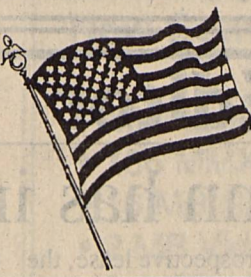


The Brackett News



Alamo Village hosts 'Alamo' movie reunion
See story below

10th year, No. 14

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Briefs ...

Border Patrol agents rescue nine illegal aliens near Spofford

Agents of the U.S. Border Patrol rescued nine illegal aliens from a box car of an eastbound train on a siding near Spofford at approximately 8 a.m. last Thursday.

The agents opened the car and found nine Mexican citizens riding in the locked car. All subjects were hot and tired, but breathing fine despite the lack of air holes or vents in the car. The agents reported they had no food or water.

All the persons rescued from the sealed boxcar were recruited from a "Plaza" in Piedras Negras, and they hail from a variety of states in Mexico, including Oaxaca, Nuevo Leon, Coahuila and Mexico.

The Mexican citizens had crossed the Rio Grande May 1, and boarded the train about 3 a.m. on Thursday.

According to the Mexican Nationals, a smuggler, who was paid \$50 to arrange for their transportation to San Antonio, locked them into the car, telling them he would meet them in San Antonio.

RGEC, BISD sponsor Plant a Tree Project

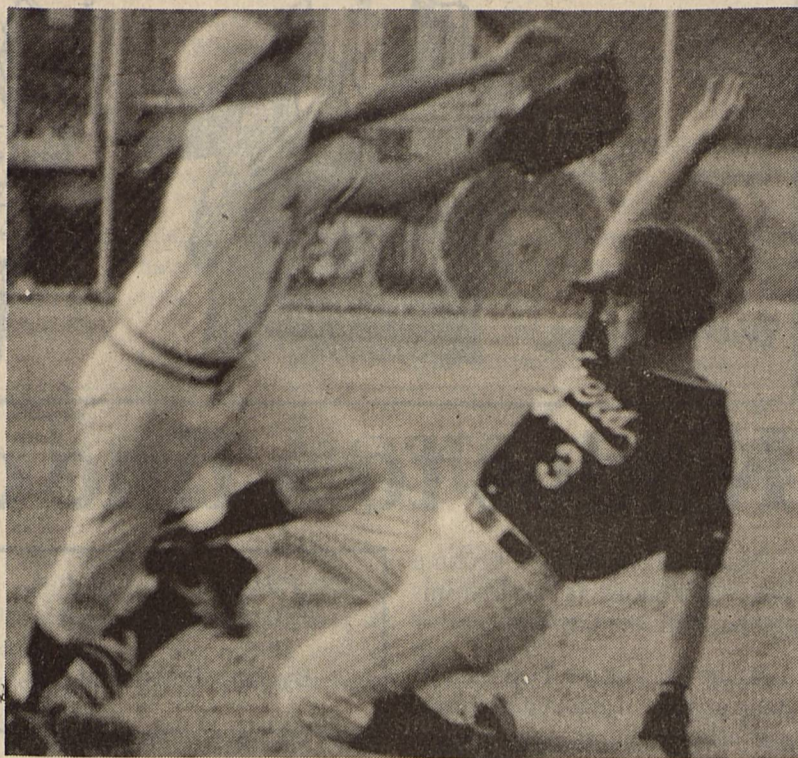
The Rio Grande Electric Cooperative (RGEC) has combined efforts with Brackett Independent School District to sponsor the Plant a Tree Project to add some shade to the track and baseball field.

"Our plan is to get the whole community involved in our Plant a Tree Project," said Trish Taylor of RGEC. "You may donate a tree or donate money to buy a tree. Just drop it by Rio Grande's office or BISD's office and we will be sure to add your name to the list of generous donors to be announced in The Brackett News."

"All sizes of trees are needed and Sunshine Gardens has a good supply of them. If you purchase the tree from Sunshine Gardens, Archie and Jill (Woodson) will care for them until it is time to plant," added Taylor, who said donations will be accepted through May.

RGEC will dig the holes for the trees and some of their employees will be donating their time to help with the actual planting.

For more information, call Taylor or Karen Bizzell at RGEC's office at 563-2444, or Theresa Davis at Brackett High School at 563-2491.



Brackett's Wes Baker slides into second base during the Tigers' 11-3 win over Dilley Tuesday. See related story, Page 5.

Judge Hall resigns Court appoints Ford justice of the peace

Judge Alvin Hall resigned as Kinney County's justice of the peace on Monday.

The commissioners court accepted the resignation and then agreed to hire Hall on a contractual basis until the end of the year "for his special skills and technical labor to assist the new county justice of the peace."

Under the contract, Hall will be paid \$300 a month through Dec. 31.

"There's no one else that has the special skills and technical professionalism that Judge Hall has with the years of experience that he's got," County Attorney

Tully Shahan said.

"This helps Judge Hall in paying for his Medicare insurance," Shahan added.

Hall has been serving as justice of the peace since 1986. He also served as the county and district clerk for 16 years, from 1958 to 1974.

The commissioners appointed John Ford to fill the justice of the peace vacancy. Ford won the Democratic primary election earlier this year and faces no Republican opposition in November's general election.

Ford will assume Hall's budgeted annual salary of \$19,086.36.



ALVIN HALL

Wildfires blaze in Edwards County

CAMP WOOD -- A blaze estimated at 5,000 acres in size continues to burn west of Camp Wood near the subdivision of Camp Wood Hills.

As of Wednesday, the fire was contained but not controlled, according to Lou Sloat. Officials hope to have the fire completely out today.

Fire officials said from 75-100 firefighters battled the fire into the night Monday.

Sparks from a saw used to cut pipe apparently started the blaze Saturday afternoon.

A fire near Rocksprings burned 1,000 plus acres before being contained late Monday. It apparently resulted from carelessness with a campfire.

The Camp Wood Hills fire has reportedly claimed two structures and a vehicle, but direct action by firefighters Monday saved at least six houses threatened by the

fire, according to Paul Hannemann, state regional coordinator with the Texas Forest Service in Fredricksburg.

Hannemann was in Camp Wood to assist with fire suppression efforts on the Camp Wood fire. He noted that firefighters were able to protect at least 100 other homes in the area.

Firefighters from area volunteer fire departments, including Brackettville,

Uvalde, Leakey, Nueces Canyon and Barksdale, and the Texas Forest Service worked the fire Monday.

Pete Bland, Joe Luna and Andrea Garcia of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department helped Monday with the Camp Wood fire. Bland, Luna and Joe Williams were battling the blaze near Rocksprings on Sunday.

■ See WILDFIRES/Page 3

Board of Trustees vote 4-3 to continue block scheduling

Brackett's secondary schools will continue with block scheduling after a 4-3 vote by the School Board of Trustees at Monday night's regular meeting.

The trustees have been discussing block scheduling for three months in meetings, public hearings and workshops. Officials considered going back to traditional scheduling, where classes meet every day.

Trustees Gloria Garcia, Steve LaMascus, Jim McDaniel and Sara Terrazas voted for continuing with block scheduling, while Lloyd Lee Davis, Rosemary Slubar and Tim Ward opposed.

The school district has used block scheduling for five years in the high school and six years in the middle school. The format has most classes meeting for 90 minutes every other day.

"I went into this thing with an open mind, looking at where we needed to be as a district," Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said. "Since that time, Texas has developed a new graduation plan, which has me greatly concerned."

Under the new graduation standards, Texas seniors need 24 credits to graduate.

"My recommendation was to stay with blocks because of the problems that I could see coming as

a result of the new graduation plans," Stephenson said.

Officials discussed using traditional scheduling with seven- and eight-period days. The seven-period days threatened extra-curricular activities and the eight-period days had classes that were 45 minutes long.

"Taylor says that if we go to a seven-period day, we're going to be short on credits," LaMascus said.

"If we go to an eight-period day, there seems to be the opinion that 45 minutes of classroom time is not enough. That could be argued to the fact that a great many of the teachers at this point in time are only using 45 minutes of the classroom time."

Garcia, who made the motion to continue using block scheduling, said, "I feel like block scheduling is working."

"I think that to be fair to the system itself and to the students, the teachers and to everyone, I really feel that we ought to go another year and move towards fixing some of those problems that have been brought to our attention."

■ See TRUSTEES/Page 3



Cherrise Ward, left, and J. Wayne Ballew were crowned queen and king at Saturday's Prom. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry



Alamo Village will celebrate the 91st anniversary of John Wayne's birth as it hosts "The Alamo" movie reunion May 23-24. Wayne is pictured above with local residents during the filming of "The Alamo." Can you identify anyone pictured with The Duke? Photo Special to The Brackett News

Alamo Village to host 'Alamo' movie reunion

Alamo Village Movie Location will celebrate the 91st anniversary of John Wayne's birth as it hosts a once in a lifetime "The Alamo" movie reunion May 23-24.

The two-day extravaganza, which is expected to attract Alamo buffs from around the world, will unfold on the famed Southwest movie set built by Wayne and Kinney County rancher James T. "Happy" Shahan, located seven miles north of Brackettville on F.M. 674.

The Duke's Hollywood Cowboys will be special guests at the event billed as the "Alamo Adventure." The organization is a John Wayne fan club dedicated to keeping the spirit of Wayne and the spirit of the Old West alive.

"Basically, we are a group of fans made up of professional and non-professional entertainers, and some cowboy celebrity look-alikes," said Ermal Williams. "Many from our group come from organizations such as the Single Action Shooting Society and dress

like their favorite Old West or Silver Screen cowboy character."

Williams dresses like and has an uncanny resemblance to John Wayne and has appeared throughout the U.S. portraying the legendary actor who died in 1979.

"We are excited to be coming to the place where Duke made "The Alamo" and where many other legendary western movie stars have worked," Williams said, adding that several of the Duke's Hollywood Cowboys will be performing throughout the event.

The celebration kicks off at 7 p.m. on Saturday, May 23, with a Fandango in the shadow of the Alamo chapel. Music will be provided by Rudy Robbins (who played "It Do" in "The Alamo") and his Spirit of Texas band.

Famed Flamenco artists Willie Champion and his wife, Teresa, will entertain guests that evening as well.

■ See ALAMO/Page 3

INSIDE

■ Joe Townsend

With the myriad wrongs in the leadership of the city government, it is easy to tar all city employees with the same brush.
Opinion/Page 2

■ Chuck Hall

At school, we have super support. Technology has opened doors that were undreamed of only a few years ago.
Lifestyles/Page 4

■ Bobcats top Tigers

Brackett rallied for six runs in the bottom of the third inning Tuesday as the Tigers blew out the Dilley Wolves 11-3.
Sports/Page 5

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Letters to the Editor

Townsend's column has inaccuracies

I would like to address Mr. Townsend's "opinion column" of May 7. I find it extremely unfortunate that these types of inaccuracies continue to be represented in our local paper on such a regular basis. I have a lot of respect for the editors, but I truly wish they would choose to curb Mr. Townsend's tendencies toward misrepresentation of the facts. Yes, Wes Robinson, it is only an opinion column and what should we expect from it? After all, to quote your letter to the editor in the same issue, same page, "Opinions are like armpits, everybody's got a couple and they all stink." I realize you weren't referring to Mr. Townsend's articles anymore when you wrote this, but nevertheless, I couldn't help applying the analogy where it belongs.

On a point by point basis to address Mr. Townsend's column:

1. Of course I was looking for support. Truly, I was even looking for constructive criticism, so that we can address these issues. What I was not looking for was being blasted with inaccuracies in a public forum.

2. If you had done "research" as you state, maybe you should have read the article you referred to, giving information about our project. The first sentence reads, "The Kinney County Youth Development Association (KCYDA) is a newly formed nonprofit association..." This would have answered your first concern about our group, where you wondered about structure of our organization. Good research job, huh?

3. Next you conveniently leave out the fact that, according to the

terms of the prospective lease, the lease is voided almost immediately if we failed to make improvements on the property. This would be our portion of the lease agreement. We would be putting a significant amount of money into permanent improvements on the property, adding to the resale value and effectively putting money, in the form of assets, in taxpayers pockets. And why would we make significant permanent improvements with no guarantee of being able to use the facility for more than three years?

4. Yes, the county would still be liable for the utility bills for the County Extension Agent. Providing office space for the County Agent is part of the county's agreement with Texas A&M in exchange for their providing the agent for our area. And yes, the county would be liable for the Soil and Water Conservation District's office's utility bill. The county currently receives money from the district for this purpose, so why should the county continue to receive funds for this purpose if it would not be used for this purpose? Again, good research job.

5. Yes, our school system does an excellent job of providing as many services to our youth as possible, but they cannot be all things to all our youth and we shouldn't expect them to do things our community should be doing. Mr. Townsend, you seem to have very little faith in our youth. It seems you always come out against anything someone tries to do for our youth. According to your philosophy, it would be a shame for us to try to give our kids any advantages when it's their turn to enter

the workplace. It's a tough world out there, and they need every advantage possible.

6. How dare you insinuate we are trying to do this only for our own kids and then we'll drop it. I think you should take a better look at our group, because quite a few of us don't even have kids that aren't already grown. I have never worked with a more dedicated, ready to roll-up their sleeves and go to work group of people. Every person in our group truly believes in the abilities and value of our community's youth. We are simply making a sincere effort to help them along.

7. You fail to mention that this project is not simply animal projects. (Another look at our group would show you that those of us who do have children, also already have a place to keep their animal projects. This should prove we are not only trying to help our own children.) We are open to all development projects from all youth groups.

I realize that, unfortunately, you have a readership, and even more unfortunately, at least some of those people believe you to be accurate. I used to. Please, please, try to be accurate, even if it is only an "opinion column." If you have questions and are actually trying to conduct research, please pick up the phone, give one of us a call, maybe we can provide you with some real facts about the issue before you blast inaccuracies throughout the community. After all, to form an opinion, you should look at all sides of an issue, right? And certainly before you put that opinion in print.

Bonny Herndon

Who's integrity is in question now?

Let me get this straight - the mayor wants to question my integrity?

Mayor, why didn't you tell everyone that \$262,668, out of your correct figure, is in the general fund and cannot be spend on utilities? Sewer is a utility, is it not?

According to the projections at the time, \$199,500, payable by the city alone, was to rehab the city lines. \$554,925 was payable by the city and MUD, split evenly for the first year only, then proportional based on usage. These are 40 year federal loans at 4.5 percent interest.

According to our city's administrator, David Luna, the amount of required by Rural Economic Community Development to be set aside for payment of the loans each year is \$50,000. As of March 31, 1998, the city had \$43,507.09 set aside in the Revenue Bond Fund and \$22,130.18 in the Reserve Bond Savings Account.

Mayor, why don't you explain to everyone what the other \$238,375.82 in the utilities funds is for?

Is it right to tell the citizens of Brackettville that money is in the bank because of the Sewer Plant? Who's integrity is in question

now?

By the way, for anyone who has been doing their addition, the other \$3,126.26 is in city trust accounts.

Is the city in great financial shape? You better believe it!

Did David Luna play a great part in that? Undoubtedly! You also played a part, as well as the councils during that time, and the city employees. You all deserve the credit.

But don't you think it's time to start putting some of that money back where it came from?

Wes Robinson
Mayor Protzem

Fort Clark board would be surprised

The Board of Directors has had one year to manage the Fort Clark Springs Association, and have accomplished very little other than irritating the membership.

Why not take the advice of a corporate consultant of mine?

It goes this way -- go home and stay there 90 days, then come back for a meeting and get a report from our manager, Jim Heath, of the accomplishments you (Board of Directors) have made and go home for another 90 days.

You would be surprised at the change of attitude the members and employees would have.

Also, how smoothly the business of the association would operate.

Art Baker

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. The editor reserves the right to edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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Unsung Hero

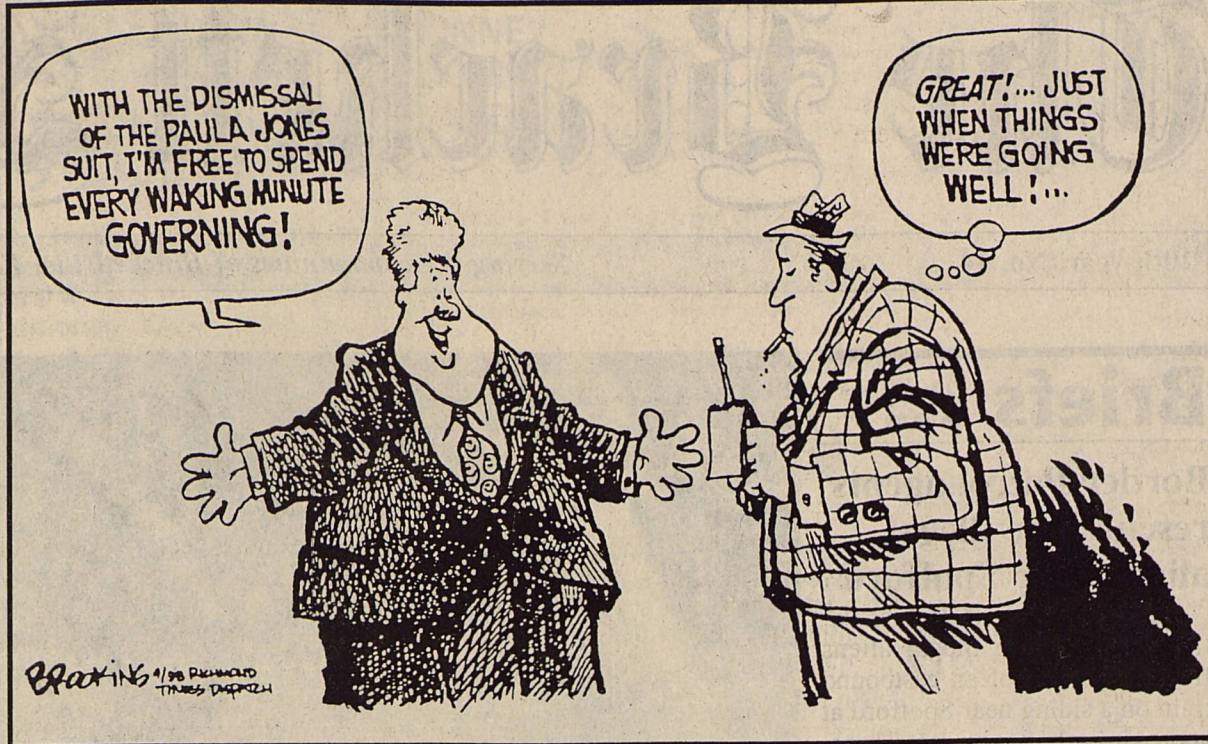
By Joe Townsend

Mike Ferguson and some friends were preparing to go fishing. He suddenly had a massive heart attack. As he lay on the ground his friends gathered around, seemingly having no idea what to do.

A neighboring young man saw the commotion and, recognizing the problem, took over and even administered CPR, keeping the man alive till at least the EMS arrived.

The young man is to be highly commended for having the peace of mind to realize what to do and having the initiative to do it. Surely, Jeffrey Luna is an Unsung Hero.

For the news that is important to you, subscribe to The Brackett News!



Kudos to a fine city staff

As the days pass, I become more and more favorably impressed with the city staff.

At the front office, Debra Bland and Ana Belia Talamantes are not only efficient but friendly and accommodating. Ginger Dodson is certainly a capable and efficient person in her work.

In the field, David Martinez and Randy Castilla are better than good in their jobs.

A water leak in the antiquated water lines of the city will find quick and complete response. Let pot holes develop and the crew

Between Us

By Joe Townsend



will very soon fill and patch them.

With the myriad wrongs in the leadership of the city government, it is easy to tar all city employees with the same brush. It must always be remembered that the employees are just that and take their orders from the top.

When they do things that are

unfavorable or seem wrong, remember they too may not agree, but have no choice if they want to keep their jobs.

With the new City Council, we're looking forward to a more responsible and "people oriented" time ahead. In the meantime, kudos to a fine city staff.

Letter to the Editor

Mayor is proud of accomplishments

Another state mandate, Subtitle "D," household solid waste that came with our inheritance.

One month, June 1992, after being elected mayor I was presented with this.

"Oct. 9, 1991, the final revisions to the 1984 hazardous (Subtitle "C") and solid waste amendments (Subtitle "D") to the Recovery Act were promulgated into the Federal Register. Most of these revisions for municipal solid waste landfills must be complied within two years or by Oct. 9, 1993."

The first figure quoted to me in order to comply with a site for a garbage landfill was \$93,000. By January 1993, it was \$200,000. By June 1993, it was \$900,000.

The garbage pit had to be so many specific feet with clay liners, a continuous expense, so many acres with a life of at least 10 years. That we might qualify for an arid air exemption, we did not. At least four monitoring wells were required on the specific requirements of the landfill. Each well costing at least \$5,000 each.

In June 17, 1993, I submitted a very accurate report with exact dates, figures, rules, and requirements in the "Mayor's Report" through The Brackett News.

It was important that we have a landfill on city owned property. To literally sink all this money on rented property was not feasible. The quote of \$900,000 ended our quest for a landfill pit.

We contracted with the Garbage Gobbler Trash Co. We tried to place the garbage compactor on Sheedy Street on city owned lots. The public objected. Joe Townsend wrote a very supportive column on this on July 29, 1993.

We went shopping for one acre of land to place the garbage compactor in the close vicinity of the city limits. The available \$5,000 acres became un-affordable.

The pressure was on. The landfill owner on F.M. 131 wanted his property by Aug. 1, 1993. The state closure mandate was Oct. 9, 1993. If we closed the open pit on F.M. 131 by Oct. 9, 1993, we would monitor the closure for five years at no added expense. Closure after Oct. 9, 1993 would require monitoring for 30 years at an unknown expense due to the long term.

We succeeded, thanks to David Luna, city manager, who negotiated in July 1993, what is now the Citizens Collection Site and the City Hall Annex. We had about

two weeks to end of contract Aug. 1, 1993.

Joe Townsend says that the fee went from \$3 to \$6.50. From 1971 to 1987 the landfill was free. From Aug. 1, 1987 to July 1990 the fee was \$3. Aug. 1, 1990 the fee was \$5. From Sept. 8, 1993 to date the fee is and has been \$6.50 per month. Aug. 1 1996 the price per haul went up \$50, we kept the fee at \$6.50.

That we show a "profit" of approximately \$20,000, this is not a profit yet. The correct figure is \$24,019. We originally calculated on the outside an average of at least six hauls per month for the first three year contract Aug. 1, 1993 to 1996. The renewed Aug. 1, 1996-1999 contract bills us \$550 each haul with a \$375 monthly compactor charge. Some months we have had only four hauls. Our heavy months are November, December, and January at six to nine hauls, so that our so called "profit" will be utilized.

That the attendant does not help unload the trash. The attendant may or may not help unload the trash. This is a courtesy, not a requirement. The attendant is there to operate the compactor. We are a collection site, not a transfer station.

That the hours are at the city's convenience, the hours are 8:30 to 5:30, Monday through Saturday. Yes, we close on Sundays and holidays.

This brings us to the "expensive" meeting room. At no time for any city meeting held outside City Hall did we not pay rent. If there were free meeting rooms available nobody offered them.

The property came with a building. Yes, five years later we converted one side of the building for our meeting room. We desperately needed the space. We now have offices and the meeting room. Why not put the building to good use?

July 31, 1993, three months before deadline (10-9-93), we complied with state mandate Subtitle "D" at minimum expense to our citizens. The five year monitoring will be over July 31, 1998, at no closure costs. We have a meeting room that complies with the American Disabilities Act.

If Joe Townsend wishes to continue griping about any aspect of the garbage collection have at it! It is better to have a \$6.50 monthly fee versus the overwhelming and tremendous expense of \$900,000, convenient hours or not.

We are very proud of all accomplishments and improve-

ments.

To Wes Robinson:
My "timely" article would not have been at all had Joe Townsend not timely "opined" his insulting tirade about City Hall, City Council, and me.

I know that you directed your rude, contemptuous, un-professional, and disgusting analogy about opinions to me. You, also, stated that Joe Townsend's "Between Us" is an opinion column. Do you realize that you have insulted all of those people, who voted for you because they had an opinion about you? Do you realize that you have insulted everybody that writes opinions in letters to the editor? Do you realize that you have outsmarted yourself by stating such a crude opinion? Do you realize that your irresponsible comment is an insult to all the citizens of this community because everybody has opinions?

How very unbecoming of you to have made that statement as a City Councilman, representing the people.

To Richard Olvera:

Sarcasm in regard to your nephew was not meant or intended in any manner whatsoever.

I hereby apologize if so interpreted. I comment that he is at West Point. My remarks were intended on your statement of "a couple of years ago and to some board members. A couple of years ago is too long and indefinite. Some board members is vague. That is all I meant in you, yourself, passing out his calling cards.

I stated "provide funds for further education" not by any means 100 percent funding.

I did not and do not imply that you filed a complaint. I stated that "in the past you experienced pig pens fronting your property."

Congratulations to you too. The difference between your first letter to the editor and the last two is quite noticeable.

Peace, Richard, I have no quarrel with you. You did ask for comments.

Actually, I have no quarrel with the newspaper, except that it is my opinion that more adequate reporting could be provided on city news. No, not by any means suppress the newspaper. The injustice is to the public for the lack of more and better coverage.

Perhaps you wrote your first letter based on what you read in the paper. Now that you have direct contact with the KCYDA I hope that a whole overall and better picture evolves.

Mayor Carmen M. Berlanga

Trustees OK block scheduling

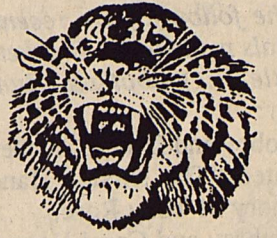
■ **Continued from Page 1**
 "I think that when block scheduling was implemented in this school there was no preparation for it," she said.
 Garcia suggested more teacher inservice hours should be dedicated to utilizing the longer class periods in block scheduling.
 "Perhaps there has not been enough preparation," she said. "I don't believe that the staff is given an opportunity to receive inservice on learning styles and reading styles."
 "Maybe we haven't been selective enough in our inservice. Maybe some of the staff feels that there's a weakness in having 90-minute periods. We can work on that."
 "I just feel that there is always room for improvement. I would like the opportunity to improve block scheduling," Garcia added.
 LaMascus second Garcia's motion. He said the decision was "the hardest thing that I've ever done."

"There's not enough data," he said. "There's not enough information to make an informed decision either way."
 "We have opinion, and that's all we have, and I hate opinions because everybody has one. Unfortunately, in this particular case, the only thing we have to go on is what we've been told and what we can see."
 Davis questioned why traditional scheduling was abandoned for blocks in the first place.
 "When we went on block, there's nothing to say that traditional scheduling wasn't working at that time," he said. "I think block scheduling was a rehashed idea because it was brought up back in the '50s and scrapped then."
 "To me, saying give us one more year, doesn't mean we're going to fix anything. I haven't really heard any hard descriptions of what we're going to do to fix them."
 "I think 90-minute classes are too long. Every other day is to long in between classes,

and sometimes it's longer than that because of assemblies, pep-rallies or whatever. Sometimes they only meet once a week," Davis added.
 With the continuance of block scheduling, LaMascus said "We're going to have to go to mandatory tutorials. We're going to have to make sure that the teachers use the classroom time for teaching."
 "We've got teachers now that have at least two free periods a day. There's no sense in that. That could be remedied," he added.
 Garcia suggested that the board appoint a committee to evaluate block scheduling throughout the next school year.
 "I would like the opportunity to set up a committee where we can go in and meet with the different teachers and the different departments in high school and middle school to see what we can do to remedy the situation," she said.

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Alamo Village hosts movie reunion

■ **Continued from Page 1**
 Teresa Champion performed the famed table dance inside the Cantina in "The Alamo." Her Flamenco dance troupe will then entertain visitors during Sunday's festivities.
 "We are honored to be a part of this historic event," Willie Champion said.
 On Sunday, May 24, Wayne's widow, Pilar, will be the guest of honor and will participate in a panel discussion on the making of

"The Alamo."
 Other panel members include Robbins and Dean Smith, a stuntman on the movie and a member of the Stuntsman's Hall of Fame.
 "We are also expecting other cast and crew members to take part," said Alamo Village owner Virginia Shahan.
 Shahan's late husband, "Happy," is the man who convinced Wayne to film the movie in Brackettville.

"Pilar will also be signing copies of her autobiography and will have on display some of her paintings," Shahan added.
 Also performing on Sunday will be the Alamo Village gun-fighters, who will also give tours of the movie set, Tommy Worrell and his performing Longhorn steer "Sundance," and a group of living history interpreters from Uvalde.
 "There will be a variety of entertainment, music, and food and

drink throughout the event," Shahan said.
 "We have long wanted to have an "Alamo" reunion, but for one reason or another it just never happened. Then when Duke's Hollywood Cowboys called and asked if they could come to the village to celebrate John Wayne's 91st birthday, we decided the time was right for the reunion.
 "We have tried to plan the event so the people of all ages will enjoy it," she added.

Wildfires continue to blaze in Edwards County

■ **Continued from Page 1**
 Personnel with the Department of Public Safety, Texas National Guard, Uvalde and Edwards County sheriffs' offices and Civil

Air Patrol have assisted with control efforts.
 National Guard Blackhawk helicopters were used to make numerous water drops on the fire

Monday, and the Civil Air Patrol furnished a fixed wing aircraft for fire reconnaissance.
 The Salvation Army has worked to provide food and re-

freshments for firefighters, and local residents and businesses have also provided food and beverages for those helping battle the blazes.
 Firefighters from Rocksprings VFD, Sonora VFD and the Texas Forest Service battled the fire near Rocksprings late Monday.
 The Texas Forest Service advises all residents in Edwards and surrounding counties in Southwest Texas to be extremely careful with spark-producing equipment.

Auxiliary sponsors letter writing contest

The Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Auxiliary is sponsoring a letter writing contest to encourage young people to take an interest in writing members of the U. S. Congress.
 The contest is open to American students who are juniors or seniors in high school or enrolled in a university in the spring semester of 1998. Former Texas or national contestants who wish to enter must rewrite their previously entered letter.
 The subject is the effect of environmental regulations on private property rights in the United States. Entries must be postmarked by Aug. 31.
 First prize is a \$1,000 college scholarship, second prize is a \$750 scholarship, third prize is a \$500 scholarship, and 10 \$100 U.S. savings bonds will be awarded.
 Letters must be typewritten and not over two pages in length. The heading must include the

contestant's address and telephone number. The first paragraph must state the student's age, classification in school or college attended.
 Letters will be judged in September by an industry leader.
 Contestants should write both United States senators from their state. Letters to state senators will be disqualified. Mail the original letters to your U.S. Senators and copies of each letter to the TSGRA Auxiliary Contest, c/o Ben Love, P.O. Box 387, Marathon, Texas, 79842.
 Contestants must also send the letter to their U.S. congressman. Letters to state representatives will be disqualified. Mail the original letter to the congressman and mail a copy to Doris Haby, P.O. Box 1496, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.
 For more information, call Haby at (830) 563-3020 or (830) 563-9316.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, May 4
 2:50 p.m., A motorist reported seeing a man walking who was bent over on Standard Lane. She said he might be hurt or drunk. Chief Deputy Sheriff Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene. He was unable to locate the subject.
Wednesday, May 6
 11:00 a.m., A Brackettville man said that there was garbage in his neighbor's yard and it was attracting roaches to his residence on W. Thomas Street. Chief Deputy Fritter met with the neighbor who said he would take care of the matter.
 2:58 p.m., Manuel Cruz Fernandez, 17, of Brackettville was arrested by Chief Deputy Fritter and charged with assault caus-

ing bodily injury, a Class A misdemeanor. Fernandez was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.
Thursday, May 7
 10:30 a.m., A Brackettville man reported a broken window at his residence on Thorn Street.
 1:45 p.m., A Brackettville man reported that a lock had been broken on a coin box collector at his business on Highway 90 East.
 5:18 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported that the fence at her residence was damaged.
 9:00 p.m., A Brackettville man requested assistance at his residence on W. Thomas Street. Deputy Sheriff Bobby Guidry was dispatched to the scene. The man was having problems with his

neighbor over an uncovered sewer line in his yard. The two parties worked things out.
Friday, May 8
 4:00 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported that her brother was drunk and wanted to fight at her residence on E. Spring Street.
Saturday, May 9
 4:05 a.m., Samuel Cruz Fernandez, 18, of Brackettville was arrested for public intoxication by Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism. Fernandez was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.
 7:42 p.m., A motorist reported a grass fire four miles west of the Cline Checkpoint, south of Highway 90. The Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department was dispatched to the scene.

Community Calendar

- Thursday, May 14**
 9:30 a.m., The Mountain Laurel Garden Club meets in the Gorgas Room at the Adult Center on Fort Clark Springs.
 12:00 p.m., The Brackettville Rotary Club meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.
 6:30 p.m., The Kinney County Chamber of Commerce meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.
Friday, May 15
 7:00 p.m., The Brackett High School Band will host its spring concert at the school auditorium.
Saturday, May 16
 10:00 a.m., The Fort Club Springs Board of Directors meets in the Board Room on Fort Clark Springs.
Tuesday, May 19
 7:00 p.m., The Fort Clark Duplicate Bridge Club meets in the Gorgas Room at the Adult Center on Fort Clark Springs.
Thursday, May 21
 12:00 p.m., The Brackettville Rotary Club meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.
 6:30 p.m., The Lions Club meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.
Saturday, May 23
 10:00 a.m., The Fort Club Palisado Building on Fort Clark Springs.
Monday, May 25
 6:00 p.m., The Fort Club Springs VFW meets at the Service Club on Fort Clark Springs.
Tuesday, May 26
 6:30 p.m., The Fort Club Shrine Club meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.
 7:00 p.m., The Fort Clark Duplicate Bridge Club meets in the Gorgas Room at the Adult Center on Fort Clark Springs.
Thursday, May 28
 12:00 p.m., The Brackettville Rotary Club meets in the Cavalry Ballroom at the Las Moras Restaurant on Fort Clark Springs.

REMEMBER "THE ALAMO"

THE PUBLIC IS INVITED TO
 CELEBRATE JOHN WAYNE'S 91ST BIRTHDAY
 AND
 PARTICIPATE IN HISTORIC
 "THE ALAMO" MOVIE REUNION

**ALAMO VILLAGE
 MOVIE LOCATION
 MAY 23 AND 24**

SATURDAY 7 P.M. FANDANGO - DANCE
 (LIVE ENTERTAINMENT - FOOD - DRINK)

SUNDAY 9 A.M. - 6 P.M.
 FOOD-ENTERTAINMENT - "THE ALAMO" PANEL DISCUSSION

THE ALAMO PANEL WILL CONSIST OF:
 PILAR WAYNE, JOAN O'BRIEN, RUDY "IT DO" ROBBINS,
 BILL "COL NEILL" DANIELS, BILL MOODY,
 STUNTMAN DEAN SMITH AND OTHER
 "ALAMO" CELEBRITIES. ERMAL AS "JOHN WAYNE"

SATURDAY FANDANGO - \$25. ADULT \$12.50 CHILDREN
 SUNDAY CELEBRATION - \$20. ADULT \$10. CHILDREN

Library Memorials

The following are recent memorials made to the Brackett ISD Myrtle Higginbotham Hunt Library:

Bobby and Denese Stephen-son donated "The Kissing Hand" in memory of Tony Rose.

Aubrey and Carol Haynes donated "The Seven Wonders of the Historic World" in memory of Tony Rose; "Lives of the Athletes" in memory of J. Lee Ballentyne; and "Those Remarkable Women of the American Revolution" in memory of Elsie Sauer and Ola Mae Bland.

Ruth L. Spencer and Dee Manty donated "The Atlas of World Cultures" in memory of Betty Inman.

Howard R. and Amie A. Skelton Jr. donated "Stars and Planets Atlas" in memory of Betty Inman.

Dr. and Mrs. Ralph G. Hodges donated "Sky Pioneers: A Photobiography of Amelia Earhart," "Great Disasters," "Lend Me Your Ears: Great Speeches in History," and "Ghandi: Great Soul" in memory of Betty Inman.

Weldon K. and Delia Curry donated "Wish You Were There: Emily's Guide to the 50 States" in memory of Betty Inman.

Jennifer and Jim McDaniel donated "Richard Scarry's Busiest Book Ever" in memory of Tony Rose; "The Velveteen Rabbit" and "The Classic Tales of Brer Rabbit" in memory of Mildred Elizabeth Williams.

John Paul and Donna Schuster donated "The Hot Zone" in memory of Betty Inman.

Marjorie H. Maderich donated "Chicken Soup for the Soul Cookbook: 101 Recipes From the

Heart" in memory of Betty Inman. Mr. and Mrs. Tom McNew donated "Harvey Penick's Little Red Book: Lessons and Teachings From a Lifetime of Golf," "The Game of a Lifetime: More Lessons and Teachings," "For All Who Love the Game: Lessons and Teachings for Women," and "And if You Play Golf, You're my Friend: Further Reflections of a Grown Caddie" in memory of Betty Inman.

Pauline Hilliard donated "On Board the Titanic" in memory of Tony Rose.

Anna A. Legg donated "Let's Learn German Picture Dictionary," "Let's Learn Japanese Picture Dictionary," "Let's Learn Italian Picture Dictionary," "The Starry Sky Set: The Stars, the Planets, the Sun & Moon," and "Comets & Shooting Stars" in memory of J. Lee Ballentyne.

"Creatures of the Wild" (VHS) and "Creatures of the Blue" (VHS) were donated in memory of Mercedes "Meche" Flores by an anonymous donor.

Preceptor Theta Sigma, Beta Sigma Phi donated "The Palm of my Hand" and "Falling Up" in memory of Betty Inman.

Rev. Montie and Sylvia Inman donated "Guide to the Best Science Fair Projects," "Science Fair Projects: The Environment," "100 Amazing Make-it-Yourself Science Fair Projects," "Science Fair Projects with Electricity and Electronics," "Giant Book of Science Fair Experiments," "Science Fair Projects: Flight, Space and Astronomy," "Arthur Meets the President," "Arthur's Family Vacation," and "Arthur's First Sleepover" in memory of Betty Inman.

Brackett scores big at Del Rio Science Fair

The secondary schools added to a banner year by scoring big time at the Del Rio Science Fair.

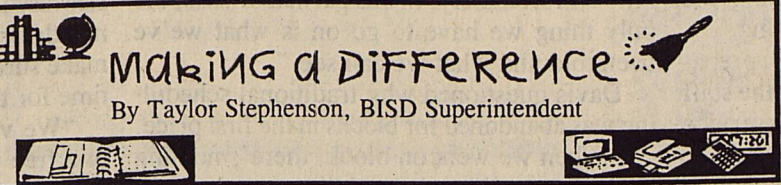
Teacher Karen Crumley showed the huge trophy to the School Board Monday night. We won the Sweepstakes Trophy at the science fair. It's the first one that I have seen since coming to Brackettville.

This trophy comes on the heels of impressive TAAS scores at Brackett High School. We're having our best academic showing in many years at BHS. We're proud of you!

Block Scheduling

Block Schedules will be used next year at the middle school and high school. It was a tough decision for the board. The vote was 4-3.

A major factor in the decision was major changes in graduation requirements in Texas. Schools that are doing their homework have found that they are going to have major problems implementing the new plans without losing some of the schools' activities like athletics, band, vocational agriculture and journalism.



My recommendation was to stay with blocks because of the problems that I could see coming as a result of the new graduation plans.

My job is to study the data and to make the best recommendation that I can make based on my perspective. I did that.

Most of our school patrons support the decision. Others will not. The debate is over, and it's time to move on to other challenges.

Campus Improvements

The board approved a contract for four new tennis courts. We should have those in place before the summer is over.

We've also called for bids on the new academic building. That's exciting. We're looking forward to the addition to our school facilities.

Junior-Senior Prom

The Junior-Senior Prom held at the Service Club this past Saturday was one of the best we have had in years.

Our students are good ones. They looked great, all decked out in their best clothes. I'm told that the prom lasted until 11:45 p.m. That's indeed one of the best. The sponsors and juniors did a fine job decorating. Nice show!

Technology

Visitors to our district continue to be amazed at the technology that is available in each of our classrooms. Each week, I hear about how far ahead our district is in the use of technology in instruction.

I hope that our school district and town can focus on positives. We have a fine school system. Our board works hard, and we have great kids and teachers. The parent support is outstanding. Let's keep working together to make this school the best!

But, I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

Help us win this one

I was at a federal programs training seminary last week in San Antonio. It was excellent.

One of the presenters told of the time he had spent in Vietnam. He spoke of being with the marine ground troops.

He said they had the best support in the world. There were naval ships off the coast capable of firing shells with amazing accuracy. Fixed wing aircraft were available within five minutes of a call. Helicopters and additional troops were also ready to help those in need.

We did indeed have the best technology and support that could be asked for. But we still lost the war.

He then compared his experiences to the classroom. We have super support. Technology has opened doors that were undreamed of only a few years ago. And sometimes it still seems like we're loosing the war. On the front lines. Face to face where it really counts.

I'm not writing this as criticism but as praise. Praise, because I honestly think our teachers at BISD still have the desire to win. And we could be right.

Ballew receives \$4,000 Coca-Cola scholarship

ATLANTA — J. Wayne Ballew, a senior at Brackett High School, is one of 152 high school seniors from across the United States that has been honored by the Coca-Cola Bottlers and The Coca-Cola Company to receive a scholarship for college.

He joined 151 other high school seniors at the Coca-Cola Scholars National Competition held here on April 23-26. This week, the local student was named a regional scholar by the Scholars Founda-

tion. He will begin college in the fall with a \$4,000 Coca-Cola scholarship.

The Coca-Cola Scholars came to Atlanta for interviews conducted by leaders in education, business, government, and the arts. Scholars were evaluated on the basis of leadership in their schools and communities, academic achievement and motivation to succeed.

While in Atlanta, the students also toured the city. Scholars visited the World of Coca-

Cola, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CNN and the Martin Luther King Jr. Center.

The Coca-Cola Scholars Foundation annually awards 50 \$20,000 scholarships and 100 \$4,000 scholarships to high school students nationwide. The 1998 Coca-Cola Scholars were chosen from nearly 129,000 applicants. Since its creation in 1986, the Scholars Foundation has awarding nearly \$14 million in scholarships.

Bridge Club meets at Fort Clark

The Fort Clark Duplicate Bridge Club held its weekly game Tuesday in the Gorgas Room at the Adult Center on Fort Clark Springs. There were five and a half tables playing, using the Mitchell movement.

Joyce Bell and Nancy O'Brien took top honors in the east-west division. Mary Edgar and Betty Slatterer were second and Mona Miller and Dena Scott took third. In the north-south division, Tina Bauguess and Rozetta Pingenot won first place, Kelly Dennis and Betty Lee finished second, and Bob Barnett and Walt Geeze were third.

The Kinney County Chamber of Commerce continues to seek nominations for Citizen of the Year. We have received several excellent nominations to date. Your nominations must be sent to P.O. Box 386, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, postmarked by May 29. The Citizen of the Year will be announced at the Chamber's Annual Meeting on Saturday, June 6, at Rendezvous Park on Fort Clark Springs. Beginning at noon, barbecue brisket will be served at \$5 per plate. The meeting and award ceremonies will take place shortly thereafter. All are welcome!

Anniversaries are a time for gift giving! So we'd like to give you a gift this year to show our appreciation. Also, come in and register for gift certificates to be given away during the month of May. With your help we've made it through three years here at Madelyn's and we owe it all to wonderful people like you. Thanks from all of us here at Madelyn's.

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FOOTSTEPS ECHO
The Fort Clark Diaries and Letters of Major General Francis Henry French

Courtesy of his descendants

Francis Henry French was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 27, 1857. Deeply impressed from his youth by the stirring deeds and stories told by veterans of the Civil War, he realized his ambition for a military career by entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he graduated 12th from the Class of 1879. He was assigned as 2nd Lt. of "E" Company 19th Infantry and came West. Following service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the regiment moved to Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, where Lt. French was detailed as the Regimental Adjutant. In December of 1882, the 19th Infantry was posted to Fort Clark.

At Fort Clark, on January 1, 1883, Lt. French began diaries, which he faithfully maintained for the next 30 years.

Friday, May 14, 1886

Had charge of "F" Co. at drill and of a division as Taylor fell out after the drill commenced. Got through without any errors. Mail brought a letter from home and bundle of papers. After guard mounting read the papers until 11-30 when went over to the hall to practice over a piece selected for Sunday evening. Read papers after lunch and then went up to Gen. Smith's to leave the music book there. Sat on the porch at Dr. Town's chatting with him a while and studied French until dinner time. Miss Folsom, Miss Saunders and I practiced the piece for Sunday evening this evening after dinner at Gen. Smith's, Hammond being on guard. On account of the sultriness, parade was omitted today. During band practice walked with Mrs. Lyster, Mrs. Remington and Mrs. Williams and sat with them on the porch of a vacant set of quarters. After tattoo made a call on Miss Jacobs, returning her autograph album, and then played a game of billiards and sat in the club room watching the others play until after 11 o'clock. Duff left today for Del Rio.

Saturday, May 15, 1886

No drill this morning. Mail had nothing for me. Marched on guard and had a cool comfortable day. Should have gone on Thursday but exchanged with Fowler in order to go to the entertainment that evening. Spent the day reading "Middlemarch" and like the book better than I expected; but still it is too philosophical, too much essay writing to interest me like one of Thackeray or Dickens' works would. Read and slept until after three o'clock when Officer of the Day inspected allowing me to go to bed.

Sunday, May 16, 1886

After marching off guard got mail which consisted mainly of advertising circulars. Shaved and bathed and then went over to the Library to look over the papers. Played on the organ an hour while waiting for the members of the choir to come over to practice for tonight, but they did not come. Wrote on letter home until after three o'clock when received a message that the choir was waiting for me at the hall. The hour was changed but Hammond neglected to notify me, and so compelled me to lose time at noon. Walked home with Miss Saunders after the practice and then went to see Capt. Vance a while. He is worried about his health and talks of a sick leave. The doctors say that his disease, diabetes, will take him off in a few years. Most earnestly hope their predictions will not be realized. Completed letter home after dinner. Escorted Mrs. Hall to chapel this evening. The singing passed off all right. Miss Folsom and Miss Saunders sang a duet that was better rendered than any they have ever before given. Sat in Mrs. Hall's until tattoo. After this wrote on essay and read "Middlemarch."

Monday, May 17, 1886

Had usual target practice this morning. Mail brought a letter from home, an O.B. from the Q.M.G. about my accounts at Brown and the second volume of the Encyclopedia. After it came went over to the Library to read the papers and then to Capt. Vance's where read a little of Voltaire's Life of Louis XIV in French. Had usual French lesson after lunch, this morning's reading being part of the lesson. Took razor to the barber to be honed and after getting some money at the store went over to the post office for some stamps and to pay for the encyclopedia. Had parade in white helmets tonight. The wind came up suddenly from the North and sent some of the helmets flying. There was a concert this evening in the bandstand. Sat on Mrs. Fowler's and Mrs. Lyster's porches while it was going on and later called at Hammond's. Capt. Vance being Officer of the Day put me in charge of the company at parade.

Tuesday, May 18, 1886

Had usual target practice this morning. Was late to breakfast on account of it. Mail brought a letter from Capt. Simonds enclosing the \$5 loaned to Shеды for his car fare. Was glad to get it. Looked over papers in the Library and then went over to see Capt. Vance a while. Read Tennyson's "Dream of Fair Women" until lunch and after this meal went into Capt. Vance's again. Wrote to John White this afternoon and watered the grass. After dinner studied French. Called until tattoo on Miss Folsom and then played piquet with Hammond.

Wednesday, May 19, 1886

Target practice occurred as usual but I did not stay long at it coming in for breakfast in order to march on guard. Mail had nothing for me. Read the daily paper after marching and then wrote on letter home until lunch. Would have finished it but Taylor came in to talk about target practice. At lunch Hewitt said that the order had been received for Ives to return; so he will soon be with us. Completed letter home after lunch and then studied French. Studied after dinner until the evening concert commenced when sat out on a caisson near the guard house where I could hear and enjoy the music. Dozed until after midnight when Officer of the Day inspected. Then went up to quarters and spent a short time there watering the grass and afterwards turned in at the guard house.

Thursday, May 20, 1886

On going to breakfast was surprised and very much pleased to see Guard who came in on the train last night. He looks very well and seems to have enjoyed his trip North very much. Hammond relieved me at guard mounting. We were to sing a quartet at the temperance exercises tonight, but Hammond was unable to exchange guard tours and so the quartet had to be abandoned. Disliked to disappoint the men but it had to be done. Mail had nothing for me this morning. Bathed shaved and studied French until lunch. Had usual lesson afterwards; the next one will be our last on account of Hewitt's departure. Looked over the papers in the Library after the lesson and then went down to the store to see Guard, but he was not there. After dinner had hair cut. In the evening wet the grass. Maj. Wilcox came along and stood by the fence talking for a long time preventing me from making some calls. Walked up the line after he left, met Mrs. Smith and escorted her home. Then accompanied Mrs. Hall to her house, as she was calling at Gen. Smith's and sat there until tattoo. After tattoo went to the store, played a game of billiards and sat there until midnight watching some pool players. Ought to have been in bed. Guard said tonight that he intended to ask Gen. Stanley to order him back here. Shall be very glad to have him back. Made up my mind to apply for a three month's leave to take effect in August. Shall submit it soon.

Tigers rally past Wolves, 11-3

Brackett rallied for six runs in the bottom of the third inning Tuesday as the Tigers blew out the Dilley Wolves 11-3 in the regular season finale for both teams.

With the victory, the Tigers close their season with a 17-9 overall record.

In other District 30-2A games on Tuesday, Comfort topped Charlotte 10-6 and Natalia shut out Center Point 12-0.

Comfort won the conference championship with a 9-1 record. Charlotte was second with an 8-2 league mark and Brackett finished third at 6-4.

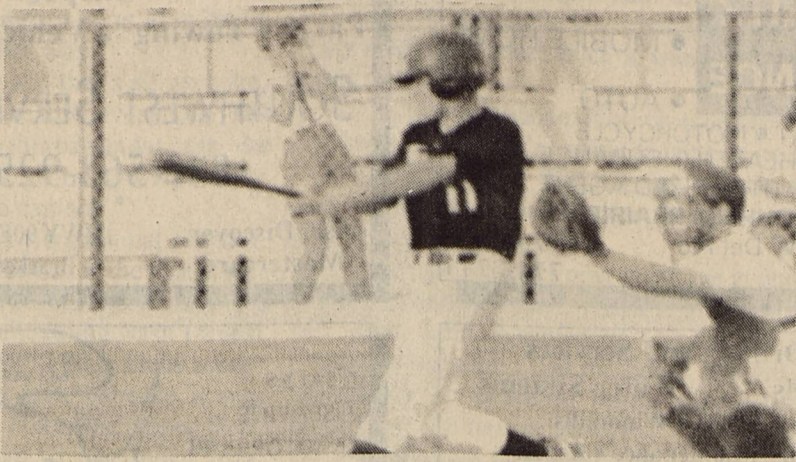
The Tigers trailed 2-0 Tuesday before Zach Davis and Luis Guajardo each had two-run doubles as Brackett rallied for six runs in the third.

Michael Meyer (6-4) picked up the mound win for the Tigers. He allowed two earned runs in four innings of work.

Jorge Rodriguez closed the contest. He pitched three scoreless innings.

Jose Gonzalez paced Brackett's offense with a perfect 3-for-3 plate performance. He had two home runs and four RBI.

Meyer was 2 for 3 at the plate, while Rene Luna went 1 for 2 and had a pair of RBI.



Zach Davis (11) nails a two-run double in the bottom of the third against Dilley. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry



Michael Meyer (8) picked up the mound win against Dilley on Tuesday. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

OUTDOORS

A Little On The Wildlife Side
By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden




Hunting season is around the corner

This week we will look at the 1998-99 hunting seasons, which were approved last month:

- **White-tailed deer:** Archery, Oct. 3 through Nov. 1; Special Youth Season (in all counties that have an open season for those species), Oct. 31 through Nov. 1; General: North Texas, Nov. 7 through Jan. 3; Six Panhandle counties, Nov. 21 through Dec. 6; South Texas, Nov. 14 through Jan. 17; Antlerless and spike bucks only, Jan. 18 through Jan. 31; Muzzleloader only (47 counties) antlerless and spike bucks only, Jan. 9-17.

- **Mule deer:** Archery, Oct. 3 through Nov. 1; Gun: Panhandle, Nov. 21 through Dec. 6; Trans-Pecos, Nov. 28 through Dec. 13; six Panhandle counties, Nov. 21-25.

- **Quail:** Statewide, Oct. 31 through Feb. 28.

- **Rio Grande Turkey:** Archery: Oct. 3 through Nov. 1; Fall Season: Special Youth Season (in all counties that have an open season for those species), Oct. 31 through Nov. 1; North Texas, Nov. 7 through Jan. 3; South Texas, Nov. 14 through Jan. 17; Brooks, Kenedy and Kleberg counties, Nov. 14 through Feb. 28; Spring Season: North Texas, April 3 through May 9; South Texas, March 27 through May 2.

BUSINESS

Seminar focuses on estate planning

The process of planning for the final disposition of your life's work will be discussed during a public meeting on Monday, May 18, starting at 7 p.m. at the Service Club on Fort Clark Springs.

The session will provide a basic overview of estate planning and an update on federal estate transfer taxes, as changed by the recently passed Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997.

Guest speakers will be Jose Pena, associate professor and extension economist-management of the Texas Agricultural Extension service, and Kinney County Attorney Tully Shahan.

The process of estate transfer requires careful planning and preparation. Anyone with business or personal assets and responsibilities for children or parents should have an estate plan.

If you don't plan the distribution of your assets after death, will the distribution be fair, and according to your desires?

Estate planning is as much for your family as it is for your peace of mind.

An estate plan focuses on planning now for the financial security of your family, identifying those who ought to get the assets you own at death, protecting those assets against taxes and other death costs, keeping the farm, ranch or business in the family, and providing for the care of your children.

There are a number of choices to make your plan work. They might include a will, gifts, trusts, incorporation, and life insurance. These choices will be covered at the seminar.

If you have minor children, it is important to choose a guardian in case both you and your spouse pass on or become disabled at the same time.

The key to building a strong estate plan is to design it just for you and your family. Federal inheritance taxes, probate costs and other fees may erode the value of an estate and create a financial burden for your survivors.

The Taxpayer Relief Act of 1997, passed into law last summer, caused many changes to the estate transfer tax laws.

Do you know if you have a taxable estate? If so, how much will you owe at death and what are some of the tools available to help reduce estate transfer expenses?

- Benefits of estate planning include:
- a reduction in estate tax liability, where there is sufficient wealth to exceed the legal life time limit, thereby preserving more assets for your family.
 - peace of mind for you and your family.
 - a distribution of assets which is according to your wishes.
 - an insurance that your business will continue with the least amount of disruption.

Persons with disabilities who plan to attend the seminar and require an auxiliary aid, service or accommodations in order to participate are encouraged to contact the Kinney County Extension Office at (830) 563-2442 to determine how reasonable accommodations can be made.

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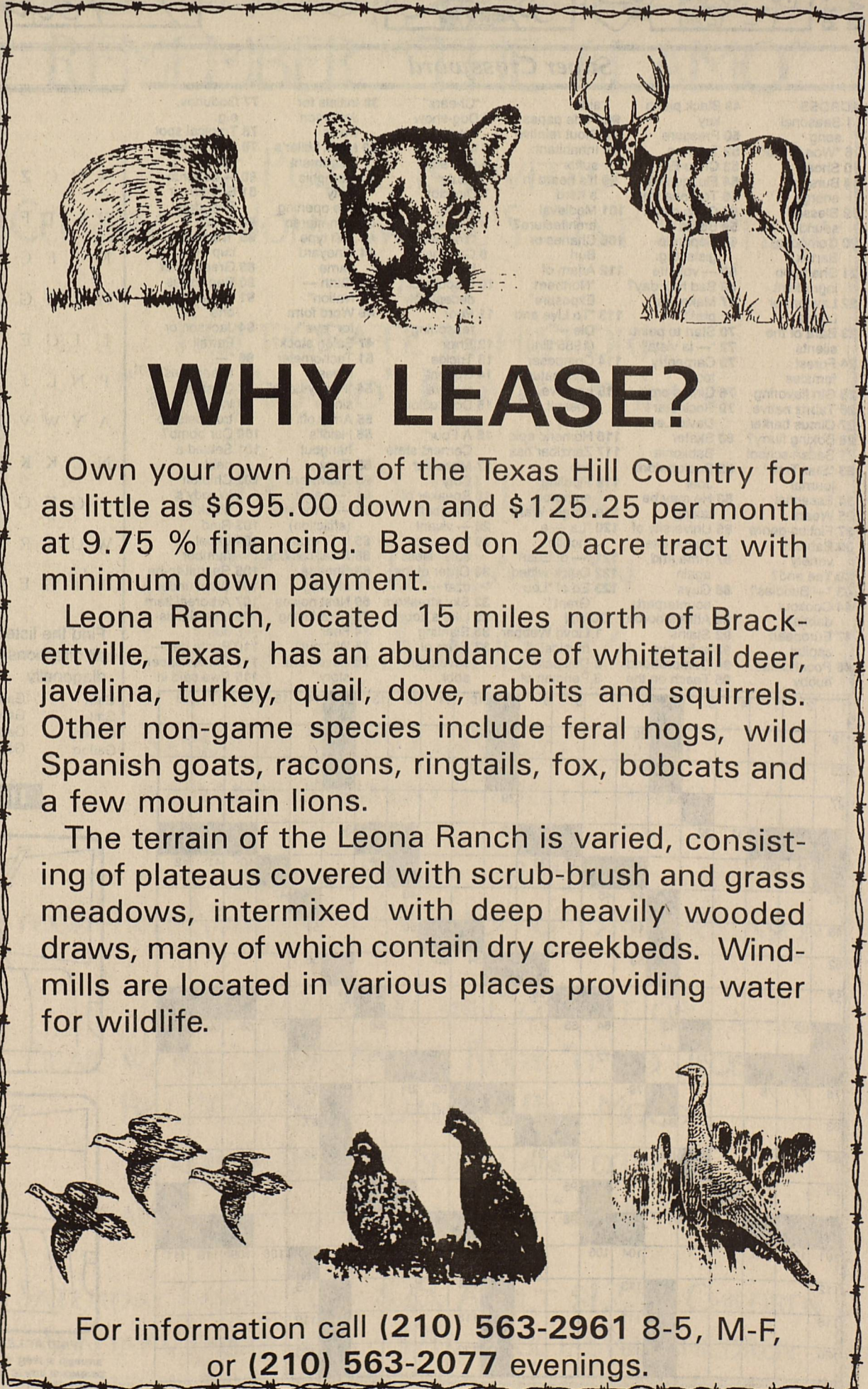
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The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub-brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for wildlife.



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MAMA'S BOYZ BY JERRY CRAFT

GREG, I JUST MET THE MOST WONDERFUL WOMAN, AND SHE WANTS TO MEET YOU!

YOU'LL LOVE HER! SHE'S UNLIKE ANYONE YOU'VE EVER DATED!

IS THAT SO?... AND JUST WHAT MAKES HER SO DIFFERENT?

SHE CAN READ!

SHE CAME INTO MY BOOKSTORE...

THE SPATS BY JEFF PICKERING

HAROLD, COME OUT AND GIVE ME A HAND... THIS IS BACK BREAKING WORK!!

HA!! I CANT WASTE MY TIME DOING STUPID YARD WORK!!

THERE SEEMS TO BE SOME CONFUSION ABOUT EXACTLY WHOSE BACK IS GOING TO BE BROKEN.

Super Crossword

- ACROSS**
- 1 Seasonal song
 - 6 "Voe is mel"
 - 10 Shoats
 - 14 Burst of energy
 - 19 Blessed sound?
 - 20 Composer Bartok
 - 21 Shampoo ingredient
 - 22 Lawford or Lupus
 - 23 Bara of the silents
 - 24 Forest females
 - 25 Gin flavoring
 - 26 Tabriz native
 - 27 Circus barker
 - 28 Boxing flurry?
 - 31 Sedan school
 - 33 "Star Trek" journal
 - 34 Essential
 - 35 Wears
 - 37 Fiction genre
 - 39 Fabulum variety
 - 40 The end?
 - 43 "Buddies"
 - 44 Cookout debris?
 - 47 European capital
 - 48 Pocahontas' hubby
 - 49 Black piano key
 - 50 Pressure
 - 52 Take on
 - 53 Chou En-- suffix
 - 54 Flu, quailty
 - 56 Trattoria treat
 - 57 Coup d'etat
 - 59 Board
 - 61 Nephrologists' org.
 - 62 -- volente
 - 63 Bad hair day?
 - 67 Make, as profit
 - 70 Start to paint
 - 72 "La vista"
 - 73 Carpenter tools
 - 76 Circus prop
 - 79 Rock star
 - 80 Skater
 - 81 Babilonia
 - 82 Book before Joel
 - 83 He may be taxing
 - 85 University of Maine site
 - 87 Time and again
 - 88 Guys' counterparts
 - 89 Attila's horde?
 - 92 Stains
 - 93 Is for two
 - 94 Comprehend
 - 95 Teach on the side
 - 96 Pride papas
 - 97 Stout relative
 - 98 Inhabitant: suffix
 - 99 It's heard in a hard
 - 101 Medieval architecture?
 - 108 Charles or Burt
 - 112 Adam of "The Shadow"
 - 113 "To Live and Die --" (1985 film)
 - 114 Composer Khachaturian
 - 115 Improve oneself, in a way
 - 116 Homeric epic
 - 117 Zanzibar has two
 - 118 Fiddling emperor
 - 119 Singer Ward
 - 120 "La --" mobile
 - 121 "of Eden"
 - 122 Quick-witted
 - 123 Ed of "Lou Grant"
 - 1 Lloyd Webber musical
 - 2 Dull pain
 - 3 Perlman of
 - "Cheers"
 - 4 Dog-show entries?
 - 5 Mauna --
 - 6 Pop star
 - 7 Director Sergio
 - 8 Baldwin of "The Shadow"
 - 9 Cumberbund or obi
 - 10 Dispose of deceptively
 - 11 Poor reasoning
 - 12 Error
 - 13 Trickle
 - 14 Upright relative
 - 15 Conductor Faith
 - 16 A Four Comers state
 - 17 Monsieur Coty
 - 18 Speaker of baseball
 - 28 -- vivant
 - 29 "Untouchable" Ness
 - 30 Order of the czar
 - 32 Sky streakers
 - 35 Like a cobra
 - 36 Slanting
 - 37 Form of coverage: abbr.
 - 77 Godunov, e.g.
 - 78 Tropical spot
 - 79 Search for trifles
 - 80 -- de force
 - 81 Sothorn or Sheridan
 - 84 Fortify
 - 85 "It's not my cup --"
 - 86 Greek letter
 - 90 Represses
 - 91 Unwanted one
 - 94 Jackson or Farrell
 - 96 "Miserables"
 - 97 Oriental
 - 99 What trumpets do
 - 100 Car bomb?
 - 101 Settled a debt
 - 102 Chip off Woody's block?
 - 64 -- in the side (affliction)
 - 103 Ring
 - 104 Label number
 - 105 Recruit-to-be of song
 - 106 Went under
 - 107 Arboreal item
 - 109 Like Narcissus
 - 110 Punta del --
 - 111 Showstopper
 - 115 Ewe said it!

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18

19 20 21 22

23 24 25 26

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48 49 50 51

52 53 54 55 56

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62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69

70 71 72 73 74

75 76 77 78 79 80 81 82

83 84 85 86 87

88 89 90 91 92

93 94 95 96

97 98 99 100

101 102 103 104 105 106 107 108 109 110 111

112 113 114 115

116 117 118 119

120 121 122 123

MAGIC MAZE

"G" WORDS IN SPORTS

X G C Z V S P L I E B Y V Y R

O L I F N G C Z W T M G R O N

K I F C E R Z W U R A E P M J

H E C G E I Z X L L L U S O N

L J G E R D C Z L L S X V T R

P N L J G I H O A E D N T C E

A Y W V T R P G B R N I I V P

N L K K C O L C E M A G O A L

I G E C B N Z P M G R L A X G

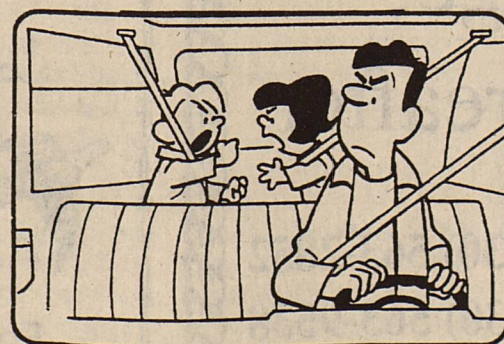
W U S R P S D R A U G O M T L

J I G E E M M I G G D B A Y E

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

- Gain Game ball Gimme Gridiron
- Gait Game clock Glove Grip
- Gallery Gap Goal Guards
- Gallop Gate Grand slam

HOCUS-FOCUS



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although some business can be done, it's best to do it with a clear head. Watch careless spending midweek. Share and exchange ideas with family members over the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A friend keeps you waiting or is indecisive early in the week. Be sure to attend to a pressing domestic responsibility. Others count on your ability to be truthful, particularly in the work place.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're sharp mentally, but don't speak out of turn. You have a broad and tolerant outlook, but you could be somewhat hard on a family member. Avoid small disputes during the weekend.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Try to avert arguments about career goals. You still have some last-minute tricks up your sleeve. This weekend, you exhibit your originality.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You'll be hearing from friends at a distance. Social life is a plus. If you curb a tendency to be critical this weekend, you'll find romance and leisure activities to your liking.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Concentrate on business, but remember you needn't keep everyone up to date on your progress. You'd do well to forget a past slight. Enjoy the weekend to the fullest.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Driving a hard bargain is not the answer, but you shouldn't be too accommodating either. Don't abandon a project at work, even if the answers you seek are hard to ascertain.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You have mixed feel-



ings about an upcoming social engagement. You're optimistic and straightforward and not in the mood for others' mixed signals. Do go out for fun when the work week ends.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You have your thinking cap on and will come up with ways to improve income and status. You receive good news about an investment. Try not to let the little things throw you off course.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You'll sow the seeds for future career benefits. Behind-the-scenes connections are helpful. Don't sell yourself short over the weekend.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A child might not be ready to talk about what's the matter, but there is no need for concern. Don't put others off by being overly suspicious, but do read between the lines when it comes to business matters.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Face the problems in a close relationship, or you'll find the distance between the two of you growing deeper. The question is whether others will meet you halfway.

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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

May 14Robert Aguirre
May 14Valerie Garza
May 14Anne Rose
May 14Connie Serrano
May 16Angela Childress
May 16Seth Kaplan
May 16David Samaniego
May 16Amanda Ward
May 16Malcolm Young
May 17Daniel Garza

May 17Mistie Herndon
May 17Chita Lopez
May 17Jerry O'Brien
May 18Jania Finkenbinder
May 19Nelda Archer
May 19Reyes Diaz
May 19Sam Hunt
May 19Maria A. Martinez
May 19William Patenaude
May 20Billie Story

Judgement draws out true character

By Rev. Joe Townsend
Frontier Baptist Church

Two harlots were living together. One gave birth to a son and three days later the other also had a son.

In the night, one woman rolled over on her son and smothered him. Realizing what had happened she switched her dead son and took the other woman's live son.

When the wronged mother awoke she recognized the dead child was not hers. The confrontation was such they went to King Solomon with the problem. After hearing both women, Solomon said the best way to solve the problem was to cut the child in half and allow each woman a half and called for his sword.

The woman who had smothered her son

readily agreed. The mother of the live child rebelled and would allow the miscrrent mother to have the child rather than it be killed. Solomon thus found out who the true mother was and gave her her son.

These two women faced the future. One saw only herself. The other saw only her son.

In those days, even the harlots accepted the fact that a child was more than a biological product. Abortion was totally unacceptable. Even the government and leaders followed the teaching of God and refused even the idea, even for harlots.

The mother of the dead child faced criticism for her carelessness. She faced scorn because she was childless. She faced a life of haunting jealousy. She faced life with the knowledge of the loss of her child.

The true mother saw only the boy. She knew the interest of the other woman was only selfish. She knew a woman with that attitude would be an unfit mother. However, she would rather lose the child to a disreputable woman than cause harm to the child.

The true character came out at the judgement. Just so will the true character come out before God's judgement bar.

True motherhood was shown by the true mother. She came with empty arms, told the simple truth, and was willing to sacrifice her own desires for the sake of the child. As a reward for true motherhood, her empty arms were filled with her son permanently.

There will be another message from the Bible at Frontier Baptist Church on Sunday morning at 11 a.m. Come and see.

Readings from the book of James

By Rev. William Adams Sr.
St. John's Missionary Church

"But above all things, my brethren, swear not, neither by heaven, neither by the earth, neither by any other oath; but let your yea be yea, and your nay, nay, lest ye fall into condemnation.

"Is any among you afflicted? Let him pray. Is any merry? Let him sing psalms.

"Is any sick among you? Let him call for the Elders of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with oil in the name of the Lord;

"And the prayer of faith shall save the sick, and the Lord shall raise him up; and if he has com-

mitted sins, they shall be forgiven him.

"Confess your faults one to another, and pray one for another, that ye may be healed. The effectual, fervent prayer of a righteous man availeth much.

"Elias was a man subject to like passions as we are, and he prayed earnestly that it might not rain; and it rained not on the earth by the space of three years and six months.

"And he prayed again, and the heaven gave rain, and the earth brought forth her fruit."

James 5:12-18
Praise God!
The St. John's Missionary
prayer line, (830) 563-3032, is
open 24 hours a day.
Let's pray.

Get back to where you once belonged

By Pastor Charollette Corey
Gateway Ministries

The Beatles sang, "Get back! Get back! Get back to where you once belonged!" God says the same thing.

Abraham had a similar problem after God told him, "Get thee out of thy country and from thy kindred, and from thy father's house, unto a land that I will show thee: And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great, and thou

shalt be a blessing: And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse them that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed." Genesis 12:1-3

Abraham was obedient to leave, but disobedient in taking Lot, his nephew, along and not until he separated from him was God able to lead Abraham into the "promised land."

Even after entering the plain of Moreh where "the Lord appeared unto Abraham, and said, unto thy seed will I give this land."

Genesis 12:6-7

In Verse 10, we read where Abraham ran from adversity when, "there was a great famine in the land: and Abraham went down into Egypt to sojourn there; for the famine was grievous in the land."

Abraham took his family into Egypt which is a symbol of sin and bondage.

It wasn't until he returned to the place where he had last pitched his tent under God's will (Genesis 13:3) returning to the right road. "Let go and let God," that through faith in God, the promises and

blessings were fully received.

If you've gotten off track from the promises of God, "Get back! Get back! Get back to where you once belonged!"

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

On May 18-23, we will be having a revival meeting each night at 7 p.m. on the Gateway Ministries premises. Everyone is invited.

If you need prayer for healing, encouragement, or just someone to agree with you in faith, please come.

HEALTH

Children's hand washing helps control spread of diseases at day care centers

Sporadic outbreaks of shigellosis, a diarrheal illness which often occurs among young children, is caused by shigella bacteria.

Recently, one of those outbreaks occurred among day care children in Waco, and similar infections were reported in Victoria a few weeks earlier.

Unless strict hygiene, especially hand washing, is enforced in settings such as day care centers, the Texas Department of Health (TDH) warns, one child's infection can spread throughout a group to become a persistent problem.

Day care personnel must always be alert to signs of these common infections, and should be aware that if one child has shigellosis, the probability is high that others also may be exposed.

Shigellosis, an infection by any of four main strains of shigella bacteria, causes severe, watery or bloody diarrhea, sometimes accompanied by sudden fever, head-

aches and other effects of toxicity.

Day care children with such symptoms should be isolated from contact with other children, and their parents should be contacted immediately.

Parents should be advised that shigellosis and other diarrheal illnesses can be serious and even fatal if left untreated and that the child should be promptly taken to a doctor to determine the cause of the illness. Parents also should understand that for the safety of the other children and their families, no child with diarrhea or fever should return to day care until fully recovered.

In mild cases of shigellosis, diarrhea and other symptoms may last only a few days, even without treatment with antibiotics.

In more severe cases, hospital treatment to curb the bacteria and replace lost fluids may be necessary.

Anyone infected with shigella

may continue to carry the infection for weeks after all symptoms of illness are gone. For that reason, personal hygiene is of utmost concern in stopping recurrences of the illness.

Shigella bacteria in day care centers are often spread by hand contact from one child to the next after an infected child fails to wash properly after using the toilet.

Day care rules about hand washing should be strictly enforced at all times. Older children can be taught to wash with soap and water after using the toilet, while infant's and toddler's hands can be washed for them after toilet use or diaper changes.

Hand washing also helps to reduce the spread of other diseases, including hepatitis.

Day care personnel should also frequently wash their hands during the day, especially after handling diapers or bathing infants. Even handling toys which may

have been handled by an infected child can spread shigella among staff members as well as the other children whom they touch.

According to TDH, fatalities from shigellosis are rare in the U.S., because hospital care is usually available for severe cases. Of about 2,500 cases of shigellosis reported to TDH in a typical year, about 1,000 occur among children and infants 4 years of age or younger.

However, in some parts of the world with poorer medical resources and inadequate sanitation, shigellosis is a major contributor to child and infant deaths from dehydration.

■ **Editor's note:** For more information, contact James Perdue, Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance Division, at (512) 458-7676, or David Vaughan, Communications Division, at (512) 458-7400.

Stigma is greatest roadblock in preventing early treatment of mental health problems

If you had a toothache, you would visit a dentist. If you tore a muscle, you would seek physical therapy. But if you had a mental health problem, would you be comfortable contacting a mental health professional?

In today's society, the greatest roadblock preventing early intervention and treatment is stigma.

"It is assumed that, if you need behavioral health care services, you can't be a productive member of society, you'll probably lose control at a moment's notice, and that there's no hope for recovery," Val Verde County Mental Health Center Director Vera Joy said.

Individuals and families are shamed into silence because verbalizing a mental health disorder is too often met with disdain.

Mental health problems can tear apart families, cause people to lose their jobs, and impair day-to-day living.

These disorders do not discriminate. They strike men and women almost equally. They affect people of all ages, races, ethnic groups, and socioeconomic classes. Approximately 27

percent of persons 15 to 24 years old have had some type of mental disorder within the past year.

That is why the Val Verde County Mental Health Center is one of thousands of organizations across the country participating in this year's congressionally designated Mental Health Month. The month of May is designated to call attention to the importance of mental health care to the well-being of our communities.

"This year's theme 'Breaking Through the Stigma,' is particularly appropriate as we are still, in 1998, battling the shame and stigma associated with mental illness," Joy said. "Unfortunately, many people in our society today are under the misconception that people with mental illness are a lost cause, unproductive, or untreatable."

The fact is that help is available. Advances in treatment and the availability of services give hope to millions of Americans.

"In Texas, nearly one in six people have some sort of mental illness," Joy said. "We

must all understand that seeking help for these disorders is as important as treating an ulcer or high blood pressure."

Effective treatment and intervention for mental health disorders is recognized for improving lives, strengthening families, and contributing to the well being of our communities.

The Val Verde Mental Health Center provides treatment services on an outpatient basis for such disorders as schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, major depression, anxiety disorders, phobias, post-traumatic stress disorders, and obsessive-compulsive disorders.

"It is important to remember that behavioral health disorders are common, diagnosable, and treatable," Joy said.

The Val Verde Mental Health Center is one of nine mental health centers, eight mental retardation centers, and 10 early childhood intervention centers within the Hill County Community Mental Health and Mental Retardation Center 19-county area. For more information, call (830) 774-8702.

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Sunday P.M. 1:30
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

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Do you or anyone you know:

1. Need a ride to church or a medical facility?
2. Need a ride to the grocery store or Post Office?
3. Need help in writing letters, etc.?
4. Need bereavement ministry?
5. Need someone to visit with?
6. Want to be on a prayer list?

Just call Diann Schooler at 563-2908 or Sue Talamantez-Freeman at 563-3367.

**St. Mary Magdalene
Helping Hands Committee**

The missionaries from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints are now in Brackettville. They share a message about Jesus Christ and how you can come closer to him. If interested in hearing a 10 to 15 minute presentation or just discussing ideas, please call Elder Smith or Elder Eatchel at 563-3408.

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I most humbly and sincerely thank each and every one of you for your vote and support in re-electing me as your Mayor. Your confidence in me is greatly appreciated and respected. I will endeavor to do the best in my ability.

Carmen M. Berlanga

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Answers to Super Crossword

37	CAROL	ALIAS	PIGS	SPURT
46	ACHRO	BELLA	ALLOE	PETER
	THICIA	DOIES	SLOE	TRANI
	SEAL	BUNCHES	OFF	PUNCRIE
	ECONIC	LOG	KEY	
51	MISSION	SCIFI	QAT	TISM
	BOSOM	GIBS	OFC	BOS
	ROLFE	AFLAT	COE	RECTION
68	ADOPT	LIAT	AGUE	PESTO
	DEPOSAL	PIANEL	AMA	
	DIET	LOTS	PKINOTS	NET
	DI	HIA	PA	PSAWIS
	STILL	ROTH	TAT	HOSEA
	ARSIES	SOR	QONNO	OFTEN
75	GALIS	FONS	OPHUNIS	BLOTR
	ABIE	GET	TUFOR	LOWIS
	ALIE	ITE	BLEAT	
	PAISIE	S	OF	CA
	ARIKIN	INILA	ARIAM	BOAIST
	ITTIAO	ZIEIS	NEIRI	AMITIA
	DIONNA	EASIT	KEEN	ANSNER

"G" WORDS IN SPORTS

EMMITT

