Early voting

Early voting in this year's general election continues through tomorrow. As of Wednesday morning, 560 people voted early and 96 citizens requested ballots by mail.

"I am very happy people have shown an interest and came out to vote," District and County Clerk Dora Sandoval said. "This is the largest turnout for early voting in many years."

Early voting is held from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. in the County Clerk's Office in the Kinney County Courthouse.

On election day, voters can cast their ballots from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Polling places include: Precinct 1, the EMS Building on Ann Street; Precinct 2, the BISD Auditorium; Precinct 3, the Senior Citizen Apartments on Spring Street; and Precinct 4, the Fritter Room Annex at the Kinney County Library.

Halloween Carnival

Kinney County 4-H will be sponsoring its First Annual Halloween Carnival Oct. 30. Talent show, costume contest, games, food, and pumpkin toss championship. FCS Service Club starting at 5 pm. For participation or questions call the Extension office at 563-2442.

Trick-or-Treat

Trick-or-treating will be Sunday, October 31, from 6 pm to 9 pm. Please remember safety. Inspect candy before eating and also take precautions on traffic safety as children will be on the streets.

Cancer Support Group Meeting

Come join us for good fellowship and a great meal. Our meetings are held at the Frontier Baptist Church Fellowship Hall located on the corner of Ann and El Paso St. on Thursday, November 4, 2004, at 6:30 pm. This group includes survivors, those who are currently receiving treatment, in remission and their caregivers and family. This is a "Pot Luck Supper" the meat will be provided. Fix your favorite side dish or dessert and join in the fellowship.

Hunter's Round-up

The Kinney County Extension Office, the Wildlife Damage Management Association, the Chamber of Commerce and Fort Clark Springs Association will sponsor the annual Hunter's Round-up on Nov. 6. Anyone interested in having a booth can contact the Extension Office at 830-563-2442. The price for a booth is \$25 or the donation of a door prize or raffle prize for the equivalent value.

INSIDE

G.G.

My son sent me today's recipe and believe me it is super yummy just as he claimed. *Lifestyles/Page 4*

Nathan Lafrenz

Now I've got nothing against chickens, actually I love to eat them! But who would you rather be? *Religion/Page 7*

Editorial

Something is rotten in Kinney County and it revolves around the KCGCD board. No matter how good their intentions, may or may not be, the ends do not justify the means. *Opinion/Page 2*

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Tigerettes win District Championship

By Darin Koenig
Sports Writer

The Brackett Tigerettes won the 2004 District Volleyball Championship this past week. The Tigerettes wrapped up the championship with an impressive win over Comstock. Brackett entered the game undefeated in district play and needing one win to clinch the title. The Tigerettes came through, despite two close games, to win the match 25-23, 25-21, 25-10.

The Tigerettes were led by Shanae Simmons with nine kills, Ashley Castillo and Courtney Frerich with six kills each, and Timmeke Simmons with four kills. Offensively, Brackett was led by Castillo who tallied three

aces, Kara Yeager with two aces, and Kristi Meyer and Jessie Crane with an ace apiece. Timmeke Simmons led all Tigerette players with 11 assists, while Yeager contributed six and Stephanie Bonner added one.

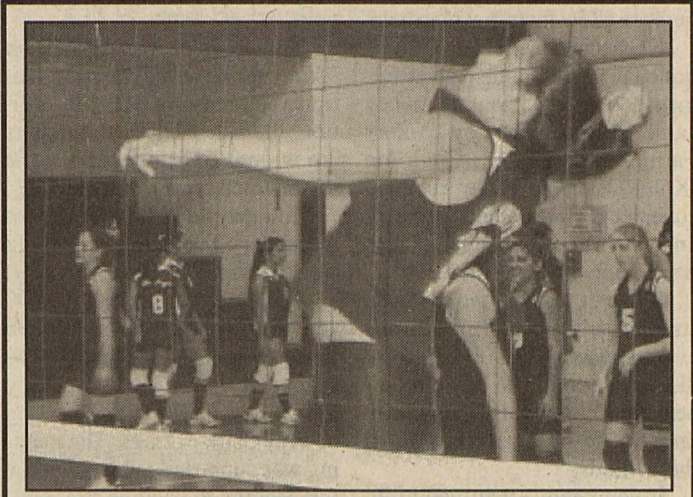
On the defensive front the team turned in an equally impressive performance. Castillo racked up five digs during the match, while Yeager, Bonner, and Timmeke Simmons each added two digs. In addition to leading the team in kills, Shanae Simmons led the team in blocks, totaling seven during the match. Frerich knocked down five blocks, while Castillo and Emily Valenzuela added one block each.

On Friday the team played in

LaPryor and won in three games 25-12, 25-18, 25-8. The victory ended an amazing season for the Tigerettes. The team ended the regular season with a 24-6 record. The team also notched the first undefeated district championship for Brackett athletics this school year with a record of 8-0.

The victory sets up the Tigerettes for a playoff run that should last for a while. The most likely candidate for the first opponent Brackett will face is Tilden and the game will not take place until next weekend.

For now we say good luck to the Tigerettes and congratulations on earning the first undefeated District Championship this season.



Warming up

Emily Valenzuela during warm ups before the game.

Photo by Danielle Moore

High Impact group visits Brackett schools

Bobby Templeton
Contributing Writer

They are a group that has done work for me in the past and I was always so impressed with their straight forward message.

I like the fact that it is entertaining for the kids but they are also learning a few lessons at the same time. Our kids need more positive role models and these guys help fill that need.

Their goal is to encourage youth to make positive life choices. They travel the world teaching about the commitment to staying drug free, doing your best, etc.

The group was started in 1994 by former collegiate gymnast Jerry Burrell. They are based out of Houston but travel all over the world.

They have recently performed in China, Europe, South America and many NBA, NCAA and WNBA half-time shows. They bill themselves as Sports Super Heroes. A cross between Michael Jordan and Spiderman. The performers are former gymnast and go by character names such as Reflex, Ozon and C-4.

To remember the message, the group left an autographed basketball behind to be displayed at the school.

Final inspection of detention center scheduled for Nov. 12

By Elizabeth Jaso
Contributing Writer

During a special meeting of the Kinney County Commissioners Court last Monday it was announced that the tentative date for the final inspection of the Kinney County Detention Center is Nov. 12 with Nov. 20 as the tentative date for the dedication of the building. Bills for the Detention Center were reviewed and approved.

The Commissioners voted to ratify the county judge's signature as officer of the Indigent Defense formula grant. The Indigent Formula grant is a grant that the County receives from Texas Task Force for Indigent Defense. This yearly grant helps

to pay attorneys who are appointed to represent defendants who cannot afford one.

Commissioners voted to authorize issuance of a new request for proposals concerning the Kinney County Clock Tower. The bids for the original specs for the project called for the restoration of the whole clock tower and were much more expensive than anticipated. The new specs will be for only the dome roof portion of the tower. Other restoration of the clock tower will be addressed at a later time. Commissioner Francie Wiley continues to work with the Texas Historical Commission on restoring the courthouse.

Several budget adjustments were approved for clarification

in closing the 03-04 fiscal year. The adjustments showed income and expenditures for the Indigent Healthcare Program, Tobacco Compliance Grant and the Southwest Border Prosecution Grant and Operation Stone Garden funds.

Operation Stone Garden is a federally funded program that pays border area law enforcement officers such as Deputy Sheriffs and Game Wardens to assist Border Patrol officers as part of the Homeland Security programs. The program compensates officers when they work overtime assisting the federal officers.

The next regular meeting of Commissioners Court is scheduled for November 8, 2004.

Bonilla spends time with Farm Bureau members



Bonilla

Congressman Henry Bonilla addresses the future and importance of the agriculture industry with members of the Brackettville Farm Bureau.

Congressman Henry Bonilla was proud to spend time this week with members of the Brackettville Farm Bureau. While visiting with the members, Bonilla addressed the future and importance of the agriculture industry.

"The farmers, ranchers and producers of Texas are a special breed. They are hardworking men and women, who I constantly learn from," said Bonilla. "It's quite an honor to be here speaking to the Brackettville Farm Bureau members. I know we will have a long and prosperous future working together."

Bonilla was named Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee in 2001. Bonilla is dedicated to keeping the agriculture industry strong and healthy, and remains committed to reducing wasteful spending and unnecessary projects. Since serving on the subcommittee, Bonilla has shepherded millions of dollars to home-district projects that help keep the Texas agriculture

industry prosperous.

As chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, Bonilla oversees a wide range of agriculture issues including the nation's food supply and inspection, Food and Drug Administration oversight, emergency disaster relief, agriculture research, rural development, and farm and ranch programs.

"I see this position as an opportunity to make a real difference for farmers and ranchers across Texas and the nation. The agriculture industry is an important sector of the United States economy, with a continuing strong potential for future growth," said Bonilla.

Bonilla was recently honored for his outstanding dedication to the agriculture industry by being named "Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture." The Man of the Year in Texas Agriculture award was presented by the Texas County Agricultural Agents Association. The award is presented each year to a person who goes "above and be-

yond the call of duty for Texas Agriculture."

"Agriculture has been the backbone of Texas since its beginning. From producing crops to producing livestock, encouraging students to study agriculture, or ensuring that kids have healthy, well-balanced meals, American agriculture affects everyone, everyday of our lives," said Mr. Bonilla. "The future looks bright for agriculture. I am honored to be a part of that future and look forward to ensuring it's a successful one."

Bonilla has represented the 23rd Congressional District since his first election in 1992. The district spans nearly 800 miles of the Texas/Mexico border and is the largest congressional district in Texas.

Bonilla was the first freshman in 25 years to receive a coveted seat on the Appropriations Committee. In addition to chairing the influential Subcommittee on Agriculture, Henry is a senior member of the Defense and Foreign Operations Appropriations Subcommittees.

Are water districts all they're cracked up to be?

By Tom Beard
Contributing Writer

Remember how Rio Nuevo, a major water marketer in Far West Texas, was genuflecting to water districts? Anxious to follow their rules? Why was that if water districts are so good at managing groundwater? Why would Rio Nuevo buy into a district's management of Rio Nuevo's water if the district could control Rio Nuevo's abuses? Maybe the explanation is that Rio Nuevo was not too worried about water districts. Maybe, just maybe, water districts are not all they're cracked up to be. Uh oh. That's not what we are being told, repeatedly. Who's right? The districts ("We're great"), or Rio Nuevo ("Not worried")?

A few years ago, most landowners were opposed to water districts, myself included. Now, we are supporters, myself included again. After all, even though water districts may not be all that great, they are all we have. Why? Because the legis-

lature said so. Landowners went from con to pro — by default, no other choices. But were we right then, or are we right now? Water districts are, after all, yet another governmental entity. And, like all governmental entities, they are subject to abuse.

And you are subject to their abuse. Think regulation. Think heavy-handed. Think the 5th Amendment — taking your private property without just compensation. Because that's what regulations can do. Especially regulations that are heavy-handed.

Heavy-handed? Imagine that you have just bought the prettiest twenty-five acres you ever saw. It's got a mountain (well, a small hill anyway) and a creek. The trouble comes when you realize that the only place, topographically, where you can drill a well for your dream house is fifty feet from your property line. Depending on the water district's rules, maybe that's not a problem. Unfortunately for you, your district has a 100-foot

spacing rule — and is proud of it. The directors' attitude is, "Give 'em an inch and they'll take a mile. We know what's best 'cause we're the directors." Now, Mr. Landowner, you do have a problem.

What if you drill a well without a drilling permit? Well, whether it's a driver's license or a drilling permit, if you're supposed to get one, you'd better have one. But maybe you don't realize you need a permit. Or maybe you filed an application with the district and never heard back, and assumed that meant the application had been approved.

So, you drilled a well with no permit. What happens? Our district sent a letter reminding the driller that you need a permit before you drill. Not a big deal. In another district, the driller was told to cap the well and, initially, to pull the casing out of the ground (which is to say, ruin the well and take the owner's property). Heavy-handed? "We report, you decide."

Why do you even need a drilling permit? Why do water districts think that they need to get in your business and tell you what to do on your land? Good question. The answer is that the Texas Legislature decided that water is too important to be left up to individuals. You need a big brother. A governmental big brother. The only question is whether your new big brother lives in Austin or Alpine. There's really not much question that Austin bureaucrats are not too loveable. Neither are local bureaucrats, for that matter, but at least we can identify them and, theoretically, talk to them. So local is better, right? They are your neighbors, after all.

Neighbor bureaucrats are probably better than Austin bureaucrats. Probably: Got any stubborn neighbors? Any stupid neighbors? Any with an ego? Any on a power trip? Any that are just plain mean?

Other than being heavy-handed, are there other water district abuses? What about police power? That's kind of a scary

term. Think Water Police. Worse, think Water Gestapo. "Open the gate, Bozo, I'm coming in and I mean now." Depending on whether a water district believes in voluntary compliance or water police, we may have a problem. I don't want the Water Gestapo. And I don't want people demanding access to my property for their purposes.

What else? What other problems? What other abuses?

What about policy? All governmental entities can, to a degree, set policy. Their policy becomes your policy, like it or not. Will it be a water district's policy to put the protection of private property rights on the same stage as the protection of water? Or will private property rights play second fiddle in this band? If you've got water zealots for directors, look out. They can do some real damage to your property rights. Like impose rules that essentially take away your water. Or tell you what you can or can't do with it.

Some water districts believe

See *Groundwater/Page 8*

EDITORIAL

Make a difference Nov. 2

Confused about who is telling the truth concerning the water board election? Small wonder with the half truths, misleading statements and in some instances blatant lies being told. Some of which have actually run in advertisements in this paper. We couldn't hope to clear everything up but here are a few facts that may help.

Regarding the \$17,500 mentioned in Cecil Smith's advertisement two weeks ago, that money came from the Kinney County Farmer and Rancher Coalition (KCFRC). A copy of the check and cover letter were obtained through an open records request, both were signed by Joe York, Jr.

The fact that the money went straight to the attorney is irrelevant, it was a \$17,500 gift to the district, period. The board members have continually denied any knowledge of who contributed these funds.

If you believe that, you probably also believe a secret group would spend that much money, with no hidden agenda, taking no credit, all for the benefit of the community alone.

The coalition also spent between \$25,000 and \$49,999 during the last legislative session on a lobbyist. Why did the coalition need to hire a lobbyist? What was he lobbying for?

Tully Shahan represents the KCFRC as their attorney. The group has received contributions from as least two board members, Hadley Wardlaw and Chris Ring. York and Shahan both refuse to answer questions concerning who are members of the group.

The first day of permit hearings Stuart Henry represented the KCFRC until it was discovered Wardlaw and Ring had contributed and/or were members of the KCFRC. Board members can not rule on a permit hearing they are protesting, that's a conflict of interest. Henry now claims to represent individuals, some of who are members of the KCFRC.

Al Blair is an expert witness testifying on behalf of many permit protesters represented by Henry. During a recent hearing Shahan and Blair testified that Blair represents the KCFRC.

Do you think its ethical or legal for water board members to be paying for a witness to protest permits the board will grant or deny?

Now another group has surfaced, Save Our Water (SOW). SOW recently mailed out false information on a number of permittees.

Numerous people on their hit list do not have legal representation as claimed by SOW. In addition, the water claimed numbers are wrong. Existing and historic use claimed are not cumulative.

You would think the board members SOW supports would clear this up. Yeah, when pigs fly!

SOW also claims only 15,000 acre feet have ever been produced annually in Kinney County. The statement was initially made by Tully Shahan at a July 23 meeting on Fort Clark Springs. The meeting was supposed to be about the fort seeking to become a municipality. Shahan and Toostie Herndon, a current water board member, used the meeting as a water permit protest rally.

Shahan told the crowd, "Now let me tell you, the bottom line here is that Kinney County in its lifetime has never produced more than 15,000 acre feet a year, never."

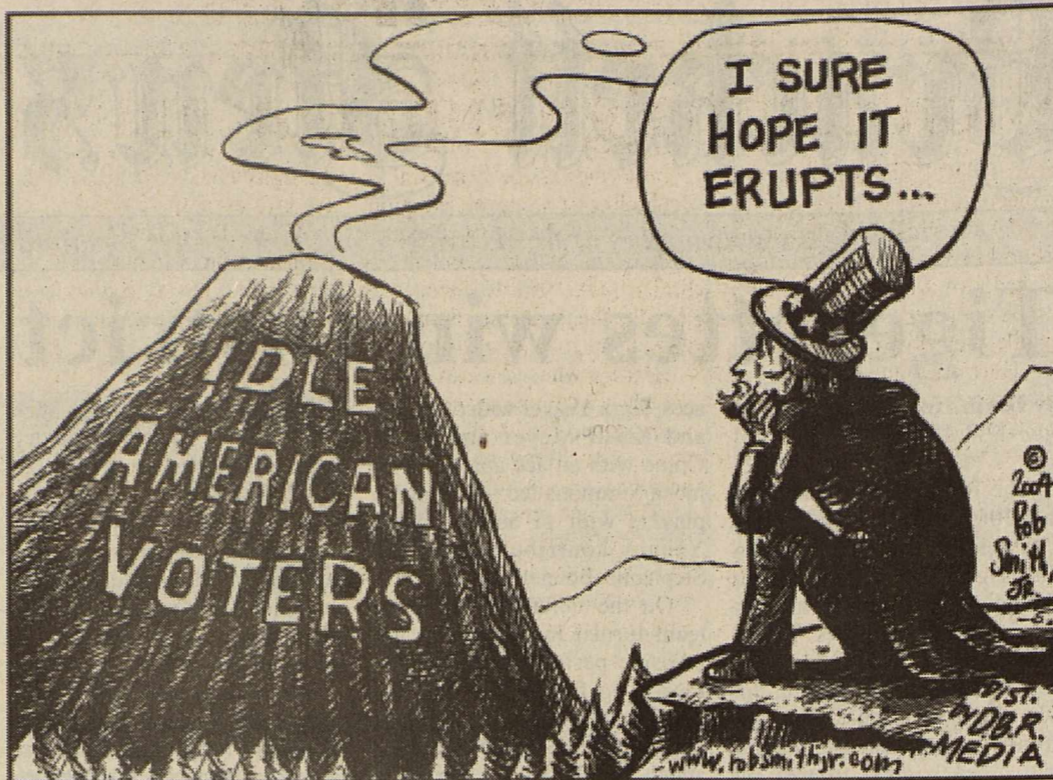
When asked where the figure came from Shahan replied, "Those figures came from the NRCS (Natural Resources Conservation Service) records."

Shahan did not mention that until recently there has been virtually no water metering on any irrigation wells in Kinney County. He also failed to reveal that producers are not required to submit even estimates of their water usage to the NRCS.

If the information was withheld through ignorance we could understand. However, Shahan is a member of the local NRCS board and undoubtedly knows better.

Something is rotten in Kinney County and it revolves around the KCGCD board.

No matter how good their intentions may or may not be, the ends do not justify the means. Take your opportunity Nov. 2, to make a difference.



FCS Association can not sell water

By Tom Saylor
Contributing Writer

I understand that when a person is in politics, even at the lowest level, there will be statements made about them, and attributed to them that are not true. I do however object to the intentional, malicious and slanderous outright lies told about me or were stated that I said these remarks. There are people skulking around and saying that I want to sell Fort Clark water. Total blatant lie. I say skulking because, because they have not approached me and talked to me face to face about their question, they just talk behind my back about me. The lies told about me and attributed to me have been used to tar my wife who is running for a seat on the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors. She is running for a seat on the Water Board in the interest of open, honest and fair government. I find it reprehensible that people would smear my wife with lies about me.

The State of Texas chartered a Municipal Utility District, Fort Clark MUD, to serve the area within the boundaries of Fort Clark Springs. Fort Clark MUD has a State approved monopoly on all the water production and sales within the bounds of Fort Clark Springs. The control over that water is granted to Fort Clark MUD, which is managed by a Board of Directors elected by the citizens who live within and are served by the MUD District. No one else is authorized to produce or sell water within this District. Therefore it is a blatant, malicious, and slanderous lie that Tom Saylor could sell water from Fort Clark. Bonnie Wardlaw, Toostie Herndon, and Bill Haenn, among others, have precipitated and perpetuated this

lie.

The only conversation I ever had with Bonnie Wardlaw, was when she was City Secretary for Brackettville, and had to do with being placed on the agenda to address the Brackettville City Council concerning the issue of Fort Clark Springs becoming a municipality. I have never been introduced to Toostie Herndon, and my first contact with her came when she rudely interrupted our presentation to the Brackettville City Council concerning a request that they support our efforts to investigate the feasibility of Fort Clark Springs Association becoming a municipality. She doesn't even know who I am, and can't even call me by my name. She calls me Mr. Sellers, because she wants to maliciously and slanderously connect me to water sales, which is false. She doesn't even know the name of the lady who was making the presentation to the City Council, just refers to her as "that woman with spiked hair." Mr. Haenn has spread false statements about me because I would not appoint him to the Exploration Committee, an Ad Hoc sub-committee of the Planning Committee that is a standing committee of Fort Clark Springs Association. The Exploration Committee was established to explore the various means available to solve the Association's financial dilemma. I had referred his volunteer statement to the Exploration Committee, and after some deliberation it was decided that it would be a conflict of interest for Mr. Haenn, the County Tax Assessor, to sit on a committee that was looking for methods of reducing the taxes the Association must pay. Therefore, his false remarks about me are nothing more than vindictive slanderous falsehoods used as a smoke screen in order to protect the

present KCGCD Board.

There is no relationship or connection between the Kinney County Groundwater issue and whether or not Fort Clark is to become a municipality. The water issue was thrown up as a smoke screen or diversion to the question of whether or not Fort Clark Springs Association should become Fort Clark, Texas, USA. The question whether or not FCSA should or should not become a municipality is tied directly to a proven fact that FCSA is slowly going defunct. By State Law and our Charter, when FCSA reaches the point of insolvency. That is the point when we can no longer pay our debts because our income is less than our expenses. State Law requires that FCSA be sold to another Non-profit Corporation. Anybody or entity can be a non-profit, all you have to do is go to the Secretary of State, file the application, pay the fees and receive a charter. Then the "Golden Rule" will apply. Who ever has the gold, makes the rules and can set the assessments at whatever level they want. If you don't pay your assessments legal action can be taken against you and your home taken, that is unless you live on wheels in which case you just start your engine and leave. This is happening right now in places like San Antonio and Houston.

I am interested in Saving Our Spring, saving our Fort, and I am for the open, honest and fair apportionment of water within Kinney County, which seems to be a problem for the present Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board. Therefore I feel that the present sitting KCGCD Board should be replaced because they have resorted to blatant, malicious and slanderous false statements to perpetuate their strangle hold on the county.

Get out and vote



Weekly
Report

Henry
Bonilla

Next Tuesday people everywhere will have the opportunity to make history by doing one very simple thing: voting.

The 2004 presidential election may be one of the closest in history, which is an even greater reason to exercise the right that our ancestors fought so hard to deliver.

Did you know that after the 2000 presidential election CNN reported that only 51 percent of potential voters exercised their right to vote? When you compare that statistic to other democratic nations we rank near the bottom for voter participation.

We could learn a very valuable lesson from the newly democratic nation of Afghanistan. In October of this month there were lines of people that circled city blocks. What were these people waiting to do? Vote. The people of Afghanistan have gone through great struggles to earn their right to a free election and they're taking full advantage of this opportunity.

America has also gone through great struggles to earn the right to vote. That's exactly what our nation is about: Democracy and our right to vote. The right to vote is our guarantee that we will remain a democracy and continue to enjoy the freedoms that are the basis of America. Freedoms including speech and religion are ultimately guaranteed by the right to vote.

With today's political, economic and social climate, now is the time for each of us to make our voice heard. In a world where most people are content to remain silent, even the smallest of voices can become a loud cry. The 2000 elections proved this: every vote counts. That's why I'm reminding everyone today to take advantage of that right and get to the polls on Tuesday. Every vote makes a difference.

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

Big Mama
Sez!



Whatever is worth doing at
all is worth doing well.

The Brackett News

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I want a president that earns respect

There are many in this nation who would have us believe that Bush has been a disaster as president. They want you to believe that he has done everything wrong. They want you to think that he lied to you, has mismanaged the war on terrorism, and that you were much safer under the former president and would be even more secure and comfy under Kerry.

It is all nonsense and lies, but if you don't already know that, it is almost certain that nothing I or anyone else can say will make you see the light. That makes me terribly sad, because I truly believe that most of you who vote democrat are honest and truthful and think you are doing what is best. I think, however, that you are being misled and lied to and that the people doing the lying are a real and present danger to the United States. The following was taken from one of the "conservative" news websites and demonstrates with startling clarity what the truth really is.

"There were 39 combat related killings in Iraq during January. In the fair city of Detroit there were 35 murders in the month of January. That's just one American city, about as deadly as the entire war torn country of Iraq.

"When some claim President Bush shouldn't have started this war, state the following... FDR led us into World War II. Germany never attacked us; Japan did. From 1941-1945, 450,000 lives were lost, an av-

erage of 112,500 per year. "Truman... finished that war and started one in Korea, North Korea never attacked us. From 1950-1953, 55,000 lives were lost, an average of 18,334 per year.

"John F. Kennedy... started the Vietnam conflict in 1962. Vietnam never attacked us. Johnson... turned Vietnam into a quagmire. From 1965-1975, 58,000 lives were lost, an average of 5,800 per year.

"Clinton... went to war in Bosnia without UN or French consent, Bosnia never attacked us. He was offered Osama bin Laden's head on a platter three times by Sudan and did nothing. Osama has attacked us on multiple occasions.

"In the years since terrorists attacked us President Bush has... liberated two countries, crushed the Taliban, crippled al-Qaeda, put nuclear inspectors in Libya, Iran and North Korea without firing a shot, and captured a terrorist who slaughtered 300,000 of his own people. The Democrats are complaining about how long the war is taking, but... It took less time to take Iraq than it took Janet Reno to take the Branch Davidian compound. That was a 51-day operation.

"We've been looking for evidence of chemical weapons in Iraq for less time than it took Hillary Clinton to find the Rose Law Firm billing records. It took less time for the 3rd Infantry Division and the Marines to destroy the Medina Republican



The Way
I See It

Steven R.
LaMascus

Guard than it took Ted Kennedy to call the police after his Oldsmobile sank at Chappaquiddick. It took less time to take Iraq than it took to count the votes in Florida!!!

"Our Commander-In-Chief is doing a great job! The Military morale is high! The biased media hopes we are too ignorant to realize the facts."

There are, also, a number of people who would have you believe that the vast majority of the nations have lost all respect for the United States, and that it is because of the actions of President Bush. This too is a lie.

The truth is that there are many nations in the world that want Bush replaced. Not, however, because of a lack of respect. They want him replaced because he is a man of integrity and courage. He says what he means, means what he says, and has the courage to back it up.

He is not a polished speaker. Good! I don't want a politician for president, I want a statesman. I want someone who is trustworthy, who has the best interest of the nation at heart, and not just his political ambitions.

I want a president that earns the respect of other nations. I don't give a hoot if they like us;

I don't even care if they fear us; but by George (pun intended) they had better respect us.

Do you think anyone actually respected Clinton — a pandering, philandering, sex addict with delusions of godhood? No, they didn't respect him, they didn't fear him, they only liked the fact that he was easy to get along with. They knew that he would not make the hard decisions. Heck, Clinton used to take a poll before he decided which cereal to eat for breakfast.

They may say they don't respect us now, but they're lying. It may be a grudging respect, but that's a whole lot better than being thought of as buffoons with too much money and no guts! George Bush has done more to right this nation than anyone since Teddy Roosevelt.

He stands for exactly the things which made this nation the most power and prosperous the world has ever seen — truth, honor, morality, godly principles, faith in God Almighty, faith in the righteousness of democracy and the American way, and the courage to do the right thing even when some of the nations of the world disagree. That is the truth! Believe it or not; that's up to you. But how many, do you think, hated Lincoln during the Civil War, and why?

Romans 8:18, 19 — "I consider that our present sufferings are not worth comparing with the glory that will be revealed in us. The creation waits in eager expectation for the sons of God to be revealed." NIV

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REVIVAL
Come Hear!
Rick Pearson and The Pearsons

Sunday Nov. 7, 2004
@ 10:45 A.M. and 7:00 P.M.

Monday, Nov. 8th
and
Tuesday, Nov. 9th
@ 7:00 P.M.

First Baptist Church
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Corner of Ann & Veltman
Brackettville
563-2245

A wide variety of music will be performed.
BRING A FRIEND!

Black-eyed pea cornbread

My son sent me today's recipe and believe me it is super yummy just as he claimed. It's not the traditional cornbread but more like spoon bread or a soufflé. I'd made a pot of "15 bean soup" to go with this. My husband sat a wedge into his bowl of soup while I broke off small pieces of mine. Excellent compliment to the meal. This is an ideal appetizer or served like condiments (you know, pickles/olives) when you have brisket, bar-b-que and such. Just don't expect to be able to crumble it into your milk for a late night snack!

Black-eyed pea cornbread
1 lb. spicy, loose pork sausage, 1 medium yellow onion, finely chopped, 1 cup cornmeal, 1/2 cup flour, 1 tsp. salt, 1/2 tsp.



Goodies
From G.G.
Vada Baldree

baking soda, 2 large eggs, 1 cup buttermilk, 1/2 cup vegetable oil, 8 oz. cheddar cheese, grated (about 2 cups), 1 15 oz. canned black-eye peas, drained, 3/4 cup canned cream style corn, 1/2 cup canned chopped green chilies, and *1/2 cup drained sliced pickled jalapenos, chopped or to desired taste.

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray 9x13 baking dish with butter spray. Using a large skillet, cook sausage and onion,

breaking meat into fine pieces (I sometimes use an electric food chopper to crumble the cooked meat) until meat is cooked through. Remove from pan and drain on paper towels.

Mix dry ingredients together in large bowl. In medium bowl, beat eggs, buttermilk and oil. Combine the two mixtures, stirring until mixture is just moistened (it will be lumpy). Stir in all remaining ingredients. Pour batter into prepared pan, smoothing the top with back of spoon. Bake until golden brown, 50-60 minutes. Allow to cool 10 minutes before serving.

Serves 6-12, if cut into squares. *This called for amount produces a highly spiced dish, so use your own judgement on first baking.

Workplace fatality data

DALLAS - U.S. Assistant Secretary of Labor for Occupational Safety and Health John Henshaw today released the following statement on the Bureau of Labor Statistics' Census of Fatal Occupational Industries report released:

"American workers remain safer than they were just a few years ago. The BLS data released today show that the fatal injury rate held steady at 4.0 per 100,000 workers - identical to 2002 and the lowest rate recorded since the fatality census began in 1992.

"We are also encouraged by our continued progress in reducing fatalities among Hispanic workers. Fatalities among Hispanic workers dropped notably for the second straight year, after several years of increases. Fatalities among foreign-born Hispanics also dropped for the first time ever.

"There were fewer deaths from falls and harmful environments while deaths as a result of assaults and violent acts rose by 61.

"We have said many times before that even one workplace fatality is one too many, and we will continue to do everything we can to make sure workers are safe through strong, fair and effective enforcement; outreach, education and compliance assistance; and partnerships and cooperative programs."

Small pox as a weapon

College Station - Smallpox used as a weapon of mass destruction is nothing new, and history shows the results can be deadly, says a Texas A&M University extension veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine. Dr. Bruce Lawhorn says there is proof that small pox was used as a weapon of mass destruction about 250 years ago, and it effectively did its job.

"There is evidence that British forces in North America were probably the first to use small pox as an offensive weapon during the French and Indian War (1754-1767)," Lawhorn explains.

"They used blankets taken from people infected with small pox and distributed them intentionally to start outbreaks among American Indians. As a result, more than 50 percent of those Indians exposed were killed."

President Bush has authorized a plan to begin smallpox vaccinations for soldiers and health care workers - and himself - in case there is a smallpox attack made on U.S. personnel. Lawhorn says the disease has an interesting - if not deadly - history.

The last known case of smallpox occurred in Somalia in 1977, in 1939, an outbreak affected Dallas County, with two deaths reported and 82 cases confirmed. Smallpox has killed more persons than any other infectious disease in history, Lawhorn points out - a staggering 300 million people, with millions more left permanently scared or disfigured.

Lawhorn says routine vaccinations in the United States - once a standard procedure and a requirement for children to enter school - were stopped in 1972.

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FCS and County 4-H plan Halloween party

Fort Clark Springs Festival Committee met Wednesday, October 20th at Shafter Hall to plan and organize the Halloween Dinner/Dance, which is scheduled for October 30th at Ft. Clark Service Club.

Seventeen volunteers gathered to divide up the jobs and offer to make cakes. There will be corndogs for the children, tickets \$3 with \$1 refund if the child is in costume.

Lasagna, Salad, Garlic Bread, Homemade Dessert, Tea or Water will be served at 6 pm. Adult tickets are \$10 each. If you come in costume, you receive \$1 refund. If you bring a decorated

pumpkin, you receive \$1 refund. Couples get credit for one pumpkin, \$2 refund. Come enjoy an evening of good food, entertainment and fun.

In cooperation with Kinney County 4-H there will also be a Family Carnival in the parking lot of the Service Club. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy an evening of family fun. There will be games and a cake walk for all ages. The 4-H Carnival will begin at 5 pm and dinner will begin at 6 pm with the dance following.

Don't miss this chance to support your community, have fun and meet new neighbors.



HENRY U.S. CONGRESS
BONILLA

How Actions Speak Louder Than Promises.

Over the years you have come to know and trust me. It can take a long time for that kind of relationship to develop, and only after you spend a lot of time together. I know the needs of South Texas because I know you. And I want to continue serving you here in the 23rd Congressional District.

My record for the last 12 years speaks more clearly than any promise I can offer. A record that supports families, small businesses, seniors, taxpayers, the military and the security of our country.

- During my next term, I will continue to focus on these issues:
- Abolish the federal income tax code
 - Adopt a fairer, simpler tax system
 - Permanently kill the Death Tax
 - Allow self-employed workers to deduct health insurance expenses
 - Ease tax and regulatory burdens on small businesses

And, as the Agriculture Appropriations Chairman, I will make sure rural interests are protected at all costs.

Beyond our issues at home, my priority is to support President Bush in America's war on terror. He is a principled man who is finally standing up to the terrorists who want to destroy our way of life. In fact, destroy us altogether.

As a member of the Appropriations Committee, I directly affect the funding of our military and intelligence organizations. I will make sure they, and the President, have the resources they need to win.

But to do so, I need your support and your vote to continue serving you faithfully and actively in the U.S. Congress.

Thank you.

Henry Bonilla
Member of Congress

Tigers blast Bulldogs, 43-0

By Darin Koenig
Sports Writer

The Brackett Tigers blasted the LaPryor Bulldogs 43-0 last Friday night. In their eighth straight victory, the Tigers rolled up 377 yards of offense. The Tiger defense held LaPryor to 21 yards rushing and 30 yards passing on the night. The Tigers, ranked number 2 in the state, moved to 2-0 in district and 8-0 overall.

The Tigers opened the game moving the ball well. The first Brackett drive ended with quarterback Kody Yeager throwing his 12th touchdown of the year. The touchdown was a fifteen yard completion to Leon Woolsey with 6:35 left in the first quarter. After another short LaPryor drive, the Bulldogs set up to punt from their own end zone. The Tiger defense came up with the blocked punt and the ball rolled out of the end zone

for a safety. The first quarter ended with the Tigers leading 9-0 and having possession of the ball.

The Tigers used only 1:40 of the second quarter before running back Miles Braesicke found the end zone on a three yard touchdown run. The Tigers missed the extra point but still led 15-0. After another LaPryor drive ended in a punt the Tiger running game went back to work. Cody Edwards added to the Brackett lead on a 17 yard touchdown romp. The Bulldogs were again forced to punt and BHS wasted no time building its lead. Noe Talamantes raced 60 yards for the last score of the first half which ended with the Tigers ahead 29-0.

The Tigers took the second half kickoff and moved the ball well. With the clock showing 8:55 to go in the third quarter, Talamantes showed the Tiger fans another touchdown. This

run was a five yard run that put the Tigers up 36-0. After a short Bulldog possession, the Tigers took over at the 50 yard line. Charlie Slaughter found a crease in the Bulldog defense and raced to the end zone for the final score of the night.

The Tiger offense was led by Yeager who completed three of seven passes for 42 yards and one touchdown. The running game was led by Talamantes who ran the ball nine times for 132 yards and two touchdowns. Braesicke had nine carries for 67 and one TD; Slaughter had two carries for 50 yards and one TD, and Edwards' two carries for 33 yards and one TD. Fermin Villaneuva carried the ball five times for 33 yards, Ivan Pinales carried three times for 13 yards, Cesar Ortiz tallied one carry for four yards and Travis Bonner rounded out the running backs with one carry for three yards. Yeager's three completions went

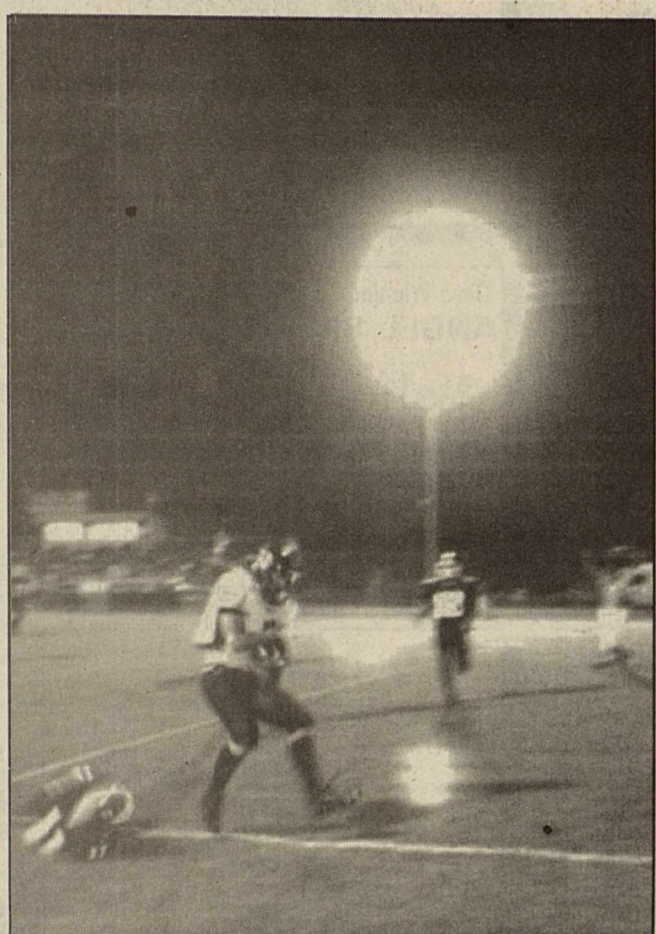
to two different receivers. Woolsey had two catches for 32 yards and a touchdown and Brand Wylie had one reception for 10 yards.

The Brackett victory puts them one step closer to another district championship. The Tigers will try to move one step closer to that first season goal this Friday night. If the Tigers beat the Sabinal Yellowjackets this Friday, they would set up a showdown against Charlotte for the championship. The challenge that will come from Sabinal this week will be in the form of an offense that loves to throw the football. With the Sabinal version of the old "fun and gun" offense of the Houston Cougars, the game will certainly be full of surprises.

Come support your Brackett Tigers at 7:30 PM this Friday night at Tiger Stadium as they take on the Sabinal Yellowjackets.



Fighting for the end zone Photo by Danielle Moore
Cody Edwards in the end zone on his 17 yard run making the score 22-0.



In the spotlight Photo by Danielle Moore
Leon Woolsey completing a 15 yard pass from Kody Yeager for the first touchdown of the night against the Bulldogs.

Cross country finishes third at Uvalde meet

Darin Koenig
Sports Writer

The Tigerette Cross Country team added a third place performance at the Uvalde meet to its list of impressive performances this year. The Tigerettes finished with 73 points, just one point behind Cotulla's 72 points. Hondo won the meet with ease, earning 55 points to put the meet out of reach. Sabinal finished in fourth place with 89 points, Devine finished fifth with 91 points, and Crystal City finished sixth with 152 points.

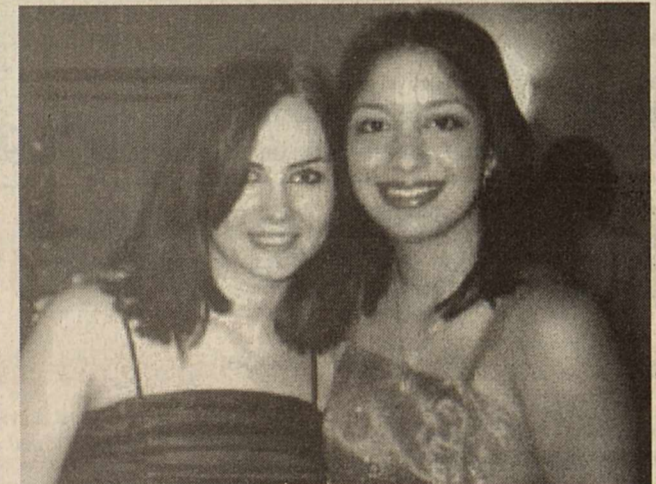
Daphne Hunt led all Brackett runners with a time of 13:58, which earned third place in the individual competition. Gabby Schroeder finished 10th with a time of 14:41, Julie Castillo finished in 15:27 and Jessie Crane finished in 16:41. Ivory Perez's 16:47 and Elva Garcia's 16:49 rounded out the Tigerette competitors for the meet.

The JV girls and Junior High girls also competed at the meet. In the JV meet, Timmeke Sim-

mons posted an 11th place time of 17:23 to lead the team. Heather Baggett turned in a 14th place 17:37, with Lauren Cornelius turning in a 20:22. At the Junior High level Harmony Pettett continued her streak of top five finishes. Pettett finished in fourth place with a time of 15:18. Samantha Moore ran a 17:47 and Bianca Terrazas ran a 19:21 to round out the eighth grade team. The lone seventh grade runner was Elena Molinar. Molinar finished the course in 18:36 which was good for 16th.

In the Varsity boys competition the Tigers finished in fourth place behind Cotulla, Hondo, and Crystal City. Justin Calk again led the Tigers finishing this meet with a time of 20:45. Clint Conrad finished the course in 22:44, Cullen Duncan ran a 25:01, while Travis Nowlin finished in 25:19. Cody Robinette ran the course in 25:32 and Stanford Conoly rounded out the Tiger competitors with a time of 25:57.

CONGRATULATIONS!



Samantha Piña (right) is a senior at Brackett High. Upon graduating from Barbizon modeling school in San Antonio, Oct. 9, 2004, Piña was selected from 350 participants to receive major modeling training through Barbizon. Piña will participate in a modeling and catwalk show in Austin Texas, Feb. 2005. Samantha is the daughter of Mr. & Mrs. Ramiro Piña, Jr. and granddaughter of Mr. & Mrs. Manolo Rosas, Sr.

Brackett Tigers Football Roster

3	Tres Rueda	TE/OLB	Junior
4	Miles Braesicke	FB/OLB	Junior
5	Leon Woolsey	TE/DE	Junior
7	Kody Yeager	QB/S	Senior
9	Tillman Davis	SM/CB	Senior
11	Robert Davis	QB/OLB	Sophomore
14	Brand Wylie	TB/S	Junior
15	Charlie Slaughter	TB/OLB	Senior
20	Cody Edwards	HB/CB	Senior
26	Evaristo Villarreal	SM/CB	Senior
33	Clyde Adams	FB/NG	Junior
35	Mark Kesteloot	FB/LB	Senior
40	Noe Talamantes	HB/S	Senior
43	Anthony Munoz	SM/CB	Senior
52	Gumaro Martinez	G/LB	Junior
54	Whitney Massingill	G/LB	Senior
60	Martin Flores	C/LB	Junior
61	Lito Escamilla	C/LB	Senior
63	Ramiro Pina	G/LB	Junior
64	Rolando Ortiz	T/DE	Senior
68	Oscar Sierra	C/DE	Senior
72	John Moore	T/NG	Sophomore

Athletic Director/Head Coach: David Yeager
Assistant Coaches: Ricky Creel, Steven Hutcherson, Charlie Marguardt, Greg Voyles and Ken Wallace
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Thank you,
Dora Elia Sandoval
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SHARK TALE (PG) 11:25 1:30
3:35 5:40 7:45 9:50
TEAM AMERICA: WORLD POLICE (R) 11:35 2:10 4:50
7:20 9:55
TAXI (PG-13) 11:40 2:05 4:35
7:25 10:05
RAISE YOUR VOICE (PG) 11:15 1:50 4:25
GRUDGE, THE (PG-13) 11:00 1:15
(PG-13) 11:10 1:45 4:30 7:10
11:00
SURVIVING CHRISTMAS (PG-13) 7:00 9:35

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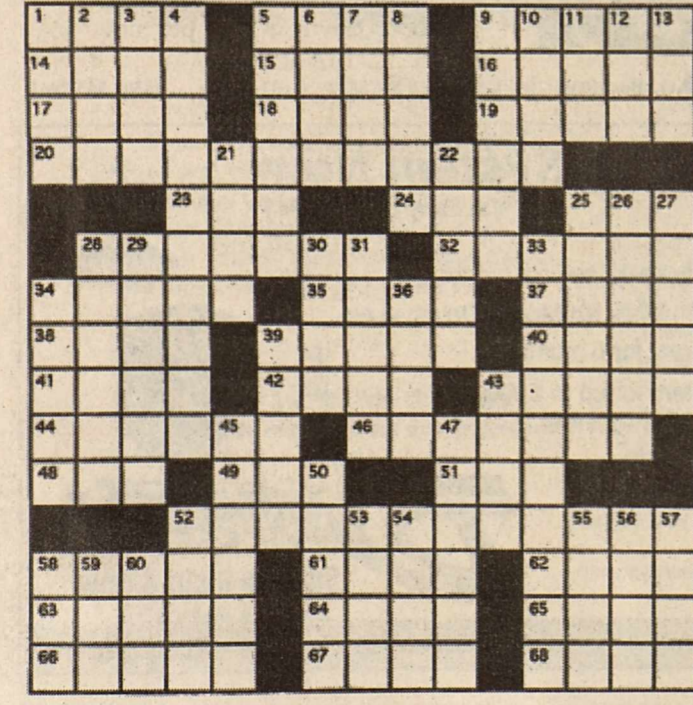
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1 Spaces
5 In ___; even
9 Hurried-ness
14 Landed
15 Vehicles
16 Overture
17 Unexceptional
18 Curves
19 Lets
20 Intimate and candid
23 Verily
24 Fem. title
25 LXVII
28 Hyper-sensitivity to some substance
32 Shallow spots
34 Hernia site
35 Of planes; pref.
37 Victory signs
38 Jungle beast
39 Done in
40 Famous
twin
41 This: Sp.
42 Viscount's superior
43 Incensed
44 Teeter-totter
46 Dogs and hens?
48 Georgia, once: abbr.
49 Leg in the wrong direction
51 Letters on a postage stamp
52 Confirmation of the truth
58 Rose buyer's request
61 Deadly creatures
62 Rim
63 That is
64 Consequently
65 Part
66 Is introduced to
67 Ponce's home
68 Winter toy
DOWN
1 Deep cut
2 African lily
3 Tower site
4 Plots
5 Hindu incantation
6 Poi source
7 Linear measure
8 SSS
9 Shout of triumph
10 In ___; wrong
11 Part of Cong.
12 Explosive substance
13 Johnny's sidkick and others
21 High school student
22 Felonious offense
25
26 Shakespearean hero
28 Golf shoe features
27 Outflow
28 Comes up
29 Plunderer
30 Celebration
31 Periods
of time
33 Future dieters
34 Actress Sharon
36 Irritate
39 Underground drain
43 Wonderful Life
45 Deputies
47 City in Arizona
50 Malicious writing
52 Article of clothing
53 Word with head or knowledge
54 Othello's downfall
55 False deity
56 Make eyes at
57 Indispensable item
58 Not well-lit
59 ___ to Billy Joe
60 N, turned 90*



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 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: CITIES IN TEXAS
T F P P L A N O I K W B
D E O D E S S A R C E V
E D X R E L Y T V O L R
O S O A T D D K I B P U
L E I L R W W N N B A H
L N R A D K O A G U S T
I E L M H T A R C L O R
R L E O N D S N T O D A
A I D A L L A S A H E T
M B N I T S U A D S R R
A A R L I N G T O N A O
S H O U S T O N W W L P
1. El Paso
2.
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9.
10.
11.
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13.
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Oct. 28.....Linda Martinez Oct. 31.....Ken Callnan
Oct. 29.....Wilbar Hill Oct. 31.....Glen Seaver
Oct. 29.....Clinton Hooker Nov. 1.....Darlene Sandwick
Oct. 29.....Sheri White Nov. 2.....Harry Daniels
Oct. 30.....Alfred Pena, Sr. Nov. 3.....Albert Fuentes
Oct. 30.....Ramon Rivera Nov. 3.....Jerry Guidry

Roaring Twenties Solution:
1. Abilene 11. Irving
2. Alamo 12. Laredo
3. Amarillo 13. Lubbock
4. Arlington 14. Odessa
5. Austin 15. Plano
6. Dallas 16. Fort Arthur
7. Del Rio 17. San Antonio
8. El Paso 18. Texarkana
9. Fort Worth 19. Tyler
10. Houston 20. Waco

ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Something you've been worried about proves to be very minor. This frees you up to concentrate on truly important matters. Later in the week, romance sizzles.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Procrastination just won't get that job out of the way. Apply yourself, no matter how distasteful you find it. By week's end, you achieve success.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) What's going on behind the scenes will be to your ultimate benefit. Something you've been hoping for comes to fruition. Celebrate this victory over the weekend.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's unlike you to be so impulsive. However, this week, you indulge yourself. Just be sure you don't make a purchase that's too large for your budget.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A friend who's been at cross purposes with you finally sees things your way. Clear the air completely now. This will regenerate a failing relationship.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While it's okay to spend some money spiffing up your home, do be careful with finances. Major purchases aren't recommended at this time. Later in the week, social activities are pleasurable.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your versatility is an asset. However, you have a tendency this week to let this set you off in too many different directions. This weekend, a loved one needs your attention.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) This isn't the time for self-doubt. Be your normally assertive self. Later in the week, a career opportunity takes you by surprise.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Miscommunication and misunderstandings mar the beginning of the week. Be sure you're very clear when expressing yourself. Over the weekend, exercise frugality.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're trying to sidestep a touchy issue with a loved one. Stop being so evasive. If you meet this head-on now, you'll avoid larger problems later.
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Who would you rather be, an eagle or a chicken?

A Christian writer, Anthony de Mello, tells a story of an eagle's egg that a farmer places by mistake in the nest of a brooding hen in the barnyard.

The eaglet hatches, along with the chicks, and as he grows, he grows to be like them. He clucks and cackles. He scratches the earth for worms. When he flaps his wings, he manages to fly a few feet into the air, no more.

Years go by. One day, the eagle, now grown old, sees a magnificent bird soar above him in the sky. It glides in graceful majesty against the powerful wind, with scarcely a movement of its golden wings. Spellbound, eagle asks, "Who's that?" "That's the king of the birds, the eagle," says his neighbor. "He belongs

to the sky. We belong to the earth, for we are chickens." And so, the story goes, the eagle lived and died a chicken; for that's what he thought he was.

Now I've got nothing against chickens, actually I love to eat them! But who would you rather be? An eagle or a chicken?

I'm sure that all of us would prefer to be an eagle soaring through the sky rather than a chicken scratching out a living in the dirt.

God creates in humanity the potential to soar and move beyond our selfish nature. Yet we seem to prefer to claw and scratch each other for the measly crumbs of our existence.

Remember the story of Zacchaeus in the Gospel of



Our Redeemer Lutheran & St. Andrew's

Nathan Lafrenz

Luke. Zacchaeus, a tax collector, clawed, scratched, and cheated into gaining quite a fortune. And yet he was miserable.

When he hears that Jesus is close by he decides to climb a tree to get a glimpse of what his heart told him could be a new existence. Jesus perceives the hunger in the heart of Zacchaeus and calls to him that he wants to eat with him.

Zacchaeus, to the consternation of all the "good" folk

around him, gleefully accepts the invitation of Jesus and proclaims his new orientation. He decides, by the grace of God, to climb out of the dirt, and soar into the forgiveness of our Lord.

As a forgiven child, he proclaims he will give up a huge portion of his wealth and make restitution with 300 percent interest to anyone whom he had defrauded. What a transformation!

On this Reformation Sunday come and celebrate God's Grace received by faith, and through His Grace may we all soar as if on eagle's wings by God's redeeming and reconciling love at Our Redeemer Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches at 9:00 AM and 11:00 AM. Rev. Nathan Lafrenz.

Seek the Lord

Behold, I have given him for a witness to the people, a leader and commander to the people.

Behold, thou shalt call a nation that thou knowest not, and nations that knew not thee shall run unto thee because of the Lord thy God, and for the Holy One of Israel: for he hath glorified thee.

Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near: Let the wicked for sake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts:



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill

And let him return unto the Lord, And he will have mercy upon him:

And to our God, for he will abundantly pardon. Isaiah 55: 4-7. Praise God!

Why can't the past be forgotten?

The apartment seemed deathly quiet. From nearby Josie heard a whimper.

She looked at Pat, Steve's Yellow Lab lying near Steve's chair. His sad eyes looked up as if to let her know he too missed Steve.

She was thankful for Pat's presence. Josie smiled. She looked forward to the Thanksgiving holidays when Steve would be home from college for a few days.

Josie put some Christian music into her CD player and laid her head back to relax. Closing her eyes, her thoughts drifted to the past, to times gone by. She caught her thoughts.

She was enjoying her growing friendship with Rolando. "Why now?" she asked herself. "Why must my past haunt me now?"

"Why can't the past be the past and be forgotten?"

Then the words of her mother rang in her mind, "Mi'jita, it is pain from the past that reminds us of the wonderful grace of God."

Josie silently prayed, "Teach



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

me O Lord. I gladly look for wisdom in the pain of my past." Her thoughts turned to her son. "Please O Lord, may your Holy Spirit guide Steve on his way to manhood. Don't let him repeat my mistakes."

Then without invitation Roger's image intruded on her prayer. Josie felt the intense pain of the times her husband made her choose between himself and her son. She could see the bruises on her arms from Roger's strong fingers. She heard her own screams and Roger laughing and cursing her. His face was contorted and angry.

Josie turned the music louder but it didn't drown out the memories. She would never forget the look on Steve's little face each time Roger beat her. Steve

dare not try to take up for her or comfort her until Roger had left the house. As if it were yesterday she could see Steve cautiously peek through her bedroom door and make his way to her bed. "I'm so sorry Mommy," he cried.

In her mind Josie was holding her little boy of five. Through her pain and tears she finally made the decision. "Quickly Steve," she said. "Go

get your clothes together. We must leave."

"Where will we go Mama?" Steve asked.

"Home, Mi'jito. We will go home." (To be continued)

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.

The Donor

All of a sudden the phone rang but it didn't surprise them because they had been expecting it.

The voice on the other end of the phone said, "You're a match!"

Now came the hard time of making the decision to go and donate an organ or not. As the doctors talked to him, they didn't paint a very pretty picture. The procedure could be a disaster and even lead to his death. There was no guarantee that the operation would even work.

They had tested all the family members and no one was qualified or a match. He wasn't even kin by blood but yet he met the qualifications. In talking to the man who was to be the donor it brought to mind a similar event in the Bible. It was when God wanted to help mankind.



Jerry Davenport

Brother J.

Mankind was in a very sick and dying state spiritually, (Isaiah 59:2) because they violated or disobeyed God's laws. Sin and separation had set in, (Romans 3:23 and 6:23).

There was only one who met the requirements (to have no sin 1 Peter 2:22) to be a donor and it was Jesus Christ. He gave His life at a place called The Skull, (John 19:17 & 18). Let us accept, (John 1:12), love and live for the one who freely gave His life for us and set us free.

See you in Church next Sunday.

OBITUARY

Amy Cupps

Amy Cupps (Mrs. Larry Cupps), age 87, a former resident of Fort Clark Springs, died Monday, October 25, 2004 in Perre, South Dakota near her daughter, Marlene. She was quite active in the

First Baptist Church of Brackettville and a member of Eastern Star. Internment will be in San Antonio at the Sunset Memorial Cemetery on Austin Highway, Friday, Oct. 29 at 11:00 a.m.

HEALTH

Common Sense in a time of uncommon diseases

Public concern has increased in the past several weeks as we added monkeypox to SARS and West Nile virus in our Pandora's box of new, exotic diseases.

Many Texans are worried, despite the fact that, so far, in our state, we have no confirmed human cases of West Nile Virus this season, none ever of monkeypox, and only one "probable" case of SARS, and that patient has recovered. Still, to many people, there's something deeply alarming about these exotic-sounding, mysterious ailments.

The truth is that average Texan are highly unlikely to become ill with any of these diseases.

That doesn't mean it's not important to carefully analyze, track and control every new infectious disease we encounter. In fact, it's one of the important roles assigned to the public health system.

Infused with new funds for public health preparedness, the public health system is quickly tracking and understanding what we're up against with every emerging disease.

This becomes even more important when we suspect that the disease may have jumped from animals to humans.

Remember, the AIDS virus, possibly the most deadly human

pathogen in history, probably jumped from African primates. It pays to keep a close watch and to take precautions to lower your risks.

There are certain things all individuals can do to protect themselves and their families and to minimize their risks of becoming infected with these diseases, as well as more common diseases.

For example, mosquitoes carry and transmit diseases such as West Nile and St. Louis encephalitis. They also cause your skin to be irritated and itchy. There are four simple ways - all starting with "D" - that will help you avoid getting mosquito bites. These are:

- Drain standing water in your backyard and neighborhood. Look for old tires, flowerpots, and clogged rain gutters, which are likely mosquito hatching sites. Get rid of the places where mosquitoes hatch, and you'll reduce the mosquito problem. Mosquitoes don't ravel very far.

- Dress in long sleeves and pants, when possible. For extra protection, spray clothing with repellent.

- DEET (N,N-diethyl-m-toluamide) is an ingredient to look for in your insect repellent. Follow the instructions on the label.

- Dusk to dawn are the hours when mosquitoes - at least those carrying the West Nile virus - are likely to be feeding. Try to avoid outdoor activities, if possible, from dusk to dawn. If you must be outside, protect yourself with a mosquito repellent containing DEET. Also, keep mosquitoes out of your house by being certain that screens are in proper repair.

Severe acute respiratory syndromes, SARS, is carried primarily by saliva droplets, as are most respiratory diseases such as the common cold and the flu. Washing your hands with soap and water is one of the best ways to prevent the spread of disease. The use of an alcohol-based hand sanitizer is a good substitute when soap and water are not available.

Wash your hands before preparing food, before eating, after sneezing or coughing on your hands, after changing a baby's diaper, after playing with pets, and after using the bathroom.

It's also important to cover your mouth when you cough. Another precaution - for those

with wide-ranging travel plans - is to check travel advisories from the World Health Organization and the traveler's health web page <http://www.cdc.gov/travel/Centers for Disease Control and Prevention before you travel>.

Preventing diseases like monkeypox requires another kind of common sense. Before you acquire a pet, any pet, you should be aware of the health risks involved, especially with exotic animals.

Be certain that ALL your pets have been properly vaccinated and checked by a veterinarian. If you do own an exotic animal and it becomes ill, it is very important that you seek the assistance of a veterinarian at once.

It is possible now, by the way, to have your horse vaccinated against West Nile virus. You can ask your veterinarian whether vaccinations are recommended in your area.

Being aware of new infectious diseases and being informed on preventing illness is good. Being fearful and panicked about the possibility of contracting a rare disease is not.

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A Bible Based New Testament Church
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11:00 am Worship Service
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RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc. (RGEC) is accepting applications for the position of Administrative Secretary to fill a vacancy in the Cooperative's Brackettville Office. Applicants must have three years experience as a secretary, oral and written communication skills in the English language, be self-motivated & detail-oriented. Experience with creating spreadsheets and word processing required, Microsoft Excel and Word preferred. Knowledge of Microsoft Access & PowerPoint helpful. Must be able to maintain confidential information. Willing to work overtime, if needed. Must possess a valid Texas driver's license with a clear driving record. Applications may be picked up or requested from any RGEC office and must be mailed to RGEC, Administrative Department, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Applications must be postmarked on or before November 1, 2004. RGEC is an EOE.

UNITED MEDICAL CENTERS is accepting applications for the following position for Brackettville. Medical Record/Business Office Clerk. Applications and Job description may be picked up and accepted until Nov. 5, 2004. United Medical Centers, 202 James St., Brackettville, TX 78832. (830)563-2434. *Competitive Salaries & Fringes* Equal Opportunity Employer.

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SOSO	ARCS	RENDS
HEART	TO	HEARTY
YEA	SRA	GOI
ALLERGY	SNOALS	
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ESTE	EARL	IRATE
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL for re-roofing of the clock tower, Kinney County Courthouse. Sealed proposals addressed to the Kinney County Commissioners Court labeled "Kinney County Courthouse Clock Tower Re-Roofing Project" must be received by the Office of the County Judge on or before 8:00am on November 16, 2004. Mail or hand deliver the proposals to P.O. Box 348, Kinney County Courthouse located at 501 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, TX 78832. Proposals shall be in conformance with the Request for Proposal Specifications available at the above address. Respondents are required to provide liability indemnification. Workers Compensation Certificate, and payment bond. Performance bond is also required should bid exceed \$100,000. Contract requirements of the Request for Proposal Specifications must be agreed upon and met by the successful respondent. The Kinney County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to select the proposal most advantageous to the County, and reserves the right to waive any irregularity in the proposals received. Proposals must be developed in accordance with the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

THE KINNEY COUNTY Commissioners Court invites qualified firms to submit Proposals for Retail Electricity Provider Services. Proposals will be accepted until 8:00 AM November 16, 2004. Proposals must be submitted to the following named agent at the following address and/or numbers. David Tindol, Agent for Kinney County Commissioners Court, 2805 North Dallas Parkway Suite 640, Plano, TX 75093. (972) 365-7127. dtindol@energytx.com. The Kinney County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any and/or all Proposals, to award contracts for products or services as may appear advantageous, and to negotiate separately as deemed appropriate by said court.

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Groundwater districts, are they the answer?

Continued from Page 1
 in cooperation and partnership with landowners to reach a common goal — protecting water resources — but others tell landowners what they have to do. And then threaten them: The City of Alpine, for example, was told they have to pay production fees — for water that was given to Alpine thirty years ago. And all of us, we are told, have to file reports, apply for permits, drill here but not there, don't produce so much water, plug wells, follow Big Brother's rules, tell Big Brother where your wells are (and what they produce and how deep they are). And the biggie: Let us on your land to verify that you're doing what we told you to do. It's a command-and-control philosophy, and it does make you wonder about water districts. Are they all they're cracked up to be?

Not surprisingly, the districts say, "Yes." They also say that the districts are the experts and the water professionals, that they should be setting water policy and defining the facts of the debate, and that the rest of us bozos (i.e. those of us who do not agree with them but who, inconveniently, happen to own the land and the water) should sit down, shut up, and listen to the experts. Don't believe it? Read the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts' editorial of June 24, 2004, that was in most local papers across the state.

I'm not buying it. It is, after all, my land and my water. I should decide what's best for it. But in many districts I will not be allowed to decide. We do, therefore, have a problem, and,

that being true, what's the solution? Easy answer: Watch the directors! Like eagles (buzzards have good eyes, too, and that may be a better metaphor). Winston Churchill said, "When the eagles are silent, the parrots begin to jabber." Translation: Bad districts exist only because landowners didn't watch or speak up until it was too late. Be an eagle (or a buzzard). Watch what your district is doing and screech like an eagle with your talons bared when they do wrong. What water district director can object to that? After all, all we're saying is, "Do a good job and listen to your neighbors and do unto your neighbor as you would have him do unto you if he were an omniscient, omnipotent director and you were a common clunk." Kind of like the Golden Rule for water districts.

Speaking of the Golden Rule, if we could apply the Golden Rule to water, we wouldn't even need water districts. What?! Oh, horrors! Less government? But it's true: If my neighbor were forced to recognize that his use of his water under his land is subject to my use of my water under my land, why would we need water districts or any water regulations at all? We wouldn't. But it may be impossible to get there from here. Particularly since the water districts' association supports the Rule of Capture, which is why we can't apply the Golden Rule to water. The self-styled water pros oppose it.

We're talking rights here. Water rights and property rights. But all rights bring responsibilities. My rights to my

water mean I have responsibilities to my neighbor. Unfortunately, in an imperfect world, some people do not take their responsibilities seriously. They have to be encouraged, if not forced. That's why we have governments. To enforce the social compact and allow a society to exist. Otherwise, it's anarchy.

Guess it's back to government then. Back to water districts. Not because we want to but because we have to. Unfortunately, as we've said, they are all we've got. Water districts may not be all they're cracked up to be, and they may be a terrible solution, but they're better than the alternatives. Probably. But you had better watch 'em. Every minute. And hold the directors accountable. It's your fault if you don't.

My favorite Churchill quote is this: "Men occasionally stumble over the truth, but most of them pick themselves up and hurry off as if nothing ever happened." Don't ignore this truth. Watch 'em. Speak up. Protect your rights while you protect your water. Be an eagle. Train the parrots. Don't let them train you. "Polly wants a cracker?" Hell, you tell Polly what Polly wants.

Editor's Note: Tom Beard is Chairman of the Far West Texas Regional Water Planning Group. This article is reprinted with permission from The Sentinel. The Sentinel is the official publication of the Trans Texas Heritage Association. Membership in the Association is open to all who share the goals of preserving and protecting our lands through private ownership.

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