

The Brackett News



See you at the Flag Pole next Wednesday morning at 7:00 am

12th year, No. 33

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Commissioners approve grade, step system for county employees

By Wes Robinson
Staff Writer

Kinney County Commissioners unanimously approved a personal pay, grade and step system policy for full time county employees Monday morning.

The policy addresses salary (grades), within-grade increase (steps), cost of living adjustments, merit raises, promotion, longevity, and an implementation plan.

With the recommendation of Personnel Management Specialist Mary Ann Saenz, from the Texas Association of Counties, commissioners formed the Pay, Grade and Step Committee. The committee, co-chaired by Robert Elledge and Carolyn Rutherford and consisted of all county department heads, was given the responsibility of developing a policy to base employee pay on job difficulty and complexity.

This committee, with the assistance of Saenz, first developed job descriptions for each of the 39

county employees. Saenz then gathered information from various counties to prepare a market analysis of the different positions based on comparable job descriptions. Saenz and the committee used the analysis to establish the pay scales associated with specific grades.

The policy contains 12 grades with salaries ranging from \$13,031.60 to \$20,860.34. Grades 1-5 are in 5 percent increments while grades 6-12 are in 4 percent increments.

Each grade contains 10 steps with increments of 2.5 percent per step.

County employees will receive regular performance reviews from their immediate supervisor. The reviews will be passed to the Pay, Grade and Step Committee. The committee will make recommendations, concerning individual step and merit increases, to the court prior to the budgeting process.

Eligibility for annual step increases may be affected by job performance standards of the Kin-

ney County Personnel Manual.

Merit pay increases (one step) may be given at the written request of a supervisor and the approval of the Pay, Grade and Step Committee. Commissioners court has the final approval of any merit increases.

Longevity pay is based on the number of months employed. On December 1st of each year employees, who have been employed at least 5 years with the county, will receive one lump sum of \$3 for each month they have been employed. Employees with at least 10 years service will receive \$4 per month of employment. Employees with 15 or more years service will receive \$5 per month of employment.

The policy will become effective October 1, 2000.

Kinney County Commissioner's Court has the authority to suspend all pay increases due to financial emergencies.

Amistad Rangers seize drug delivery

National Park Service rangers, U.S. Customs agents, and Texas Department of Public Safety narcotics agents seized more than 220 pounds of marijuana worth an estimated \$180,000, and arrested two Texas residents on Sunday, September 3 at Amistad National Recreation Area.

After a report of suspicious activity, the agencies began a joint surveillance operation, and inter-

cepted two alleged traffickers, Jennifer Barnes, 24, of San Antonio and Justin Cole, 25, of Canyon Lake, as they transferred their illegal cargo from a boat to a pickup at Spur 454 on Lake Amistad. Barnes and Jones appeared to have picked up the marijuana on the Mexican side of Lake Amistad, and were unloading it when apprehended.

Amistad National Recreation

Area headquarters is located on US Highway 90W and is open daily 8am - 5pm except for major holidays. For more information, visitors may call 830-775-7491, tune in to AM 1540 near the lake, or visit the park's website at www.nps.gov/amis.

Annual County budget approved

By Wes Robinson
Staff Writer

Kinney County Commissioners approved the 00-01 annual budget and set the tax rate at last Monday's meeting.

The approved budget included minor changes to EMS revenue and an increase in the Sheriff's department expenditures for the purchase of a new generator for the jail.

The tax rate for the upcoming year was set at \$0.8214 a 13.9 percent increase over last years rate of \$0.7211 per \$100 of taxable value.

The approval came from a 4-1 vote. Commissioner Joe Williams voted against the increase.

Commissioners accepted the resignation of Paul O'Rourke from the Kinney County Appraisal District Board. Judge Herb Senne nominated Tom Ertle to replace O'Rourke. Commissioner Williams nominated former board member Henry Fuentes. The appraisal district board will determine the replacement by vote at their next meeting.

The court agreed unanimously

to seek bids for insurance coverage, currently provided by the Texas Association of Counties, which includes, general liability, law enforcement liability, public official liability, auto liability, auto physical damage, and property contents. Commissioners are also considering additional coverage to the public officials liability policy that would include back wages.

Commissioners voted unanimously to lease/purchase two radar units for DPS. The county is currently leasing radar units for only a few dollars more per month they will own them at the end of the contract.

Chief Appraiser Bill Haenn informed the court that he had received an \$1,850 offer for a property being held in trust. The derelict trailer and lot in Unit 15 of Fort Clark Springs had accumulated over \$4,000 of back taxes to the school and county. Commissioners voted unanimously to accept the offer. If approved by school board trustees, at their next monthly meeting, the property will be sold and go back on the tax rolls.

By Amy Davis
Staff Writer

After a public hearing on the tax rate during the regular Brackett Independent School Board meeting on September 7, the School Board trustees approved a new tax rate of 1.2419 per hundred dollars of value, an increase of 3 cents. This is the same rate the school had 4 years ago. The new rate will allow the district to take advantage of Tier II matching equalization in which the 2000-2001 school year is used to determine the amount of state matching funds allocated over the next three years. The district will receive approximately \$200,000 from the State in matching funds.

The Trustees also approved a revised employee leave plan after



Super S store manager Ernest Contreras (left) presents Maria D. Martinez with \$1000. It pays to shop Super S.

Super S lucky winner

Last Thursday September 7th Maria Martinez made what she thought was going to be a routine trip to the Super S grocery store. She went to buy a few groceries and walked away with a thousand dollars.

Super S has a special promotion going on called "Hot Times Cool Cash". When you make a purchase, they give you a card and punch the amount of your purchase on the card. When the card is completely punched out, the store manager or someone in authority, will scratch off the silver patch on the back of the card to reveal how much money you have won.

Martinez a twenty-seven year

resident of Brackettville is married to Natividad Martinez and they have three children. Maribel the oldest daughter is a teacher. Their son Refugio works for the railroad and Maria De Los Angeles attends Brackett High.

Praxie Aguirre a store employee scratched off the silver patch and said, "Oh my God"! Martinez and Aguirre were both astounded. Aguirre says, "I still can't believe it". Martinez just shakes her head and smiles.

When asked what she planned to do with the money Martinez said she wasn't sure, but she would spend it wisely.

School Board approves tax increase

Superintendent Taylor Stephenson expressed concern about the high amounts of leave time district employees used last year. For professional personnel, the plan provides 15 days of leave for medical purposes for themselves, or their immediate family only. Sub Dock, the teacher's regular daily salary less the rate of pay for a substitute teacher, was set at \$40. Leave for the support staff was set for 7 days at \$15 Sub Dock per day. Leave for any employee cannot be carried over to the next fiscal year.

In other business, members of the Board voted that BISS implement a dyslexia service to students in the district who need it. Three teachers on the elementary level and one teacher in both the middle and high school, have received training to recognize dyslexia and

work with students that have it. Paula Renken, Jones Elementary principal, said that all staff should have some dyslexia training and that tendencies towards dyslexia should be recognized before a child is in the third grade.

Board members then approved Stephenson's authorization to sign a State Power Program agreement with the Texas General Land Office. The agreement will allow the district to purchase its electric power through the state land office at a 5% reduction in price. The same electrical service will be provided, but the district will save \$5,000 to \$8,000 dollars in electric bills over the course of one year.

The date for the next board meeting was set for October 10, at 6:30 p.m.

Brackettville resident honored by Border Patrol

Brackettville resident, Jim Mooney, was recently honored at the Del Rio Border Patrol for his services as a Computer Network Administrator. Getronics (formerly Wang Government Services, Inc.) presented Mr. Mooney with an Excellence in Action Award for his professionalism and performance in his daily support of the ADP field operations within the INS Del Rio Sector. Ray Speer, Technical Manager for the INS FOS/HM contract, came from

Dallas to present Mr. Mooney and two coworkers with their awards in the office of Chief Patrol Agent, Paul Berg. This was the first award of its kind issued here in Southwest Texas.

Each recipient was presented with two letters of recommendation from Getronics, one from Ray Speer, their immediate Getronics supervisor, and another from Tony Urreta, Getronics Vice President. They also received a GEMS Excellence In Action lapel pin and

cash award. All faces were smiling as the presentation was made.

In a recent letter from Chief Patrol Agent Berg to Getronics, he states, "These men have demonstrated superb talent, reliability, and determination in serving the Del Rio Sector through all aspects of ADP issues...they are always available to solve any problem, demonstrating courtesy and respect at all times." Congratulations to this fine member of our community!



Border Patrol presents "War on Drugs" program

By Ella Chambers
Contributing Writer

Tino Guzman, program chairperson for September introduced Julian Hernandez, Border Patrolman, as guest speaker at the September 7 luncheon at Las Moras Restaurant. His partner, Mark Anthony accompanied him. "War on Drugs" was the topic of Hernandez' talk. Hernandez was with the Border Patrol in California from 1985 through 1996 at which time he came to Del Rio and was assigned to the war on drugs unit in 1999.

Hernandez spoke at length of working with the kindergarten, first and second graders focusing on safety. They talk to them about strangers, medicines, seat belts and drugs. The program is designed to

be simple and with the use of a robot that weighs about three hundred pounds, there is the attempt to maintain some magic in the children's minds. Simple multiple-choice questions are used to convey basic information while the robot is used for reinforcement. Questions such as, "What is a stranger?" are asked, with the choice of answers being (a) my dog Spot, (b) my father, (c) my brothers or sisters, or (d) someone you don't know. Or "Why do you wear seat belts?" with choices such as (a) to keep your pants from falling down, (b) so you won't float into outer space, or (c) to keep you from getting hurt on the head. There are different questions for different age groups with the sixth graders being asked at which age

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Briefs ...

Kickapoo Cavern Wild Cave Tours

This rugged adventure hikes across fields of loose boulders into the heart of the Great Kickapoo Cave. This primitive tour is led by volunteer cavers using only flashlights or headlamps for lighting. The tour ends near the eighty-foot-tall twin columns, the largest known formation in Texas, and then retraces the entrance path. Tour length is about 2 hours. It is suggested that participants be in good physical condition, must bring a main flashlight and backup light, must wear good hiking boots, and we suggest bringing drinking water. Participants will be required to sign a Liability Release. Tours are held with resources and weather permitting. Fees: Adults \$7, children under 13, \$3. Reservations required. Call Park for information and reservations at 830-563-2342. Date: September 23, 2000.

Devil's Sinkhole tours

Peer down more than 150 feet into the depths of Devil's Sinkhole. Guides will present the history of this amazing cave and a short program on the bats inside. A spectacular flight of bats will be observed exiting the sink around sunset on September 16 & 30 near Rocksprings. Fees: Adults \$8, children under 13, \$4. Liability release and reservations required. Call Kickapoo Cavern SP for information and reservations at 830-563-2342. Tours are held with resources and weather permitting.

August Border Patrol Statistics

The following is a recap of Del Rio Sector Border Patrol activities during August 2000. In Abilene, there were 99 apprehensions, in Brackettville, 1,066, in Carrizo Springs, 1,332, in Comstock, 114, in Del Rio, 1,195, in Eagle Pass, 5,922, in Llano, 1, in Rocksprings, 48, in San Angelo, 120, and in Uvalde there were 235. The sector total was 10,132. There were 387 other than Mexican apprehensions.

In the month of August, there were 5,021.99 pounds of marijuana seized, valued at \$4,017,950.

Stuart Bat Cave

Observe and estimated 500,000 bats emerge from Stuart Bat Cave in the evening on September 23rd. A program will be given regarding bats and the environment as well as information concerning the resources of Kickapoo Cavern State Park. Programs hosted by friends and volunteers of the Park. Fee: Adults \$5, children under 13, \$3. Reservations required. Tours are held with resources and weather permitting. Call Park for information and reservations at 830-563-2342.

INSIDE

The Way I See It!

It is interesting to study the differences in behavior that is considered moral and ethical in diverse cultures. For instance, in ancient Babylon the religion required ritual prostitution?

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Making A Difference

Brackett ISD needs a business representative and a community representative to serve for two years on the District Advisory Committee.

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Where did our ethics originate?

Continuing the tax cutting crusade

Submitted by Henry Bonilla
U.S. Rep. 23rd District

The Way I See It!
By Steve LaMascus

It is interesting to study the differences in behavior that is considered moral and ethical in diverse cultures. For instance, did you know that in ancient Babylon the religion required ritual prostitution? Ritualized sex is also an important part of many pagan rituals, even today. Most of us here in the United States, however, believe that ritual sex, prostitution, and rampant promiscuity are immoral.

In some primitive tribes, even today (or at least until very recently), it is required for a young man to kill another human as a rite of passage into adulthood. It doesn't matter if it is a man, woman, or child, awake or asleep, armed or unarmed, in single combat or from ambush. All that is required is the death of a fellow human. I daresay that most of us would take an understandably dim view of such practices. But it is also part of some gang initiations right here in the U.S. today.

Here in the United States, and in many other countries, until recently, we have put great store in veracity. The adage "my word is my bond" has, or had, great cultural significance for

us. However, in other parts of the world, the emphasis is much different. Somalia comes to mind. I have read that there it is considered good form to lie and cheat as a way of life. If you can fool someone by lying and acquire something for nothing, you are considered a wise and noble person. It is hard for me to understand such a culture, but there it is.

Our culture, most of which abhors murder, rape, torture, dishonesty, and other to us immoral acts, is based almost entirely on the Holy Bible. Our ideals of honesty and morality are in reality Judeo Christian ethics, but those ethics are beginning to be eroded more and more rapidly by the New World Order.

We are being told on a daily basis that abortion is an acceptable alternative to an unwanted pregnancy. Well, you believe whatever you want, but I choose to believe that the time to abort a pregnancy is before conception, not afterward. After you have made the decision to have sex, and have failed to take the necessary precautions, and become pregnant, the choice is with God, and the abortion of that child is murder. You can rationalize that any way you want. I don't care. An aborted child is a murdered human, and

you can take that up with God when you see him; and you will see him!

We here in the United States are, day by day, slipping closer and closer to paganism. We are labeled a Christian nation, but are we? Not any more. Most of our beliefs have been eroded by immoral people trying desperately to persuade themselves, and us, that they are not as evil as they appear. They are wrong. You cannot take an immoral action, shine a different light on it and make it wholesome. If that were possible then we should have no trouble accepting religious prostitution and ritual murder.

Paganism, in the form of Gaia worship, witchcraft, Satan wor-

ship, scientology, and other uncountable misanthropic creations, has begun to reappear with frightening regularity. The "Native American" religions are currently being embraced by legions of people who wouldn't know an Indian from a Viking. All these people are searching for answers in places where there are no answers. They are accepting pagan practices that are denials of the reality of God and abandoning the truth that will save them for lies that bring death. What I cannot understand is why these supposedly intelligent people are so willing to accept such obviously ridiculous religions as pantheism, but reject out of hand the Judeo Christian belief in an all-powerful

God of Creation. They have obviously admitted to themselves that there is a need for faith in something beyond the human realm, but then refuse to accept the obvious, while racing headlong toward the ridiculous. And I thought I was confused!

When you make your decision, as you must, I suggest you decide for Christ and not the spirits of the forest, because, movie stars and rock stars and the Maharishi Mahesh Yogi aside, only Christ can save you.

Romans 1:20 - For since the creation of the world God's invisible qualities - his eternal power and divine nature - have been clearly seen, being understood from what has been made, so that men are without excuse.

This week conservatives in Congress will continue to cut your taxes by voting for the Social Security Benefits Tax Relief Act of 2000 (H.R. 4865).

If passed, this bill will repeal the Social Security tax hike contained in the 1993 budget bill. The Administration's tax hike raised the amount of Social Security benefits subject to taxation from 50 percent to 85 percent.

In 1993, liberals in Congress talked about raising taxes on the rich but instead launched an unfair assault on seniors. The measure increased the amount of taxable income on Social Security benefits from 50 percent to 85 percent for those seniors who earn \$44,000 as a couple or \$34,000 as individuals. The cruelest aspect of the 1993 tax hike is the income levels that are taxed don't take inflation into consideration, which means that each year more elderly Americans have their Social Security benefits taxed.

The 1993 Social Security tax hike was initiated as an effort to balance the budget. Yet rather than use fiscal responsibility - save more and spend less - the liberals in Congress felt it was necessary to do it on the backs of our parents and grandparents. Now that we have eliminated the deficit, conservatives want to repeal the ill-conceived tax on Social Security benefits and return portions of the surplus back to retirees whose work and savings created it.

Tax lovers will attempt to make the arguments that repealing the tax hike will threaten Medicare. However, it will have no effect on the Medicare trust fund at all. Any money which would have been raised by the tax will be replaced in the Medicare trust fund from the budget surplus.

This is not the first attempt by anti-tax representatives to reduce this unnecessary tax on Social Security benefits. In 1995, House leaders offered a modest tax cut package which included a repeal of this tax. The measure passed but was later vetoed by the President.

Our nation's seniors still contribute a great deal to the prosperity of our country. There is no excuse why they should be targets of unfair taxes. As sons and daughters, grandsons and granddaughters we should reward and protect our seniors in their golden years. Today there are literally millions of seniors who not only want to continue working but are contributing to our economy like never before. The government should give them the same economic freedom to do as they wish.

Drought: The Instant Replay

Capitol Comment
By Kay Bailey Hutchison

Since the days of the Republic, Texans have been toughing-out drought. We can take one year of drought or even two. But five consecutive years of drought, such as we are experiencing now, is more than most farmers and ranchers are able to withstand.

A child born in Texas will start kindergarten this fall not knowing anything but drought. Here we go again: parched, panting, having lived through another one of the worst summers on record. Temperatures averaged up to 5 degrees above normal over large parts of our state throughout August. Central and West Texas received less than 25 percent of normal rainfall in July, and part of Texas were without rain for a staggering 68 days.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service reports that, by the end of August, Texans had suffered \$595 million in agriculture losses - and the service is still counting.

Cotton, our numero uno cash crop, has been hardest hit with economists estimating \$285 million in crop damage. Other estimated losses this year include \$125 million in wheat and \$50 million in forage crops. Hay production reached a standstill by mid-summer and producers face soaring feed, water and added irrigation costs.

At the same time, the drought has prevented many of the state's beef producers from building their herds in anticipation of stronger prices.

Aside from doing a rain dance (and I'd do that if it would help), the situation requires that we immediately bring in to play all existing federal government re-

Here's what's on tap for hard-pressed farmers and ranchers so far:

The House and Senate are finishing up their drought relief packages. The Senate version provides \$900 million in emergency relief for farmers and ranchers.

That includes \$450 million for the Livestock Assistance Program to make direct payments to eligible livestock producers who suffered grazing losses due to natural disaster, and another \$450 million for farmers who suffered crop losses due to the drought.

I anticipate that there will be at least that much drought relief funding in the final bill. It is probable that farmers and ranchers in most Texas counties will be eligible for livestock and crop assistance programs. This emergency package, combined with assistance already available through the 1996 farm bill, adds up to substantial federal response to the economic situation facing farmers and ranchers.

Currently, 180 counties in Texas have been designated for federal disaster assistance by the Secretary of Agriculture. Farmers and ranchers in those counties will now be eligible for U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) low-interest emergency loans.

In addition, to date, 36 Texas counties* have been approved by the USDA to allow their livestock to graze on Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) acreage through at least the end of September, with the possibility of extension through November 30. Under this designation, livestock grazing is allowed on cropland that has been removed from production of annual program crops, such as wheat or feed grain, and dedicated to re-

There are a number of other measures Congress has adopted recently to stabilize farm income, promote savings and investment, and create a cushion for producers.

We took a major step in the right direction when Congress restored three -year income averaging for farmers, which was taken out of the tax code in 1986. That should help protect farmers from unintended tax consequences that result from the wild income fluctuations that are unique to the agricultural economy. Farmers have little control over wide swings in their income or losses caused by conditions such as the drought we're going through now.

All Texans, whether in urban areas or the country, have a stake in Texas agriculture because it plays such a prominent role in our state economy. For more information on the help being made available for farmers and ranchers at this perilous time, please contact the U.S. Department of Agriculture's Farm Service Agency in your county, which will be listed in your local telephone directory. Or contact your member of Congress or my Washington office at (202) 224-5922.

*The 36 Texas counties released by the Secretary of Agriculture for grazing include Bailey, Baylor, Briscoe, Callahan, Castro, Childress, Cottle, Crosby, Dawson, Deaf Smith, Dickens, Eastland, Fisher, Floyd, Hale, Hall, Haskell, Howard, Jones, Kent, King, Knox, Lubbock, Martin, McCulloch, Mitchell, Motley, Nolan, Oldham, Parmer, Potter, Randall, Scurry, Swisher, Taylor, and Young. Dallam County has requested emergency grazing permission as well, and this request is in the works.

Big Mama Sez! 
Few people know how to be old.

The Brackett News

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Five simple ways to de-stress your daily routine

Courtesy of
Articles Resource Association

Stressed out? You're not alone.

According to the American Institute of Stress, Americans are more stressed than ever before. Forty three percent of adults suffer adverse health effects as a result, and 75 to 90 percent of adult visits to primary care physicians are precipitated by stress-related problems.

Stress also causes approximately one million employees to be absent on any given workday, and ultimately is responsible for nearly 50 percent of employee burnout and 40 percent of worker turnover.

"Stress is an inescapable part of modern life," explains Todd Imholte, vice president of Hopkins, MN-based Environmental Graphics, the United States' largest producer of wall murals.

"Whether we like it or not, we're constantly juggling a myriad of professional and personal responsibilities, often with too little time to do any of them justice. Add in technology, which now allows us to be "on call" during our leisure time via

cell phones, pagers and e-mail, and it's no wonder our stress levels are higher than ever before."

That's the bad news. The good news is that there are a variety of stress management techniques that can be easily incorporated into the busiest daily routine. Imholte offers a few suggestions:

Top five stress busters

- Go for a walk - on the beach, in the mountains or around your neighborhood. Just 20 minutes a day can work wonders, both physically and mentally.
- Bring the outdoors indoors. Decorate your home with nature-inspired decor to help you relax and soothe the soul.
- Take up an enjoyable hobby. Whether it's painting, playing an instrument, knitting or fly-fishing, choose something that will force you to calm down and enjoy the moment.
- Try Tai Chi, meditation or prayer. By focusing on within, you'll acquire a proper perspective and better control over the anxiety-riddled external world.
- Hug your spouse. Kiss your children. Pet your dog. Laugh. Be playful ... spontaneous ...

and have fun.

Imholte emphasizes the importance of creating a peaceful, nurturing home environment. "At the end of a busy day, most of us want to 'cocoon' and escape from the hectic outside world. Adding a wall mural like "Oriental Garden", "Cinnamon Bay", "Clouds" or "Hawaiian Sunset", helps "bring the outdoors in with soft colors and calming images."

"Serenity", Environmental Graphics' newest nature-inspired offering, depicts a tranquil garden of rich roses, lavender wildflowers and moss-green shrubbery. A welcoming floral-covered arch and park bench complete the garden oasis motif. When added to a room, it helps establish a balance of color and texture, while emanating a feeling of harmony throughout.

"I wanted this work to create a place where individuals could go to refresh their mind and spirit," says "Serenity" artist Christa Kieffer. "As they look at the mural, they feel connected to their own private view of the country. The hazy background, in particular, helps them envi-

sion they live in the place of their dreams."

"When you look at the mural, you're automatically transported to a quieter, gentler place," adds Imholte. "Your blood pressure lowers, your muscles unclench, and you're better able to enjoy the rest of your day."

For a full-color brochure that includes wall mural designs and local dealer information, call toll-free (888) 205-0914 or visit their Web site at www.egproducts.com. To purchase WallMurals, visit Home Depot, Sherwin Williams or your local home center or paint and wallcovering retailer.

Your State Representatives

Governor
The Honorable George W. Bush
Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711
1-800-252-9600

State Senator District 19
The Honorable Frank Madla
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

State Representative District 74
The Honorable Pete P. Gallego
1110 W. 10th Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Flurry explains Soil and Conservation Board services

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club heard Ms. Alana Flurry on August 31st. She presented slides about various activities and services provided by the Soil and Water Conservation Board. The West Nueces-Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation is a nonprofit, non-taxing entity of the state government governed by a Board of Directors. Its purpose is to promote and actively pursue the conservation of natural resources.

The SWCD's boundaries are the same as Kinney County and it is based in Brackettville. Its primary objective is to identify resource concerns here and promote the treatment of those resources according to its needs for conservation management.

Office space for the SWCD is the courthouse and it works closely

with the County on several programs. Ms. Flurry and Yvette Clemenz operate the office. Ms. Flurry said their duties include assisting and educating land users in the implementation of resource conservation practices such as wildlife habitat management, and range land and crop land conservation and brush management.

James Crumley of the National Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) is the Resource Team Leader. Flurry says his support and assistance has been invaluable in conservation efforts and goals. Working with NRCS, Flurry says \$1,045,000 in cost share programs for Kinney County cooperators have been received over the past three years.

One of the projects implemented through these grants is the conservation practice of cross fencing. Brush management and range seeding; water development and

prescribed grazing and wildlife management.

Brush encroachment, particularly cedar is a problem in this area. Grants have been obtained from the Moody Foundation to conduct an ongoing research project on the 60,000 acre Silver Lake Ranch.

Clearing of brush has helped water resources since these plants have been using much of it. The results of clearing brush and cedar has resulted in the increased spring flow and the appearance of springs that previously did not exist.

Grant funds also made possible the construction of a 2,000 cubic foot dam to be built in a cedar infested drainage area. Data was collected regarding the difference in water yield before and after clearing the area.

Also in the interest of brush management, a goal of expanding

proscribed burning has been set. Temperature, humidity, wind direction and wind speed are taken into consideration and if any of these are in the "red flag" condition, the burn is cancelled. Grants for approximately \$26,000 have been obtained for equipment such as torches, radios and water sprayers that have enabled the burns to be conducted effectively and safely.

A grant from the Hillcrest Foundation has provided a brush fire truck for the Brackettville Fire Department. This foundation also has provided repairs and preventive maintenance for EMS ambulances and personnel training. EMS has also been given \$40,000 for training, training equipment and general operations.

The Kinney County Library has recently received a grant to assist with the data conversion aspect of their automation project.

In total, grant activities have resulted in over \$180,000 for Kinney County and the 891,520 acres in the area served.

Stan Conoly, August program chairman, brought to the members attention that Ms. Flurry was responsible for writing these grants

Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association members elected new officers recently

Jule Richmond was elected president; Glen Fisher was named first vice president; and Pat Jackson was elected second vice president.

Dale Brandenberger of Junction, and Kathy Aycock of Mason and Menard counties were named outstanding County Extension Agent for Agriculture and Home Economics respectively. Kevin Newsom of Veribest was named Outstanding Vocational Agriculture Teacher of the Year, Cam

and that she was trained by the RC&D or Alamo Resource and Conservation Development Area. Ms. Flurry is certainly to be credited along with the RC&D for making positive environmental changes in this area which will continue to profit us in the future.

Campbell of the Devil's River News in Sonora was recognized with the Outstanding News Reporting Award.

Steve Pfeil and Quentin Van Cleve were awarded the Trapper of the Year Award posthumously. Pfeil and Van Cleve died in a helicopter accident last March near Del Rio. They were conducting aerial hunting operations under a USDA contract funded by the Texas Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, Sept. 5
10:30 a.m., Leon Aguirre Ruiz, 21, of Sabinal, was arrested for a DPS speeding warrant by Trooper Tony Ashley. Ruiz was released later that day for time served.

6:15 p.m., The Rocksprings Sheriff's Office requested assistance fighting a grass fire. The fire had jumped the fire lanes. The Brackettville Voluntary Fire Department was dispatched to the command post approximately 11.6 miles south of Rocksprings on highway 377.

8:00 p.m., A motorist called to report a possible accident one and a half miles west of Brackettville on highway 90. She stated someone was hanging out of the trunk of a stationary small red car and others were hanging out the windows. Deputy Robinson was dispatched to the scene but could not locate the vehicle after traveling approximately ten miles west.

Wednesday, Sept. 6

4:00 p.m., A local man came into the Sheriff's office to report that his cell phone had been stolen. The phone had been stolen from his vehicle while he was parked at a local convenience store. The case is under investigation.

5:08 p.m., A local man reported a grass fire on the east side of highway 131, approximately seven miles south of Brackettville. The BVFD was dispatched to the scene.

Thursday, Sept. 7

8:23 a.m., An out of town caller reported a missing person. She stated he owned property on F.M. 334 and was supposed to return home the day before. KCSO attempted to reach the man by his cell phone but it was out of service. Sheriff Burgess was dispatched to look for the individual.

2:15 p.m., Debra Kay Kuczek, 43, of Brackettville, was arrested by Trooper Richard Slubar for DWI first offense. Kuczek given

twelve months probation and was released later that day.

8:02 p.m., A local man called to report someone burning something that smelled dead. The caller wanted the fire put out. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the scene.

8:20 p.m., A local resident called to report a speeder. He requested a deputy be sent to his home. Deputy Pena was dispatched.

9:45 p.m., An unknown caller reported passing a Ford Taurus driving without lights on east highway 90. KCSO notified the Kline checkpoint to be on the lookout.

Friday, Sept. 8

1:30 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs resident requested a deputy at her residence. While bringing her dog in she noticed a light, which she never used, on in a bedroom. Deputy Pena was dispatched; everything checked out OK.

11:10 p.m., A local woman

called to report speeders on Beaumont street. Deputy Chism and Reserve Deputy Mendeke were dispatched to the location.

Saturday, Sept. 9

6:45 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent reported a beige cross-bred bull with horns loose on highway 90 approximately 2 miles west of Brackettville. The bull was placed in a pasture but the owner has not yet been found.

5:43 p.m., Security Link called to report an alarm at the south door of the new gym. School officials were notified of the alarm.

6:54 p.m., A report of three cows loose on highway 1908 near Salado creek was received from a Border Patrol agent. None of the ranchers in the area could be reached.

8:15 p.m., A woman requested a dog to be picked up in Wolfe alley behind her house. City of Brackettville animal control was notified.

Sunday, Sept. 10
2:38 a.m., A 911 caller reported a red 99 Ford pickup truck driving at a high rate of speed on Beaumont street. He also reported the vehicle driving by his residence and trying to start a fight by arguing with people there. Deputy Chism was dispatched, pulled the vehicle over and took care of the problem.

4:14 a.m., A local man called to report being pulled over by an individual who requested a deputy at a location on east Thomas Street. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the location but found no one out front. When he checked the alley and trailer behind the residence he found the door wide open and all occupants asleep.

9:38 p.m., A 911 caller reported two illegal aliens at the intersection of highway 90 and 3008. The U.S. Border Patrol was notified.

10:20 p.m., A Fort Clark man

called to complain about loud music at the golf club keeping him awake. The dispatcher informed the caller that it was not a violation and nothing could be done. The caller said if they (dispatcher) couldn't do anything he would speak to someone who could, the sheriff. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the location and reported the noise level was twice under the legal limit. Deputy Chism did ask for the music to be lowered and the golf club agreed to do so.

11:07 p.m., An unknown 911 caller reported they had locked their keys inside their vehicle at the golf club. Deputy Chism was dispatched.

11:42 p.m., A local woman came by the Sheriff's office to request a deputy at her home. Her husband had a gun and was scaring her. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the residence; the husband was asleep.



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The necessity of fatherhood *Record numbers participate in roundup*

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

Dan looked down at the face in the casket. The resemblance to himself was remarkable. It was as if he were looking at his own face twenty years from now. In spite of the physical resemblance, the man lying there was a stranger.

Dan thought back sixty years into his childhood, "This man is my father, yet I never really knew him. He was little more than a sperm donor that gave me life, but I never knew him as a father." He could remember clearly his mother and father arguing in front of a judge that would grant them a divorce and, the sadness in his heart as he left with his mother perhaps never to see his dad again.

"We are living in an age when many think that fatherhood is not necessary, that women can do it all by themselves," Dan mused to himself. His thoughts continued.

"If that is the case why did I have that longing? Why the gap that nobody could fill? Why were my mother and father so wrapped up in themselves that they couldn't think of my brother and I when they decided to break up?" Looking at the face in the casket, he realized that there could never be answers - no real closure.

Turning away from the casket, Dan felt tears. But, they were not for the man in the casket. They were for that little boy so many years ago who had cried his own tears and felt his own pain all alone.

Later that night, Dan sat alone in the motel room. He picked up the Bible he always carried and turned to the book of Tobit. He read a story of a father who was faithful to God, to his wife, and to his children. Dan marveled at Tobit's love for his son, and the Godly wisdom that he passed on to him (Tobit Chapters 4 & 5). "What if every father read this story and decided to be like Tobit," Dan thought to himself. "The world would certainly change."

This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working to strengthen family, faith and education in Brackettville.

A little on the Wildlife side
By Henry Lutz

AUSTIN, Texas — Volunteers are signing up in record numbers for Texas Parks and Wildlife's annual Texas Hummingbird Roundup (THRU). In the past several years, 300-500 people have participated in the roundup, but more than 700 have already signed up for the roundup this year.

The roundup enlists volunteers to conduct backyard surveys that help biologists learn more about the range, distribution, favored sites and feeding habits of the 18 hummingbird species that have been found in Texas. The roundup presents a unique opportunity to hummingbird enthusiasts by enabling them to conduct field research and report their findings to TPW biologists.

Volunteers will be provided survey forms, feeder tips, scarlet sage seeds and "A Quick Reference Guide to Texas Hummingbirds" in return for a \$6 donation. Upon completion of the survey, roundup participants will receive a decal and a newsletter that documents the results of this year's roundup. Anyone who is interested in hummingbirds is encouraged to participate.

Hummingbirds migrate every winter, some coming from as far north as Canada and traveling as

far as Central America. According to TPW wildlife diversity program director John Herron, 10 hummingbird species are commonly found in Texas, but as many as 18 may be seen within the state. Hummingbirds are present year round in various regions of the state, but statewide numbers tend to increase in late summer when migration begins. Early reports of increased hummingbird activity could be signs of good numbers for this year's migration.

This year's participants have already reported sightings of black-chinned, ruby-throated, ru-

fous and calliope hummingbirds, which are all species commonly found in Texas. Sightings of rare green violet-ears have also been reported. Project Coordinator Mark Klym said he is excited about this year's migration and the number of volunteers, which he expects to exceed 1000 by the end of the roundup in January.

For more information about THRU, call Klym at (512) 389-4644 or visit <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/nature/birding/humrunup.htm> on the World Wide Web.

Beta Sigma Phi Beginning Day

By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

Preceptor Theta Sigma chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met for a beginning day celebration on Sunday, August 27, 2000, at the home of Pat McKelvy. Beginning day is traditionally held on the last Sunday of August and is a special time set aside to catch up on members' summer activities and announce the theme for the new year.

Pat's shady back yard was the setting for a delicious picnic supper, prepared by chapter officers and enjoyed by 11 members and one guest. Following the supper, Shirley Hadsell, chapter president, welcomed everyone and an-

nounced this year's theme: "A diamond celebration--our future shines." A game based on "Who Wants To Be a Millionaire?" was then enjoyed by all. Shirley asked questions about Beta Sigma Phi and as each member answered incorrectly, they were put out of the game. The winner was Marge Geeze, whose prize was a lovely "diamond" bracelet.

Members present included Jan Chism, B. J. Eckenrod, Marge Geeze, Luella Gilliland, Donna Gracie, Shirley Hadsell, Clara McCord, Pat McKelvy, Lynn McNew, Arlys Simpson and Bobbie Waddill, with Eileen Voracek as guest.

Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution

The Texas Society of the Sons of the American Revolution met Saturday, September 9th at the Holiday Inn in Uvalde.

President, Charles McFarland, opened the meeting with the S.A.R. Pledge and pledge to the flag led by Clark Davis. After the business meeting Clark Davis reported on the status of the S.A.R. involvement with the Boy Scouts of America. After lunch Allen McCord introduced the speaker, Mr. Bill Haenn who is known as a student, researcher and noted speaker on the Revolutionary War, having been born and raised in Westchester, Pennsylvania and involved in enactments and presentations on the war. Mr. Haenn led the group through the Battle of the Brandywine Battlefield raising awareness of the strategy and personnel involved in this early battle pitting 11,000 soldiers and militia against 18,000 British soldiers, on September 11, 1777. It was an early battle where Americans held their own.

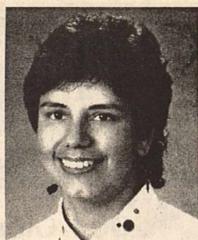
Attending the meeting were: Mr. and Mrs. Charles R. McFarland of Sabinal, Mr. and Mrs. Reed Dillon from Fair Oaks Ranch, Mr. and Mrs. Clark Davis of Uvalde, Mr. and Mrs. Allen McCord and Mr. Bill Haenn all of Brackettville.

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September 2000 is... *Courting rituals in 1900 vs. Courting rituals in 2000*

But I Could Be Wrong!
By Chuck Hall

- Children's Eye Health and Safety Month (I'm for that)
- Children's Good Manners Month (Why only children?)
- Fall Hat Month (My hat fell off)
- Library Card Sign-Up Month (My card can't write)
- National Chicken Month (I've always been chicken)
- National Honey Month (You should see my honey)
- National Little League Month (Isn't it over?)
- National Mushroom Month (Kaboom)
- National Organic Harvest Month (Where can I harvest an organic?)
- National Pediculosis Prevention Month (How can I prevent it if I don't know what it is?)
- National Piano Month (Oh, come on)
- National Rice Month (5 billion Chinese can't be wrong)
- National School Success Month (For 11 months you can goof off)
- National Sewing Month (A stitch in time...)
- National Sickle Cell Month (Shouldn't we be against this?)
- National Youth Pastors Appreciation Month (I like old preachers too)
- Project AWARE (Aquatic World Awareness and Education) Month (What?)
- Southern Gospel Music Month (The Yankees aren't going to like this)

- Full Employment Week (9/4-9/10) (All right!)
- Mental Health Workers' Week (9/4-9/10) (I'm really not sure what this means)
- National Grandparents Day (9/10) (Hooray for granddad)
- International Housekeepers Week (9/10-9/16) (International?)
- National 5-A-Day Week (9/10-9/16) (5 what?)
- National Mindmapping and Brainstorming Week (9/10-9/16) (Way too much information)
- Substitute Teacher Appreciation Week (9/10-9/16) (I really appreciate them)
- National School Internet Safety Week (9/11-9/15) (Is it actually dangerous?)
- Balance Awareness Week (9/17-9/23) (I'm not dizzy)
- Constitution Week (9/17-9/23) and National Constitution Day
- National Farm Animals Awareness Week (9/20-9/26) (Surely this is a joke)
- National Farm Safety and Health Week (9/17-9/23) (I'll buy this)
- National Rehabilitation Awareness Week (9/17-9/23) (I thought rehabilitation was awareness)
- Tolkien Week (9/17-9/23) (What's that?)
- Banned Books Week (9/23-9/30) (Do we want them back or what?)
- Deaf Culture Week (9/21-9/27) (How do you culture deafness?)
- National Dog Week (9/20-9/26) (Bow Wow)

How has the mating game changed over the past 100 years? Dramatically!

The folks at Fannie May Candies were eager to find the differences, since their boxed chocolates have played such an important role in the lives of young couples since 1920, when the company was founded.

1900: The courting call was a complicated event. One had to observe the appropriate amount of time between invitation and actual visit.

2000: "Maybe I'll drop by later."

1900: The first courtship calls must be made with the girl's mother present at all times. It was appropriate to bring a small gift of chocolates or a bouquet of posies for the daughter.

2000: Savvy guys know to bring Mom and girlfriend each a box of their favorite chocolates.

1900: It was extremely important to conduct a proper discussion on only a small amount of topics, all of which covered the man's interests, but nothing too personal.

2000: "Pass me the remote for the game, hon."

1900: Men sent absurdly romantic love letters gushing such scribes as a "thousand kisses for you, forever yours."

2000: "E-mail me."
1900: Men arrived at the young

lady's house in a horse and carriage and left a calling card for consideration.

2000: "Beep me."
1900: It was customary for a local older woman to serve as a matchmaker for young couples. This woman was well known and well regarded in her town or village and garnered much respect from her peers and their offspring.

2000: www.matchmaker.com
1900: Chaperones on "dates" were required. They accompanied the couple even on walks. If the young man showed up and there were many chaperones present, it was a clear sign that his intentions were unwelcome.

2000: "I'll meet you there."
1900: When a relationship progressed to a certain point, the couple might begin to "spoon" which was the term for kissing during courting.

2000: "Got a spoon? Can't handle these chopsticks."

1900: Parlor games were extremely common. They presented a casual diversion for the couple and their chaperone. Among them were the card game of whist and, as the relationship progressed, perhaps a little "spin the bottle".

2000: Couples spend time "spinning" at the health club.

1900: The bride's trousseau was a most important factor in her wedding preparations. It consisted of handmade chemises, nightgowns, hats and linens. Dresses had high necklines, puffed sleeves and a tight waist.

2000: www.victoriassecret.com
1900: Men had to go out of their way and spend a great deal of their wages to bring their young ladies a gift of chocolate: a symbol of love.

2000: www.fanniemaycandies.com
Article courtesy of Article Resource Association, www.aracopy.com, e-mail: info@aracopy.com.

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Tips for Keeping Your Deck Safe

Submitted by
Jim Neidner

News USA - A couple of years ago at an Oakton, Va., townhouse, two dozen people were taken to local hospitals when the deck they were partying on broke away from the house, knocking the guests to the ground.

The accident occurred because the framing for the house lacked a band board to which lag screws were supposed to be attached. After the deck collapsed, Fairfax County building officials immediately revised their inspection procedures for decks.

While deck failures are uncommon, the Oakton accident pointed up the need for close attention before and after a deck is built. Here are some tips on deck maintenance to prevent such a failure:

- Before hiring a deck contractor, homeowners should check references, go look at the builder's work and verify that the builder is properly licensed. You should also insist that the contractor secure a building permit. A building permit will ensure that the deck is inspected for proper construction and attachment to the house.

struction and attachment to the house.

- Insist that the lag screws securely anchor the deck ledger beam to the framing of the house.

- Have the builder use casing nails - nails with narrow, cone-shaped heads - in building the deck. These nails "bury" themselves into the decking surface better than common nails. This will prevent the annoying "nail pop" - nail heads that project up a fraction of an inch and can cause you to stumble on the deck.

- Traditionally, homeowners have preferred cedar or redwood for outdoor construction such as decks and fences. But in recent years, manufacturers have treated fir and other less durable woods chemically so they will survive weathering.

- Once the deck is finished, owners should not overload it. A properly built deck that meets a county's building code requirements is built to hold more weight than is ever likely to be put on it.

- After the deck is finished, check the connections of the supportive structure annually. If any of the lag screws move easily, get

an expert to check it out right away.

- Once the deck is installed, you need to seal it with an oil-based, water-repellent sealer. Staining the deck will preserve its beauty and lifespan. The resealing should be done every year.

(Editor's Note: Jim Neidner is a national radio home host and award-winning builder-remodeler. You can talk to him online at www.ihomeline.com.)

"War on Drugs"

Continued from page 1

do most people start to smoke. Hernandez spoke of a Texas survey of schools which had asked fourth graders how many of them had used drugs or alcohol and 42% admitted that they had used one of them. The trouble with such surveys is how many are honestly admitting to the use an how many are just going along even though they have not used. It is sad that with a country as affluent as ours that the problem exists and although education is used, there is

some question as to how effective it is. The older the age group, the more graphic the questions and answers become. For example, the fourth graders will be told of the effects alcohol has on the body as well as the brain and why accidents so often happen to people who have been drinking or are on drugs.

There is hope that education and involvement will help to curtail the drug problems that are present in our schools today and with the young people.

Working together provides amazing results

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Brackett ISD needs a business representative and a community representative to serve for two years on the District Advisory Committee. The two representatives may not be employees of the school district. The District Advisory Committee studies and advises the superintendent and the school board on the operations and policies of the school. The committee meets about six times a year from after school for an hour to an hour and a half. If you are interested in helping, call Susan Esparza, Superintendent's secretary at 563-2491, extension 100.

How about those Tigers? Friday was a great day for us at BHS with our volleyball and football teams winning decisively. If you haven't seen these young people play, give it a try this week. Check the school message board in front of the gym for updated information on the games.

The six weeks is more than half way through and it's time to look ahead. For parents and students, take a look at where you would be if the six weeks ended today. Remember that state UIL regulations require that you pass every subject or you will be ineligible for at least three weeks. Do the work now and enjoy the rewards of participation in school activities.

The rain skirted around us again. Long range forecasts show that we stand a better chance again this next weekend. It's time for it to rain in Kinney County. The range land is about as dry as I've ever seen it (going back to the 50s when I grew up in San Antonio). Let's keep praying for the rain.

I was impressed at the game Friday night. As you know, the US Supreme Court had ruled that school initiated prayer was not a legal act at athletic events. We are sworn to uphold the law of the state and of the land. So, we had no choice legally but to have a moment of silence. I had walked to

the visitor's side of the field when the announcement was made. I heard the announcer say "please stand for a moment of silence"; then I heard the Lord's Prayer being said in unison. It was very impressive. The Court did not rule against prayer, just school initiated prayer. So, you did it yourselves. What a terrific response! I'm proud.

How about John Paul Schuster on that PA at the football games? He is an outstanding announcer. JP volunteers to do this job (no

pay). He's very good at it. Thanks for a job well done.

We're seeing examples this year of the TEAM playing the games. I wonder if we as adults can learn from the example of the young ones that working together we can solve many more problems. Maybe it's time to stop throwing the stones at each other; particularly the factions at Fort Clark Springs. Let's try to figure out a way to capitalize on our common goals and forget our differences. Have a great week!

Varsity Volleyball

September 5-9

The Tigerettes lost to Utopia 15-6, 12-15, 13-15. Outstanding players were Duquesa Hunt, Mayra Aguirre and Erica Meyer. The team beat Sabinal 15-5, 9-15, 15-6 and served 97 percent of the game. Outstanding players were Susannah Davis, Michelle Bizzell

and Ashley Smith.

At the Utopia tournament, the Brackett Tigerettes won 3rd place. The team beat Stacey 15-4, 15-6, lost to Leakey 7-15, 8-15, and beat Comfort 10-15, 15-13, 15-8. Leslie Meyer, Christina Flores, Erika Garcia, B'Ann Gomez, Queta Garza, Mayra Aguirre and Duquesa Hunt were the outstanding players.

The team's record is now 8-7. The first district game is in Brackettville on Tuesday, September 19 versus Dilley.

Team effort leads to Tiger win

By Walt Brock
Contributing Writer

Last Friday night, the Tiger Varsity Football Team gave a total TEAM effort as they defeated Sabinal by the score of 59 to 13. The Tigers started and finished the game with strong execution on both sides of the ball.

Defensively the Tigers showed to be very strong. The defensive line led by Miguel Hernandez, Carlos Gomez, J.J. Rivas, and Javi DeLeon, were very successful at putting pressure on the Sabinal offense. Linebacker Jesse Hidalgo scored on a 53 yard scramble af-

ter scooping up a fumble caused by DE Carlos Gomez. Also contributing was DB Manuel Madrid with two interceptions.

Offensively, the Tigers smashed the Sabinal defense with its aggressive style of running. The Tigers rushed for 452 yards due to the great play of the offensive line led by seniors Chris Palomo and David Lopez. Jesse Hidalgo rushed for 189 yards on only 15 carries. Hidalgo had 5 touchdowns on the night. Another key to the Tigers rushing success was FB J.J. Rivas who rushed for 143 yards on 20 carries scoring a touchdown. Poised at quarterback was Jared

Hobbs who rushed for 53 yards on 5 carries and went 3-3 passing for 43 yards. Hobbs passed for a touchdown and rushed for a touchdown as he took control of Brackett's offense. Other attributes to the offense came from David Campos with a 20 yard touchdown run and Sam Hunt who was perfect at extra point attempts. Hunt went 1-1 throwing a pass to John Wylie for a 2 pt. conversion.

The Tigers are excited about the season and feel it will be one to remember. This week they will be focusing on Ricksprings where they play Friday night at 8:00 pm.

7th Grade Volleyball

By Jenifer Harris
Contributing Writer

The Brackett Middle School 7th grade Girls Volleyball is up and running. This year, the girls will play teams from Eagle Pass, Del Rio, Comstock and Sacred Heart Del Rio.

The 7th grade team includes the following players: Dana Bonner, Ashley Castillo, Jacquelyn Conoly, Jessica Crane, Roxanne DeHoyes, Kai Lani Glass, Cassandra Gomez, Shaddine Gum, Krissie Linton, Jessica Luna, Blair Lambert, Cassie Mata, Tanya Molinar, Ivory Perez, Kaylynn Perez, Yasmin Pena, Zulema Reyes, Isabel Rivas, Vicky Resendez, Timmeke Simmons and Tye Taylor.

Tigerette Volleyball

By Gregg Nowlin
Contributing Writer

On Thursday Sept. 7th, the 8th grade volleyball team defeated Eagle Pass Memorial 11-15, 15-8, 15-8. The win upped their season record to 2 wins and 1 loss. Playing well for the Tigerettes was Valerie Terrazas, Divina Pena, Vanessa Williams, and Julissa Luna.

On Monday Sept. 11th, the 8th grade volleyball team defeated the Comstock Panthers, 15-0, 15-4. Their season record now stands at 3 wins and 1 loss. Playing well for the Tigerettes was Vanessa Williams, Courtney Frerich, Valerie Terrazas, and Stephanie Bonner. Their next game is Monday Sept 18th in Eagle Pass.

JV Shuts Down Sabinal

By Walt Brock
Contributing Writer

The Tiger JV Football Team shut down the Sabinal JV offense on the way to their season opening win. Offensively and defensively the Tigers played very aggressive. They defeated Sabinal 20-0.

Defensively, great things were seen. Defensive end Levi Duncan scored a defensive touchdown as he recovered a fumble in the end zone. Duncan also had two sacks and blocked a punt. Other attributes were LB Dietrich Davis with 4 sacks and Jose DeLeon with two. Shutting down Sabinal's pass-

ing game were DB's Wacy Taylor and Jaime Puento who both had interception on the night.

Offensively, the tone was set by the great line play of Jason Smith and Chestin Clark. Fullback Dietrich Davis scored the first touchdown on a 10 yard run with Jaime Puento rushing for the 2 pt. conversion. Later, TB Wacy Taylor scored on a 20 yard sweep.

The JV Football Team showed great promise for the future and are very excited about their opening win. They take on Ricksprings' JV at home this Thursday at 6:30 and would appreciate your support.

Cross Country Off and Running

By Jenifer Harris
Contributing Writer

The Brackett boys and girls cross country teams are well into their 2000 season. The teams have competed in 2 meets this year so far. On September 2, the teams traveled to Del Rio to compete in the annual meet there. Placing in the top 10 in the varsity girls division was Melinda Villereal with a 7th place. Also placing in the top 10 varsity boys division was Thomas Crow with a 3rd place. Competing in the meet were team members; Isaac Gutierrez, Jaime Montolvo, Joseph Luna, Carl Dalton and Gilbert Fernandez. For the girls were Tammy Smith, Nicole Mata, Aracely Trujillo and Stephane Coronado.

On September 9, the team traveled to Castroville to compete in the Medina Valley cross country meet. Both the girls and boys team ran in the JV division. With over 125 runners in each division the Brackett team did well. In the girls division Melinda Villereal placed 1st with Aracely Trujillo with a 16th and Nicole Mata right behind her with a 17th. Also coming in 35th was Stephane Coronado. In the boys division Thomas Crow also finished 1st with Damion Toms in 18th, Isaac Gutierrez 41st. Also competing Saturday was Joseph Luna, Jaime Montolvo, Chris Petrosky, Carl Dalton and Schiller Hill.

The teams will be traveling to Pearsall on Saturday, September 16. They are working toward District which is October 28.

SWTJC enrollment looks to break record

UVALDE — It's not official yet but it looks like enrollment records will be shattered this semester at Southwest Texas Junior College.

According to Dean of Admissions Joe Barker, 3,814 students had enrolled for classes at SWTJC by the end of late registration Tuesday.

The total includes 12 registered for classes in Utopia, 11 in Brackettville, 10 in Nueces Canyon, 9 in Leakey and 5 in Ricksprings.

"We have to wait 12 class days before we tally official statistics for the state, but it definitely looks like we are going to break our record enrollment," Barker said.

Barker said he expects approximately 70 students will be dropped from the enrollment list before the official counting day, but that will still leave the college well above the all-time record of 3,552 students set last spring.

"Students change their plans, financial problems come up and we always lose some enrollment over the first 18 days," Barker said. "We will set a new record though and we are excited about that."

"Our Uvalde numbers remained steady, Eagle Pass is up slightly and Del Rio had a big jump in their total," Barker said. "This is the first time since before the flood of '98 that Del Rio has

had numbers this high, so we are especially happy about that."

Barker also credits dual enrollment by high school students as a big factor in this year's large enrollment.

"More and more high school students and parents are taking advantage of the academic and financial benefits of dual enrollment and that is definitely helping our numbers grow," Barker said.

The Torres Unit in Hondo with 97 students, Crystal City with 88, Hondo High School with 54 and Pearsall with 42, are other SWTJC locations with over 40 students enrolled for classes this fall.

THANK YOU

Thanks to you-all.
Thanks, thanks for our surprise 57th Anniversary Party. Special thanks to that wonderful 5th generation Texan, Woodie Hornburg, the instigator and organizer who setup Harry and Marge at the Las Moras Restaurant for a party with our great friends of Fort Clark. We love you-all and will treasure the joy you brought to our hearts. Thanks to our Lord and to you-all.
Marge and Harry Jones

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ACROSS

- Frosts
- Comic actor DeLuise
- Drummer's job
- Rush-hour train, often
- Sign of a happy pup
- Wealthy: Sp.
- Bonanza star Greene
- Full Moon and Empty
- Borodin's operatic prince
- RV interrupters
- Roman hawk
- Daimler's invention
- Never Cry (1983 film)
- Dog on The People's Choice
- Ancient plants
- Worshiped
- Spassky of chess
- Stylist's "office"
- Joe's Body (Reader's Digest offering) (2 wds.)
- Origin
- Sphere
- Entertainer Adams
- Freakish
- Golden-touch king
- Reside
- Lucius Annaeus
- Skeptical

DOWN

- Adversities
- Scoter
- Light brown
- Joaquin
- Indoor fruit tree
- Bireme needs
- Hollywood studio
- 1958 Best Picture winner
- Little picture on a computer
- Bloodshed
- Duds
- Harshness
- Hardly ever
- Unser and Kaline
- Deion Sanders' nickname
- Legal document
- Summons
- Victuals
- Crumble away
- Duck variety
- Superman's planet
- Sis's counterpart
- Where Napoleon III was captured
- Motorists' org.
- Blazing Saddles director Brooks
- Kitchen tools
- Decorative pitcher
- Communiqué
- Taj Mahal employee
- Cooper's Bumpo
- A little blue
- Expressed disapproval
- Hiker's gorp sweetener
- Nobelists' org.
- German city
- Romanticized vagabond
- Goldberg of gizmo fame
- Stately poems
- Grocery section
- Cartoonist Fisher ("Joe Palooka")
- Was in front

 We know nothing of tomorrow; our business is to be good and happy today.

 —Sydney Smith

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Sept. 14 Alfred Anaya	Sept. 17 Rosane Dalton
Sept. 14 Mary Lee Haby	Sept. 18 Marge Batchelor
Sept. 14 Amelia Kohler	Sept. 18 Gladys Burkepile
Sept. 15 Mary Hernandez	Sept. 18 Martha Martinez
Sept. 16 Jonathan Pinales	Sept. 18 Gracie Morin
Sept. 17 Karen Crumley	Sept. 18 Maria Reschman
Sept. 20 Wil Shahan	

HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21- April 20
 Quit while you are ahead. Trying to get back money may be a lost cause. Save time and frustration. Promise yourself to use better judgement in the future. Be willing to bend.

Taurus April 21-May 21
 A wake-up call may be what this relationship needs. Demanding an immediate answer may not be the best way to handle a family crisis. If you respect what you do, others may join you.

Gemini May 22-June 21
 Harebrained, half-thought-out schemes could be your undoing professionally. Attention to detail may prevent delays and errors. Sorting personal papers helps you relax and put things in context.

Cancer June 22-July 22
 Without balance, you may sail off course. If you lift your thoughts, you should be able to raise your earning power. A favorite book could reveal facts you require before making a major decision.

Leo July 23-August 23
 Become a people expert. Watch. Listen. Manage different people differently. If you discover what makes people tick, it could make your workplace more efficient.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
 Limit your goals and objectives today. Planning ahead is essential, but you thrive on short-term-goals that may be easily attained. Exercise could help reduce anxiety, but you may opt for washing away the gray.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 After a summer of sandcastles, you may want to explore the castles abroad. If it's out of your price range to travel to Europe, consider transforming your home into a castle. Think velvet.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 Teamwork may be a foreign concept to you, but it's time to jump in and get your feet wet. Others will support you. If handled in the right way, change can be a positive rather than a negative.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 All of life is a risk, a risk to be enjoyed! While you tend to be short on patience, the ability to wait your turn could be generously rewarded. Avoid being indifferent in social situations.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 You may just find a captive audience for your ideas and dreams. A journey helps prepare you for life lessons. A fresh look at a classic novel sheds light on your romantic life.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
 Remain rational and cool if a showdown with your boss materializes. Your individuality makes you stand out in a crowd but could cause problems with a partner. Compromising your standards may be difficult.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
 A concert helps renew your love of music. Learn to delegate tasks at work. You do not need the additional stress this week. Be shrewd. Someone may try to take advantage of you.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

Celebrate Hispanic Heritage Month

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

In September of 1968 the United States Congress enacted a law proclaiming National Hispanic Heritage Week. In August of 1988, that law was amended to celebrate Hispanic Heritage for a month instead of a week. On September 9th just last Saturday, five people were awarded the Hispanic Heritage Awards for the year 2000. Among the recipients were Anthony Quinn, for art, and Sammy Sosa for sports. Lesser known figures, though perhaps not to the Hispanic community, were Oscar Hijuelos, for literature, Delores Huerta for leadership, and Cruz Reynoso for education. Hijuelos is the first American-born Hispanic to win the Pulitzer Prize for fiction. Hijuelos is known for exploring the Hispanic immigrant experience in America, documenting their dreams and struggles. Huerta is best known for being an activist and labor organizer, fighting for equality for farm workers, Latinos and women.

Reynoso, a professor of law at UCLA, is a zealous advocate for the poor and disenfranchised, once serving as the vice-chair of the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights.

September 15th begins Hispanic Heritage Month for the year 2000. First United Methodist Church of Brackettville joins with all who will be honoring the heritage of Hispanics everywhere in the upcoming month. In particular, we honor the Hispanic community of Brackettville, Texas and the cultural gifts they share with those of us who have only arrived in the area in the last five or six hundred years. We too often forget that we Anglos are in the minority in this part of Texas. In fact we might not even really understand what being the minority means. This month-long celebration should help us better appreciate the debt we owe to our Hispanic neighbors and their culture.

I, for one, want to say, "Gracias, mis hermanos y hermanas."

Perking up

Saint Mary Magdalene
By Lynn McNew

When we came home from our vacation, I saw with dismay that the young tree we had planted in the spring was covered with brown, withered leaves. I thought it was hopeless, it could probably not be saved. However, I decided that I could not give up on it without trying.

So I began watering the little tree carefully every day. It became the center of my attention. I looked at it every time I went out the back door. I talked to it, "Come on, Little Tree, you can make it."

Just the other day, after about three weeks of TLC, I noticed a few small green leaves appearing on my tree. Excitedly, I told

my family, "There are leaves on my tree—it's going to make it." They shared my joy, even if not as enthusiastically.

Then I had an interesting thought. Plants are not too different from people, a little love and they perk right up.

Looking at my tree today, I am reminded of the importance of giving love—so very essential to all of life. Just as my tree "perked up," people need perking up, too.

Keep me ever alert, God, to the opportunities You give for passing along love—for "perking up" a friend, for helping a stranger to stand taller.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God Bless You!.

Without spot or blemish

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

Have you ever found yourself going back over areas that you were sure you had just cleaned because you suddenly noticed something else apparently jumped there after you had cleaned? This especially happens when you are cleaning anything that is white. It can become very frustrating if you are attempting to do a good job.

The same thing happens with sin in our lives. I realize now that the spot or blemish that was on my stove at the time was probably already there. The cleanser I was using probably finally worked its way to the bottom of the grease and floated it to the surface in a yellow or gray color.

Yet, I found myself going back time after time to catch another little spot I hadn't noticed before. (I have recently gotten new glasses, but I don't think that was the cause.) As frustrating as it was, it was a joy and sense of fulfillment to finally achieve my "stamp of approval" on the subject of my "elbow grease".

Sin in our lives tends to have the same symptoms. We focus on getting rid of one sin and when it is overcome, another seems to pop up to our observation from out of nowhere. Of course, I am speaking this with "tongue in cheek" because we all must realize that we do things that are objectionable to God daily. We are just blind to them in those areas until God, through the power of his Holy Spirit, reveals them to us. As we overcome our wrong choices and bad thinking processes in one area, we are suddenly able to focus on another area that we never before noticed. I believe this happens because God reveals it to us against his "white", pure, holiness. By continuing this process to the end, God is able to accomplish his purpose in us to his glory.

It goes without saying that the price Jesus paid on the cross for all my sins, falls very, very short of the price I pay in choosing to change my "stinkin' thinkin'" and the effort it takes me to do the right thing and glorify my Father in heaven. (No matter how much my flesh groans about it.)

I look forward to that time in which Jesus will return for his bride (the church) and take her unto himself, a bride without "spot or blemish". (Eph 5:27) That will mean that God's "clean-up job" on me is finished. Do you feel the same way?

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

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Pastor: R. D. Holloway

Good Government Group
Thursday, September 21, 2000
7:00 pm
St. Andrews Episcopal Church

I, the Lord, have called you

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

Behold my servant, whom I uphold; mine elect, in whom my soul delighted; I have put my spirit upon him; he shall bring forth judgment to the nations.

He shall not cry, nor lift up, nor cause his voice to be heard in the street.

A bruised reed shall he not break, and the smoking flax shall he not quench; he shall bring forth judgement in truth.

He shall not fail nor be discouraged, till he have set judgement in the earth; and the coasts shall wait for his law.

Thus saith God the Lord, he who created the heavens, and

stretched them out; he who spread forth the earth, and that which cometh out of it; he who giveth breath unto the people upon it, and spirit to them that walk in it.

I, the Lord, have called thee in righteousness, and will hold thine hand, and will keep thee, and give thee for a covenant of the people, for a light of the nations;

To open the blind eyes, to bring out the prisoners from the prison, and those who sit in darkness out of the prison house.

I am the Lord: that is my name; and my glory will I not give to another, neither my praise to graven images. Isaiah 42:1-8. Praise the Lord.

Health

Department of Health adds virus to monitoring efforts

Add a new name to the list of diseases mosquitos potentially carry to humans - West Nile infection. The West Nile virus, closely related to both St. Louis Encephalitis (SLE) and dengue viruses, was first seen in the United States last year. Although the outbreak affected people in the New York City area, the virus could spread to other areas of the country.

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) is expanding its mosquito monitoring system to detect if West Nile virus is introduced to the state, said Julie Rawlings of TDH's Infectious Disease Epidemiology and Surveillance Division.

To most people, mosquitos are just an annoying pest with an irritating bite. But these insects can carry serious, sometimes deadly organisms that cause diseases such as SLE and West Nile infections along with both Western and Eastern Equine Encephalitis and dengue fever. A large dengue outbreak occurred last year in Texas, with 62 cases reported, including one death.

Wild birds are the principal reservoirs of mosquito-borne encephalitis viruses. Mosquitos feed on infected birds, then transmit the virus to humans and animals. To detect West Nile virus, TDH will concentrate on monitoring mosquito species likely to feed on birds migrating from the northeastern United States through the Gulf Coast.

Areas involved in the expanded monitoring system include Chambers, Galveston, Brazoria, Nueces, Kleburg, Kenedy, Cameron and Hidalgo counties. Harris County will have its own monitoring system. In addition, testing for the West Nile virus will be included in the

long-established programs in Brazos, Dallas, El Paso, Jefferson, Orange, Lubbock and Wichita counties. Also, city and county health departments, public health regions, military installations, universities and other local mosquito control programs send specimens to the TDH Lab for identification, Rawlings said.

Mild infections of mosquito-borne encephalitis may occur with only a headache. More severe infections may include headache, high fever, neck stiffness, disorientation, coma and tremors. With West Nile infections, flu-like symptoms include fever, headache, sore throat, body aches, fatigue often with skin rash and swollen lymph glands. Dengue fever is characterized by fever, headache, joint pain, muscle aches and rash.

About 82 varieties of the ever-present mosquito are found in Texas. However, only about a dozen transmit serious diseases, said Paul Fournier, supervisor of the TDH Bureau of Laboratories Parasitology-Entomology Branch.

The common house mosquito (*Culex quinquefasciatus*), Asian tiger mosquito (*Aedes albopictus*) and *Aedes aegypti* are the most common around Texas that carry disease. These backyard biters are drawn to areas with a ready water supply to reproduce.

"It only takes a thimble of water for these insects to breed," Fournier said. "It takes about one week for a mosquito to go from egg to adult. Longevity of an adult female is about 30 days."

The primary way people can cut down on the multiplying families of mosquitos, according to Fournier, is to eliminate

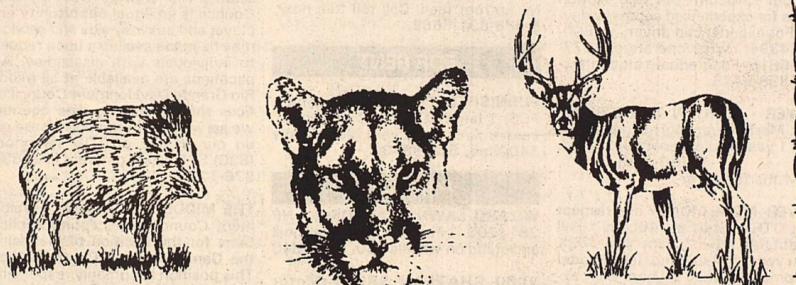
breeding sites. People are encouraged to:

- Empty or get rid of cans, buckets, bottles, old tires, empty pots, plant saucers and other containers that hold water.
- Keep gutters clear of debris and standing water. Remove standing water around structures from flat roofs.
- Change water in pet dishes, wading pools and bird baths several times a week.
- Fill in low areas in the yard and holes in trees that catch water.
- Maintain your backyard pool or hot tub and be sure someone takes care of it if you are on vacation.
- Stock ornamental ponds with fish that eat mosquitoes.
- Cover trash containers so they will not collect water.
- Water lawns and gardens carefully so water does not stand for several days.
- Repair any leaking plumbing and outside faucets.
- Screen rain barrels and opening to water tanks or cisterns.
- Keep drains and ditches clear of weeds and trash so water will not collect.

To help keep mosquitos out of the house, be sure door, porch and window screens are in good condition.

Answers to Crossword

I	C	E	S	D	O	M	G	I	G			
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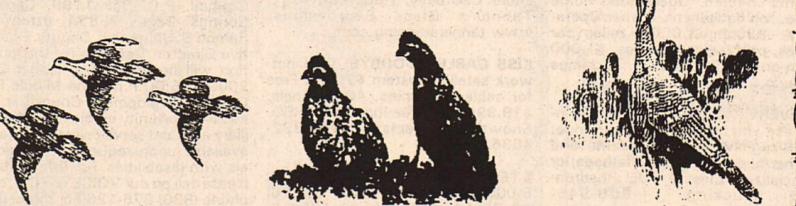


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The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub-brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for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



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

ACREAGE

LAND BARGAIN! 3+ ACRES - \$24,900 with boat slip! Beautifully wooded, spectacular views, deeded access to crystal clear 35,000 acre recreational lake in Tennessee - next to 18 hole golf course. Paved roads, utilities, soils tested. Excellent financing. Call now, 1-800-704-3154, ext. 30.

ADOPTION

NOTE: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

A HEART FILLED with smiles. Our hearts are bursting with love for a baby. Please call Lisa and Tim at 1-877-877-2801 and get to know us.

ADOPT: LET US be the loving and caring parents to guide your baby through life. Medical/legal expenses paid. Call Anna and Paul, 1-800-595-6976.

AUCTION

ABSOLUTE AUCTION, TUESDAY September 26. Camp Creek Ranch, 26,879 +/- acres, Joseph (Wallowa County) Oregon. Finest Hunting/Fishing in Northeast. JP King Auction Company LLC. 1-800-558-5464. LTG Brokerage CO License # 100321011. William L. Free - Oregon Broker.

AUTOMOBILES

CHARITY CARS - DONATE your vehicle, tax deductible, free towing. We provide vehicles to needy families. As seen on Oprah and People Magazine. 1-800-442-4451, www.charitycars.org.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

\$1.00 STORES. \$1.00 - \$10.00 STORES. 10,000 products. Financing available. Complete from \$47,900. Call 1-800-829-2915.

BRAND NAME GREETING card route. 50 established locations (all local), proven income. Free information, call Card Songs of America, 1-800-529-9407.

DRIVERS WANTED

ATTN. DRIVERS: FLEETWOOD Transportation hiring long-haul flatbed drivers. Peterbuilt equipment. Guaranteed home time and complete package of benefits. Also need long-haul owner operators. 1-800-458-4279.

COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced, 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

CONNER TRANSPORT, INC. 1-800-522-5545. Driver friendly Ft. Worth company needs experienced flatbed drivers and Owner/Operators. Run Midwest/ Gulf Coast. Home week-ends if you wish.

DRIVER: COVENANT TRANSPORT * Coast to coast runs * Teams start .42cpm - .46cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

DRIVER - MARTEN TRANSPORT, LTD. Marten Transport can pay you with 1 year plus experience, 33cpm. Call 1-800-395-3331, www.marten.com.

DRIVER- MORE MONEY and respect with OTRX. Start at .40cpm * Full benefits/401 (k) * Earn \$44-\$52K first year * Assigned late model equipment * Need 2 years OTR experience. The best drive for OTRX. 1-800-423-6939. www.otrx.com.

DRIVER - OWNER OPERATORS Average 113 cpm in five-state area running AR, TX, OK, LA, and NM. We need 63 trucks to cover current obligation. \$1,000 sign-on bonus. Base plates provided. Generous fuel surcharge and a low-cost lease program. FFE has plenty of freight. Call 1-800-569-9298.

DRIVERS: INDUSTRY LEADING pay, top out a .43cpm. CDL Training & tuition reimbursement available for inexperienced drivers. O/O's welcome. USA Truck. 1-800-237-4642.

DRIVERS - INTERSTATE EQUIPMENT leasing- Drivers and Owner/Operators wanted for various runs. CDL training available. \$1,000 sign-on bonus. (eoe-m/f) 1-888-227-5751.

DRIVERS - NOW HIRING great drivers. Applications processed in 2 hours or less. Long haul and regional drivers. Class-A CDL required. Continental Express, 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS - O/Os FLATBED - Dry Box/ Say no to low pay and low miles. Say yes to Smithway Motor Xpress. Great pay, miles, and home time. 1-800-952-8901.

DRIVER - SOLOS START at .31cpm, teams .34cpm. Guaranteed home time, top equipment. Owner/Operators, .83cpm, 3,000+ miles per week, paid fuel surcharges, \$1,000 sign-on. 1-877-9-HELWIG. James Helwig & Son.

DRIVERS...\$2,000 SIGN on pay increase. Instant health insurance. OTR/regional. Single, teams and owner/operators, vans, flatbeds, or specialized. Class A CDL. Roadrunner Trucking. 1-800-945-BIRD(2473).

IF YOU ARE the spouse of an over the road truck driver, we will teach you to drive a "Big Rig" w/ automatic transmission in just 2 weeks! Interested, please call 1-800-234-3748.

DRIVERS WANTED

DRIVERS - CFI HIRING OTR company/student/owner operators. Company with one year experience start at 32 cpm. Students earn \$50 per day. Owner/Operator start at \$80 all miles. For more information call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE.

DRIVERS: PETERBUILT CONVENTIONALS. Potential truck ownership! Good money with benefits. Limited guarantee. Potential truck purchase. Rider program. Home often. Barlow Trucking, 1-888-213-9968.

DRIVERS - SWIFT TRANSPORTATION - Drivers and Owner/Operators wanted for various runs. CDL training available. \$1,000 sign-on bonus. (eoe-m/f) 1-800-284-8785.

DRIVERS - WHEN IT comes to benefits, we've got all the bells and whistles. *Paid weekly. *Great pay. *\$1,000 sign-on bonus. *Student graduates welcome. SRT toll free: 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY (1-877-244-7293).

DRIVERS-OWNER/OPERATORS: Run regional. Home weekly! Paid: Base plate, permits, fuel taxes. 81 cpm. Loaded and empty plus fuel surcharge. 1-800-454-2887. Arnold Transportation.

TRUCK DRIVERS - COMPANY solo (.30+ or .28+cpm.) Teams (.36+cpm) and O/O'S (.82+cpm). Good miles, excellent equipment and benefits. OTR Experience required. Gulf Coast Transport, 1-888-988-8666.

DRIVERS TRAINING

GET ON THE road! Tri-State semi-driver training program offers: 3 week training, job placement assistance. Financial aid available to qualified students. Call today. 1-888-854-7364. www.learn2drive.com.

A \$35,000 PER YEAR career! C.R. England needs driver trainees. 15 day CDL training. Housing/meals included. No upfront \$\$\$s. Tractor Trailer Training. 1-888-781-8556.

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FINANCIAL SERVICES

BE DEBT FREE - years sooner! Low payments. Reduce interest. Stop late fees. Stop collectors. Family credit counseling. Non-profit Christian agency. Se Hablo Espanol. Free quote. www.familycredit.org. Recorded message: 1-800-729-7964.

CREDIT CARD DEBT? Avoid bankruptcy. *Stop collection calls. *Cut finance charges. *Cut payments up to 50%. Debt consolidation. Fast approval. No credit check. Call 1-800-270-9894.

NEED CASH? \$500.00 cash by phone. Same day service. Checking account required. No credit checks. No upfront fees. Call toll free now, 1-888-891-6669.

FOR RENT

FURNISHED TWO STORY condo, FCS, 1 large BDR/2 BA, all electric, central A/C, large yard, adults only \$400/mo. 563-9543

FOR SALE

WIZARD LAWN TRACTOR 11 HP 38" \$200. 1 Portable basketball goal and stand on wheels \$50. 563-2640

2000 CHATEAU SPORT Motor Home 26' Class C. Call 830-563-2438

MARY KAY COSMETICS, Alana Flurry, 563-9435. Evenings/Week-ends, Complimentary facials, products, etc.

RECONDITIONED GOLF CART batteries. Guaranteed. \$150 set plus exchange. New batteries also available. 563-9970.

AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES - Wolff Tanning Beds. Buy factory direct. Excellent service, flexible financing available. Home/commercial units. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1310.

DELL COMPUTERS... BUILT-to-order. Pentium III available. \$0 down, low monthly payment - O.A.C. Open 7 days. Limited time - free internet access - most areas. 1-800-477-9016, Code VZ37; www.omcsolutions.com.

FREE! WORLD'S FIRST and only 500 satellite TV system. Signals from two different satellite locations. Use certificate # 27073000 to order. Limited offer. Details, Wireless Concepts, 1-626-568-0903.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Incredible low prices. Residential and commercial units. Financing available. Wholesale tanning supplies. Free color brochure. Call today, 1-800-786-4671. Tanner's Glass Expressions. www.tannerstanning.com.

KISS CABLE GOODBYE! Dish network satellite system \$79.99. Free for cable customers. 40 channels, \$19.99/mo. 3 free months of HBO, Showtime, Cinemax. 1-888-292-4836.

STEEL BUILDINGS SALE: 5,000+ sizes. 40x60x14, \$8,816; 50x75x14, \$11,294; 50x100x16, \$15,185; 60x100x16, \$16,913. Mini storage buildings, 40x160, 32 units, \$16,914. Free brochures. www.sentinelbuildings.com. Sentinel Buildings, 1-800-327-0790, ext. 79.

FOR SALE

SUMMER CLOSE OUT. Arch steel buildings. Save thousands with factory direct pricing. 25x36, 30x44, 40x80, 50x110. Ideal for workshops/garages. Call 1-800-341-7007, www.steelmasterusa.com.

HEALTH/MEDICAL

HEALTH PROBLEMS, HAD trouble getting life or health coverage because of diabetes, heart trouble, cancer, etc.? We can help. Call now, Cooper Agency, free 1-800-784-0679, ext. 300

HERPES - EverCLR STOPS herpes outbreaks! 96% never have another herpes outbreak! Free call: 1-877-EVERCLR. More information: www.everclr.com

MEDICARE NEBULIZER PATIENTS! Stop paying cash for Albuterol, Atrovent, etc. Medicare pays for them. We bill Medicare and deliver to you. Med-A-Save 1-800-538-9849, ext. 12V.

GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE, FRIDAY 15th and Saturday 16th. Unit 15 #65 Fort Clark. Furniture, clothes, crafts and more.

HELP WANTED

MECHANIC, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR and general ranch worker needed for permanent position on West Uvalde County Ranch. Housing provided. Apply in writing to HCR 77 Box 275B, Uvalde, TX. 78801 or fax to 830-279-0661.

THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Development Council is accepting applications for several positions to be headquartered at various Workforce Centers in the service area of the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board. Due to expanded programs in the workforce delivery system these positions will be filled as needed. Applicants must possess a minimum of a high school diploma and preference will be given to applicants with college hours, a degree and direct experience. Direct or related experience may be substituted for credentials preferred. Applicants should possess a customer orientation and ability to work with all types of customers served through the workforce centers. All applicants must be able to use Microsoft Word and other software applications. Zavala Workforce Center, Case Manager I-III, \$19,155 - \$23,591. Val Verde Workforce Center, Case Manager I-III, \$19,155 - \$23,591. Uvalde Workforce Center, Case Manager III, \$23,591 - \$27,311. Secretary I, \$14,094 - \$16,316. Maverick Workforce Center, Case Manager I-III, \$19,155 - \$23,591. Secretary I, \$14,094 - \$16,316. All qualified persons interested in applying for this position must submit a MRGDC application for employment, resume, and copies of transcripts to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834, attention Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Executive Director. Application deadline is September 22, 2000 at 5:00 P.M. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. Applications are available at all Middle Rio Grande Development Council offices throughout the nine counties we serve. For information please call on our VOICE or TDD telephone (830) 876-1260 or direct line (830) 876-1227.

MECHANIC, EQUIPMENT OPERATOR and general ranch worker needed for permanent position on West Uvalde County Ranch. Housing provided. Apply in writing to HCR 77 Box 275B, Uvalde, TX. 78801 or fax to 830-279-0661.

HOMEWORKERS NEEDED \$635 weekly processing mail. Easy! No experience needed. Call 1-800-426-3689 Ext 1400 24 hrs

REAL ESTATE

O'Rourke Realty
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Rentals Available

1 bedroom, 1 bath, RV hook ups \$32,000

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, large addition, rock enclosed mobile home, privacy fence

3 bedrooms, 2 baths, double-wide, large den. For rent or for sale

In Brackettville, 2 bedrooms, 1 bath, behind Pico. Price reduced.

HELP WANTED

RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc. (RGEC) is accepting applications for the position of Receptionist to fill a vacancy in the Cooperative's Brackettville office. Applicants must be able to provide efficient and courteous service in the receiving and directing of telephone communications. Assist with member payments and account information. Computer knowledge, ability to type and use 10-key and various office equipment. Skills in oral and written communications in the English language. Willing to work overtime, if needed. Applications may be requested by calling 1-800-749-1509 and must be mailed to RGEC, Administrative Department, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Applications must be postmarked on or before September 18, 2000. RGEC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

PROFESSIONAL HELP WANTED

MEDICAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, join us in creating state of the art healthcare at SAAD Medical Center. Join an outstanding team of healthcare professionals at the new SAAD Medical Center, a newly constructed 523 bed regional medical center in Al Khobar, Saudi Arabia. Excellent packages are available for qualified candidates. *Positions available: *Chief of Medicine *Chief of Surgery * Chief of Emergency Medicine * Chief of Pediatrics * Head of Radiology * Head of IVF * Head of Andrology * Head of Pediatric Surgery * Head of Invasive Cardiology * Head of General Surgery * Deputy Chief Medical Officer * Senior/Junior Administrators * Senior Nursing Staff. *Qualifications: *American /US Board Certification * Current Licensure * Seasoned professional. Nursing: *Shift supervisors * Unit managers * CCU & CVT * Med.-surg. * Pediatrics * OR and recovery * Dialysis * Educators. *Benefits; *Competitive salary * Tax-free income * International travel * Free housing * Paid leave * Airline tickets * The latest equipment * Continuing education * Outstanding facilities. For more information, call Laura at 1-517-393-4000 or fax a letter of interest and resume to The Times Group c/o SAAD Medical Center 1-214-943-7103. Visit our website at www.saadmedical.net or e-mail us at djgsue@yahoo.com. *www.TimesClassifiedNetwork.com*

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LEGAL SERVICES

PROPULSID - HEARTBURN MEDICATION, heart damage or death. Free confidential consultation. Grossman & Waldman, 1-800-833-9121. No fees/expenses if no recovery. Board certified. Houston - principal office.

MOBILE HOMES

CLOSEOUT 3 BR/2BA with large porch. Free approval by phone call 1-877-538-9780.

YES YOU CAN - own your own home. Easy qualifying, easy payments, quick approvals by phone. Call today! 1-877-538-9780

4 BR/2 BA PRICED to sell. Visit our web page for more information at www.geocities.com/txhome5/txhome5.html

16X80 3 BR/2 BA Must sell! Take over payments 1-877-538-9780.

BUY A HOME in September and receive and ADT home security system with three year monitoring for free. Call 1-877-538-9780

DO YOU OWN your own land and haven't been able to build your dream home? Call us, we can help. 1-877-538-9780

1999 3 BEDROOM 2 bath, A/C Plywood Floors, All Major Appliances, Shipped to us by mistake. Price Reduced - The Factory is paying for freight! Save now, call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711 toll free.

NEW 3 BEDROOM 1 bath A/C, Plywood Floors, Stove and Refrigerator. 180.66 per mo for 240 months. 10% DP 8.75 APR VAR WAC Call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711.

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO

New listing - 5,100 acres, Headquarter Foreman's House, pens, etc. 950 acres at \$80,750
3 bedroom, 2 bath home, berber carpet and fill, beautifully located by the Oaks
49er #421 - Great for rental property, furnished with all pots, pans and linens. Rent for \$60.00 per night, \$600.00 per month - \$23,000
Please Let It Rain!

DEBBIE TRANT LOCKHART REAL ESTATE 830-563-2997 104 A-E Spring

Fort: price slashed on 3/2 mobile home in excellent condition. Stone skirting, screened porch, carport, fenced, sprinkler system, appliances, owner finance, now \$31,500!

Fort: nice 3/2 stone home, FP, large tiled carport/patio area. Updated 2 yrs. ago, central locale, Reduced Price!

Established business in great location, property & inventory included, No Competition.

Fort: 2/1 frame home, just \$12,000 owner finance!

MOBILE HOMES

NEW 3 BEDROOM 2 bath A/C, Extra Large Master Bath, Double Lavatories, Huge HEX Jacuzzi. Horse Shoe Kitchen. All Major Appliances. 301.71 per mo. 5% DP 9.75 APR VAR WAC for 360 months. Call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711.

NEW 4 BEDROOM 2 bath Danville A/C Shingle Roof, Hardboard Siding, Dishwasher, Stove and Refrigerator. Free Delivery, Setup a Tie Downs and Skirting. 260.13 per mo 10% D.P. 9.5 APR VAR WAC for 360 months. Call 774-7711 or 888 611-7711

MISCELLANEOUS

GOT A CAMPGROUND membership or timeshare? We'll take it! Also timeshare rentals needed. America's most successful resale clearing house. Resort property resales, 1-800-423-5967 toll free. www.resortsales.com.

REWARD. BOY SCOUT patches may be worth thousands. Cash paid for order of the arrow patches. Pre-1968. Most have "www." Call John Williams, 1-254-772-0956.

RANCHES

SO. COLORADO MOUNTAIN ranch, 40 acres - \$36,900. 30 miles from Colorado/New Mexico border. Picturesque acreage with pinon trees and Rocky Mountain views. Year round access and utilities. Excellent financing. Ideal home property. Call Red Creek Ranch, toll-free, 1-877-676-6367.

REAL ESTATE

BRACKETTVILLE HOUSE FOR sale, 505 N. Ann Street, entire home renovated, Call 915-426-2780

2.84 ACRES CHOICE highway frontage Hwy 90 & 131 Brackettville. \$60,000 firm. 830-774-5084.

WANTED

WE BUY ALUMINUM cans 30¢ lb. Batteries 75¢ ea. Also old cars with titles. 563-9970.

WANTED CARRIER FOR SAN Antonio Express News in Brackettville area. Contact Joe 775-0332. Pager 1-888-839-1665.

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Eat any food you crave and still lose weight on 1-2-3 Success®, Weight Watchers easy food's-based program.

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©2000 Weight Watchers International, Inc. Owner of the WEIGHT WATCHERS trademarks. All rights reserved. *Offer valid at participating locations in Alabama, Alaska, California, Florida, Georgia, Oklahoma, Texas, The Carolinas and Washington for a limited time. Not valid for The At Work Program or community meetings.

Heat and cold can be effective for aching joints

Treatments using heat and cold can be effective short-term ways to relax muscles and decrease stiffness and joint pain, reports the Arthritis Foundation South Texas Chapter.

"Heat treatments are especially helpful in the morning, when people with arthritis feel stiffness and pain," says Dr. Jay Mabrey, orthopedic surgeon and chair of the South Texas Chapter Board of Governors.

"Cold treatments, which provide a numbing effect, can be especially good for the acute inflammation felt in joints during a flare."

According to the Arthritis Foundation, some examples of easy, at-home health treatments are: hot baths or showers, which are good for heating the whole body; warm, moist towels wrapped around the joints; hot water bottles wrapped with a moist towel; electric heating pads that provide dry heat placed on the affected joint; an electric blanket on your bed during cold months can help increase comfort at night and may relieve some morning stiffness; and paraffin baths, recommended by a physical therapist.

Cold therapy also comes in many forms. The most common forms of treatment include: an ice pack; a commercial ice pack; and a bag of frozen peas or corn on a wet towel that has been placed in the freezer for five to ten minutes. Cold compresses or ice bags wrapped in towels help numb the affected area and reduce blood circulation so the pain is not as strong.

Sometimes, heat and cold may be alternated, depending on how painful the joint feels.

Heat and cold treatment, combined with medication, exercise and joint protection, are important aspects of a total treatment program for arthritis.

The Arthritis Foundation recommends that you follow instructions of your therapist or doctor on how and when to use heat and cold. Here are some guidelines:

- Use heat or cold for the prescribed length of time;
- Check your skin before and after using heat or cold;
- Do not use heat or cold on any area of your body with poor circulation or vasculitis;
- Do not use heat or cold over fragile, broken or sensitive skin;
- Do not use any electrical device that is not UL approved;
- Do not lie on top of the heat or cold pack;
- Do not use topical creams, liniments, heat rubs or lotions on your skin while using heat or cold; and
- Do not make your bath or shower too hot.

The Arthritis Foundation is the only national, voluntary health organization that is devoted to finding causes, cures and preventions for all forms of arthritis. Through research and its community programs, such as warm water therapies and support groups, the Arthritis Foundation offers help and hope to the 43 million men, women and children who suffer from arthritis. Call 1-800-364-8000 for more information.

What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.
—Oscar Wilde