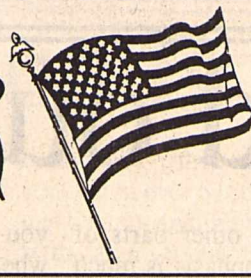


# The Brackett News



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 mores years service will receive \$5 per months 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

Continued on page 4

## 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 lead 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

Member of 

**ADDRESS:**  
Editorial and publication offices are at 507 S. Ann St., Brackettville, TX, 78832. Ph: (830) 563-2852. Fax: (830) 563-9538, email: thebrackettnews@usa.net.

**PERSONNEL:**  
Publisher: Jewel Robinson  
Office Manager: Dimple Henry; Staff Writer: Amy Davis; Staff Writer: Steve LaMascus

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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.

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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.









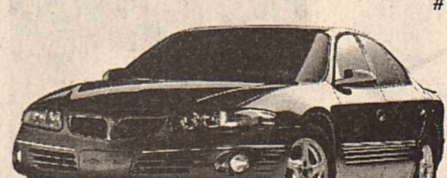




10:20 p.m., A Fort Clark man

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.



|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| <p><b>The All New</b><br/><b>2001 Pontiac Aztec 4 DR</b><br/>#9136</p>  <p>MSRP \$24,200<br/>Brown Disc. 1,205<br/><b>\$22,995*</b></p>     | <p><b>2000 Cadillac Escalade</b><br/>#9020</p>  <p>MSRP \$46,925<br/>Brown Disc. 3,390<br/><b>\$42,995*</b></p>                 | <p><b>2001 Oldsmobile Aurora Sedan</b><br/>#9126</p>  <p>MSRP \$35,314<br/>Brown Disc. 2,319<br/><b>\$32,995*</b></p>                   |
| <p><b>2000 GMC Ext Cab SLE 4 DR</b><br/>Sportside #9163</p>  <p>MSRP \$29,236<br/>Rebate 500<br/>Brown Disc. 2,741<br/><b>\$25,995*</b></p> | <p><b>2000 GMC Sierra 2500</b><br/>#8632</p>  <p>MSRP \$22,795<br/>Rebate 2,000<br/>Brown Disc. 2,800<br/><b>\$17,995*</b></p>  | <p><b>2000 GMC Safari Passenger Van</b><br/>#9042</p>  <p>MSRP \$25,170<br/>Rebate 1,000<br/>Brown Disc. 1,675<br/><b>\$22,495*</b></p> |
| <p><b>2000 GMC Z71 4x4 Ext Cab 4 DR SLE</b><br/>#9053</p>  <p>MSRP \$32,059<br/>Rebate 1,000<br/>Brown Disc. 3,064<br/><b>\$27,995*</b></p> | <p><b>2000 Pontiac Firebird</b><br/>#8794</p>  <p>MSRP \$21,080<br/>Rebate 1,500<br/>Brown Disc. 1,085<br/><b>\$18,495*</b></p> | <p><b>2000 Bonneville SE Sedan</b><br/>#8830</p>  <p>MSRP \$27,190<br/>Rebate 1,500<br/>Brown Disc. 1,695<br/><b>\$23,995*</b></p>      |
| <p><b>2000 Pontiac Sunfire</b><br/>#9011</p>  <p>MSRP \$16,735<br/>Rebate 2,000<br/>Brown Disc. 740<br/><b>\$13,995*</b></p>                | <p><b>2000 Buick Century</b><br/>#8743</p>  <p>MSRP \$22,057<br/>Rebate 1,500<br/>Brown Disc. 1,062<br/><b>\$19,495*</b></p>     | <p><b>2000 Buick LeSabre</b><br/>#9067</p>  <p>MSRP \$26,813<br/>Rebate 1,500<br/>Brown Disc. 1,818<br/><b>\$23,495*</b></p>             |
| <p><b>2000 Buick Regal LS</b><br/>#8823</p>  <p>MSRP \$24,467<br/>Rebate 2,000<br/>Brown Disc. 1,472<br/><b>\$20,995*</b></p>             |   |  |

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The necessity of fatherhood Record numbers participate in roundup

Empowering Families By Dr. Donald Smith

"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?"

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

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.

Dan looked down at the face in the casket. The resemblance to himself was remarkable.

Dan thought back sixty years into his childhood, "This man is my father, yet I never really knew him.

"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.

Turning away from the casket, Dan felt tears. But, they were not for the man in the casket.

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.

"What if every father read this story and decided to be like Tobit," Dan thought to himself.

Have a very Happy Birthday, Matie. We love you. Mama and Nobby

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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)

- 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)

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.

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.

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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.

- 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.

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.

some question as to how effective it is. The older the age group, the more graphic the questions and answers become.

"War on Drugs"

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.

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-

## 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

### AEROBICS CLASS

Where - Catholic Church  
When - Monday, Tuesday and Thursday  
Time - 6:00 p.m.  
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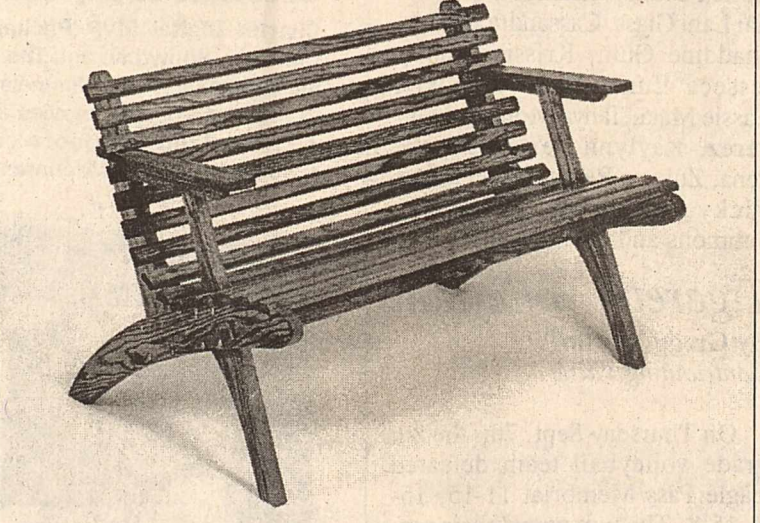
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| 59 |    |    |    |    | 60 |    |    | 61 |    |    |
| 62 |    |    |    |    | 63 |    |    | 64 |    |    |

**ACROSS**

1. Frosts
5. Comic actor DeLuise
8. Drummer's job
11. Rush-hour train, often
13. Sign of a happy pup
14. Wealthy: Sp.
15. Bonanza star Greene
16. Full Moon and Empty
18. Borodin's operatic prince
19. RV interrupters
20. Roman hawk
22. Daimler's invention
24. Never Cry (1983 film)
25. Dog on The People's Choice
26. Ancient plants
28. Worshipped
31. Spassky of chess
32. Stylist's "office"
34. Joe's Body (Reader's Digest offering) (2 wds.)
36. Origin
37. Sphere
38. Entertainer Adams
39. Freakish
40. Golden-touch king
41. Reside
42. Lucius Annaeus
44. Skeptical
45. Church corner
46. Parker's pop
47. Loan company customer
50. Werewolf's cry
51. Ferule
54. you care! (2 wds.)
55. Begone!
57. Escape
59. Very small
60. Actor Vigoda
61. Sartre work, with The
62. Imitation: suffix
63. '60s London hipster
64. Lucie's brother
- DOWN**
1. Adversities
2. Scoter
3. Light brown
4. Joaquin
5. Indoor fruit tree
6. Bireme needs
7. Hollywood studio
8. 1958 Best Picture winner
9. Little picture on a computer
10. Bloodshed
12. Duds
14. Harshness
17. Hardly ever
21. Unser and Kaline
23. Deion Sanders' nickname
24. Legal document
25. Summons
26. Victuals
27. Crumble away
29. Duck variety
30. Superman's planet
31. Sis's counterpart
32. Where Napoleon III was captured
33. Motorists' org.
35. Blazing Saddles director Brooks
37. Kitchen tools
38. Decorative pitcher
40. Communiqué
41. Taj Mahal employee
43. Cooper's Bumpoo
44. A little blue
46. Expressed disapproval
47. Hiker's gorp sweetener
48. Nobelist Wiesel
49. German city
50. Romanticized vagabond
51. Goldberg of gizmo fame
52. Stately poems
53. Grocery section
56. Cartoonist Fisher ("Joe Palooka")
58. Was in front

\*\*\*  
 We know nothing of tomorrow; our business is to be good and happy today.  
 \*\*\*  
 —Sydney Smith

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

|                                 |                                 |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 9<sup>th</sup> 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 15<sup>th</sup> 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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Sunday P.M. 1:30  
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes  
Minister: Ray Melton

First Baptist Church (SBC)  
Corner of Ann and Veltman  
Sunday Schedule:  
Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.  
Worship Service - Childrens Church 11 a.m.  
nursery provided  
Choir all ages 4:30 p.m.  
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship  
Training 6 p.m.  
Evening Service 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays 7 p.m.  
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting  
Bus and Church information call  
church office at 563-2245  
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

|        |        |        |
|--------|--------|--------|
| ICES   | DOM    | GIG    |
| LOCAL  | WAG    | TRICO  |
| LORNE  | ARMS   | IGOR   |
| STU    | MARS   | ENGINE |
|        | WOLF   | CLEO   |
| FERNS  | ADORED |        |
| BORIS  | SALON  | IAM    |
| ROOT   | REALM  | EDIE   |
| ODD    | MIDAS  | DWELL  |
| SENECA | LEERY  |        |
|        | AMEN   | BOAR   |
| DEBTOR | HOWL   | ROD    |
| ALOT   | SHOO   | ELUDE  |
| TINY   | ABE    | REBEL  |
| EEN    | MOD    | DESI   |

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