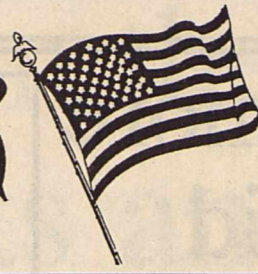


The Brackett News



14" plus rains help county see page 3

11th year, No. 20

1 Section, 8 Pages

Fort Clark Springs Board has another resignation

Tanya Kay McClure
Staff Writer

George Cowart is the third Board member to resign in the last two months.

"Because of circumstances beyond my control, I regret to inform you that I must resign my position on the Fort Clark Springs Board effective today, June 19th, 1999. I have enjoyed working serving with the members of the Board and wish the Board God speed and all the luck in the world in making decisions about the business of Fort Clark Springs." George Cowart, President.

Bob Burkpile is now the acting President of the FCS Board of Directors.

"We certainly appreciate his advice, guidance and the effort he has put in to being a member and president of the Board of Fort Clark and I hope the members will express their appreciation to him as they meet him and

talk with him." said Don Parks, Secretary.

During executive session the Board considered the names of a number of people who expressed interest in replacing Bob Moore and Bill Kelly on the Board of Directors.

"We conducted a vote which is customary in personnel matters, we did this in executive session. And as a result Mr. Herb Senne and Mrs. Ella Chambers were selected by the Board in accordance with the bylaws to replace the resigned directors which will be until the election next year (2000)." said Don Parks.

At that time there will be six members to be elected to the Board. The members of Fort Clark will have a full slate to vote on next March. The crowd at the Board meeting were not too thrilled at the idea of having six new members on the Board next year. More than sixty people were in attendance at the

meeting.

Herb Senne was not present to accept his appointment. Ella Chambers was present and sworn in to the Board seat.

Ella Chambers was appointed to the Treasurer's position for the Board of Directors.

The General Manager, Jim Heath gave his monthly report in which he stated that the motel occupancy was at 37% and the RV Park occupancy was at 23% during the past month.

Play by Fort Clark members on the Golf Course has been down due to the many residents who leave this time of year going to cooler climates. However nonmember participation has been helpful.

Mr. Heath announced, Emergency Medical Training, a volunteer program paid for by the county to encourage anyone who is a member at Fort Clark to enroll and train on a basic emergency medical training program.

According to EMS Director Michelle Rosas, these classes are currently underway and the date to sign up has passed. If you are still interested in future classes please contact her at 563-9090.

On the restaurant, it has been a break- even proposition, stated Jim Heath. Ana Gonzales and Juan Perez are going to try and keep the restaurant open, but they are going to reduce the hours in the near future and will be staying open Tuesday through Saturday from 5 P.M. - 9 P.M. only. On Sundays they will be open at noon and in the evening for the time being.

"The restaurant under the present proprietors has been in business for seven and a half months, we're going into the slow part of the summer and a lot of our members are gone during this period.

"Again I encourage everybody to support the restaurant if you want it to stay open. Once it closes, I can't speak for the

Board, but their directive to me has been that it's not going to reopen at least not under subsidy from the Association. We were loosing up to \$50,000 dollars plus a year and that money can go for other things." said Jim Heath.

The Visitors Center has been off and running. It has had tremendous volunteer support. Tours are being made and have had a lot of feedback and it is leading to some membership sales that are in discussion now.

Sterling Evans will have his 100th birthday party at the Service Club on Saturday, July 31st, 1999 from 2-4 pm. This is being sponsored by the Chamber of Commerce. All are welcome to join Evans for cake and coffee.

His actual birthday is August 6th. Evans has not been doing well since he fell and broke his hip. But he seems to be in good spirits according to Bob Burkpile.

Briefs ...

Ranch house burns down

A ranch house, located North on 674, 20 miles out burned down last week.

The house, owned by Melvin Crownover of Marble Falls was thought to have burned sometime between the 15th and 16th.

A Rio Grande Electric employee found the smoldering remains of the house and reported it to the Kinney County Sheriffs Department.

Arson has been ruled out as a possibility due to the fact that no items were missing.

It is thought that either the fire was a result of an electrical problem or from lightning during recent storms in the area.

Landfill Ordinance

The Kinney County Commissioners Court will be holding a special meeting on June 25th, at 9 a.m. in the County Courthouse to discuss the County Ordinance concerning siting of landfills in Kinney County.

Rabies Alert

Reported Rabies cases have been on the rise in recent months. There has been one confirmed case in Kinney County.

Wednesday morning Jewel Robinson found a skunk in her backyard trying to come through her back door into the house.

The skunk was in poor shape and did not act normal. When the skunk moved away from the door, Robinson shot and missed. She hit the animal with the second shot. During the entire incident the skunk did not try to spray.

All citizens are urged to stay away from wild animals and to report any that seem sick.

Animals such as skunks, bobcats, raccoons, possums, and even our dogs and cats should be watched for illness and peculiar activity. If you see such an animal report it to the Sheriffs Department at 563-2788.

City Budget Workshop

The Budget workshop will be held on Tuesday, June 29th, 2-4 p.m. in the City Hall Annex.

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■ Foundation crumbles
Where there is no basic truth or foundation it is only a matter of time until superstructure crumbles.
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■ Tick-borne illness
As summer heats up and more people head outdoors, precautions need to be taken to avoid two tick-borne illnesses.
Outdoors/Page 5

■ Regain your freedom
"Can you regain your freedom for which we fought and died? Or don't you have the courage or the faith to stand with pride?"
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L to R. Don Bond presenting "Lifetime Membership" plaque to Lou Sofaly.

Sofaly awarded Lifetime Membership to Lions Camp

The Lions Club met Thursday, June 17th at 7 p.m. above the Las Moras Restaurant. Glen and Shirley White were inducted as new members.

Lou Sofaly was presented with a lifetime membership to the Texas Lions Camp in Kerrville for his devoted service to the Brackettville Lions Club.

Lou will be serving as presi-

dent of the Lions Club for the fourth time and has been a member of the club for eighteen years. He is involved in many projects throughout the community.

Sofaly joined Norma Conners in serving snowcones to the children at Sunday school this past weekend at the Methodist church.

Summer fun at the library

Sarah Terrazas
Contributing Writer

The Summer Programs at the K.C. Public Library are well on the way. This year the children are very fortunate to have some wonderful volunteers working together to provide them with educational and recreational activities.

The children are treated to snacks and drinks at the end of each class, have access to educational software on the computers and will be rewarded for their reading efforts.

The library Board of Directors and Staff would like to recognize the members who at this time have financially sponsored these programs making it possible to provide the children with Arts & Crafts, reading material, computers, computer software, computer desks, crafts, supplies and snacks. They are: Virginia Shahan, Ft. Clark Mens Golf Club, Las Moras Hispanic Organization, Buster Jamail, Michael Schooler, The Masonic Lodge, The Lions Club, Friends of the Library. Donations are still needed and greatly appreciated.

We would also like to give special thanks to the young ladies working under JTPA, Christina Flores, Tabatha Resendez, Maria Martinez, and volunteers Sylvia Torres and Shena Meyer who have worked hard organizing the classes and monitoring the students on the computers. We have approximately 68 students at this time and these ladies have done a great job of supervising the children. Our classes will run for two more weeks. Please drop in and join us.

Change in Glory Road performance

Oops! Instead of having four chances to see "Glory Road," you have to narrow your choice to three performances. June 25, 26, and July 2nd, starting at 8:30 p.m. The Old Quarry Amphitheater will reverberate with dialogue and music depicting the early history of Brackettville and Fort Clark.

Principal characters are the rancher narrator Dave Crowe; Marie Hepline as Oralee Brackett and Mike Groves as Lt. Riley. Supporting actors and actresses are Joe Goebles as Gen.

Patton, Gil Raymer as Sen. Maverick and Gen. Sheridan; Duke Meek as Silas Applegate; Cord Sellers as Indian Chief Yellow Wolf; Tom Collins as General Wainwright; Ken Sellers as Col. Tompkins and Sec. of War Belknap; B.J. Eckenrod as Mrs. Quince; Jewel Robinson as Mrs. Fritter; Cathy Herman as Little Ora Lee; Sandy Herman as Mrs. Ross; Tammy McNew as a villager and the local Boy Scouts as Indians.

Harrell Floyd is the talented drama director that had the chal-

lenging responsibility of double casting performers and arranging for the many techniques necessary for the production.

Another generational item of interest is Marie Hepline's participation in "Glory Road," which depicts continuing Sofaly support to the production since its premiere performance.

The "Old Quarry Society" produces the historical drama every two or three years. Even though the theme is the same every performance lends its special creative presentation.

Promoting and maintaining international goodwill

Patsy Callnan
Contributing Writer

Amanda Petrosky moderated a discussion of the Rotary Youth conferences that outstanding Brackett students, James Burks, Colby Crosby, Sunni Jones and Amanda Petrosky had attended in the school year. Jones was unable to be there but the other three students participated in the discussion.

Rotary International sponsors many youth conferences and the local Rotary Club had been active in the International Student Congress Program held annually in Eagle Pass, Texas and Piedras Negras, Coahuila, Mexico. It is a project of international understanding and goodwill for the benefit of high school students. The purpose of the Congress is to stimulate friendships between the youth of

two nations with the long-range view of promoting and maintaining international goodwill, peace and understanding between Mexico and the United States.

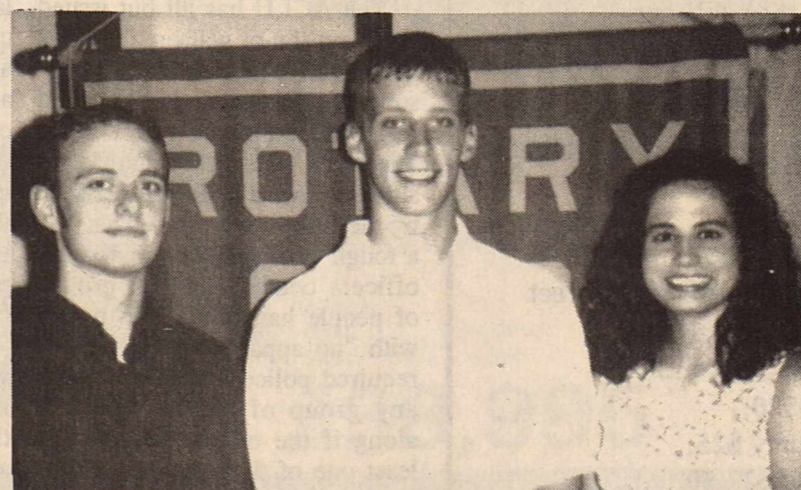
During the Congress, American and Mexican participants are hosted respectively in the homes of Mexican and American families. Approximately two hundred outstanding high school students, 100 from each nation, attend the Congress.

The Brackettville Rotary selected Amanda and Colby to participate in this worthwhile international event. The two students enjoyed sharing their experiences in the homes of their Mexican families and found that the program concentrates on the fact that the students share common goals and problems. They were taught the skills of communicating between two cultures.

It was a very enjoyable and educational experience for both participants.

The other conference, Rotary Youth Leadership Awards (RYLA), was attended by James Burks and Sunni Jones. The RYLA program is designed for outstanding high school students to help develop qualities of leadership skills and good citizenship, as well as to emphasize the advantages of the free enterprise system. Young men and women are selected by their local Rotary club to participate in leadership training meetings organized and run by Rotarians. The Rotary International Board has instituted the following minimum standards for the core curriculum of every RYLA.

Fundamentals of leadership; Ethics of positive leadership; Importance of communication skills in effective leadership;



Pictured above from left to right are James Burks, Colby Crosby and Amanda Petrosky.

Problem-solving and conflict-management; What Rotary is and what it does for the local community; Building self-confidence and self-esteem; Elements of community and global citizenship.

More than 100 representatives attended the 1999 Seminar at Lackland Air Force Base. James Burks was selected as their "OUTSTANDING PARTICIPANT" for the '99 conference.

Balkans need more than a band-aid

Submitted by
Kay Bailey Hutchison

The tentative Kosovo peace agreement offers hope that this round of violence and atrocities is ending. But given the treasure and prestige the U.S. expended, and our experiences in Bosnia, we should not apply merely another peacekeeping Band-Aid to a Balkan wound that is likely to keep festering.

Another open-ended commitment of thousands of American troops is no solution and will only exacerbate our declining military readiness.

The fact is that true peace will not be achieved in the Balkans one crisis at a time. We should nudge our European allies to help us create conditions that reflect the self-determination of the people in the region.

That could mean redrawing borders throughout the Balkans, perhaps leading to majority Albanian, Serbian, Croatian and secular Muslim states. Organizing a democracy around ethnic or religious groupings has many precedents throughout Europe and Asia, yet the opportunity is being denied the people of the Balkans.

Our recent Balkan operations have been waged for the purpose of getting people who know mostly hatred of one another to live in harmony amidst constant reminders of recent atrocities on all sides.

Multi-party democracy and economic prosperity have not taken root because of the intense ethnic and religious divisions. Why not allow governments to be formed along these natural lines, and create the conditions for economic stability and re-

gional peace?

Our limited objective of peace in one province of Serbia falls short of a worthy end for the extraordinary means we've taken. Between Bosnia and Kosovo, the U.S. has spent a staggering \$25 billion.

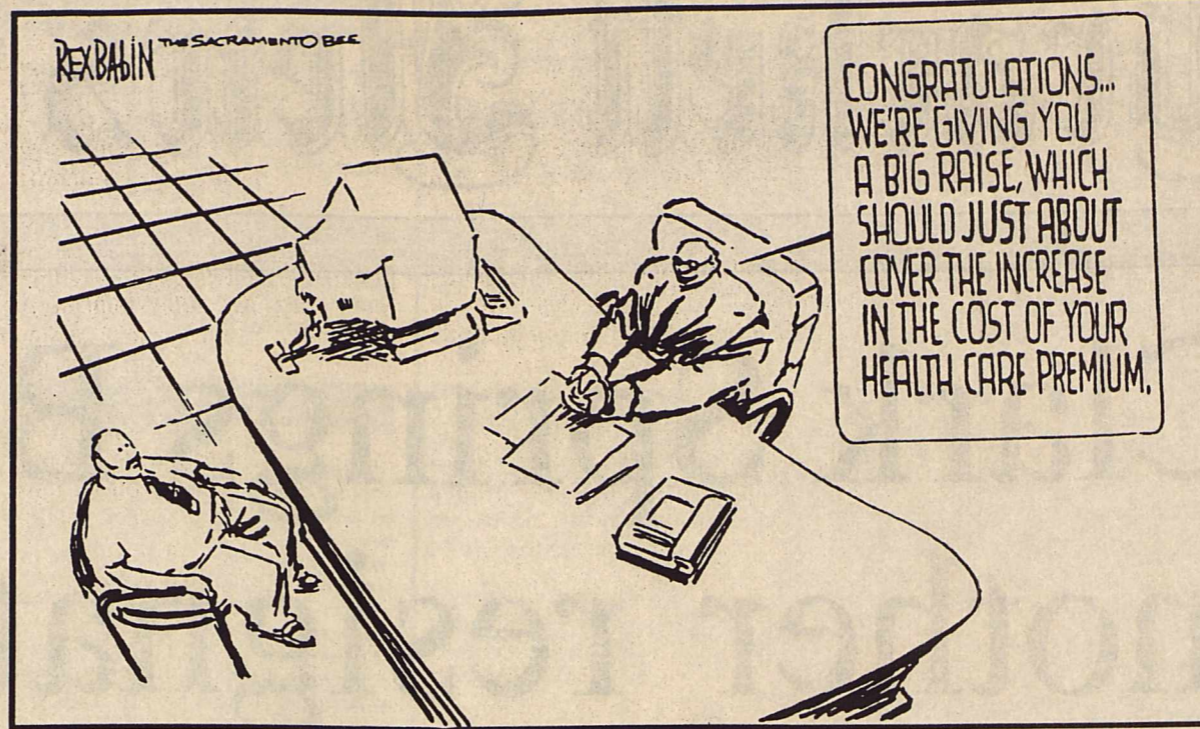
The President has called up 30,000 reservists, nearly expended the military's inventory of cruise missiles, and diverted U.S. military assets from around the globe. In fact, the conflict in Kosovo is the latest in a growing number of open-ended military commitments we are making with a Pentagon budget that has been cut by 40 percent since the Cold War.

This has highlighted a military readiness crisis caused, in part, by too many missions and too few troops. Earlier this month, Secretary of Defense William Cohen testified to Congress that, "We're either going to have to have fewer missions or more people, but we cannot continue the kind of pace we have."

Our goal should be a more comprehensive settlement than what's on the table; one that relies less on a permanent U.S. military presence.

The Dayton accords for Bosnia - where some 6,000 American troops remain - were supposed to prevent a spillover of the conflict into Kosovo. Similarly, a fix that only affects Kosovo will not prevent future problems in Montenegro or Macedonia.

Success in the Balkans should not be measured by the number of American forces we've committed with no end in sight, but by how well we create the conditions for a peace that can last without them.



When a fad burns out

Between Us
Joe Townsend

It's always true that when a fad burns high it soon burns out. We have in recent times been bombarded with psychology and psychologists. Where there is no basic truth or foundation it is only a matter of time until superstructure crumbles.

Millions of dollars that could be put to better use are channeled to "counselors," (psychologists). The brilliance of the breed comes forcefully into view in the horrible debacle in the school in Colorado. "Counselors" come in from across the USA only to be snubbed by the student body.

One can understand why when it now is revealed that the sound of the warning system of the school has been changed lest the student body should be traumatized by the old sound. Isn't it amazing how dumb students are made out to be and how brilliant some psychologist and how gullible the school administra-

tion? We are coming to be often amused by such brilliance. Now comes a tremendously important revelation. The American Psychological Association in its National publication published a finding by three authorities proclaiming that the day would come when sexual abuse of a child might be called a "positive" experience.

The treatise stated that "consensual sex between children and adults and adolescents and children should be described in more positive terms such as "adult-child sex" and "adolescent-child" sex. It seems the APA is working to decriminalize pedophilia. Many national leaders are openly incensed.

Tom DeLay, House Majority Whip said, "The lack of judgment shown by the APA in publishing (the study) absolutely confounds me.

I will not equivocate on this issue. Sexual activity between an adult and a child is criminal at all times and in all cases." This

shows that someone in important status has good sense, high morals and does not hesitate to show it.

The APA staunchly upholds the publication of a treatise totally lacking in scientific bases. The American Psychiatric Association has joined the aberration saying that "patients who molest children no longer are to be defined as "pedophiles" unless they feel bad or anxious about what they have done.

The attitude of the APA and the American Psychiatric Association is that an adult can abuse a child over and over for years and its OK unless the culprit feels badly about it. And these, are groups who are highly touted to help all those who have problems.

Small wonder is that these are held in high esteem and millions of dollars of tax payers money go down the tubes in schools, courts, and society as a whole. In view of this it is to be expected that more mental problems cause more and more problems.

Meanest mother in the world

But I could be wrong
Chuck Hall

Growing up I had the meanest mother in the whole world! While other kids ate candy for breakfast, I had to have cereal, eggs, and toast.

I also had to sit down, with my mom, my dad, and my bother, together, as a family unit, for at least two meals a day.

Mother insisted on knowing where I was almost all of the time. You would have thought that I was a convict in a prison. She had to know who my friends were, and what I was doing with them.

She insisted that if I said I would be gone for an hour, I

would be gone for an hour or less.

I am ashamed to admit it, but she had the nerve to break the Child Labor Laws by making me work. I had to wash dishes, make beds, learn to cook, mow the lawn, do laundry, and all sorts of cruel jobs. I used to think she would lie awake at night thinking of more things for me to do.

She always insisted on me telling the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth. She didn't have to ask a direct question, I was expected to confess wrong doings. By the time I was a teenager, she could read my mind. Then, life was really tough!

Mother wouldn't let my friends just honk the horn when they drove up. They had to come up to the door so she could meet them. While everyone else could drive the car when they were 12 or 13, I had to wait until I was 16 and had a license.

Because of mother I missed out on lots of things other kids experienced. Not once was I ever in jail, or even arrested. I never had to go to therapy or rehab.

Today, I consider myself a God-fearing, educated, honest adult. I did my best to be a mean parent just like Mom was. I think that is what's wrong with the world today. It just doesn't have enough mean moms anymore.

Declaration now official

The way I see it
Steven R. LaMascus

Do you remember that I recently wrote that I felt we were in an undeclared war of Liberal versus Conservative? Well, it is possible that the declaration is now official.

The ACLU has all but issued a declaration of war on all things conservative and therefore reasonable. This week the so-called supreme court of the United States has issued a ruling that has struck down a 1992 law passed by the City of Chicago. This was a tough anti-gang law that states officers could break up groups of people hanging out in public with "no apparent purpose."

It required police officers to order any group of people to move along if the officer believed at least one of them belonged to a street gang. In the three years it was enforced it resulted in

45,000 arrests and a reported 60% decrease in gang related crime.

Harvey Grossman, an American Civil Liberties Union lawyer, was the culprit who challenged the law, obviously under the direction of the ACLU. His reason was that the law was vulnerable to abuse and could lead to discrimination against minorities. He unilaterally decided that the possibility of abuse far outweighed the fact of the success of the law. This is simply another example of the illogical idiocy of liberal thinking, where a vague, invisible possibility is given priority over concrete immediate needs.

The frightening part of this whole can of worms is that there is never a solution offered by the ACLU. They simply tear away at the conservative effort to control a rising tidal wave of anarchy without offering a

single suggestion on how to solve the problem. If they think this law is not the way to control the situation then what, we might ask, is their idea of the right way?

Hey! You ACLU malcontents! Have you ever heard that if you are not a part of the solution you are a part of the problem? Well, you are! Get real! Get a life and get out of mine! If the citizenry of Chicago had thought the law was being abused they would have changed it. They, and we, do not need you sticking your microcephalic liberal noses into every attempt to control an avalanche of crime. If you have any ideas on how to regain control then share them. If not then shut up, and let the rest of us do something useful; like, maybe, declaring the ACLU unconstitutional, or at least criminally stupid.

Providing Texas producers with the right tools for the job

Submitted by
Rep. Henry Bonilla

Every year the U.S. House of Representatives passes a series of 13 spending bills that provide funding for the federal government.

This year, the first spending bill to pass was the agriculture appropriations bill which passed the House last week.

The spending bill funds the U.S. Department of Agriculture and its agencies and programs for fiscal year 2000.

This spending bill is great news for Texas agriculture producers. Many of the programs funded in this bill directly impact farmers and ranchers in Texas.

For example, Texas cotton producers will benefit from the over \$16.2 million provided for the Boll Weevil Eradication Program. Texas is the largest cotton growing state in the country.

This eradication program is essential to ensuring full and healthy cotton crops. This money will help rid cotton producers of a pest that has plagued the cotton industry for far too long.

Another program that directly benefits Texas farmers and ranchers is the nearly \$30 million provided for the Wildlife Services Program.

Controlling the population of wild animals that prey on cattle, sheep, goats and crops is a priority for Texas producers. Farmers and ranchers in Texas and across the country lose millions of dollars each year when coyotes, bobcats or wild dogs prey on calves, lambs and small goats.

A \$38 million increase in agriculture research will certainly benefit Texas producers. Farmers and ranchers have been struggling with low commodity prices for some time now. Profit margins are tight. New research that can lower costs, puts money into the pockets of producers.

Livestock producers in Texas get even more good news. Funding was increased to continue the fight against the spread of tick fever.

Livestock that wander across the Rio Grande into the United States are often infested with ticks carrying tick fever.

Men on horseback, or "tick riders" patrol the Texas/Mexico border turning back livestock from Mexico that haphazardly wander into the United States.

In addition, the "tick riders" maintain dipping stations for cattle being brought into the U.S.

These are only a few examples of the many wonderful programs that help keep American agriculture producers the best in the world.

Continuing to provide American agriculture producers the tools they need to do a safe and effective job must remain a top priority for our country.

Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

There is a man here who married into a ranching family and has been a rancher for many years.

He has been active in much of the life of the community. He served on the school board for a number of years. He has been a devoted husband to a very charming wife.

He has a fine family each of whom are a real credit to him and the world. He has had a full share of physical problems and come out winner. He is well read and a likeable fellow. He has helped many a person or family, in need.

He is a fine and integral part of the community. Surely Bud Conoly is an Unsung Hero.

Big Mama Sez!

If you pray for another, you will be helped yourself.

The Brackett News

Member of **TPA**
Texas Press Association

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**DRIVE CAREFULLY
OUR CHILDREN
ARE OUT OF SCHOOL**

HB 4, campaign finance reform Tearing down the walls between parents and children

Submitted by
Rep. Pete P. Gallego

"Whenever the people are well informed, they can be trusted with their government, for whenever thing so far wrong to attract their notice, they can be relied on to set things right,"
Thomas Jefferson.

For years the windows on Texas government have been inching open, shining light into almost every niche of the government process. This session alone, 127 bills were related to open meetings and open records. One area of government, however, remains inadequately documented and therefore suspect in the eyes of voters, the financing of political campaigns.

To cast light on this shaded corner of the political process, I authored HB 4, the campaign finance reform bill. By further opening the fund-raising process to the scrutiny of voters, we will gain the information necessary to find and fix problems with our current system. Like Jefferson, I have faith in the people's ability to set things straight once they have the information to do so.

Texas is one of just a few states without a comprehensive reporting system. To construct a fair and balanced bill, I spent months talking with the Democratic and Republican parties, elected officials, campaign consultants, advocacy groups and the Texas Ethics Commission.

The main objective of HB 4 is to build trust back into our political system. Voter turnout in Texas is tragically low. Many qualified voters feel that their vote is inconsequential compared to the power of big donors. Voters will be gaining the tools to assess the current campaign process and make the necessary changes.

The campaign finance reform bill will also allow us to better understand the impact that contributions have over the political process as a whole. Armed with this information, voters can keep elected office out of the hands of unscrupulous candidates who exchange donations for influence, and reward those who answer only to their constituents. Texans may also use the information generated as grounds to call for even greater reform.

HB 4 will accomplish these objectives by requiring more thorough reporting of contributions and expenditures by candidates, officeholders, general political action committees (G-PACs) and specific political action committees (S-PACs). One way to improve monitoring is to limit candidates to one principal political committee and one treasurer. Currently, several PACs may be set up in support of a candidate. This makes contributions and expenditures more difficult to track. If questions arise about a transaction, after the passage of HB 4, the Ethics Commission will know exactly whom to address.

The bill will also require disclosure of both those who give and those who receive political contributions. This will allow the Ethics Commission to cross-check donations to make sure that everyone is reporting correctly. More important, it will allow patterns of giving to emerge, thus revealing the campaigns being targeted by special interests, employers, or industries.

Another major provision in HB 4 will require more disclosure for so-called "soft money", the money corporations and labor unions give to G-PACs which gets redistributed to candidates in tight races. The bill will also require the reporting of nonmonetary support, such as television time or advertising

space. Yet another provision would tighten requirements for reporting contributions late in the campaign. Contributors often make donations in the last days of a campaign because it is at this point that money for advertising can be most effective. Unfortunately, voters currently do not learn of these contributions until after the election is over. It is important that they have the best information possible when making their choices.

HB 4 was voted out of the House last week. It was voted out of the Senate State Affairs Committee unanimously, and is soon expected to pass the entire Senate. HB 4 will likely become effective September 1, 1999, but to be truly productive, the bill requires voters to take notice and take action on any wrongdoing. Though HB 4 is called the campaign finance reform bill, it is ultimately about placing more power in the hands of Texas voters.

Susan Weddington
Texas Rep. Party Chairman

Parents have every right, and indeed the responsibility to be involved in their children's critical life decisions. But how can parents exercise that duty if they are not even aware their child is about to make a decision that will have lifelong effects?

Republicans believe in families and want to tear down the walls government has built between parents and their children. Passage of the Parental Notice Act, authored by Republican State Senator Florence Shapiro, would strengthen the bond between parent and child.

This law would require that Texas parents be notified when little girls are scheduled to have an abortion. Parents would finally be afforded an opportunity to be involved in their minor daughter's life-changing decision.

Governor George W. Bush has expressed his strong support

for Texas to join the 39 other states that have parental notification laws. He is joined in his belief by 3 out of 4 Texans according to a recent poll. Additionally, under the leadership of Lt. Governor Rick Perry, the Parental Notice Act has already passed the Senate with 74% of the vote and 58% of Texas House Members have co-authored the bill.

Yet even with this overwhelming support by citizens and lawmakers the Parental Notice Act is facing stiff opposition.

A minority of Democrats, led by Speaker Pete Laney and State Affairs Committee Chairman Steve Wolens, are trying to defeat this measure in the Texas House of Representatives. It seems Democrats are intent on defending the walls between Texas parents and their children.

Abortion is the only surgical procedure that can be performed on a minor without a parent's knowledge or consent. Demo-

crats are supporting another bill that would require the children to notify their parents and receive written permission prior to getting their noses or navels pierced. If Democrats believe that parental notification is necessary to protect children from the unsanitary conditions and bodily injuries associated with body piercing, doesn't it stand to reason that notification is also necessary for a major medical procedure like abortion? The Parental Notice Act will remedy this by treating abortion like every other surgical procedure performed on a minor.

Opponents are demanding that amendments be added to the Parental Notice Act that would allow girls to bypass their parents and notify someone else that they are about to have an abortion. What they are proposing is a laundry list of relatives and virtual strangers to take the place of parents.

If Democrats have their way,

a grandmother in Omaha, a brother in New York, or a therapist in another city would be notified while mom and dad remain forever unaware of what their young daughter is about to go through. Texas House Democrats are not only trying to erode parental responsibility, but they are also trying to strengthen the wall between parents and their children.

Senate Bill 30, The Parental Notice Act, tears down the wall government has built between parents and their little girls, provides for girls in dysfunctional situations at home, and its language has withstood Constitutional challenges in other states. Speaker Laney and the Democrats in the Texas House should follow the lead of Governor Bush, Lt. Governor Perry, and Republican legislators and pass the Parental Notice Act now, before it is too late. It is time for the wall between parents and their children to come down.

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<p>99 BUICK CENTURY CUSTOM SEDAN</p> <p>#8062 MSRP.....20,735 BROWN DISC.....840 REBATE.....1,000</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 2.9%* \$18,895</p>	<p>99 BUICK PARK AVENUE</p> <p>#7954 MSRP.....34,458 BROWN DISC...2,563 REBATE.....2,000</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 2.9%* \$29,895</p>
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Things are green and wet in Brackettville

Making a difference
Taylor Stephenson

It's still raining in Brackettville! What an unusual title for a news article. A week ago, I talked about the great rains, and more came each day for the past week. Since Sunday, June 13, I have measured 14.65. It's amazing. Things are green and wet in Brackettville. The golf courses at Fort Clark are greener than they have been in June in several years. What a treat to have rain. Wow, I bet our annual rainfall is not much better than 24 inches. Here, we have almost 15 inches in a week.

from Brackettville. Driving down Ann Street, I was happy that I was in my trusty truck. There was lots of water.

My wife and I checked out the dirt dams on the outskirts of town. All looked okay; so we went home to wait it out Monday night. The rain finally stopped, and there did not appear to be much damage from flooding (at least to my knowledge). It was an exciting week. The rain appears to have been widespread throughout much of the county. I'm sure the amounts vary and could be lower or higher than what I received. It was a great week to be in Kinney County.

I have to admit that I had a moment or two of apprehension about the rising water. If you remember last August, the rain came in a 24 hour period. The amount was about the same, maybe a little less. Water coming over the little spillway into Fort Clark's Las Moras Springs showed a tremendous runoff

This past week, Administrators Don Sims, Stoney Burks and I spent two days in San Antonio at a school safety meeting. The stimulus for the meeting was the terrible incident at Columbine in Colorado. We received lots of help relating to safety plans, school law, and trying to

make sure our own school system is as safe as it can be. The presenters spent lots of time going over changes in law which for the first time in many years appear to offer support to school districts which actively don't tolerate drugs or violence at school.

Wil Glaspy is working on an in-service presentation in August for BISD teachers on drug education and enforcement. I'm sure the program will be helpful to the Brackett faculty.

The new building is progressing nicely toward its July 14 completion date. This past week, the lockers have been installed, chalk and tack board are being put up, and an electric pole and transformers have been set in the back of the building. We still have some water drainage problems in the front of the school, and the alley needs some work. But, we're gaining and appear to be on schedule for the move the last couple of weeks in July.

Open positions for our school system are still elementary principal and high school math. We're working on both positions. No support positions will be filled until the budget is studied and projected for the coming year. If you hear of a position that might open, fill in an application and place it on file. None will be filled until later.

I pray that the Fort Clark Board will be able to settle down and have the time to work on planning for the future of Fort Clark. So many individuals want the power of being a Board member or administrator but won't give the time to help make things better. Criticizing folks who give of their time in non-salaried positions is difficult to understand. I trust the board and the manager. It's time that the majority says "we've had enough of the moaning. Let these folks do their jobs." Having a mouth without the responsibility that goes with it does no

Obituary

LTC George L. Miller

LTC George L. Miller, age 81, of Brackettville, TX, died Wednesday, June 16, 1999. He was an avid golfer. Survivors: wife; Helen Miller, daughters; Sally and husband Gary Brungardt of Houston, Texas, Janet and husband John Holland of Ottawa, Kansas, sons; Ron and wife Chris Olsen of Woodinville, Washington, Russell and Nancy Olsen of Meriam, Kansas, daughters; Nancy, Lesley, Mary, Catherine and Susan; son Rober Miller, sister; Mary Jane Lose of Medford, Oregon. Graveside services were held in San Antonio, Texas on Monday, June 21, 1999. A memorial service is planned for 11: a.m. Saturday June 26, 1999 at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Brackettville, Tx.

Graveside, Monday at 1:15 p.m. Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, the family requests memorial contributions to Vitas Hospice 8026 Floyd Curl Drive, San Antonio, Texas 78229. Arrangements with Porter Loring, 1101 McCullough Ave.

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Freedom, can you regain it

Pat McKelvy
Contributing Writer

I had a dream the other night I didn't understand. A figure walking through the mist, with a flintlock in his hand. His clothes were torn and dirty, as he stood there beside my bed. He took off his three-cornered hat, and speaking low, he said: "We fought a revolution to secure our liberty. We wrote the constitution as a shield from tyranny. For future generations, this legacy we gave in this the great land of the free... and yes, home of the brave. The freedom we secured for you, we hoped you'd always keep-but tyrants labored endlessly while your parents were asleep. Your freedom's gone, your courage lost, you're no more than a slave in this, the land of the free...and

yes, home of the brave.

"You buy permits to travel...permits to own a gun...permits to start a business or to build a place for one. On land you believe to be your own, you pay a yearly rent, although you have no voice in choosing how the money's spent. Your children must attend a school that doesn't educate. Your moral values can't be taught, according to the state. You read about the current news in a very biased press. You pay a tax you do not owe to please the IRS.

"Your money is no longer made of silver or of gold. You trade your wealth for paper so your life can be controlled. You pay for crimes that make our nation turn from God in shame. You've taken Satan's number, as you've traded in your name.

You've given government control to those who do you harm, so they can padlock churches and steal the family farm, and keep your country deep in debt, put men of God in jail, harass your fellow countrymen while corrupted courts prevail.

"Your public servants don't uphold the solemn oath they've sworn; your daughters visit doctors so their children won't be born. Your leadership artillery and guns to foreign shores, and send your youth to slaughter, fighting other people's wars.

"Can you regain your freedom for which we fought and died? Or don't you have the courage or the faith to stand with pride? Are there no more values for which you'll fight to save, or do you wish your children to live in fear or be a slave? Sons and Daughters of the Re-

public, arise and take a stand! Defend the constitution, the supreme law of our land. Preserve our great Republic, and each God-given right, and pray to God to keep the torch of freedom burning bright."

As I awoke, he vanished in the mist from whence he came. His words were true, we are not free...and we have ourselves to blame.

For even now as tyrants trample each God-given right, we only watch and tremble, too afraid to stand and fight.

If he stands by your bedside in a dream while you're asleep, and wonders what remains of your rights he fought to keep, what would be your answer if he called out from the grave? "Is this still the land of the free...and the home of the brave?"

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Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, June 15th

12:09 p.m. A man with Southwestern Bell Telephone called in to report and 18 wheeler jackknifed about 8 miles east of Brackettville on Highway 90. The truck was hauling diesel fuel and was leaking fuel onto the highway. The Texas Department of Public Safety responded to the scene.

10:13 p.m. A local woman reported that someone was knocking on the back wall of her house. Deputy Karl Chism responded. US Border Patrol was called to the scene.

Wednesday, June 16th

6:34 p.m. A report was received from the Sheriff's Office in Del Rio of some loose rams around the A. J. Foyt Ranch.

Thursday, June 17th

9:54 p.m. A call was received concerning two uninvited men on some property in Brackettville. Chief of Police Ron Ring responded to the scene. Upon his arrival he found the owner of the residence holding one of the men on his front porch. The uninvited man stated that he thought Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was at the residence and wanted to speak with him. The second suspect could not be located. The man was advised that he was trespassing and he was escorted to his mothers house and asked not to return or trespassing charges would be brought against him.

12:35 p.m. A local man called in to report that his vehicle had been hit in the Burger & Shake parking lot. Insurance cards were exchanged.

8:41 p.m. A call was received concerning loud arguing between a couple in the housing projects. Chief of Police Ron Ring responded to the scene. Both parties were yelling at each other over an earlier incident. No one had been physical. The couple was separated and the

man taken to his fathers house. Both parties were informed that if another call was received that night on the matter that both would have disturbing the peace charges filed against them.

11:19 p.m. A woman reported a strange man hanging around her in-laws place. Chief of Police Ron Ring responded to the scene and could not locate anyone.

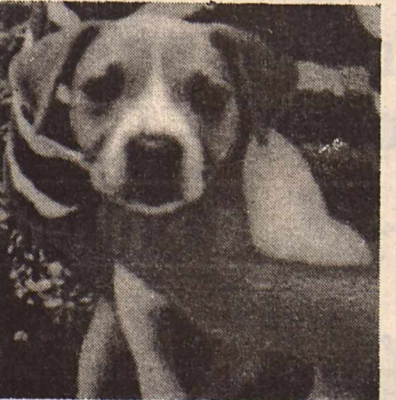
Saturday, June 19th

7:42 p.m. A 911 call was received from a man stating that there was a man out in the Super S parking lot threatening to beat him up and had already broken into his vehicle and stolen a trap. Chief of Police Ron Ring responded to the call and stated that all was under control.

Sunday, June 20th

2:40 a.m. A local man reported that a pickup was racing its engine. Another call was received on the same vehicle driving fast on East 1st street. Deputy Karl Chism found the vehicle and escorted the parties home.

Adopt-a-Pet



Rat Terrier Mix, male, 3 months old white w/ large brown spots I'm so loving and available for adoption at the Uvalde Animal Shelter. 136 East Garden, Uvalde, TX (830) 278 1407 Volunteers are needed for care and walking of the dogs.

Thank you

I would like to publicly thank the following businesses and families for their generous donations to Brackett's 1999 Project Graduation.

Because of their continued support, our graduating seniors will go forth into the world knowing that many cared enough to help them build happy, drug-free memories of their special night. I would like to extend my heartfelt appreciation to the following: Graf and Barton Ford, Del Rio National Bank, Texas Department of Transportation, HEB, Kinney County Chamber of Commerce, Mr. and Mrs. Ray Dale Ashabranner, Alamo Saddlery, Mr. and Mrs. Nick Eckenrod, The Giftbox, Mr. and Mrs. Taylor Stephenson, Kinney County Wool and Mohair, The Ft. Clark Springs Association, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Baker, Ft. Clark Springs Community Council, Mr. and Mrs. Richard Smith, Mr. and Mrs. Blackie Haby, First Baptist Church of Brackettville, Briscoe Hall, Inc., San Saba Cap, Cecil Atkinson Motors, Texas Department of Public Safety Officers Association, Mr. Walter Umphrey and Mr. Bart Umphrey, Ricks Furniture of Del Rio, Mr. and Mrs. Marvin Davis, Brackettville Lions Club, Del Rio Bank and Trust, Hair by Diane, Border Federal Credit Union, First United Methodist Church of Brackettville, Preceptor Theta Sigma, Del Rio Funeral Home, Mrs. Happy Shahan, Thomas W. Dorrell, Church of Christ of Brackettville, Mr. and Mrs. Don Ralston, Wal-Mart of Uvalde, Central Power and Light Company, and Jamie Ballew. Sincerely, Susan Harrison, Counselor Brackett High School.

presently, arise and take a stand! Defend the constitution, the supreme law of our land. Preserve our great Republic, and each God-given right, and pray to God to keep the torch of freedom burning bright."

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Campers, Hikers cautioned about Lyme Disease

A little on the wildlife side
Henry Lutz

COLLEGE STATION - As summer heats up and more people head outdoors, precautions need to be taken to avoid two tick-borne illnesses - Lyme disease and Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever. Both diseases are still carried by ticks in Texas, according to an entomologist with Texas A&M University.

"Lyme (disease) is resident here in Texas," said Dr. Pete Teel of College Station. According to the Texas Department of Health, there were 77 cases reported by physicians in 1995 and 97 in 1996. Records to date this year suggest that the number of

cases are down but the disease is still a threat to human health, he said.

Tick populations are cyclical, Teel said. The Lone Star tick and the blacklegged tick, both of which carry Lyme disease, produce a generation about every year to year and a half. That could explain the high number of cases even in a drought year, he said.

As for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever, which can be transmitted through the American dog tick, there were six cases reported in 1995 and five in 1996. The American dog tick is widely scattered throughout the United States, but especially in the southeastern and the central ar-

che. The classical sign for Rocky Mountain Spotted Fever is a small, spotted rash that occurs first on the palms of the hands or the soles of the feet and then spreads to other parts of the body.

The rash associated with Lyme disease is large and circular. Often it migrates outward from where it begins, taking on rings and redness and looking somewhat like a bull's-eye. Other symptoms may include swelling of the large joints, such as the knees or elbows, something resembling Bell's palsy or other neurological problems where one side of the face will droop, or a severe frontal head-

ache. One of the difficulties in determining whether someone has Lyme disease is that it takes several weeks for the body's immune system to develop detectable antibodies.

Even though the person may show symptoms, a blood test may not show the disease. Prevention includes avoiding known tick-infested areas.

But if that is impossible, wear protective, light-colored clothing. Boots should be worn if possible, with the bottom of pant legs taped around the outside of the boots with 2 inch masking tape. The last wrap of the tape may be turned over.

Pollution increases symptoms in people with asthma

DENVER - A lush, green lawn is an American tradition. Getting it that way can take a toll on people with lung diseases, particularly the ones pushing gas lawnmowers.

Gas lawnmowers, generally powered by two-cycle and four-cycle engines, create a significant amount of pollution, such as hydrocarbons, which react to outside air and create ground-

level ozone, nitrogen oxides, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide.

These gases can increase symptoms in people with asthma, chronic obstructive pulmonary disease, allergies, emphysema and other lung diseases. For example, at ground level ozone can decrease lung function by combining with other pollutants, says Karin Pacheco, M.D., of

the Division of Environmental and Occupational Health Sciences at National Jewish Medical and Research Center. Pollution may increase the development of allergies, she adds.

Lawn and lawnmower alternatives that cut pollution include using native plants for landscaping, using an electric or push mower, and limiting planting areas for lawns.

For more information, call Lung Line @ (800) 222-Lung, E-mail, lungline@njc.org or visit our Web site, www.nationaljewish.org/pa.

Editor's Note: A patient should consult his or her personal physician before changing or considering any medical treatments.

Nature tourism is a profitable way to counteract the economic slowdown of the ag sector

Robert E. Elledge, Jr.
Extension Agent

Rural communities which are heavily dependent on agriculture for their economic base, such as Uvalde county and many other similar rural counties feel the brunt of a financial crisis in agriculture. As a result, producers and rural community leaders are looking for ways to diversify the use of vast rural natural resources to adjust their economic base and become less vulnerable to global economic changes.

In this regard, the agricultural sector is attempting a large array of farm and off-farm activities to earn extra income. Activities include the use of farm equipment to complete off farm jobs such as custom harvesting, digging ditches, clearing land, building ponds and minibird sanctuaries.

While fee based hunting has always been an important income producing activity in Texas, many ranchers place high value on their privacy and were not taking full advantage of potential opportunities as late as the 80's.

In Southwest Texas, however, they were forced to diversify to recreational hunting on a

fee basis when demand for wool and mohair decreased and the wool/mohair incentive payment program was eliminated in 1995. Now, the use of wildlife resources for fee based hunting has become a very important income producing activity, not only for ranchers, but also for rural communities who gain the benefit from the economic impact of tourist hunter visits. Other ranchers have diversified into nature tourism including hosting guest on a fee bases to a rural experience, selling mesquite wood/artifacts, bed and breakfast activities and a host of other income producing activities.

While all these activities are innovative and commendable, the agricultural sector remains fiercely independent with severe reservations over losing their privacy. Resistance to inviting strangers into private land by granting trespass rights for a fee pose major obstacles to developing a viable eco tourism market. A central effort appears necessary to help focus the use of natural resource with groups willing to pay for a share of the use of these resources.

Diversification into birding would be a natural shift to gain yet untapped public sector mar-

ket shares which do not duplicate existing economic benefits from hunters, campers and river rafting tourists. Birders, unlike hunters, campers and river rafters, hate to rough it, in part because most of them are more than 40 years old. And regardless of their ages, many of them don't like to waste time packing and unpacking camping gear, pitching tents, building fires, preparing food - time that otherwise could be spent birding. Most birders are willing to pay someone else to shelter and feed them in comfort.

Although not officially declared, excellent natural bird sanctuaries currently exist at the National Fish Hatchery just west of Uvalde, Fort Inge, the Uvalde water treatment center, the Concan area, Chalk Bluff Park, Garner State Park, Lost Maples State Natural Area, the newly established Kickapoo Caverns Park just north of Brackettville, as well as a host of other places. There are about 426 bird species recorded in Uvalde county alone.

The Texas Hill Country's river group is making plans to organize a formal Hill Country Birding Trail, similar to the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail which extends 500 miles

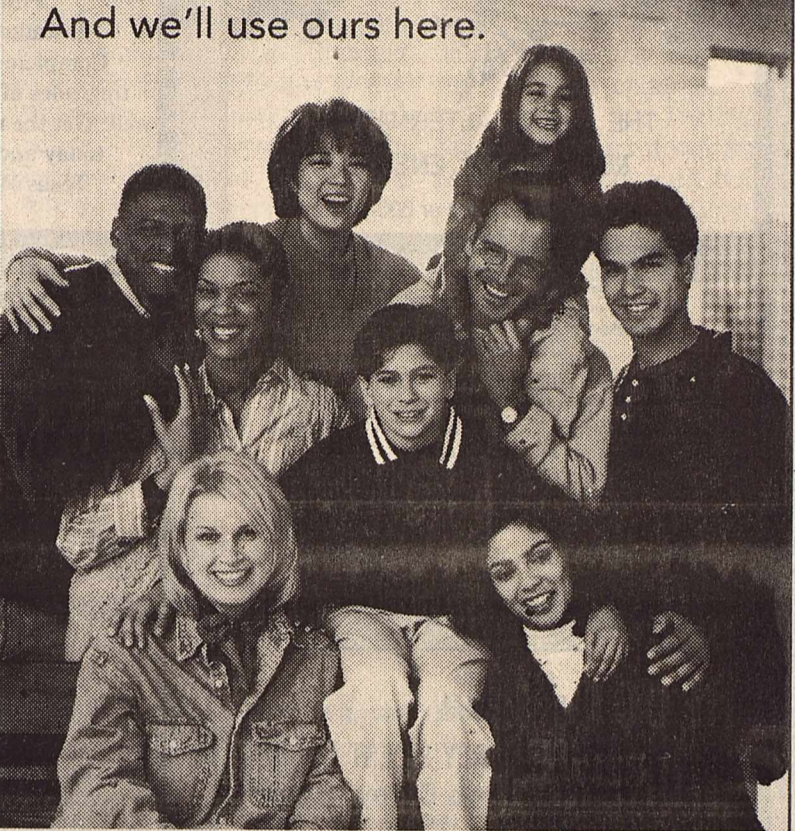
along the Gulf Coast.

The addition of birding to Southwest Texas has the potential of substantial economic benefits. According to an article in the April issue of Texas Parks and Wildlife magazine the Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail annually brings \$7 - \$8 million in cash receipts to communities along the coast. Many studies have been completed to confirm the value of the economic benefits to communities.

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Help Your Heart Recipes

This recipe is intended to be part of an overall healthful eating plan. Total fat intake should be less than 30 percent of your total calories for a day — not for each food or recipe.

Jicama and Grapefruit Salad

with Ancho-Honey Salad Dressing

Dressing	1 tablespoon acceptable** vegetable oil
1/2 cup water	1 tablespoon fresh lime juice
2 ancho chili peppers, halved lengthwise and seeded*	1 pound jicama, peeled and cut into very thin slices (about 3 1/2 cups)
2 cloves garlic, quartered	1/2 cup chopped red onion
2 tablespoons white wine vinegar	1/4 cup chopped fresh cilantro
2 tablespoons honey	2 medium red or pink grapefruit

In a small saucepan, combine water, chili peppers, and garlic. Bring to a boil over high heat. Reduce heat and simmer, uncovered, for 10 minutes. Pour mixture into a blender or food processor. Process until smooth. Add remaining dressing ingredients. Process until smooth.

In a medium bowl, combine jicama, onion, and cilantro. Pour dressing over jicama mixture, stirring to coat.

Cover and marinate in the refrigerator for 2 to 24 hours.

Shortly before serving, peel and section grapefruit. Drain. Gently stir grapefruit sections into jicama mixture.

Serves 4.

*Hot chili peppers contain oils that can burn your skin, lips, and eyes. Wear rubber gloves or wash your hands thoroughly with warm, soapy water immediately after handling peppers.

**Use canola, corn, safflower, soybean, sunflower, sesame, or olive oil.

Nutrient Analysis per Serving

167 kcal Calories	0 mg Cholesterol	0 gm Saturated Fat
2 gm Protein	9 mg Sodium	2 gm Polyunsaturated Fat
34 gm Carbohydrate	4 gm Total Fat	1 gm Monounsaturated Fat

American Heart Association Low-Fat, Low-Cholesterol Cookbook, Second Edition, ©1997. Reprinted with permission from Times Books, a division of Random House, Inc., New York. Visit our web site at: http://www.americanheart.org

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