

The Brackett News

Boys Basketball Team makes the payoffs
See Page 5

12th year, No. 2

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Chief Appraiser requests county to require permits To locate un-appraised properties outside the city limits of Brackettville

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

Bill Haenn Chief Appraiser from the Kinney County Appraisal District will have to wait to locate un-appraised or under-appraised residences outside the municipality of Fort Clark and the City of Brackettville.

Haenn presented a proposal to the commissioners Monday morning that would require citizens outside the city limits to obtain building permits. The purpose was to inform the appraisal office of any improvements that would increase the value of property.

"At the present time there's no system of building permits for the county, it's only through building permits that the Appraisal District can perform its mission of discovering, listing and valuing property," said Haenn.

"Since we started our reappraisals in October I'm absolutely astonished at the amount of improvements in the county that we are discovering that have not been on the tax rolls, which basically keeps all our taxes higher than they need to be" added Haenn.

The current utility certification of compliance is a piece of paper that is filled out at the Judge's office and signed by the Judge. Then its given to Rio Grande Electric to go ahead and put in the electrical service.

"I totally agree, when Bill pointed this out to me, he's right, often times we have issued certificate of compliance to the contractor in order to get that meter established," said Judge Herb Senne. "What I was thinking about and its in the statues that Tully (County Attorney) will have to answer, and he's already saying 'no' we can't do it," added Senne.

"We have to observe statues, specific directives to county submission ordinances, that was specifically legislated to the municipalities to be able to appoint a person to handle this type of thing, its a compliance in the cities," said County Attorney Tully Shahan.

Shahan has been in contact with the Colonia Department of the Attorney Generals office that monitors and governs this and is waiting for further details. Shahan also contacted the Rio Grande Electric employee that is in charge of new

hookups, Javier Solis, as to why they require certificates of compliance.

"A certificate of compliance is only required where its a border county, its five acres or less and it is a platted subdivision, anything else is not required," said Shahan "REA has been requiring them to get a certificate of compliance if they bought three hundred acres or five hundred acres or a thou-

sand acres."

Shahan faxed information to Solis and requested he study the legality of requiring the certificates outside city limits.

"I said to Javier the way I read the law if its over five acres, outside the city limits, its not the county's responsibility to issue certificates of compliance and we can't issue one because its not required to have one," said

Shahan.

Haenn proposes citizens needing the certificate would have to come to his office and pick up the application to start the process and the County Judge's office would issue certificates only when KCAD has signed off on the application.

"The applicant gets them from the appraisal district this way
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Extension service holds annual meeting

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

The County Extension Program Council, part of the Texas Agricultural Extension Service, held their annual meeting last Thursday evening at the Kinney County Nutrition Center.

The meeting brings together members of five different boards and committees to receive reports from County Agent Robert Elledge.

The topics included the previous years accomplishments, goals for the year 2000 and the future of agriculture in Kinney County.

Elledge along with his administrative assistant Theresa "Cotton" Bendele work close with the Executive Board and the other four boards to manage and serve the agricultural needs of Kinney County.

"It's the Texas Agricultural Extension Council and its made up of these five committees and boards," explained Bendele.

"They're organized and Robert is their advisor through Texas A&M University System," added Bendele

It's also at this time the County Extension's office organizes a dinner and honors those who serve on these committees as board members the previous year and holds the election of the coming years Executive Board.

Last year these committees set goals for the coming year with the 4-H Youth and Development Board being the busiest. Two of its members were present, Duquesa Hunt and Lloyd Lee Davis, III.

This boards accomplishments for the preceding year include: sponsoring the 2nd Annual Ag Day, 2nd Annual 4-H Achievement Night, 1st 4-H Awareness at Jones Elementary, organizing the 4-H Booster Club and re-established 4-H club bylaws and charter. Their goals for the upcoming year are the same, includ-



Pictured from left John Paul Schuster, Jimmy Bendele, Donna Schuster, Herb Senne, Robert Elledge, Richard Smith and Tony Frerich.

ing electing a new Chairperson and Vice Chairperson.

Another committee aimed to benefit our youth is the Youth Development Task Force. Their 1999 goals were to complete and continue submitting proposals to various foundations to get matching funds to establish a Youth Ag Complex here in Kinney County. This committee has made it their goal, for the year 2000, to acquire land for the Youth Ag Complex and to continue submitting proposals.

"A Board was organized called District Resource Investments. I work 25 percent of my time with them; Alana (from the Soil & Conservation District Office) wrote a proposal that we have submitted to several foundations, trying to get matching funds," said Bendele. "Since the land is on the brink of being acquired by the Board, its going to make our chances better on acquiring those matching funds, we hope."

The Agricultural and Wildlife Committee submitted reports of their accomplishments that included sponsoring the Field Day Tour, the 1st Annual Hunters

Round-up, 1st Annual Predator management Raffle and Local Wildlife Tour.

These committees have the same goals set for the coming year with the addition to the Wildlife Committee adding two goals that will benefit ranchers and farmers in Kinney County. These goals are creating a Predator Management Guide and hosting a Predator Appreciation Day.

The Agricultural Committee gave the status and results of demonstrations conducted throughout the year on local farms and ranches. These demonstrations for brush control, by fire, mechanical or chemical, are aimed at educating the rancher, farmer or anyone to experience hands on demonstration to get the most out of what they are raising or growing.

Anyone can go and see the results of these experiments, to see what works best for this area. The results and monitoring of demonstrations on forage plots such as prickly pear, mesquite, and huisache continues.

The executive Board Committee sponsored the Xeriscaping
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Briefs ...

Elementary PTO

The Jones Elementary PTO would like to remind people that several area businesses are offering discounts as an incentive for parents, teachers and community members to become PTO members. Anyone can become a PTO member and there is no charge to do so. If you would like to become a member, please contact the Jones Elementary office at 563-2492, extension 200.

Please also join us for our next PTO general meeting on February 29, 2000 at 7 PM in the school auditorium.

Shahan Named Honor Student

College Station-Texas A&M University has named its honor students for the 1999 fall semester, recognizing several thousand students for outstanding academic performance.

Among those recognized was Jared Ty Shahan for being a "Distinguished Student."

Jared is attending his 4th year at Texas A&M and is majoring in Animal Science and is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Tully Shahan.

Distinguished Student recognizes students who earned a 3.25 to 3.75 GPR while taking at least 12 hours.

Duplicate Bridge

Ft. Clark Springs Duplicate Bridge Club met February 8th with 7 1/2 tables present.

Winners were: N/S 1. Fred and Nina Clayton, 2. Blake and Jeannette Hinton, 3. Rosetta Pingent and Tina Bauguess. E/W 1. Betty Schlatterer and Joyce Bell, 2. Nelda Thomason and Dena Scott, 3. Carol Benfield and Molly Schroeder.

Cullum Jazz Band to Perform

The Jim Cullum Jazz band, will perform in Eagle Pass at 7:30 p.m. on Saturday, Feb. 19, 2000 on the stage of the Eagle Pass High School C.C. Winn Auditorium.

Tickets are now available at the Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce, the public library, the Mall de las Aguilas business office and at the Piedras Negras Chamber of Commerce. Pre-sale tickets are on sale for \$4 per student and \$7 per adult. Admission will go up one dollar at the door.

This performance by the Jim Cullum Jazz Band is made possible with the assistance of the Texas Commission on the Arts and the Eagle Pass Room Tax Committee.

For more information call Esperanza Deutsch at 773-8570.

Commissioners break ground on EMS building

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

After opening Commissioners Court adjourned and reconvened in the parking lot of the Kinney County Nutrition Center for the ground breaking ceremony of the new EMS building.

"It's brand new and we are extremely proud to have it going,

its sort of a belated ground opening as you can see the ground has already been broken," said Judge Herb Senne.

"That's beside the point, we do have some shovels over here behind us and we're going to have the commissioners and myself stick those shovels in the ground and officially dedicate it, in that

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EMS Director Carolyn Rutherford speaks to audience at the ground breaking ceremony as Commissioners Freddie Frerich, Joe Williams and Joe Montalvo look on.

Shewbart and Petrosky attend Rotary Youth Leadership program

By Francis McMaster
Contributing Writer

One of the primary interests of Rotary is youth. The organization is dedicated to helping families, youth, promoting good education, and developing effective leadership. RYLA, or Rotary Youth Leadership programs, is designed specifically for outstanding high school students to help develop qualities of leadership skills and good citizenship. Two fine young students from Brackettville High School reported to the local Rotary Club at the February 10th meeting on their recent attendance at the annual RYLA Seminar which was held at Lackland Air Force Base in San Antonio. Brittany Shewbart and Chris Petrosky were the outstanding Brackettville students who, along with more than 100 other representatives of clubs throughout District Fifty Eight, attended the 1999 weekend seminar.

The core curriculum of every RYLA event is fundamentals of leadership, ethics of positive leadership, problem solving and conflict management. The young

people are also taught what Rotary is and what it does for the local community. RYLA also seeks to build self-confidence and self-esteem along with teaching the elements of community and global citizenship.

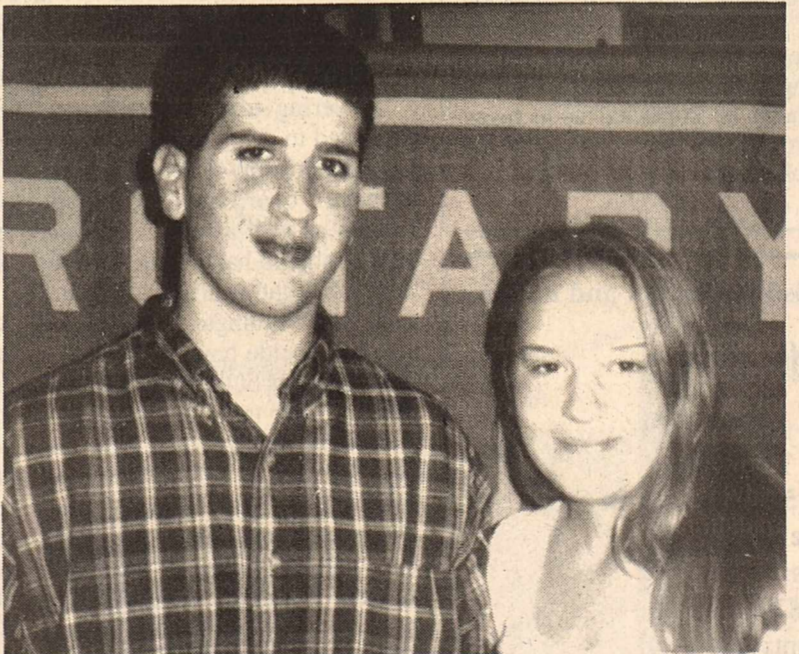
Chris Petrosky reported that he got to stay in the men's quarters and he enthusiastically described the problem solving task his group was given. It was one used there on the base by the Air Force trainees. In the course of figuring out and executing their task, the young men actually experienced working together and cooperating in order to achieve their goal.

Brittany Shewbart enjoyed meeting and interacting with young people she hadn't known before. She and Chris described approaching this experience with a little shyness. Getting to meet and become friends with so many strangers seemed intimidating when they first arrived, but in no time at all, they were mixing with everyone and having fun. When the large group divided into smaller ones, the students weren't allowed to sit next to anyone they already knew. Therefore, in no

time at all, new friends had been made.

The students are always driven to and from San Antonio by some Rotarian. One of the drivers commented that he had driven students both ways several times, and the experience was always the same. On the way to RYLA, the students are a little anxious, but looking forward to a good time. On the way home, they sleep almost all the way because they've stayed up visiting with others until the wee hours of the night and just having a great time. They arrive home with a lot of great new experiences, new friends, and things learned that will serve them the rest of their lives.

Taylor Stephenson commented on the quality of the students here in Brackettville and Patsy Callnan, Rotary President spoke of a tour she recently took of the new school. Ms. Callnan is a retired teacher, and she stated that she had worked in many schools in many different locations, and that the Brackettville System is by far the best she had ever seen. For a small town it is remarkably well staffed and furnished with top flight



equipment. In today's computer literate world, students from Brackettville will be able to go into jobs and go off to universities without fear that they won't be capable of performing well in their new environment. They will be able to step right into this fast, complicated, amazing "new world" without finding themselves behind students from cities.

Brackettville has reason to be proud of its schools and doubly proud of the bright, well educated students the system is producing.

Cut line
L to R Chris Petrosky and Brittany Shewbart attended the annual Rotary Youth Leadership Seminar recently. They gave a report about the seminar to the local Rotary Club on February 10th.

INSIDE

Alcohol is not OK!

I cannot remember a single traffic accident I worked that did not involve alcohol.

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Science Fair Results

Brackett Science Fair 2000 was held Wednesday February 9, at the school library.

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A little on the Wildlife side

Finally, the biggest change being considered this year is the possible elimination of, or at least major changes to, the game tagging system now in place.

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What's five dollars?

I had the opportunity to drive to Dallas not too long ago. And back. On the return trip, while we stopped for a quick bite to eat, a man who was obviously down on his luck approached me. It was very cold. He wasn't dressed well. Nor was he clean. But he was a fellow man.

"Can I talk to you? I need some help. I ran out of gas right over there on the freeway. If you could just spare the change in your pocket, I would appreciate it. I just want to get home."

I gave him five dollars. My wife thinks I got suckered. Maybe I did. Perhaps I supported a wino's habit. But maybe I didn't. Maybe

he really was what he claimed to be. At least I feel good about the transaction. I had money and he didn't. I can survive without that small amount of currency. My conscience is clear.

I know God notices these things. I'd also like to feel like he's keeping score. Maybe that's the wrong way to look at it. I didn't do it for any kind of reward. But I did get home safely that night. I was on the road long hours and thinking about my act of unselfishness helped keep me awake.

Was I right or wrong? I honestly don't know. I only know how I feel. And I could be right.

Lonestar-Mariposa Project will close over 160 abandoned mercury mines

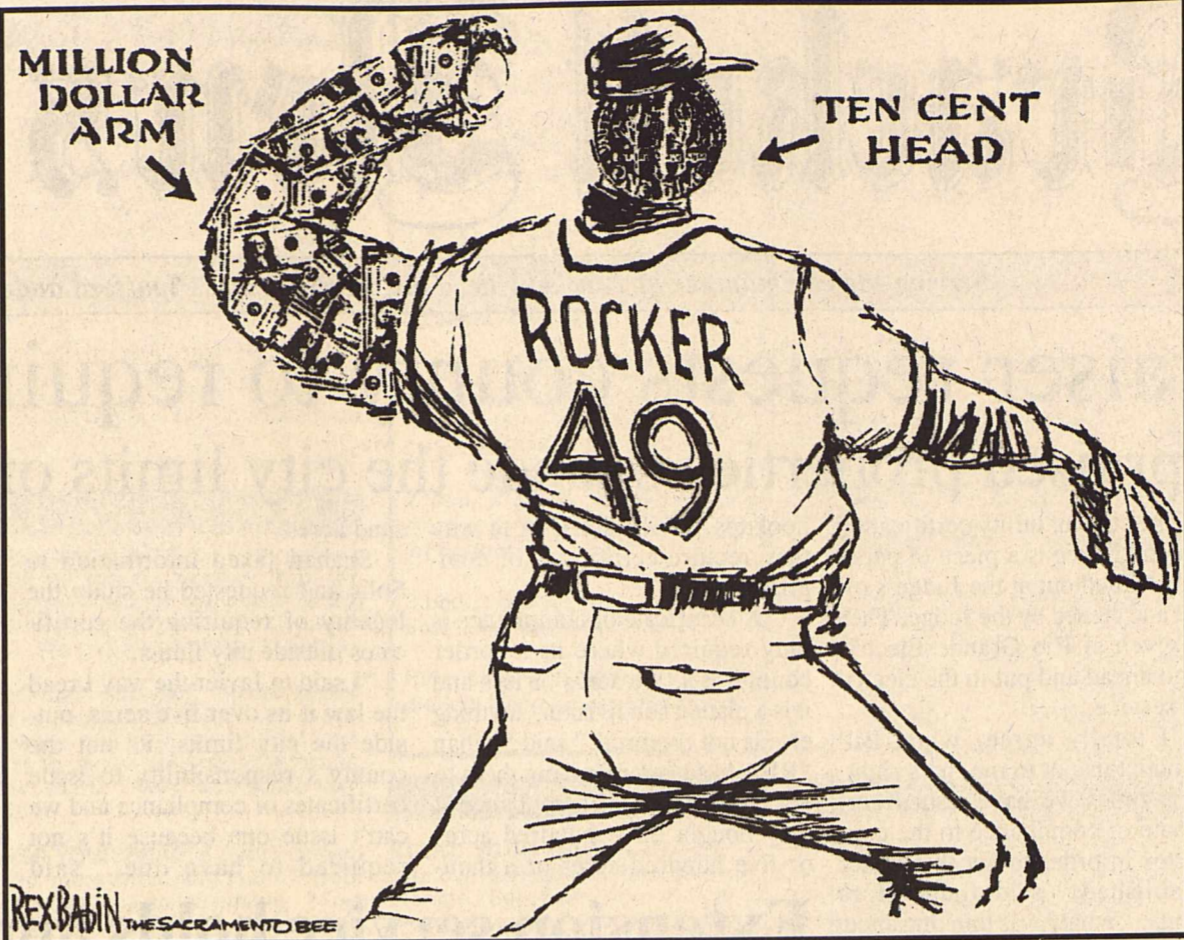
The Texas Railroad Commission has voted to begin seeking bids for the final phase of the Lonestar-Mariposa mining reclamation project located in Brewster County and a short distance from Big Bend National Park. According to agency chairman Michael L. Williams, the effort, which began in 1997, has thus far sealed off more than 53 dangerous underground mine openings, with 114 more in the final phase.

Williams said that many of the abandoned Mercury mines, some of which were hundreds of feet deep, date back to the early 1900s.

"From abandoned oil fields to abandoned mine lands, the Railroad Commission is working hard to make Texas' environment safe and functional for our recreationalists, farmers and ranchers," said Williams.

Williams went on to note that the Lonestar-Mariposa project is an example of this year's heightened Commission focus on the environment. "Coupled with our Oil Field Clean-Up Program, abandoned mine lands projects such as Lonestar-Mariposa are clear examples of the Commission's commitment to keeping Texas safe, clean and beautiful," said Williams.

The Lonestar-Mariposa project is part of the Terlingua-Quicksilver Mining District near Terlingua, Texas. Phases one and two were completed in 1997 and 1999, respectively. Phase three is expected to be complete in the fall of 2000. The project is funded through a grant from the federal Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement.



Alcohol is not okay; even in moderation

The way I see it!
By Steven R. LaMascuso

Anyone who has known me for, as we say in West Texas, "a while," knows that I once drank a considerable quantity of various and sundry alcoholic concoctions. For many years I saw nothing wrong with drinking in moderation. Unfortunately I was not one who could keep it in moderation. I finally realized that if I were going to be a good Christian, a good parent and role model for my daughters and others I would have to lead by example. I quit drinking. I wish I had never started. I sure wasted a lot of good years.

As I look back over the years I have done so many embarrassing and stupid things while under the influence of alcohol that it makes me quake and blush with shame and terror. The only reason I can think of that I wasn't killed, or didn't kill someone during those wasted years, is because God was unwilling to let me go that far and directly intervened. Praise God! Thank you Lord.

I have heard so many times, even from my own lips, that drinking alcohol is okay. Hey, Jesus and his disciples drank wine, so it must be alright. Right? Jesus himself turned water into wine at the wedding feast. And Paul told Timothy to drink wine for his stomach instead of just water.

Yes, that is true. However... First - the wine they were talking about in the bible was considerably more akin to grape juice than

to the high alcohol content wines and liqueurs of today. Wine was made in those days primarily to preserve the juice. Remember that they had no refrigeration. Second - they didn't have motor vehicles.

In thinking back over more than twenty years of law enforcement experience, I cannot remember a single traffic accident I worked that did not involve alcohol. I do not know how many wrecks I have worked in those years, surely over a hundred, but in every one I can bring to mind, the driver, usually, was drinking.

I lost my best friend in 1984 because he and some other friends got drunk on a hunting trip. They killed themselves and six more people in the car they hit head on. He was buried with full honors. I was in the honor guard; white gloves, dress uniform, spit-shined leather, Smokey Bear hats; a sea of uniforms, blue, green, brown, white, all at attention, nearly filling the cemetery while the band played taps for a fallen comrade-in-arms; and all the time I stood there at attention I was thinking that we were living a lie. Best friend that he was, miss him as I still do, he killed a bunch of innocent people and left a fragile young wife with a very small son. He did not deserve full honors. I cry when I think about standing in the hospital, holding his widow tightly to keep her from collapsing, and listening to the State Trooper tell her that her husband and the father of her children died because he was stupid. That kind of pain does not

go away.

I cannot argue that the occasional solitary glass of wine poses no serious threat. I'm not sure I believe it, but I have no concrete argument. However, I have seen alcohol cause so many deaths, break up so many marriages, destroy so many friendships, that I now believe, deep in my soul, that it is inherently evil. You can argue all you want to, but anything that can cause that much grief, make reasonable people do such stupid things, simply cannot be described as "okay if done in moderation."

For those of you who did know me in those days gone by, especially my lovely daughters, I ask, please forgive me. Don't judge me by the man I was then, I beg you.

For those of you who are about to enter adulthood, I beg you: Don't ever drink! It is dangerous. It does not make you funny, or handsome, or beautiful, or taller, or stronger, or faster, or older, or smarter, or anything else good. It just makes you smell bad, do stupid things, hurt other people, and feel bad the next morning. And you might not even get a full military honors funeral out of the deal.

Ephesians 5:18 - "Do not get drunk on wine, which leads to debauchery. Instead, be filled with the Spirit."

Psalms 23:31,32 - "Do not gaze at wine when it is red, when it sparkles in the cup, when it goes down smoothly! In the end it bites like a snake and poisons like a viper."

An immoral tax

Submitted by
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

John and Sue Rogers (not their real names) got married on Valentine's Day. They were young and, like most Americans, had their share of debt. But they were determined to work hard, watch what they spent and, eventually, save enough money to buy a home and start a family. Every month, they found ways to put a little money aside. John picked up extra shifts at work, while Sue continued to run a beauty parlor out of their basement. They spent a lot of evenings at home, and ate a lot of macaroni. Within a year, it looked like all the effort was paying off. The couple had just enough for a down payment on a blue house in a quiet neighborhood, with a yard just big enough for a dog.

Then, they did their taxes. Immediately, the house went up in smoke. As it turned out, the government wanted an extra \$1300 from them. Why, they wondered? They weren't making more than the year before. The only difference? John and Sue had become man and wife, and were now getting hit with the "marriage tax."

It sounds ridiculous, the very idea that a couple should owe more to the government simply because they vow to love, honor, and cherish one another. But it's true. If you're married, and both you and your spouse have to work, you will pay more than another couple that's not married. The average couple will pay an extra \$1400 a year just because they're married, because married couples are taxed at a higher rate than unmarried couples. It's an immoral tax. It's a tax that hurt families.

Last week, the U.S. House of Representatives passed a bill to end the marriage tax. The "Marriage Tax Penalty Relief Act of 2000" doesn't give married couples special treatment. It gives them fair treatment, taxing them at the same rate as unmarried couples. Right now, a married couple living together gets a \$7350 standard deduction on their taxes. An unmarried couple living together gets \$8800. This bill allows married couples to take the \$8800 deduction as well.

The White House has already promised to veto this bill. There are a lot of men and women in Washington right now working to see that the marriage tax is banished from IRS books forever. But there are a lot of people who want to keep it. Now's the time to speak up. Write the president. Tell him the marriage tax is unfair. Urge him to sign this bill in to law when Congress sends it to him. If enough Americans write, he'll have no choice but to listen.

Big Mama Sez!

Lord, when I am tempted to complain, remind me that I have been given far more than I have given.

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Women could use a tax break

Submitted by
Kay Bailey Hutchison

One of the most interesting and positive aspects of the taxpayer refund proposal that Congress just passed is the way it responds to the needs of women, in particular. Whether they're married, single, homemakers, employees or employers, women are big winners under this plan.

Lowering taxes, as Congress proposed to do in order to refund a small portion of the \$1 trillion taxpayer overpayment, means women as well as men taxpayers will be able to hang on to more of the money they earn, rather than send it to Washington so someone else can decide how to spend it.

Opponents of the congressional plan to lower taxes cite Medicare and Social Security and their impact on women, because women live longer. But Congress' plan allocates more than \$2 trillion to the long-term solvency of Medicare and Social Security. The non-partisan Congressional Budget Office estimates that the congressional plan will cut the federal debt in half in 10 years.

The highest priority of Congress' plan is marriage tax penalty relief, which is approached in several ways. For instance, right now the standard deduction is \$4,300 for an individual. If two taxpayers happen to marry, their standard deduction is not the \$8,600 one might expect (\$4,300

twice). Instead, it is \$7,200. Congress' plan phases out that unfairness for those who choose the standard deduction rather than itemizing.

It also would double the income levels for the lowest tax bracket. Two unmarried people earning \$25,000 each are taxed at a marginal rate of 15 percent, but when they marry, the government taxes their combined income at a rate of 28 percent. We want to end that by expanding the size of the 15 percent tax bracket. This would prevent a working wife's income from being taxed at the higher marginal rate.

The plan includes another great innovation, one that helps women make extra contributions to their pensions and other retirement savings programs. Women who do not work outside the home have been at a disadvantage when it comes to pension savings programs such as IRAs and 401 (K)s. We began addressing this problem three years ago when my Homemaker IRA plan became law. This allows stay-at-home spouses to set aside the full \$2,000 for retirement, just as their working spouses can, rather than the \$250 allowed them before.

Women who work outside the home go off the savings track when they leave the workplace to raise children. One result can be that women end up with smaller pensions when they retire. We want to recognize this disparity by per-

mitting "catchup" payments for those who return to the workforce. Congress' plan allows women who return to work after raising their children to contribute as much as 50 percent more per year to their pension plans.

Women remain the primary care givers for elderly family members. Congress' plan will help them bear the costs of home-based care more easily if a loved one faces long-term illness. Congress' proposal also allows an additional personal exemption for those caretakers of elderly family members, and it permits people to deduct the cost of long-term care insurance.

Finally, Congress' tax relief plan would help women by recognizing that they constitute the fastest growing segment of business owners in America. The plan would allow the self-employed to deduct the cost of their health coverage, and it would phase out the death tax so women business owners, as well as men, can pass their success on to their children.

Congress and the White House agree that two out of three dollars in the expected surplus over the next 10 years will be dedicated to saving Social Security. The debate is over the remaining dollar. Congress wants to give a quarter of it back to those who worked so hard to send it to Washington and use the rest for even more debt reduction and Medicare stability. The plan is balanced, and it's fair. And the big winners will be women.

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Brackett Science Fair 2000 results



From left: First Place Winners Jones Elementary (level 3-5); Seth Frerich - Life Science, Stanford Conoly - Physical Science and Michael Stephenson - Earth Science.

Brackett Science Fair 2000 was held Wednesday February 9, at the school library. The results are listed by grade level from Jones Elementary, Brackett Middle & High Schools.

The Fair 2000 consisted of three categories: Life Science, Earth Science and Physical Science.

Life Science Results
Jones Elementary (level 3-5): 1st-Seth Frerich, 2nd-Lorena Mendoza, 3rd-Betty Lattimer and Maria De Leon.

Brackett Middle School (level 6-8): 1st-Emily Petrosky, 2nd-Sarah Nickerson.

Brackett High School (level 9-12): 1st-Brittany Shewbart, 2nd-Delaney Jaso, and 3rd-Leslie

Meyer. Brittany Shewbart was rated the "Best" from the 9-12 level.

Earth Science Results:
Jones Elementary (level 3-5): 1st-Michael Stephenson, 2nd-Joey Castillo, and 3rd-Justin Ward.

Brackett Middle School (level 6-8): 1st-Valerie Terrazas, 2nd-Dana Bonner, and 3rd-Kristin Meyer.

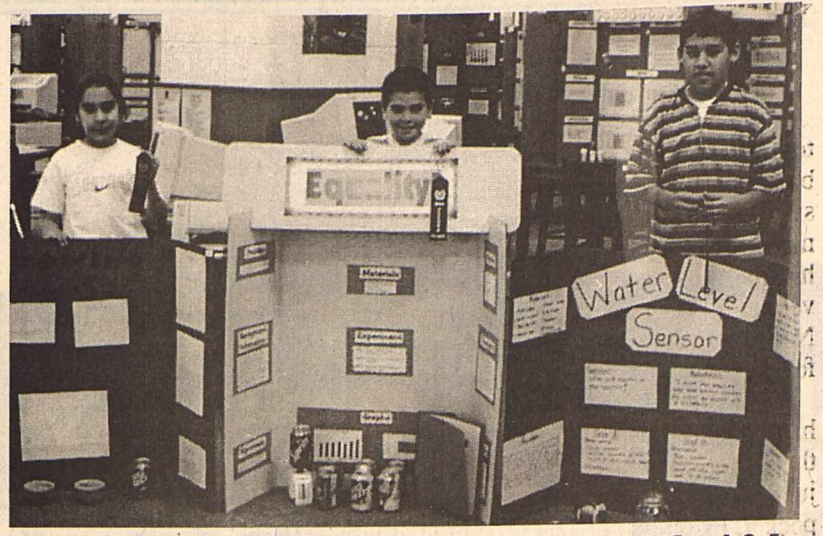
Brackett High School (level 9-12): 1st-Levi Duncan, 2nd-Albert Lattimer, and 3rd-Lee Davis.

Physical Science Results:
Jones Elementary (level 3-5): 1st-Stanford Conoly, 2nd-Kevin J. Bonner, and 3rd-Kara Yeager. Stanford Conoly was announced the "Best" of the 3-5 level.

Brackett Middle School (level 6-8): 1st-Tabitha Silver, 2nd-Dana Bonner, and 3rd-Brandon Kluzek. Tabitha Silver was recognized as the "Best" of the 3-5 level.

Brackett High School (level 9-12): 1st-April Crumley, 2nd-John Wylie and 3rd-Queta Garza.

Special recognition goes to Tabitha Silver for earning the Reserve Grand Champion of the entire fair and Brittany Shewbart earned Best of the Fair, Congratulations to everyone!



From left: Second Place Winners Jones Elementary (level 3-5); Lovena Mendoza - Life Science, Kevin Bonner - Physical Science and Joey Castillo - Earth Science.



From left: Third Place Winners Jones Elementary (level 3-5); Maria De Leon and Betty Lattimer - Life Science, Kara Yeager - Physical Science and Justin Ward - Earth Science.

Beta Epsilon Omicron Sorority

By Hazel Ivey
Contributing Writer

Beta Epsilon Omicron Sorority met February 10, at the home of Helen Peck. A beautiful candle-light ceremony was conducted honoring new pledge, Sondra Meil. Vice-President Jan Peck was the officiant, assisted by Cathy Conrey, Hazel Ivey and Marla Madrid. Sondra was then welcomed by each member.

Plans were finalized for the annual Sweetheart Banquet to be

held jointly with Theta Sigma Phi at Barbara's Table.

Dee Curry encouraged all members to attend the German Concert/Dance at the Civic Center on February 19. Members agreed to support the Kinney County Art Council with our attendance and also to provide popcorn and lemonade during the show.

Members voted to accept the invitation to provide coffee and desserts at the Art Show in March. Service Chairman and Presi-

dent Ivey thanked members for their love and support to Judy Hooker upon the death of her father, Rev. Joe Townsend.

Hostess Helen Peck served lovely and delicious home-made refreshments. Hazel Ivey won the door prize.

Those attending were: Barbara Brisesette, Cathy Conrey, Dee Curry, Elizabeth Goebel, Opal Groce, Hazel Ivey, Marla Madrid, Betty Mathison, Sondra Meil, Pam Melancon, Helen Peck, Jan Peck and Evelyn Whitely.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, February 7

2:00 p.m., A Fort Clark resident reported a dog had jumped up and scratched her while she was walking. Deputy Fritter contacted the owner, who agreed to pen the dog for 10 days and forward the dog's shot record to the General Manager's Office.

2:14 p.m., Edwards County Sheriff's Department reported a female juvenile runaway. When advised Sheriff Burgess reported she was already in custody. The runaway was picked up by the Edwards County Sheriff at 5:30 p.m.

3:39 p.m., a 6 year old girl called 911 and reported she had been left alone and was scared. Chief Ring was dispatched to the residence and arrived at the same time as the mother.

4:00 p.m., Eujenio Flores, Jr. of Brackettville was arrested, for criminal mischief, by Chief Ring. Flores was released on PR bond that day.

6:57 p.m., A Brackettville resident reported receiving repeated rude phone calls from the same individual. The caller was advised to report the incident to J. P. John Ford.

Tuesday, February 8

10:10 a.m., Ricardo Galvan of Brackettville was arrested, for criminal mischief, by Sheriff Burgess. Galvan was released on PR bond that day.

12 noon, A Fort Clark resident reported that someone had been drinking beer on his property without permission. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched and reported finding empty bottles and cans but that the residence appeared secure.

1:40 p.m., Kermit Gomez of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff Burgess for burglary of a habitation. Gomez was still being held as of Tuesday morning.

Wednesday, February 9

9:30 a.m., A Fort Clark resident reported someone had knocked on her door between 8:30 a.m. and 9:00 a.m. She had not wanted to answer the door.

10:46 p.m., A man called to report a possible fire at his residence. Volunteer Fire Department and the Sheriff's Department were dispatched to the scene.

Thursday, February 10

5:26 p.m., Del Rio DPS reported a possible drunk driver on highway 90 west of Brackettville. Chief Deputy Fritter was given the license plate number of the vehicle.

Friday, February 11

2:50 p.m., U.S. Border Patrol check point at Cline reported a stranded motorist 10 miles East of Brackettville. Deputy Guidry was dispatched and stayed on scene until a wrecker arrived from Del Rio.

8:09 p.m., Anonymous caller reported a wreckless driver in a grey and white blazer on east Louise Street. Deputy Chism was dispatched.

10:40 p.m., A Brackettville man reported 3 males in a brown vehicle parked near his residence. Deputy Chism was dispatched to

the scene the occupants of the vehicle were sent home.

10:59 p.m., A Fort Clark resident reported kids knocking on her door. Deputy Chism was notified and took care of the problem.

Saturday, February 12

11:40 p.m., A Brackettville resident reported a white Suburban driving wrecklessly. Deputy Chism stopped the vehicle east of Brackettville. The driver was extremely tired and was advised to stop at Fritter Park to rest before continuing on.

Sunday, February 13

3:30 a.m., Javier Talamantes of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Wylie for public intoxication. Talamantes was released the same day for time served.

3:30 a.m., Andres Martinez, Jr. of Brackettville was arrested, for DWI first offense, by DPS Trooper Wylie. Martinez was released on PR bond that day.

Monday, February 14

6:23 p.m., A Brackettville resident reported an intoxicated female was bothering her. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched and reported the situation under control at 6:41 p.m.

FCS Art Club upcoming events

By Mary Batey
Contributing Writer

As is usual the new year brought about a change of officers. They are: President - Betty Wright; 1st Vice-President - Katherine Field; 2nd Vice-President - Betty Gibbs; Treasurer - Connie Armbruster; Secretary - Rosaleen Eason; Historian - Mary Batey.

A very attractive, intimate setting for our after Christmas Party on January 10th was created in the

Art Room by Betty Wright and helpers. Members enjoyed appetizing finger foods and had fun with a Chinese gift exchange.

Various workshops are scheduled for February and March. They are: Feb. 16-17 Pastel Portrait - Frances McMaster - \$25.00

Feb. 29 - March 1 - Still Life - Gloria Pierce - \$35.00

March 21 - Beginners Drawing Class - Bruce Stoeker - \$10.00.

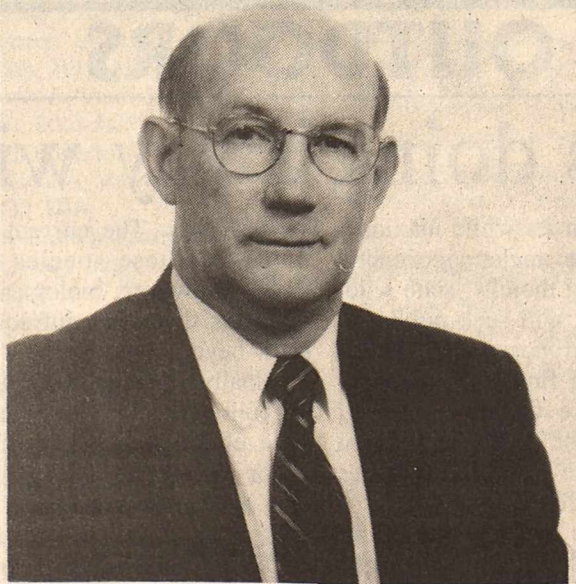
The Art & Craft sale which is sponsored by the Art Club will be

held Saturday, March 4th at the Adult Center. We hope many crafters will take advantage of this occasion.

Our art room and the artistic efforts of our members have in the past two months received many compliments from casual visitors and the Elderhosteleers. You are all welcome to visit us on Saturday and Monday from 9 AM - 3 PM.

Anyone requiring further information about our Art Club should phone Mary Batey at 563-2961

March 14, 2000
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63rd Judicial District

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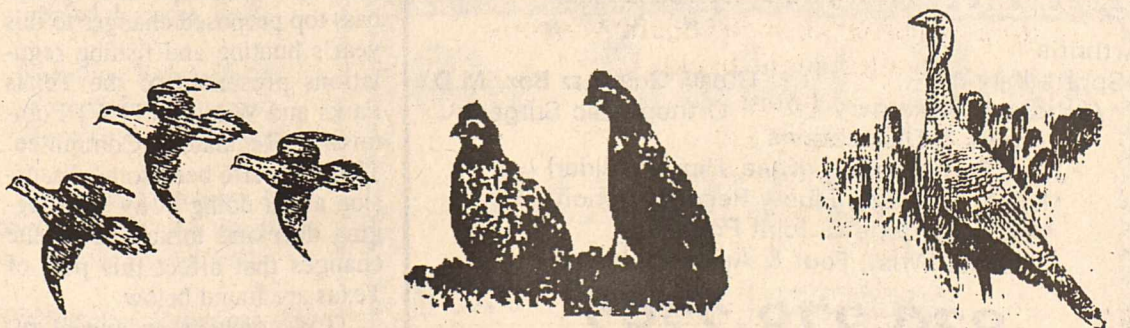


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Leona Ranch, located 15 miles north of Brackettville, Texas, has an abundance of whitetail deer, javelina, turkey, quail, dove, rabbits and squirrels. Other non-game species include feral hogs, wild Spanish goats, racoons, ringtails, fox, bobcats and a few mountain lions.

The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrubbrush 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.



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

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Pictured above: The Blasmusik Texas in front of the replica of Judge Roy Bean's Jersey Lilly saloon and Court Room at Pearl Brewery, San Antonio. This picture was taken at the bands last rehearsal and performance before departing for its first European Tour in June, 1994.

"Blasmusik Texas" comes to Kinney County

The Kinney County Arts Council is sponsoring a taste of German culture through the "German Band Association of Texas." These musicians come together from all over Texas. Joining the local performances will be School Superintendent, Taylor Stephenson, on the tenor horn and Band Director, Hector Jimenez will play the trombone.

"Blasmusik Texas" has made two tours of southern Germany

and Alsace. Their programs reflect their joy in playing. Music of central Europe makes up the band's repertoire, which is predominantly Czech and Austrian polkas, waltzes, marches and volksmusik.

There will be a concert at Brackett School on Friday, February 18. Some of the band members will share their experiences with the students.

Saturday, February 19, at 7:30

PM in the Kinney County Civic Center, "Blasmusik Texas" will give another performance. Soft drinks and popcorn will be sold and only beer brought in cans or plastic cups will be allowed. Tickets are \$5.00 and can be obtained at The Bank And Trust, Middle Rio Grande Job Center, any Arts Council member, Fort Clark Adult Center or at the door.

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

By Hazel Ivey
Contributing Writer

The Mountain Laurel Garden Club met February 10 in the Gorgas Room with fifteen members present. First-Vice President Nancy England opened the meeting in the absence of President Ella Chambers who was ill. Pat McKelvy led the prayer and Nancy England led the group in the pledge of allegiance. Amie Skelton gave the treasurer's report. A lovely Valentine Party table prepared by Charlene Simmons and Rosie Mattingly was enjoyed by members before the meeting.

Pay McKelvy moved that the By-Laws were reviewed and that they be accepted as written. Clara McCord seconded the motion. Motion carried.

Charlene Simmons gave further instructions to the group for the annual flower show to be held

on May 6. Plans for exhibits were discussed in detail. Simmons will give details for refreshments to be served at the show at the March meeting.

Clara McCord expressed thanks to Norma Conner, Ruby Cheaney and Sara Richhart for their continuing upkeep in the Rose Garden, The Red Sage bed and our plants at the restaurant.

Simmons requested that Kubie Kurtz and Barbara Hunter be sent thank you cards for the many hours they spent keeping the flower beds at the swim park clean of weeds and trash.

Nancy England and Charlene Simmons reported on the progress made on the Sutler's Store project. They expressed thanks to maintenance for their help in making the first phase of this project almost complete. They noted that any native plants suitable for this project would be welcome. Patsy Callnan suggested that plants

placed on the porch of the store would make the entrance to the store more pleasant.

Shirley Hadsell stated that the garden area at the library needed plants that the library cannot afford and does not have personnel to maintain the area. Simmons moved that we help the library in this project and Rosie Mattingly seconded the motion. After discussion as to our limits in time and money the motion carried. Donations for the project was encouraged, and volunteers requested.

Clara McCord requested members find donors to replace the many bluebird houses that have been recently vandalized.

Pat Callnan, Charlene Simmons, Luella Gilliland and Rosie Mattingly shared some special memories in the spirit of Valentines Day Celebration.

Nakai Breen will speak on "The healing power of plants" at the March 9, 2000 meeting.

McCord hosts Beta Sigma Phi

By Doraline Kellar
Contributing Writer

On the evening of February 6, 2000, Clara McCord was hostess to seventeen members of Beta Sigma Phi. One of those present was Arlene Karson, Clara's sister, a winter Texan from Redmon, Washington. She and Clara joined Beta Sigma Phi fifty-two years ago!

Clara served a delightful dinner of Chicken Divan, Layered salad, Cherry gelatin, and Key Lime Pie.

After dinner, the business meeting was held. Theta Sigma will begin a new project of serving refreshments to those attending the Summer Reading Program at the Library, upon the suggestion of Shirley Hadsell. We look forward to this!

A Pledge Ritual was conducted for B.J. Eckenrod and Rhoda Rehder. Welcome to these new members of our chapter!

Attending were: Jan Chism, B.J. Eckenrod, Nancy Frerich, Marge Geeze, Luella Gilliland, Lou Green, Doraline Kellar,

Clara McCord, Pat McKelvy, Alicia Raymer, Molly Schroeder, Arlys Simpson, Mylo Unruh, Bobbie Waddill, Shirley Hadsell, Rhoda Rehder and Arlene Karson.

HEALTH

Mapping new trail to recreation aided by Texas Department of Health

A dozen youngsters are invited to a party and you want to find a spot in town that has picnic facilities and perhaps a soccer field. Or you are tired of walking the same circular exercise path around the neighborhood and would enjoy new sights. Or perhaps you just started a workout regime and now have a business trip to the opposite end of the state.

Where are Texas trails and what do they offer?

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) is offering some solutions with its new Texas Trail Registry, available at www.tdh.state.tx.us/trails/ through the agency's Web site. The registry provides information on public trails by county including details such as the trail name and location, manager, approved activities, estimated difficulty and length, hours, cost, facilities, wheelchair accessibility and scenery.

Going to El Paso? Check out Feather Lake Trail. This easy trail supports walking, jogging, hiking and nature study and provides drinking water, toilets, picnic facilities and interpretive signs over-

looking a lake with opportunities for wildlife observation.

In Houston, look up the easy half-mile Baldwin Trail for walking and jogging. It provides drinking water, picnic facilities and is wheelchair accessible.

Want something more strenu-

ous in Val Verde County? Try the Rio Grande River Trail in Seminole Canyon State Historical Park where you can walk, jog, hike, enjoy mountain biking and nature study. You'll get water, showers, camping grounds and a chance to see a waterfall, Presa Canyon and some pictographs in Panther Cave.

"The registry gives existing trails more exposure, provides communities and other groups considering trail construction some ideas and reveals pockets of need throughout the state," said Elizabeth Graves, physical activity program specialist with the TDH Community and Worksites Wellness Program.

Currently listing more than 350 sites in 56 counties from Angelina to Wise, the registry outlines public trails that are on federal, state, county, city, river authority, utility district or nonprofit entity lands.

"We want to help people enjoy healthier lives by preventing chronic disease," Graves said. "Part of how we accomplish this goal is to work with communities to develop programs and facilities

that support and promote a physically active lifestyle. Building and promoting walking, jogging, hiking and equestrian trails across Texas is one way."

A 1998 Texas Physical Activity Survey by TDH showed that more than two-thirds of adult Tex-

ans are not getting at least 20 minutes of moderate to vigorous activity three times a week -- the amount of physical activity recommended for greater health benefits. And 32 percent of adult Texans reported the leading community reason for not being more physically active is the lack of enough fitness facilities, sidewalks and bicycle lanes.

"We need to encourage more physical activity, especially among children," said Dr. Reyn Archer, Texas Commissioner of Health. "Having fun with family and friends on any of the many excellent trails in Texas is a great way to promote better health and good life-long habits."

People who are sedentary have twice the risk of heart disease as those who are physically active. Plus physical activity provides protection against other chronic diseases and conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes and colon cancer.

The Texas Trail Registry site consists of two parts - the inventory of trails listed by county and a survey for trail managers and users to fill out about their trails.

Planners, managers or avid users of Texas trails may submit information to the registry online. That information will be linked to the database for the public to view. "Just check first to be sure the trail is not already listed," Graves said. Then use the Public Trail Infor-

mation Survey on the registry site. "People do not need to know all the information about a trail. They can fill out as much of the questionnaire as they can. Or if people know more information about a currently listed trail, they may add that as well." The information is checked before being put on the site.

The only exclusion is a trail that is for motorized vehicles. "We are going for physical activity," Graves said.

The registry, which went online last July, was developed through research and with the help of groups such as the National Parks Service, Texas Department of Transportation, Texas Trails Network, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, Texas Physical Activity Network and the Cooper Institute for Aerobics Research.

It is, according to Graves, a work in progress.

"We will add trails as we receive them," she said, "and we hope to update the site annually."

In the meantime, if you are headed for San Antonio in Bexar County, try the Mission Trails winding for 10 miles from the

Alamo to Last County Mission. Or if you are still looking for a site for the youngsters to get together in, say, the Dallas area, check out Farmers Branch Park complete with ball fields, playground, a soccer field, benches, grills and a shelter.

OUTDOORS

TPW proposes doing away with deer tags!

A little on the Wildlife side
By Henry Lutz

Removing the minimum length limit on Guadalupe and spotted bass top proposed changes to this year's hunting and fishing regulations presented to the Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW) Commission Regulatory Committee. There has also been some discussion about doing away with tagging deer and turkey. Only the changes that affect this part of Texas are found below.

TPW conducts an annual review of the state's hunting and fishing regulations and makes changes based on statutory requirements and scientific data collected by field biologists. The objective of the process is to provide sound biological management

of the resources while maximizing hunter and angler opportunity.

In coming months, state wildlife officials will seek public input on the proposed changes before making final recommendations to the Commission. If adopted by the TPW Commission in April, the proposed changes could take effect in the fall.

—Change the bag limit from four deer no more than two bucks to five deer no more than two bucks and provide a 14-day Special Late General Season for the harvest of antlerless deer and spike bucks in 21 counties in the Edwards Plateau.

All proposed changes to Texas freshwater fishing regulations this year relate to bass, including:

—Eliminating the minimum length limit on Guadalupe and

spotted bass. The current minimum for these species is 12 inches, however, biological data indicates these fish infrequently grow beyond this limit.

Finally, the biggest change being considered this year is the possible elimination of, or at least major changes to, the game tagging system now in place. Currently, when you kill a turkey, mule deer, or whitetail deer, you are required to tag the animal with a tag from your hunting license. This is designed to help enforce the laws on bag limits and protect the resource. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Commissioners are pushing for a tagless system so that licenses can be sold over the internet. What kind of problems this will present to Game Wardens who use the tags and information

from them to enforce bag limits and biologists who use the tags to gather information about deer harvest, etc. is to be seen. Will this increase the chances that poachers can get away with more? Will it be easier for hunters to kill all the deer they want on your land? This is not a done deal. The department would like to hear from landowners and hunters about this issue. The best way to get answers to your questions and concerns is to write a letter to the department voicing your opinions and concerns.

Public comment on these issues and others may be made at public meetings yet to be scheduled or by writing Texas Parks and Wildlife Dept. at 4200 Smith School Road, Austin, TX 78744 or calling (800) 792-1112.

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Boys Basketball team makes playoffs!

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Valentine's Day was a real big show at BISD this past Monday. Everywhere that you looked there were hearts, boxes for valentines as parents and teachers worked together to get wonderful treats for the kids. St. Valentine left one of the best legacies for school students, parents and teachers. He taught us how to work together while taking time to enjoy friend-

ship and to express our love for each other. The Valentines that children receive are so special. I talked to several who said they were going home to read their valentines. Our kids were busy for hours looking to see if each one had remembered them on Valentine's Day. What a neat day!

The BHS Boys Basketball team made the playoffs for the first time in many years with its win at home over Center Point. If we beat Jourdanon Tuesday, we'll have

a playoff for second place. We're one win out of first place as I write this article. Wow!

Girls Softball has begun to practice while Boys Baseball is not far behind. Baseball will have a slower start because of the basketball playoffs. That's okay. We look for great seasons with our girls and boys. Check out the new student activity schedule that appears each week in the Brackett News. Come support our kids. Track season has also begun.

We've got young folks everywhere running, jumping and throwing as they work to improve their athletic skills. Then, there's golf with a boys and a girls team trying to get ready for district play. We're fortunate to have a great golf course here at Fort Clark Springs.

The tennis team is out in force. You can drive by any day and check out the number of young people practicing on our beautiful tennis courts. Check out the new wind screens while you're driving by.

Our schools are working harder on UIL academic events. The board established a small stipend to be paid to sponsors for work done before and after school. We have strong student participation in UIL and want it to improve each year. Other activities that are taking place include cheerleader try-outs this month. That's a big event at BISD. The school band is working to improve.

Along with all of this, the Fourth Six Weeks ends Friday. That's right, we have academic challenges going as well as a complete array of student activities. Next week, we'll see the TAAS testing begin at BISD. The writing test will be given at the Exit Level (high school) along with grades 4 and 8 next Tuesday. We're still working on schedules for Math and Reading (high school), but they will most likely be scheduled on Thursday and Friday, Feb. 24 & 25.

The weather is gorgeous. Surely, rain can't be far behind. Let's think rain all week long and see if we do any good. Have a great week!



Jacob Hughes going for 2 in last Friday's win over Center Point.

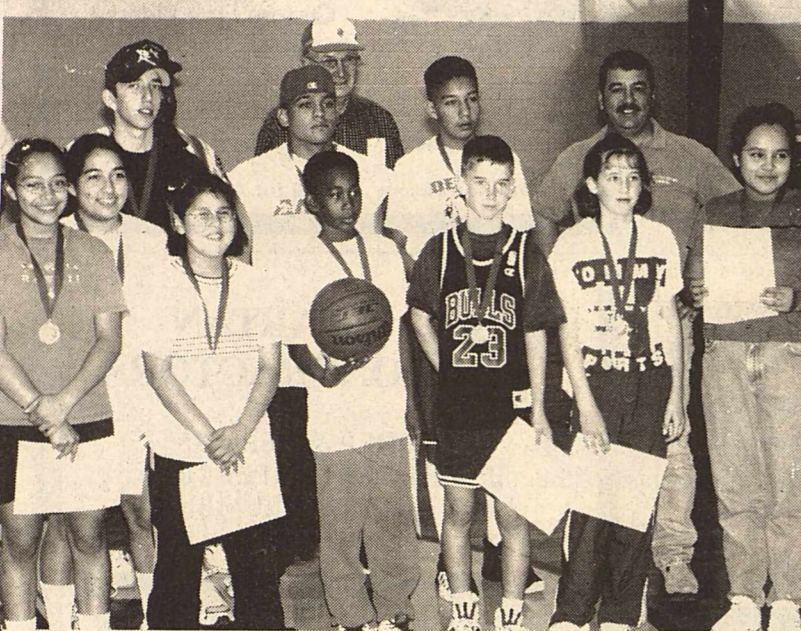
District free throw competition

Four Brackettville students move up to the regional level in the annual Free Throw Competition sponsored by the Knights of Columbus. Students from Brackettville, Del Rio, Uvalde, Batesville and Sabinal participated

in the District Competition at the Brackett ISD gym on Saturday, February 12th. The Brackettville winners were Stephanie De Leon in the age 12 category, Valerie Terrazas in the age 13 category, Vanesa Castillo in the age 14 cat-

egory and Travis Nowlin in the boys age 11 category. Other winners by category were: Girls age 10 - Karla Carrillo, age 11 - Amber Montgomery both of Del Rio. Boys age 10 - Joseph G. Turner, age 12 - Daniel Torres Jr. both of Del Rio, age 13 - Joe Michael Villareal of Batesville, and age 14 - Gerardo Hinojosa of Del Rio. Manuel Pena organized the competition and he and Coach Greg Nowlin served as scorekeepers. All winners were presented with medals by District Deputy, Herb Dirkson of District #21 of the Knights of Columbus.

Regional competition will be held on Sunday, March 5th at Anthony High School in San Antonio. Brackettville Knights of Columbus, Council #8223 sponsored the competition and are very appreciative of the help of Coach Nowlin and Brackett ISD for the use of the gym. The Knights of Columbus would like to thank all the students that participated and the parents for their support.



Pictured above proudly wearing their newly won medals are the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Competition Winners.

Linksters Place Third

The Del Rio Golf Tournament was held Monday, February 14th, at the San Felipe Country Club. The team consisting of Laura Lee Ballew, Tiffany Eckenrod, Susannah Davis, Erica Meyer, and Leslie Meyer placed third overall.

Laura Lee Ballew placed third as an individual with a score of 104 for eighteen holes. The next tournament will be played February 28th at the Fort Clark Springs Golf Course. Come support your high school golfers.

Tigers trash the Wolves

With a loss to the Tigers the Dilley Wolves are no longer in sole possession of first place in the district.

When the final score went up the Tigers were ahead 55-42.

Jacob Hughes led the charge scoring a whopping 21 points.

Jared Hobbs also scored double digits with a total of 13 points.

Schiller Hill put in 9, Coty Williams helped with 8, Carlos Gomez and Steven Hagler had 2 points each.

The Tigers record is 15-8 and in District 5-3. "We played our best game of the year. Our guys executed offensively and played great defense. It was a great team effort," said Coach Thomas.

Appraisal District proposes permits to finding un-appraised properties

Continued from Page 1
when they come in we can get the correct account number, correct legal description and the correct owner identified."

Once they have filled out the proposed application and they have it in their system the owner can go to the courthouse and get it validated.

"The Appraisal District can subsequently send a letter to the property owner which requests a time and place to get an appraisal of the improvement," said Haenn. Shahan is expecting a package from the AG's office containing recommended forms the county could pattern their certificate of compliance after. That's if the commissioners elect to approve Haenn's proposal.

"The things that throw us off the most are Kinney County Ranch Estates, Leona Ranch, the N-Bar Ranch they are not platted. So when they come in and take a chunk out of a three hundred acre abstract and sell somebody 20 to 40 acres, we don't even know where it is in that subdivision," said Haenn.

"For the lost taxes that land did not provide for five years, its a mess when its not platted and you go and look for the maps and they are not there," said Haenn. "They never platted the Leona Ranch for instance because it costs money to plat that land," added Haenn.

"The problem we have, the problem we can't help you with is that the law doesn't require it to be platted and our subdivision ordinances doesn't require it to be platted unless its five acres or less and those are according to state guidelines," explained Shahan.

"If I'm hearing things right that would mean nobody needs a certificate of compliance cause the

only thing platted is Fort Clark Springs, nobody needs one," asked Haenn.

"That's right, that's the law, we don't legislate here we try and follow the law," answered Shahan.

No action was taken on Haenn's proposal and will have to wait until next months regular commissioners court meeting scheduled for March 13, 2000 for further details.

BISD Activity Calendar

- Thursday February 17
Girls Softball V Somerset Tournament (T) TBA
- Friday February 18
Band Concert by Arts Council, Auditorium, HS & JH, 1:30-2:10
Band Concert, Auditorium, Elementary, 2:20-3:00
End of 4th 6 weeks!
Girls Softball V Somerset Tournament (T) TBA
- Saturday February 19
Family Library Time, School Library 2-4:00
Girls Softball V Somerset Tournament (T) TBA
- Monday February 21
Presidents Day
- Tuesday February 22
4th Grade TASS Writing Test
Washington's Birthday

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Bailee Allen won 1st place lightweight European steer at the Hill Country District Junior Livestock Show. Kinney County was well represented with 17.

BISD Cafeteria Menu

Parents Welcome To Join Their Children At Breakfast Or Lunch

Three Choices For Breakfast:
1. Printed Menu 2. Cereal & Toast
3. Two Toast.

Milk is offered with every meal along with fruit or juice.

Breakfast Menu Friday, February 18 Chocolate Chip Muffins Fruit or Juice	Lunch Menu Friday, February 18 Pepperoni Pizza Salad & Fresh Fruit
Monday, February 21 Breakfast Bagel Fruit or Juice	Monday, February 21 Turkey & Cheese Sub Oven Fries/Salad/Fruit
Tuesday, February 22 Scrambled Eggs/Toast Jelly/Fruit or Juice	Tuesday, February 22 Spaghetti/Seasoned Vegetable Garlic Sticks/Fruit
Wednesday, February 23 Pancakes & Syrup Fruit or Juice	Wednesday, February 23 Frito Pie/Pinto Beans Spanish Rice/Fruit
Thursday, February 24 Tiger Toast Fruit or Juice	Thursday, February 24 Hamburger/Oven Fries Burger Salad/Fruit

Brackett cruises by Center Point

The Brackett Tigers Boys Basketball team clinched a playoff spot with last Friday's 58-42 win over Center Point.

Coach Thomas said, "It was a great night for our seniors as we played a good second half. We ran our offense well, and dominated the fourth quarter."

Schiller Hill led the Tigers to

victory scoring 23 points. Steven Hagler pitched in 9, Jacob Hughes and Jared Hobbs added 5 each, Carlos Gomez and Coty Williams put in 4 apiece, Daniel Hernandez and Damian Toms each had 3 and Eric Allen put in 2.

The Tigers are now 16-8 and in District 6-3.

LAS MORAS MASONIC LODGE

meets the 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

School of Instruction meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m.

Visiting Brothers are Welcome

Order of Election

An election is hereby ordered to be held on May 6, 2000 for the purpose of Board of Trustees Election. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Central Office-Brackett Independent School District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 19, 2000 and ending on May 2, 2000.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to
Susan Esparza
P.O. Box 586
Brackettville, Texas 78832.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 28, 2000. Issued this the 14th day of February, 2000.

Dixie Brown
Signature of Presiding Officer.

Orden De Eleccion

Por la presente se ordena que se llevara a cabo una eleccion el 6 de mayo 2000 con el proposito de:
Eleccion de la mesa Directiva

La votacion en adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en officina central- Brackett Independent School District entre las 8:00 de la manana y las 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 19, de abril, 2000 y terminando el 2, de mayo 2000.

La votacion en adelantada ademas se llevara a cabo de tal manera:
Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:
Susan Esparza
P.O. Box 586
Brackettville, TX 78832

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 28 de abril, 2000
Emitida este dia 14 de Febrero, 2000
Dixie Brown
Firma del Oficial Que Preside

The Brackett News

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Super Crossword

ACROSS	59 TV's "The — Limits"	106 Free tickets	10 Word with carpet or cabbage	51 Subject matter	92 Corporate clasher
1 Plot	60 Animosity	107 Pavarotti piece	11 Racing legend	52 "Ben—" ("59 film)	93 Bank statistic
6 Philanthropist	61 Nimble	109 Third-rate	12 Boxing legend	53 School founded by Henry VI	94 Big bird
11 Send out a page	62 Printer's proof	110 Halloween decoration	13 Makes one's mark	54 Siamese	96 Indra Gandhi's father
14 Highlanders' headgear	63 Hindu duty	111 Yogi or Smokey	14 Resort lake	55 Fill to the gills	100 Enjoy the beach
17 Vision-related	64 Word form for "milk"	112 Political abbr.	15 Pile up	57 Actress Cannon	101 See
19 Likes a lot	65 City on the Allegheny	115 End of remark	16 Lusterless	58 Virginia	49 Down
21 Barcelona bravo	66 Storm	122 Dolphin Dan	18 Italian	61 Mall event	102 Diatribe
22 "I — Rock" ("66 song)	67 Bounded	124 Kind	20 Alaskan city	63 Homer's characters	103 "To fetch —"
23 A few words	68 Smiley's "A Thousand"	125 Flagon filler	25 Italian greyhound, e.g.	64 So. state	104 Clavell's "House"
24 Start of a remark by Laurence J. Peter	69 Medical suffix	126 Proof- reader's list	26 Bread ingredient	65 Mouth piece?	105 Alistair or Sam
27 Itch	70 Spirit	127 Leisurely, to Liszt	29 Wee one	66 Habitually, to Herrick	106 Part of PST
28 Local part	71 Gogo's " — Buita"	128 Singer	32 " — bien!"	68 Neighbor?	108 Sita's husband
30 Dram	72 Jack of "Barney Miller"	129 Literary pseudonym	33 Chest material	69 Den	110 Dylan's colleague
31 Emcee	73 "Swiss sharp- shooter"	130 Solti's stick	34 Get wind of	70 Upstairs basement?	111 Fiber source
32 Swiss sharp- shooter	74 Oscar of "Here You Come —"	131 Wharton or Sitwell	35 Tennis legend	72 — Bator	112 Leslie Caron role
33 Like feta	75 Part 3 of remark	DOWN	36 A roaring success?	73 Singer	113 Step — (hurry)
37 Feta	76 Principles	1 Duplicate	37 Rubbed the wrong way?	74 Irritated exclamation	114 Cry of contempt
39 Oscar or Tony	77 "Here You Come —"	2 Want badly	38 Juno, in Greece	77 More enthusiastic	116 Check
42 Fragrant plant	78 (77 hit)	3 Overdo a tan	39 Plus	80 Scoundrel	117 Jeff Lynne's group
44 Miels' milieu	79 Hallman's "The Children's —"	4 — carte	40 Troubles	83 — majesty	118 Sphere of proof
45 Isolated	80 "The Children's —"	5 Tied tightly	41 Penguins' place	84 Reticules	119 Singing syllable
46 Spud state	81 "The Children's —"	6 "The Witches" author	43 Ready to eat	85 Superior	120 It may be tipped
47 97 Across singer	82 Duol tool	7 Horatian creation	44 Detect	87 Brute	121 WWII area
50 Part 2 of remark	83 Desk accessory	8 Neither's partner	48 Tyranny	88 Brutal	122 It may be tipped
56 Seal school	84 On edge	9 Vein contents	49 With 101 Down, '79 Sally Field	90 " — the mornin'"	123 "Great!"
58 Actress Massen	85 Stick-in-the-mud?			91 Guys' counter-parts	

MAGIC MAZE

FROM A TO Z OR Z TO A

L Z O L I F C Z W T Q N K I F
C Z T W U A R P M J A H E C Z
X U S I Q N I Z L J L G E C Z
X V T R L P E N N L C J H E C
A Y W (Z A R A G O Z A) M B I A
V T R P A T E Z N C T L K I I
G E C V B V Z T X W R U S A S
R P L O M L H J S I A I R Y
G A E D B A Y A X U Z R Z B O
W U Z T I W H C S U A D L E Z
T S Q P O A Y E Z Z U B A Z N

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

Abuzz	Auschwitz	Zaria	Zeya
Adz	Austerlitz	Zebra	Zirconia
Ahvaz	Zambia	Zelda	Zoysia
Alvarez	Zaragoza	Zeta	

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Salome's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A long-forgotten promise is recalled. It's not too late to follow up on it. You might find a pleasant surprise waiting. See a doctor about that pesky eye problem.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) The best way to get over a personal disappointment is to get out, meet old friends and make new ones. One of those new friends could very well become a new VSP (Very Special Person) in your life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A chance to invest comes with some strings attached that could cause economic problems later on. Be careful. Cupid favors romantic possibilities with a loving Libra or a passionate Pisces.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A simple problem threatens to turn into a legal showdown, unless it's cleared up soon. Wishing it away won't help. A telephone call could lead to a change in travel plans.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A close friend who suddenly becomes remote is in need of your warm reassurance. Give it generously. A misunderstanding on the job creates the potential for future problems. Settle it quickly.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Career advancement involves the need for added training. The investment of your time and effort will pay off. Some stormy personal situations begin to calm down.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Scale back on those grandiose schemes for a while. Neither the time nor the circumstances are right to make the huge financial investment needed to see the matter through. A Gemini has romance in mind.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You could soon face a fascinating dilemma: Do you continue seeing this Very Special Person currently in your life, or renew a relationship with another VSP who will suddenly return from your past?

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Financial problems need your attention. It's a good idea to cut back on unnecessary expenses until these money matters are under control. Then go out and have a great time.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) What you may now see as a good reason to end a relationship could turn out to be based more on supposition than substance.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Change is the watchword for this week. Some Aquarians will be moving to new places while others will be taking new career paths. Steer clear of a family dispute.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Be prepared for that romantic disappointment to become a fading memory with the arrival of a new love, possibly a Gemini. Talk to someone you trust about developing your idea into a marketable product.

YOU WERE BORN THIS WEEK: You have a high regard for loyalty. You give it freely, and you expect it to be returned. You never flinch from making a decision, even if it involves much agitation and soul-searching.

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HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTIHOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Bushes are removed; 2. Club is longer; 3. Paints are moved; 4. Shoes are removed; 5. Wheels are different; 6. Puddle is moved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 17.....Carol Dimery	Feb. 19.....Michelle Keith
Feb. 17.....Elton Goodloe	Feb. 19.....Reggie Pena
Feb. 17.....Wyatt Guidry	Feb. 20.....Henry Yeackle
Feb. 17.....Rochelle Mellen	Feb. 21.....Jimmy A. Lutrell
Feb. 17.....Basilio Pacheco	Feb. 21.....Lester Meredith
Feb. 17.....Rena M. Pena	Feb. 21.....Ricky Sandoval
Feb. 17.....Ernesto Ortiz	Feb. 22.....Francisco Arellano
Feb. 18.....Irene Braun	Feb. 23.....David Melancon
Feb. 18.....Annie Trotter	Feb. 23.....F.B. Stanley

Jesus is there for you on all occasions

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

Do you have a relative or best friend with whom you have fellowship? Do they make your burdens feel lighter; do they make you feel unconditionally loved, accepted, and encouraged? Do you run to them for prayer and counsel? Do you just love to spend time with them? What is their name? The first person on your list should be God. Jesus is there for you on all the occasions mentioned.

Yes, He does use people to physically accomplish things, but I am talking to you today of a "relationship" of "fellowship". It is the joy of knowing that He is there to assist you in every need, both spiritual and physical. Does it "thrill" you to know you have this fellowship? It is also an "awesome" fellowship because all things were created by Him and for Him. If something is missing, it isn't for lack of His effort. (1 Cor. 1:9).

He is "there" for you every minute of every day. Too often people leave their Christian relationships behind them when they leave the church building. It is your choice and your responsibility (I know, today few people like to take "responsibility" but it is part of the package) to have "fellowship" with Jesus 24-7 (twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week).

There is nothing you do that He is not interested in. You may tire of "people fellowship", but you will never tire of fellowship with the Lord. It is a personal treasure. There may be times when you hope He's not there, because you are "giving in" to your fleshly desires, (eating something you shouldn't, watching a movie you shouldn't, reading something you shouldn't, saying something you

shouldn't, doing something you shouldn't, or not doing something He's told you to do, etc.) but He is still there.

If you are low on energy, if you are tired of the world around you and you feel like there is a brick wall between you and God, guess what?...you built it, not Him. The best way to become restored is to repent (be sincerely convicted in your heart that what you have

done is a sin and desire Him to change you), ask God for His forgiveness and He will quickly forgive you.

Then, through prayer, let Him take your hand in His and go "Fellowship". He is the lover of your soul and eager to talk.

He is eager to love you. Enjoy your "relationship of fellowship". Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Breaking down barriers

First United Methodist Church
By Rev. Ken F. Sellers, Jr.

Once I visited Johannesburg, South Africa on business. My hosts were well-mannered businessmen, brothers, with an eye to the future - specifically computers. On the surface their business it looked like many I had worked with in North America. There was a variety of skin color and gender among their workers. The workday was pleasant and oriented to problem solving.

The second evening I was invited to the home of the elder brother for dinner with the two families. Because they were relatively affluent, they had a young lady cooking our meal and another to serve it. These two seem to feel

comfortable in their role and showed no signs of strain in their relationship with the two families. On the surface, everything was quiet and calm.

However, two things drew my attention. First, when I registered in my hotel the previous evening it was late in the afternoon and I was told to not venture out after dark for all the shopping was closed. And then, at the home of my hosts, I noticed that their home and yards were surrounded by a twelve foot wall. When I began to ask questions, further irregularities arose. The estate wall was topped with broken glass and razor wire. It became apparent that Apartheid was still the political norm and barriers between races loomed large and defiant through-

out the country.

In Mark's gospel (2:1-12) we read how a few men broke through the roof of a home in order to get their paralytic friend through the crowd around Jesus. They knew, or sensed, that the barriers between themselves and Jesus needed breaking down. Thankfully, many of those walls and racial barriers of old South Africa have been toppled by people who desire equality for all God's children. Today that nation still struggles with democracy, but they do it side by side ... ebony and ivory. Unfortunately all the barriers are not yet overcome, here or there. Join us at First United Methodist, Sunday at 10:45 am to look at "Breaking Down Barriers" in our lives.

Marriage encounter weekend

St. Mary Magdalene
By Lynn McNew

In the spring of 1976, I spent several days in San Antonio at the Catholic Daughters state convention. Why is this something I remember? Because the two friends with whom I attended the convention talked constantly about the Marriage Encounter weekend they had experienced. Tom and I decided to investigate and the rest, as they say, is history.

Marriage Encounter began in this country almost thirty years ago when three couples and Father Chuck Gallagher presented a weekend at the National Catholic Family Conference. It continues today.

Marriage Encounter is a weekend experience for couples. It is a time to focus on each other, without the distractions of children, jobs, television, etc. When the weekend begins on Friday evening, the presenting couples tell you not to worry about any of these things—they will all be there on Sunday evening when the weekend is over. But strangely enough, when the weekend is over all the problems and worries don't seem as important.

This experience is not marriage counseling, nor is it for marriages in trouble. It is for couples who

have a good marriage, but have lost the focus on each other and what is really important in their lives.

The basic premise of the weekend is communication. Three couples and a priest take turns discussing various topics relating to marriage relationships, and then the couples attending the weekend have time to share their thoughts and feelings on the subject privately with each other. You come home with the skill and desire to keep the lines of communication

open.

We spent several years as a presenting couple and had many wonderful experiences. It was beautiful to see the love between two people come alive and renew itself again.

Marriage Encounter started in the Catholic Church, but has spread to several different denominations. Non-Catholic couples are welcome on Catholic weekends. There are several couples in St. Mary Magdalene parish who have

made an encounter weekend and would be happy to provide you with more information, if you are interested.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Our mass schedule is: Monday and Thursday 7:30 a.m., Wednesday at noon, Friday at 6:00 p.m. in Spofford, Saturday at 6:30 p.m. and Sunday at 8:00 a.m. (in Spanish) and 10:30 a.m. God Bless You.

Readings from Psalms

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

Thou hast dealt well with thy servant, O Lord, according unto thy word.

Teach me good judgement and knowledge; for I have believed thy commandments.

Before I was afflicted I went astray, but now have I kept thy word.

Thou art good; teach me thy statutes.

The proud have forged a lie against me but I will keep thy precepts with my whole heart.

Their heart is as fat as grease;

but I delight in thy law.

It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes.

The law of my mouth is better unto me than thousands of gold and silver.

Thy hands have made me and fashioned me; give me understanding, that I may learn thy commandments.

They that fear thee will be glad when they see me, because I have hoped in thy word.

I know, O Lord, that thy judgements are right, and that thou in thy faithfulness hast afflicted me.

Let, I pray thee, thy merciful kindness be for my comfort, according to thy word unto thy servant.

Let thy tender mercies come unto me, that I may live; for thy law is my delight.

Let the proud be ashamed; for they dealt perversely with me without a cause; but I will meditate in thy precepts.

Let those who fear thee turn unto me, and those who have known thy testimonies.

Let my heart be sound in thy statutes, that I be not ashamed. Psalms 119: 65-80.

New EMS building dedicated

Continued from Page 1
respect," added Senne.

This project has been in the works for at least four years.

Bids on the construction of the EMS facility were opened at a commissioners court meeting held on September 2, 1999.

The low bid was from Hill Construction Company in Del Rio for \$333,850 at that time. Hill later adjusted with a change order in the amount of \$52,880 which brought down the original bid from \$333,850 to \$281,000.

The funds to build the original planned facility was part of a grant that included paving the main road into Kinney County Ranch Estates.

The funds for paving were transferred, after a public hearing, by an amendment to the grant, to apply the entire amount to the EMS facility as reported last September in *The Brackett News*.

"Be prepared, part of your county funds will be expended on this. Thank-Goodness that the Grant is picking up two thirds of it," said Senne. "The other third is coming out of your tax dollar."

"It's an effort on the part of commissioners court to give back some of the money that either the court has assessed you in taxes to acquire, or monies that County operations have generated," said Senne. "So you'll see it coming back to you in that respect."

Senne then introduced EMS Director Carolyn Rutherford to the crowd of 30 to 35 people that attended.

That included the EMS staff, Lee Sweeten from the Texas Department of Health and the Medical Director for Kinney County EMS Service, Sister Katherine Young M.D.

"Lee is the shoulder to cry on and he likes to tap you on the shoulder as well and say you have to look out for this thing," said Rutherford. "Dr. Young is also a good shoulder to cry on, she was very helpful and she looks towards the future."

To lead everyone in the opening prayer and for a blessing was Father James Cashin from St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Then religious leaders from dif-



From left: County Judge Herb Senne, Commissioner Pat Melancon, EMS Director Carolyn Rutherford, Commissioner Freddy Frerich, Commissioner Joe Williams and Commissioner Joe Montalvo symbolically breaking ground for the new EMS building.

ferent faiths within the city spoke of the thankfulness and need to support the EMS.

Reverend Ken Sellers from the United Methodist Church, Reverend R. D. Holloway from the First Baptist Church, and finally Pastors Bob and Charlotte Corey

from Gateway Ministries, who did the closing benediction

"You can't leave out God, because God is a big part of EMS, we brought some clergy here to help us out today, to say a few good words for us," said Rutherford.

Why you should go to church

By Dave Crowe
Contributing Writer

Have you ever wondered why the people that go to church, do go?

What about all the people that don't go, why don't they go?

The people that attend church service regularly are trying to live the best life that they can, knowing that they are not perfect, but that they are sinners as well. They gather together with like believers in God to fellowship with and draw strength and support from one another. To worship God, to thank God for all the many gifts and blessings they have received from Him, to ask and receive forgiveness for their sins. To grow closer to God, and to sin less.

The people that do not attend church service, either can't, don't or won't.

Some can't because of illness or some other form of confinement.

Others won't because their hearts have become hard and they cannot see or hear the

truth.

Still others that can and should won't for a variety of reasons.

They don't understand why others go. "Those churchgoers are not better than me, they're hypocrites, they say they're Christians, but they're no better than me, I don't want to be like them." They're right, they don't understand!

Or, "I don't have good enough clothes to wear." I'm here to tell you, people at church don't/won't care, they will welcome you with open arms.

Others will say "I don't have enough money!" Again, we do not/will not care, you will be welcomed with open arms.

"What about the kids, who will take care of them?" Just bring them, they're God's children too, and they need Him as well!

No reason is good enough to separate you from your Creator. No reason is good enough for you to have to live with your sins.

Please go to church somewhere this Sunday.

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Sunday P.M. 1:30

Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes

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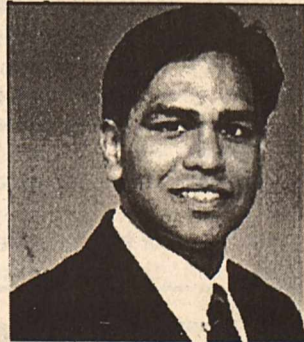
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