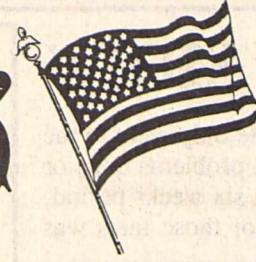


The Brackett News



Hope you are feeling better Johnny

13th year, No. 22

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Grant application approved for enforcement of tobacco laws in Kinney County

County seeks to reopen Natural Resource Conservation Service office

By Wes Robinson
Contributing Writer

County Commissioners approved an application for a \$3,000 grant from the Comptroller of Public Accounts for administration of tobacco laws in Kinney County, at a special meeting on June 22.

The proposal was presented by County Constable Cordelia Mendeke. Mendeke told the court she had spoken with Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo about the project and that they both hoped to make a joint application.

The basic grant is from \$3,000 to \$25,000. Mendeke said she was seeking the minimum amount because of the relatively small amount of tobacco sales in Kinney County.

The monies granted must be applied as follows: 40% for stings, 25% for compliance inspections, 25% community compliance/education, 10% required reporting.

"We would work with other counties in other areas, like Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Uvalde. Our kids that are helping us with this project would help them. They would go into their stores, places of business, and try to buy tobacco products. It would be a sting basically and we would bring in unknown kids to this area to conduct stings," said Mendeke.

"We're telling them up front

we have it. We'll announce it in the newspaper. There is no secret about it," said Mendeke.

Any store or vendor in violation during a sting or inspection would be reported to the State Comptroller's office, in addition to a local citation.

The deadline to file for the grant was last Wednesday.

Commissioners also passed a resolution requesting the United States Department of Agriculture reopen the Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) office formerly located in Kinney County.

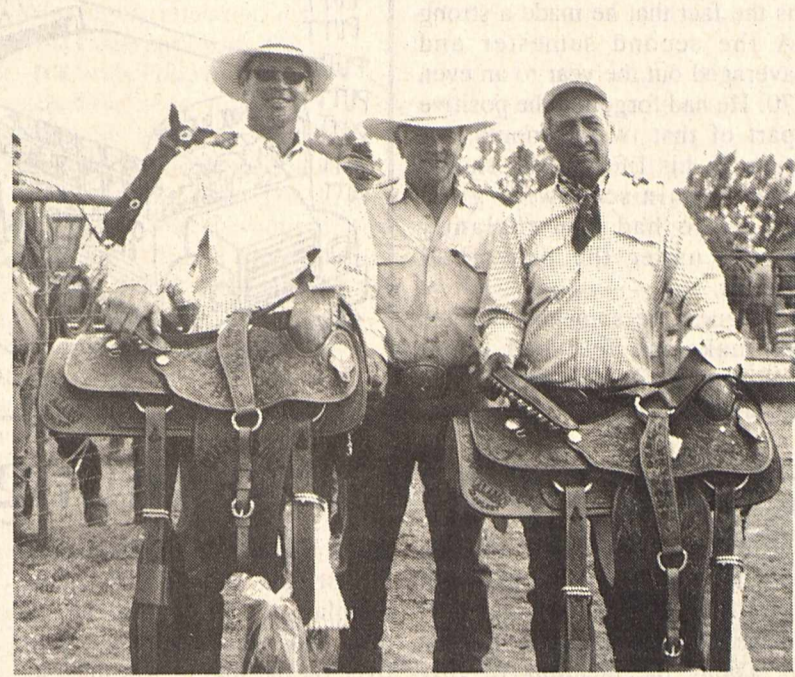
The resolution states that a current work load analysis has determined that Kinney County has the greatest activity level in the service area, which includes

Maverick and Val Verde counties.

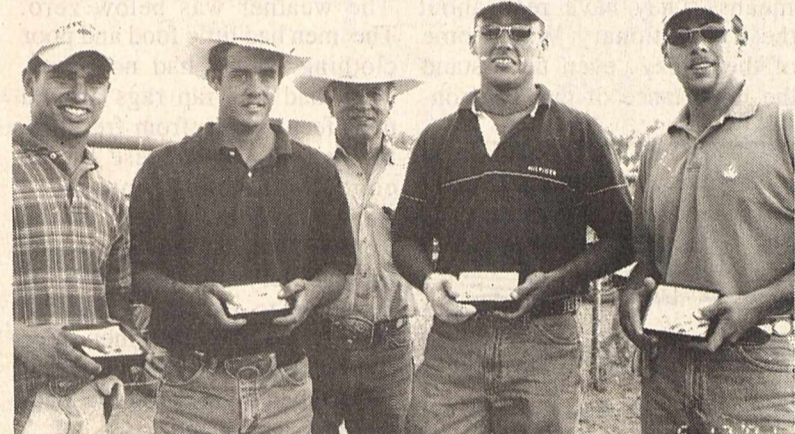
Kinney County has the highest demand for NRCS cost share programs, which include Environmental Quality Incentives Program, Wildlife Habitat Incentives Program and Conservation Reserve Program. Currently, Kinney County has \$1,252,407.63 worth of contracts. NRCS is addressing the conservation needs of over 234,000 acres in Kinney County.

NRCS also works in partnership with the West Nueces-Las Moras Soil & Water Conservation District (SWCD). Kinney County provides office space for the SWCD and plans to provide it for the NRCS as well.

"Roping for Christ" award saddles, buckles



Pictured from left, Clinto Brown, Tom Dorrell, and Nacho Bermea displaying their prize saddles.



Pictured from left are Sterling Knight, Bryce Jung, Tom Dorrell, Charlie Allen and Lin Whestine displaying their prize buckles.

The Dustbowl Arena, owned by Tom and Bea Dorrell, held its 2nd annual Roping for Christ on June 16. Winner of the saddles and 1st place was Nacho Bermea of Hondo and Clinto Brown of Brackettville. Gist trophy buckles were awarded to the 2nd place winners Bryce Jung from Quemado and Lin Whestine from Kerrville. Third place was awarded to Charlie Allen from Kerrville and Sterling Knight of Eagle Pass.

This event would not have been possible without the help of the community and the following people: Kenny Caldwell of Austin, Rick Trip of Brady, who provided the Christian mu-

sic, Ray Melton, who provided the message, Tony and Leisha Ashley, who donated two saddles, Davis Hardware, who donated buckles and money, Del Rio Bank and Trust, Kinney County Wool & Mohair, Texas Farm Stores of Uvalde, T.J. Moore of Del Rio, Cody Smith of Edward Jones Investments in Uvalde, Randy Price from Price Construction who donated a water truck.

There were a total of 400 people at the event and 197 teams competing. The ropings are held annually to glorify and spread the word of the Lord Jesus Christ. Everything is free, including entry fees.

Sheep and Goat Clinic

By Wes Robinson
Contributing Writer

Approximately 30 area ranchers were in attendance at a Sheep and Goat parasite and selection clinic held June 22, by Kinney County Extension Agent Robert Elledge.

Topics included the Pasture to Packer program, selection of sheep and goats, new drenches and parasite control and a wet lab.

In the Texas A&M Pasture to Packer program, producers take ewe or wether lambs to the feed lot and are provided with feedlot performance, carcass and financial data on their lambs.

Producers take a minimum of 10 head and a maximum of 20. Preferred body weights are 50 to 100 pounds with known sires if possible. There is a small entry fee of \$3 per head.

The purpose of program is to help producers determine how their lambs will perform in the feedlot. This gives producers data to improve their breeding program and produce more profitable lambs.

The data gathered in 1997 indicate the majority of Texas lambs fall far short of the desired 65 pound carcass weight.

In 1997 a total of 425 lambs were in the program, 284 finewool, 105 crossbred and 36 other. The average initial weight was 68 pounds, final weight was 116 pounds with 48 pounds

gained. The average daily weight gained was .57 pounds at an average of 84 days.

Lambs that initially weighed less than 60 pounds were the most profitable. They averaged out 104 days on feed and \$7.08 profit per head. Of the 100 lambs in this class 40% were small framed and 60% were medium framed.

Lambs that started at 60 to 89 pounds averaged \$6.21 profit per head and 82 days on feed. 12 of these lambs were large framed, 85 were medium and 2 were small.

Large lambs, 90 pounds or heavier, averaged out 62 days on feed and \$6.92 profit per head. 47 of these lambs were medium framed and 53 were large.

Clinic participants were also given pointers on judging animals for meat or show qualities.

Information was also presented on a variety of drenches and different parasite controls. It included new chemicals, which active ingredients effected which parasites, which drenches parasites may become resistant to and dosage rates.

The clinic concluded with a wet lab where producers were given the opportunity to learn how to do fecal egg counts. This gives the producer a practical, cost effective diagnostic tool for determining parasite burden and develop better prevention strategies.

Briefs ...

Fireworks prohibited

Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo would like to remind residents of Brackettville that there is a city ordinance prohibiting the sale, offering for sale, exposing for sale, use or discharge of any type of fireworks within the city limits. Any person violating any provision of this ordinance will be fined no more than \$200 upon conviction. Commercial displays with safety personnel present will be permitted to discharge fireworks.

Cavalry clean-up

Giving up the month's first Saturday morning to tidy up the beautiful FCS's grounds is a rewarding activity for the "Cavalry Brigade." Varied projects fit volunteers abilities/disabilities so there's no excuse to "pitch-in" and meet on Saturday morning July 7th, at 9:00 a.m. on Shafter Hall's steps. Besides being "do-gooders," the volunteers are rewarded with a tasty lunch at 11:30, which leaves one half day to fling your thing! Cheerful volunteers come join us!

Football camp

The 2nd annual Tiger Football Camp will be held on July 9th through July 13th.

The camp will begin at 9:00 a.m. and end at 12:00 noon Monday - Friday. The camp is for incoming 6th grade through incoming 9th grade for the 2001-2002 school year.

The cost of the camp is \$25, which will include a camp T-shirt. The camp will primarily focus on learning the fundamentals of the game of football, learning the Brackett Tiger offense and defense and learning how to have fun playing football. Walk-up registration is allowed, however, a camp T-shirt may or may not be available. Registration forms are available at the Football Field House or at Central Office. If you have any questions, please call Coach Yeager at 563-2491 x.190 or 563-9344.

Agents recover body

On Tuesday, June 19, agents from the Carrizo Springs Station patrolling FM 190 near Asherton, Texas, located the body of a 22-year-old Mexican National. Cause of death was not determined, and the body was turned over to the Dimmit County Sheriffs Department.

INSIDE

The way I see it!

July fourth is Independence Day. That is, the day we gained the right to rule our own destinies. That is the day we became "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." So what happened? *Opinion/Page 2*

I could be wrong!

I became reacquainted with a former student the other day. I hadn't seen him in many years. His first statement to me was that he remembered the time... *Opinion/Page 2*

Empowering Families

"Dad, how old were you the first time you made it with a girl?" Sixteen-year old Tony asked. Stunned by his son's question, Dave decided to respond with a question of his own. "What made you come up with that son?" *Lifestyles/Page 4*

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Fourth of July Schedule of Events

9:00 a.m. - Parade begins at Alternative school on Ann Street, ends at County Courthouse

9:30 a.m. - Fourth of July committee presents program, Korean Veterans honored, prizes awarded for best floats

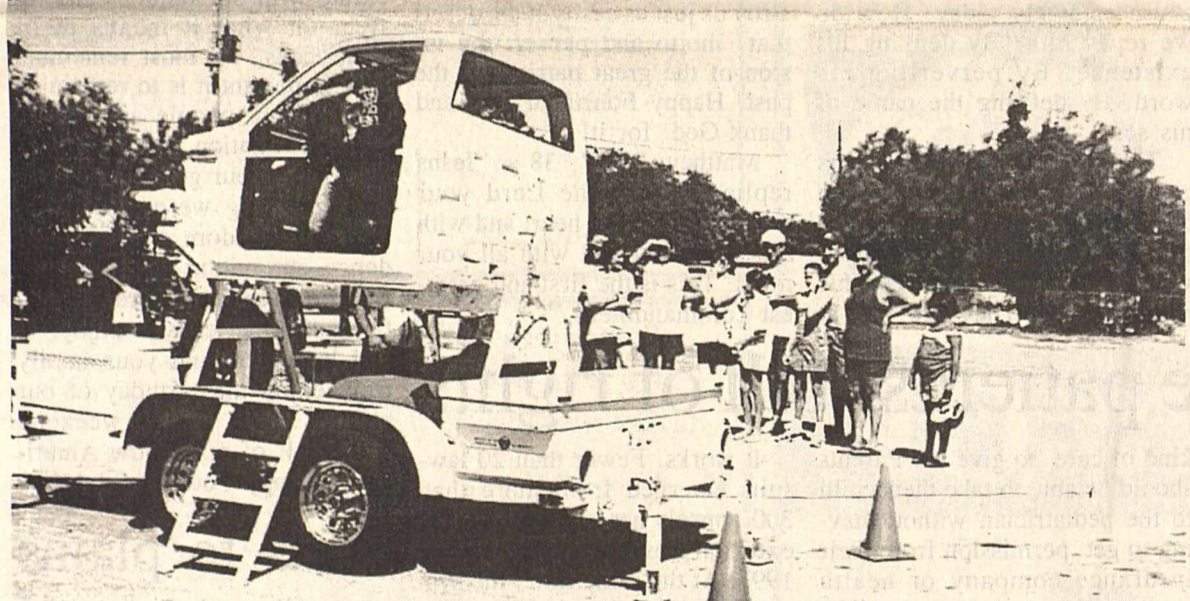
10:00 a.m. - Booths open at Rendezvous Park at Fort Clark, volleyball tournament begins

10:30 a.m. - Fly-over by Randolph AFB

9:00 p.m. - Get ready for fireworks near the horse statue at Fort Clark

Booths will be open throughout the day serving food and drinks. Music will be provided by Ultimate Tejano Jamzz FM 100.7. There will be no entrance to the pool through Rendezvous Park. Members and their guests must enter through the Security Gate to get to the pool.

Have a Happy and Safe Fourth of July!



Pictured is "The Convincer," sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation, which was brought in from Laredo on June 29 and 30, to demonstrate the importance of wearing a seat belt while in a moving vehicle. "The Convincer" is a model of a truck cab, and electronically simulates a vehicle roll-over. Onlookers were able to see the results of a vehicle roll-over while passengers were wearing seat belts, as opposed to when they are not. This activity ended Seat belt Awareness Week, which was held in Kinney County from June 25 through the 30th.

Troopers increase July Fourth patrols

The Department of Public Safety encourages Texans to celebrate the nation's birthday by being considerate to fellow travelers.

"We want to keep the fireworks in the sky," said DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. "We're urging every Texan to do their part to make Texas roadways a safer place this summer."

Tips for a safe trip include:

- Don't drink and drive-the stakes are too high.
- Slow down-excessive or unsafe speed combined are the leading killers on Texas roads.
- Pack your manners and drive courteously.
- Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.
- Don't drive fatigued.
- Don't play the road rage game-make sure you are the adult.
- Don't drive while using a cell phone.
- Make sure your vehicle is roadworthy.

Texas is one of many states participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Effort)-part of a nationwide effort by all state police agencies

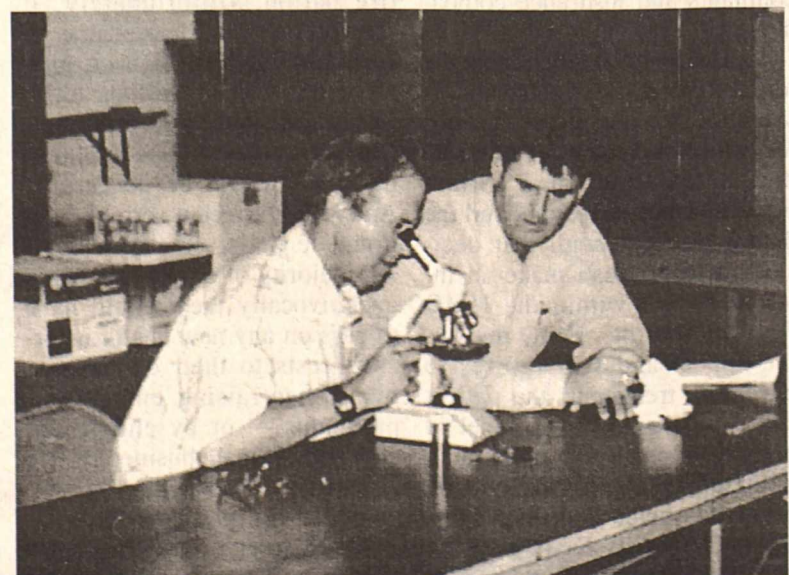
to reduce fatalities during holiday periods. Troopers, along with law enforcement agencies across the state, will be out in force the Fourth of July to target speeders, drunk drivers and seat belt violators.

Alcohol is of special concern during the July Fourth holiday and summer months in general. According to the latest figures, June, July and August were the leading months for alcohol-re-

lated fatalities in the state.

To assist in identifying intoxicated drivers, the DPS recently equipped troopers all over the state with portable breath testers. Last year, DPS troopers arrested nearly 31,000 drunk drivers.

"Alcohol fatalities continue to decline year by year-and that's one trend we don't want to see go out of style," said Davis.

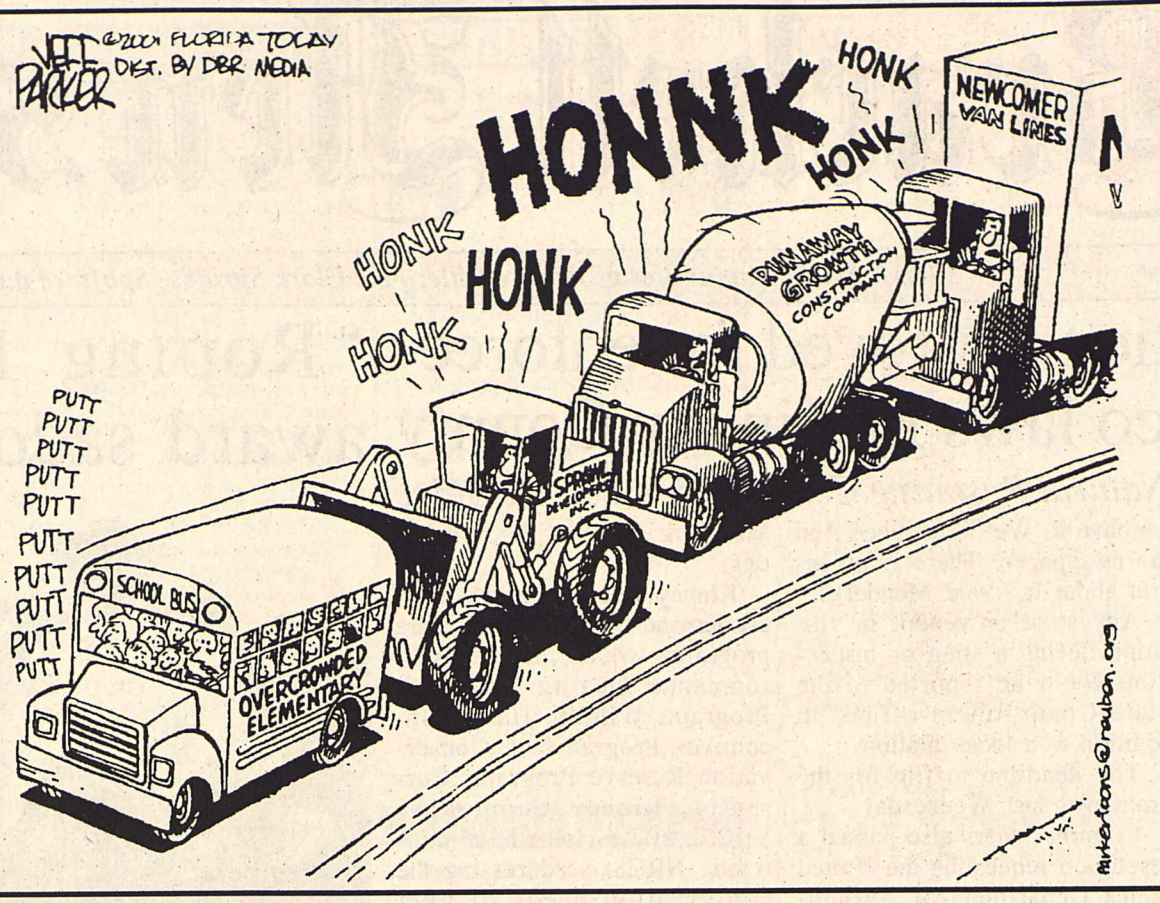


Participants at the Sheep and Goat parasite and selection clinic learning how to do fecal egg counts.

The rest of the story

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall
 I became reacquainted with a former student the other day. I hadn't seen him in many years. His first statement to me was that he remembered the time that I failed him. Strange, I recall it was the other way around.
 He proceeded to relate the particulars of his fanciful story. He said that I had failed him because he had missed my class one time. His average for that class was a 69.5. How he still had a grasp on the exact numerical average after all these years says something about my mathematical teaching ability.
 His recollection and mine aren't exactly the same. He somehow didn't remember the fact that he seldom had homework assignments completed. He neglected to mention that he was repeatedly told to

get to work. He only went to the board to work problems once or twice during a six weeks period. His retention of those facts was quite weak.
 After I returned to school, I went to the trouble of looking up his record. I found that his average was below 50 that semester. And he missed my class 17 times.
 The worst part about this tale is the fact that he made a strong A the second semester and averaged out the year to an even 70. He had forgotten the positive part of that twelve months. A time in his life that he should have reminisced with great pride he had non-chalantly swept under the proverbial carpet.
 I guess he somehow wanted to make me feel bad about failing him. Ok. I'm sorry. I feel ashamed. But I could be wrong.



Remaining independent

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd Dist.
 On July 4, 1776, fifty-six colonists signed a document and declared their intention to form a new, independent nation — the United States of America. In the 225 years since the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the United States has grown and evolved into the powerful nation it is today.
 Independence is the thread that has secured our nation and kept it strong over the years. Americans — and especially Texans — are fiercely independent; we want the freedom to work hard, make an honest living, raise a family and pursue happiness. We want to live the American dream.
 In recent years, however, too many people in Washington seem to have forgotten that independence is the foundation of our country. Every day, Congress considers complicated legislation, much of which expands the government's role in our lives. From new taxes and fees to employment requirements and rigid environmental regulations, our government is slowly maneuvering its way into every part of our lives.
 How can we stop this trend? First and foremost, it is important to stay informed and keep track of what Congress is doing. As your representative in Congress, it is important for me to know what you think. Just last week, for example, I received more than 400 letters on issues ranging from private property rights to tax reform. Your opinions shape my votes and I encourage you to keep in touch. As taxpayers, it is in your best interest to make sure the government responds to your needs.
 This Fourth of July, as we celebrate with our families and reflect on what it means to be Americans, we must remember how important it is to remain an independent people and an independent nation. We should be involved in our government and do everything we can to make sure the freedom and independence our nation is built upon will be here for future generations of Americans to enjoy.
 I hope you and your family truly enjoy the birthday of our nation. Have a safe weekend and to all of my fellow Americans, Happy Fourth of July!

Don't forget the deepest meaning of the Fourth of July

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus
 July fourth is Independence Day. That is, the day we gained the right to rule our own destinies. That is the day we became "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all." So what happened?
 Do we still have liberty and justice for all? Are we still indi-

visible, or are we now a nation divided? Are we still a nation of godly men and women? It doesn't appear that way to me.
 Today the meaning of July fourth is lost on the vast majority of the population. Oh sure, they know intellectually what it means. They have read about the Revolutionary War. Some of them may even understand the importance of that confront-

ation between the Colonies and the British. But very few contemplate the price paid by the men and women who put their lives on the line to win that independence.
 Valley Forge was not a summer vacation in the mountains. The weather was below zero. The men had little food and poor clothing. Many had no boots. They had to wrap rags around their feet to keep from freezing. Many deserted because of the conditions, but many more stayed to fight in spite of the weather, poor food, hardships and the very real possibility of freezing to death. We gripe when the air conditioner goes out. Makes me feel like a real sissy when I think of the pain they must have felt.
 Many of them were landowners. When the British found out that they had joined the revolt, they destroyed their homes and burned their crops. Many of them lost everything, including their families. Can you imagine how that must have felt? Can you imagine how strongly they must have believed in the cause they were fighting for?
 "One nation under God..." Most of our documents of foundation mention God. The men who formed this nation for wilderness and fertilized the soil

with their blood believed unquestionably in the divine guidance of God. They trusted that if they trusted him, he would be gracious to them, and he was. He took a rag-tag group of farmers and businessmen and used them to defeat the greatest standing army in the world — the British. He did it because the cause was on his side. The founders of the United States of America wanted more than anything the right to worship God as they pleased. Whether they were Catholics, or Quakers, or Methodists, or Lutherans, they just wanted to have the freedom to serve their God in the way they thought was best. They truly believed that all men are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable rights. That is a self-evident truth. The Creator was, is, and always will be God the Father. God gave them victory and through that victory he gave us the freedom that we abuse so freely today. How do we repay him? By denying his existence. By perverting his word. By defiling the name of his son.
 The men who molded this country into the greatest nation the earth has ever seen did not question whether or not there was a God. They had seen his hand at work. They saw him at

Valley Forge, Bunker Hill and a hundred battles and skirmishes that they should have lost but instead, won. They were brutalized by the weather and outgunned by the British and still they won a war. Did you ever wonder how such a miracle could have happened?
 This Fourth of July, during all the celebration, please take time to think about two things. First, that your freedom to sit in the back yard and drink Kool-aid and burn meat and pop fire-crackers was bought and paid for with incredible hardship and blood and terrible personal tragedy by ordinary men with extraordinary vision and boundless faith in God.
 Second, that the greatest nation to ever exist is just exactly as ephemeral as the wisp of smoke that comes from that barbecue pit.
 God made us to be "one nation under God" and he can destroy us just as easily if we desert that motto and pervert the vision of the great patriots of the past. Happy Fourth of July and thank God for it!
 Matthew 22:37, 38 — "Jesus replied, 'Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment...'"

Big Mama Sez!



If you would like to live a quiet, peaceful, uneventful life, you are living at the wrong time.

The Brackett News

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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

Debating the patients' bill of rights

Capitol Comment
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison
 Congress is debating the Patients' Bill of Rights, legislation to help patients get the kind of medical treatment they deserve without delay or legal haggling.
 When we are dealing with the health care of most Americans, it is important to avoid unintended consequences, such as increasing the cost of providing quality medical care. We don't want to do anything that would discourage employers from providing their employees with medical coverage. We need to make sure we are not creating more problems than we are solving with the bill.
 Getting good medical care in our country has grown complicated. The vast majority of us like and trust our doctors. We don't want an insurance company telling our doctors what

kind of care to give us. Parents should be able to take their child to the pediatrician without having to get permission from their insurance company or health maintenance organization (HMO) first. People should be able to see a specialist when they need one, and to get emergency treatment at the nearest emergency room without calling a health care gatekeeper first.
 If an HMO denies the treatment you need, then you should have the right to an immediate, impartial appeal to a panel of doctors. If the panel rules in your favor, you should receive your treatment, period. If the HMO ignores the findings, you should be able to go to court. Such a system should favor patients, first and foremost, with quick action to make sure they get the treatment they need in a timely manner.
 We can't afford to turn over patient care decisions to accountants and insurance companies and trial lawyers.
 Texas has already taken the lead on patients' rights, and is showing the rest of the country the way. In our state, if an HMO denies coverage for a certain procedure but the patient and the doctor disagree with that decision, a patient can make an internal appeal within the HMO first. If, after the HMO reviews the appeal and still refuses to cover the treatment, the patient can appeal again to a panel of outside experts not associated with the HMO. If the outside panel has made a decision and the patient stills feel he or she has been unfairly denied care, the patient can sue the HMO in court.

It works. Fewer than 20 lawsuits emerged from more than 300 appeals heard under Texas' external review system since 1997. At the same time, the system has proved to be fair. The conclusions of the appeals are virtually 50/50 in favor of both the patients and the health plans. Federal law would do well to follow Texas' lead.
 Texas law also gives employers protection from lawsuits involving health coverage. Employers are not required to provide health insurance coverage to their employees. Small business often can barely afford to give their employees this benefit. Exposing them to lawsuits and millions of dollars in potential damages because they voluntarily provide their employees with medical insurance just doesn't make sense. I offered an amendment to the bill that would have applied Texas' employer protection provisions to the entire nation. Unfortunately, it failed, but I will continue to work to secure this protection for employers in the final bill.
 Congress has to get this right. If health costs continue to climb, the result could be disastrous. Answering a recent series of nationwide polls, an overwhelming majority of employers stated unequivocally they would have to pass on any new health-insurance costs to their employees, by either raising employees' premiums — or by eliminating coverage. Small businesses are especially vulnerable.
 The best prescription for America's health provides more protection for patients, enhances the quality of care and promotes greater access and affordability.

Ports to plains route approved

(Austin) - A final route for the Texas portion of the Ports to Plains corridor was designated today by the Texas Transportation Commission during its monthly meeting. The approved route, approximately 830 miles, includes the following cities: Laredo, Del Rio, San Angelo, Sterling City, Midland, Lamesa, Lubbock, Amarillo, and Dumas.
 In Texas, the final route will serve the Texas/Mexico border, West Texas and the Panhandle. "This route is an investment in our future," said John W. Johnson, Texas transportation commissioner. "It has a regional impact to the state's infrastructure and has the potential to serve as a crucial trade corridor for Texas and the rest of the country. I applaud the communities along the corridor for their strong local support of the route."
 While no funding has been set aside for construction, development plans include upgrading the existing route to a four-lane divided highway. The estimated cost for these improvements is approximately \$1.2 billion.
 The Ports to Plains Corridor, which is designated as a high priority corridor under the current federal legislation, will link the Texas/Mexico border to Denver, Colo.
 The corridor has the potential to serve international trade traffic and promote economic development.

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Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, June 25
9:25 a.m., A woman reported individuals looking in a house. Reserve Deputy Larry Robinson responded.

Tuesday, June 26
4:26 a.m., Fort Clark Security reported three individuals behind a store on Hwy 90. Deputy Robinson responded.

11:10 a.m., Raul Mata, 27, from Brackettville, was arrested by Police Chief Arnulfo Alonzo for driving while license suspended. Mata posted bond.

Wednesday, June 27
12:23 a.m., Del Rio's Police Department called to report a stranded motorist, four miles west of town. Wrecker Service and Deputy Robinson were informed.
2:31 p.m., An employee from

The Texas Highway Department notified the Sheriff's Office that one of their workers had a minor accident on Hwy 131 and FM 1572. DPS Trooper Tony Ashley responded.

8:28 p.m., The driver of a white Cavalier was reported driving recklessly west on Hwy 90. Trooper Ashley and Deputy Pena were notified.

10:20 p.m., A fight was reported in front of the school. Deputy Manuel Pena Jr. responded.

9:37 p.m., A man reported loud music on Third Street. Deputy Pena was advised.

Thursday, June 28
7:22 p.m., A woman reported that some of her husband's rocks were missing. Deputy Robinson was notified.

Friday, June 29
4:30 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to a man who was assaulted.

9:58 p.m., Deputy Pena and Chief Alonzo were notified that eight minors were drinking alcoholic beverages at the Fort Clark Pool.

10:23 p.m., Timothy McDonald, 31, of Brackettville, was arrested by Deputy Karl Chism for family violence. McDonald is still being held.

Saturday, June 30
7:33 p.m., A United States Border Patrol Agent reported an abandoned van on the side of Hwy 334. Deputy Pena responded.

Sunday, July 1
5:19 p.m., A 911 caller reported a gas leak. Chief Alonzo and a city employee were notified immediately.

6:56 p.m., A store employee reported a man bothering people at the store. Deputy Pena was advised.

8:32 p.m., Deputy Chism reported the back door to a building open.



Courtney Frerich of Brackettville won first place in the San Antonio area 8th grade essay contest sponsored by the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter #2060, United Daughters of the Confederacy. The essay topic was "Sophia Sutfenfeld Porter: The Scarlet O'Hara of Texas." Courtney's essay was submitted to the state level of competition where she placed 4th. The previous year, Courtney won the 7th grade area competition and was awarded Honorable Mention at the state level.

Join Rotarians in making a difference in our world today

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Brackettville Rotary Club celebrated the installation of officers for 2001-2002 at an evening meeting at Las Moras Inn. Members brought their spouses as guests, and Isaac Aldaco, pianist from Del Rio, furnished entertainment. Outgoing president, Mr. Joe Hardin, spoke briefly about the accomplishments of the past year, then he introduced Mr. Patrick Garman, president of the Del Rio Rotary Club, who installed the incoming officers. Incoming president is Mr. Bill Haenn, Mr. Dave Alexander is the president-elect, and Ms. Ella Chambers is secretary/treasurer. Each was presented a Rotary pin and Hardin was given a past president's pin.

Frank Cheaney and Joe Hardin discussed their attendance at Rotary International's 92nd convention, which had just ended in San Antonio.

Twenty-five thousand delegates from 131 countries converged on San Antonio, the largest convention the city had ever entertained. The San Antonio Convention Center's \$215.6 million expansion project served the city well, and \$75,000 worth of plants and flowers flourished in the newly renovated HemisFair Park.

H-E-B Grocery Co., Home Depot, the San Antonio Parks Foundation and Rotary International donated these plants and flowers. One thousand Rotarians planted them. Jim Berg, head of San Antonio's Host Committee didn't take credit for Sunday morning's rain that watered the plants and loosened up the soil. He was quoted in the San Antonio Express News saying, "God had his plans."

Rotary International is made up of business and professional leaders dedicated to humanitarian service. It features cross-cultural outreach and service programs. There are almost 30,000 Rotary clubs

across the globe.

Rotary promotes peace by encouraging the working out of differences and finding answers to problems that benefit all. Rotary helps when crises such as floods and earthquakes strike. Political, racial and ethnic differences are put aside when members come together to aid in times of crises or to help in bad times.

Rotary has played a prominent role in the movement to eradicate Polio, a highly infectious disease that can cause paralysis. The goal is to eradicate Polio by 2005. Volunteers have gone into countries all over the world to vaccinate children against the dread disease.

Ninety percent of the goal has been reached, but the countries where polio still is a threat will offer the greatest challenge because of the difficulty in getting health workers into warring areas. Negotiations are made between countries in conflict to take "Days of Tranquility" when hostilities will cease in order to get workers into the areas and immunize the children. Rotary is deeply involved in furnishing equipment and volunteer workers, but it has also done such things as chartered corporate airplanes to fly into these sites to bring aid.

Rotary is dedicated to promoting better understanding between

nations and to encourage peace. Exchange students are sponsored every year. Friendships and appreciation of foreign countries will form a basis for future peace.

Rotary also sends doctors and dentists into deprived regions around the world to aid people where care is unavailable. In fact, Dr. and Mrs. Charles Schmidt of Brackettville volunteered as Rotarians and went to Venezuela one year and to Kenya another, to provide dental care in deprived regions.

The President of Rotary International for this year is Frank J. Devlyn who was born in Ciudad Juarez. His father came from Chicago and his mother was born in Chihuahua, Mexico. Devlyn attended the University of Texas at El Paso with a degree in business administration and later studied and earned a degree in optometry. His parental family had an optical business, and his 83 year old

mother is still practicing. Devlyn joined Rotary in 1970 when he was 29 years old and has been active since that time. He is possibly its greatest promoter having written a textbook on Rotary entitled, "Frank Talk" which was distributed at the convention. The book encourages membership, explaining why Rotary is the place for "the young and the multicultural;" it is not an "old boys network."

The movers and shakers are in Rotary, Devlyn says. These are the people that know how to get things done. He has demonstrated that during his presidency, he has pushed programs to educate young women in developing countries and has instigated an anti-blindness campaign offering low cost cataract surgery in India and started a used eyeglass bank in Mexico City.

Make a difference; ask a Rotarian about joining Rotary.



Pictured are the new Brackettville Rotary Officers from left, Joe Hardin, immediate past president, Patrick Garman, Del Rio Rotary President, Bill Haenn, President 2001-2002, Ella Chambers, Secretary/Treasurer and Dave Alexander, Vice-President 2001-2002.

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Purity before marriage is still important MusicFest 2001 features new talent

Empowering Families By Dr. Donald Smith

"Dad, how old were you the first time you made it with a girl?" Sixteen-year old Tony asked.

Stunned by his son's question, Dave decided to respond with a question of his own. "What made you come up with that son?"

"You know how the guys talk at school Dad. I know some of them are lying through their teeth. But a couple of the guys are pretty graphic in their descriptions of having sex with their girlfriends. I guess I'm just curious."

"Tony, I'm glad we can talk about this. I'm proud to say Son that your mother was the first

and only woman that I ever, as you say, made it with. And that was only after we were married."

Tony snickered and asked, "you mean you were a virgin when you got married?"

"A man Tony, can be chaste and pure but only a girl can be a virgin. God tells us in the Bible that virginity is a very holy estate. Severe punishment was often reserved for a man who violated a virgin who was not his wife. It is only in my generation and yours, sad to say that virginity and chastity has become so small a thing. It is almost despised now. Men and women alike are proud of their loose sexual behavior.

Tony, in my father's day men were the moral guardians in our

society. They went to great lengths to protect the virginity of girls. If a girl had brothers, they would deal very severely and sometimes violently with a boy who even hinted at violating her. Your grandpa told me that once he and his brothers took a young man to task for spreading stories about Aunt Vivian when she was young. I hope you will do that for your two sisters. You will learn to respect your girlfriends and to keep them and yourself chaste by being the moral guardian of your sisters."

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

Whether listening to Curb Recording Artist, Ken Mellons, the music of the 80 plus selected showcase artists, which included Kristen Tenaj - granddaughter of Jewel Robinson, the Legends of Country Music show, special guest concerts or the Saturday night wrap up with Stella Parton and Razy Bailey, if you were at Independent MusicFest June 14-16, you were listening to the "Best of the Best" of the Independent Music Industry.

Kristen Tenaj stated that, she "had a blast performing, meeting, greeting, and signing autographs for 3 days. The people there were so nice...the ones in the booths, the artists performing, and all the people that came to visit. It was great! The people were awesome. Whether I got picked to showcase next year or not, I'll still be there in my booth - I loved it!" Kristen showcased Thursday, June 14th; singing "Oops, I Did It Again" by Britney Spears, and the duet "Does He Love You" by Reba McEntire and Linda Davis, with Erika Jo.

Kristen Tenaj has performed across the United States in a variety of venues, including Ft. Clark Springs and the Alamo Village in Brackettville. She'll be performing in Thayne, Wyoming July 20 and 21st and showcasing in August at the county fair.

The event's premiere year held during the busiest music week in Nashville, delivered yet another dimension to the Nashville Music scene. Showcase artists were selected from 324 submissions to perform at this year's event held at the Municipal Auditorium in downtown Nashville. "The intent of MusicFest is to bring to Nashville top artists from all venues of music and allow them to showcase at no charge which is unique to Independent MusicFest," said Steven B. Riley, who with his wife, Becky, served as Co-Producers. "Submissions were reviewed and artists were chosen to perform by the selection committee composed of music industry professionals from the Nashville community. The quality of the performers selected reflected the professionalism and the ability of the committee to choose the best," he added.

"We are extremely pleased with the quality of this year's event and the participation of the 83 exhibitors with representation from record labels, individual artists, development and management companies as well as industry services," said Becky. "It is evident that the Independent Market is eager for recognition of their talent and their contribution to the music

industry. We have designed this event as the vehicle to bring it to the forefront," she said.

Workshops conducted throughout the three-day event were selected to educate the performers in making choices regarding their careers. With sessions by representatives from BMI and ASCAP, attendees were given information to assess the importance of music performance licensing and membership. Gigi Gonaway, drummer for the stars including Mariah Carey, Aretha Franklin, Steve Winwood and Stevie Wonder, presented five drumming clinics to packed audiences. "How to Swim From the Sharks" with Beth Travers proved to be another popular workshop. Angelo Bennetti of AIM Music Group made daily presentations of "Believe in Yourself, Possess the Magic" to standing ovations. Steve Webb rounded out the educational sessions with three workshops on "How Sticky is Your Web?"

Plans for next year's event are well underway. Showcase submissions will be accepted for 2002 during January and February. Check the website: <http://www.NashvilleMusicFest.com> for 2001 show highlights, 2002 exhibitor registration, event information and showcase submission rules.

DRT library committee appointed

Daughters of the Republic of Texas President General Virginia Van Cleve has appointed members to the DRT Library Committee for 2001-2003. Serving from San Antonio is chairman Dale Herrick from the Alamo Heroes Chapter.

The secretary is Madge Roberts from the Alamo Couriers Chapter and fellow chapter member Shirley Martin has also been selected. From Alamo Mission Chapter are Mary Corrigan and Virginia de la Zerda. From Caddel-Smith Chapter of Uvalde is Pat McKelvy, from Clara Driscoll Chapter in Corpus Christi is Judi McMordie, and from Ferdinand Lindheimer Chapter in New Braunfels is Marilyn Thurman.

All committee members were

present, as well as President General Virginia Van Cleve and head Librarian Elaine Davis, for the first meeting of their year which was held at the Alamo Complex on Thursday, June 21, 2001.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library is part of the Alamo complex and has been developed and is supported and maintained by the Daughters of the Republic of Texas for the use of all researchers.

The subject of its collections is the history of Texas-in particular, the period of the Texas Republic-and includes books, documents, archives and family papers, maps, photographs, periodicals, early newspapers, clippings, prints, and original art. Online catalogs, card cata-

logs, and inventories are available for researchers to locate sources of information, and library attendants retrieve materials for their use.

Duplication and photographic reproduction services are available.

It is open for research, not browsing, Monday through Saturday from nine until five.

It is located on Alamo Plaza, south of the Alamo church, within the walls of the compound.

Using your cell phone and a formula for personal safety

By Cindy Patterson Contributing Writer

Once thought of as a luxury, cell phones are now extremely affordable and used by everyone from teenagers to CEOs of major corporations. What started out as an item people used for convenience has evolved into one of the most important personal safety devices

imaginable.

I recently heard a story illustrating how a mobile phone can be a lifesaver. A young woman was abducted from her home and forced into her car. The woman was instructed to drive a few miles from her home, where her abductor locked her into the trunk of the automobile.

He then took off, leaving the girl trapped in the trunk. Fortu-

nately, the young girl still had her cell phone and was able to call 911 from the trunk of her car. Police found her unharmed.

This story has inspired me to spread the message of cell phone safety. A mobile phone can be your lifeline in an emergency.

Start thinking of your mobile phone in a whole new way-as an invaluable personal safety device. Keep your phone charged and with you at all times. Carry it in your hand, perhaps with

911 already keyed in and ready to "send" just in case, when you're walking in a dark or frightening parking lot or street. (Remember to clear that 911 from the phone once you're safely in the car so that you don't accidentally dial emergency services!)

Keep in mind that you might coincidentally get a phone call from a family member while an emergency is occurring and be prepared to capitalize on that call to help rescue yourself. Spend a moment now coming up with a family code word or phrase to alert family and friends that you are in danger. The code word or phrase should be something that you can say without drawing the attention of an assailant, such as "Is this Iris?" (Substitute any uncommon name.) The idea is to send the signal that you need help.

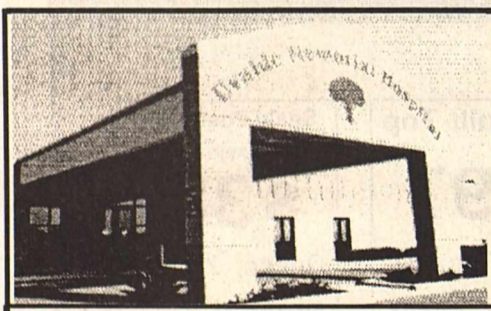
Empowering a device used in daily life-your mobile phone-can save your life. So please pick that code word today.

Kinney County Chamber of Commerce Invites you to their Annual Social Meeting, Sunday, July 8th at the Service Club on Fort Clark Springs from 2-4 p.m. Main speaker will be State Representative Pete Gallegos. Outstanding Citizen of Kinney County will be named. Snacks will be served.

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Who Tests TAAS? Does this high stakes exam really improve learning?

By Don M. Fisher, Iconoclast Staff Writer
Contributing Writer

TAAS scores are at a record high. No one knows what that means.

The Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) test passing rate improved to 89 percent overall passage this year, but there is no way of telling whether that means that the children of Texas have actually learned more as a result of the

approximately \$40 million per year the state spends on TAAS. There is no way to test the test.

The Texas Education Agency's position is that TAAS is based on a more demanding state curriculum, Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS), and that if students are testing well, schools are teaching more; students are learning more. Critics charge that all we have done is dictate classroom content from Austin and teach students to take a test. But since

the conservative "education reform" movement began demanding high-stakes testing in the 80s that resulted in TAAS, the scores on other norm referenced tests have either remained static or declined. Texas colleges have almost doubled non-credit remediation courses in English and math. Scores on the Texas Academic Skills Program (TASP), which determines whether a Texas college student must take such courses, have steadily fallen as TAAS numbers have improved.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) scores have remained static or declined slightly. The three-year-old Accuplacer, an alternative college entrance test in use by a handful of colleges, seems to be showing a similar decline, although there is insufficient data to make any valid assumption, according to Education Testing Services, also parent company of the SAT. In general, TAAS scores are the only good news in Texas Education. But that is an oversimplification.

"We test every youngster in the state of Texas," said Keith Cruse, Texas' current, first, and only director of student assessment, Mr. TAAS. "They (other testing services) are testing a sub set." "TASP is being given to more and more students who are lower achievers," he said.

James Dilling, TASP program director for the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board, said Cruse is right, but there is an increasing need to bring the college and public school assessment methods in line.

First, he said, TASP has raised its passing standard by 10 points. Second, students who have high scores on the SAT, ACT, Accuplacer, or TAAS are exempt from the TASP. Finally, he said, "These are two different tests from two different populations." Some older TASP takers may never have taken TAAS

at all. Others applying to a college after being out of school for several years took a TAAS that doesn't reflect today's numbers. Included in that number are veterans and employer trainees.

"Just because they take the TAAS doesn't mean they're going to go on to higher education. TAAS demonstrates certain skills to graduate," Dilling said. "TASP measures readiness skills and gives counselors an idea of whether the student will succeed on the college level." TASP, Dilling said, is not an admissions test. "It determines the readiness of the student."

TASP is designed to tell the institution how much non-credit preparation a student should have in order to ensure his or her success. It is designed to let students into college if they are willing to do additional work. However, he said a better overall evaluation system is needed in light of the Pre-K through 16 movement. The idea is that most if not all students in the future will need more than 12 years of education, and that children should start school with a goal of attaining some kind of advanced degree. It is an idea that has Gov. Rick Perry's attention along with other state officials.

"The concept is not in the historical nature of higher education," Dilling said. "It has been thought that higher institutions' mission was to train leaders; that the workforce would come from those with less formal education."

He said the technological nature of our society is demanding a better trained employee in virtually every field.

"In today's society, the need is to serve everyone," Dilling said. The gap between TAAS and other tests like the TASP "is varied so greatly" that the current nature of testing does not fit the Pre-K through 16 mold. "Ours is not a true entrance exam; theirs is not a true exit test," he said.

In that same vein, the SAT numbers aren't a true reflection of students' learning level, said Josey Barrett, Director of Higher Education Service of the College Board Southwestern Regional Office.

"The population (of those taking the SAT) has changed. There has been a significant increase in the number of students taking the test from all socioeconomic and ethnic backgrounds." She said the SAT numbers remain comparatively low because more students are trying to enter college who would not have even tried before. However, more students have been encouraged to take both the TASP and SAT because of the state's Academic Excellence Indicator System (AEIS). The rating system takes into account everything from attendance to college-type exam scores. More students taking these exams results in a better AEIS rating for schools. Some schools even pay students' examination fees.

This has resulted in an increasing similarity in the populations taking both TAAS and the SAT, local administrators said, and scores should be coming closer together, not widening. The question remains: Is this the best way to spend \$40 million per year if all we're getting is test scores that cannot be evaluated objectively?

"You could argue either side," Barrett said. "At least the state is evaluating, even if some would say we are educating solely for the test. We are making progress; we are trying to do the right thing. More students are taking math; more taking sciences, and that is a spin-off from TAAS. 'You can't get an answer for students that will coincide with the best answer from the point of view of the teacher, the parent, and the legislature. Sometimes the point of view of the system and legislature don't provide the best an-

swer for the student. The education systems are very entrenched."

"The reality is funding," Dilling said. "Education has to compete with a lot of initiatives from prisons to highways."

The bottom line for high stakes testing, all officials agreed, is politics. One vendor who sells TAAS remediation materials said the materials the company sold indicated that the test actually became easier during the two years Gov. George W. Bush was running for president so he could boast of higher test scores. The company asked not to be named. But education involves more than just curriculum, said Crawford Principal Don Harris, also TAAS coordinator for Crawford ISD.

"The test drives the curriculum (statewide)," he said, even though Crawford does not teach to the test. "Before TAAS, we adopted textbooks and curriculum guides, even though some schools didn't pay too much attention to the objectives in the curriculum guides. Now textbook companies are making sure they cover the test materials."

That, Barrett said, is a small part of what teachers do.

"Once teachers could just worry about teaching content. Now content is only one part of it. Teachers have to worry about socialization, teaching basic behavior, having to be concerned about safety," she said, recalling her years as a classroom teacher.

"The job has become a lot bigger," "Teaching is not just academic. There are just a lot of needs that are in addition to or alongside academic concerns," Harris said.

"A teacher can be making progress with a student that may not necessarily be academic progress. They may just be having a big impact on peoples' lives."

"How do you measure that?"

Work on technology building begins, new computer to help with scheduling

Making a difference
By Taylor Stephenson

God Bless America! We're celebrating our 225th anniversary of the birth of the greatest nation that has ever existed. Throughout the land, there will be parades, concerts and celebrations marking the significance of July 4th. This is a good time to teach the young about the good in America. Too many times, we point out those things that are wrong. They'll learn those in due time. Represented by our grand old flag which flies in good times and not so good, we still live in the grandest country ever, the USA!

The classroom portion of driver's education has been completed, and many of our young are receiving behind-the-wheel instruction. Law enforcement units are emphasizing the use of seat belts, particularly because of child safety. To those young drivers, we plead that you will always drive sober and will take the extra time that it takes to drive safely. We're proud of you, as you have achieved another phase of your independence.

This past week, Mike Bizzell, Inc. began the construction of the technology building on the BISD campus. This building will house and support the computer

technology program that teachers use in the classrooms. We'll teach teachers in this model laboratory. Completion date will be close to October 1. We're excited.

This past week, I have taken off to drive to Clayton, New Mexico, a small NM town in the northeastern corner of the state (just northwest of Dalhart). I taught 8 years there and served as principal four of the 8 years while also teaching. I was superintendent of schools in Clayton for 15 years. The school system is a good one. They have turned out a quality product for at least 75 years. The town has a characteristic New Mexico blend of Indian and Spanish culture. We'll attend a school reunion and link with our past.

A new computer program is helping us prepare high school and junior high schedules this year. Marla Madrid is inputting the data on teacher schedules into the computer after networking with the high school and junior high principals, their school secretaries, and the school counselor. Teachers were given an opportunity to suggest schedule changes through their secondary principals. We'll have more data in the next couple of weeks. The bugs should be out of the program by mid-July. Have a great week!

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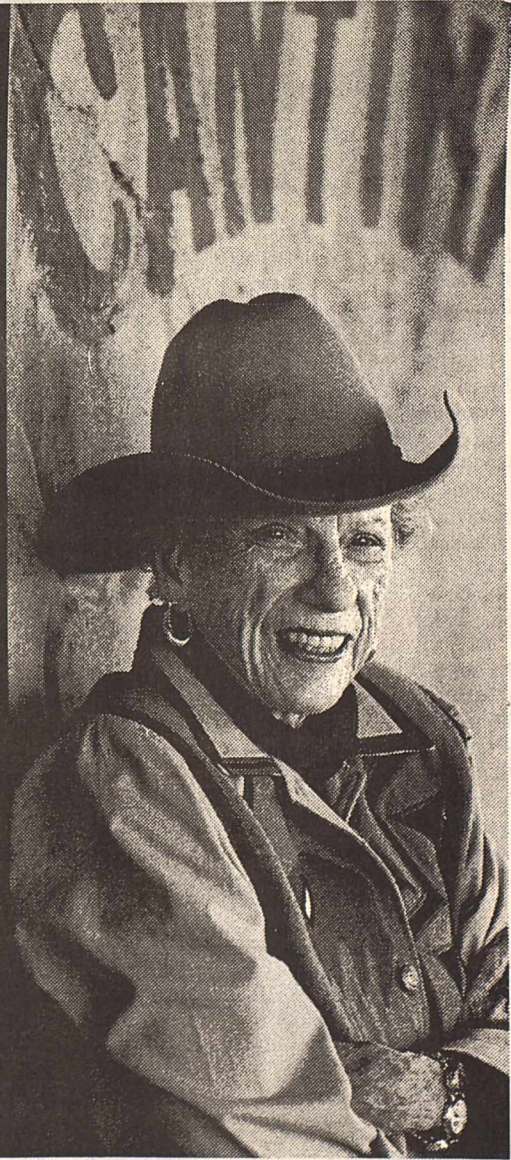
All that Virginia Shahan and her husband "Happy" knew about movies was the price of tickets when John Wayne asked to make a movie on their ranch. After *The Alamo* was released in 1960, the Shahans found themselves proprietors of a tourist attraction and movie set. More than twenty films have been shot at Alamo Village and 20,000 people visit a year. Happy passed on in '96, but Virginia still manages the property, when she's not spending time at her ranch house with her eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Virginia counts on co-op power for her home and business. She belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of Texas co-ops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

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Crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares for word placement.

Trivia Time Answers
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1. The merry-go-round; 2. Miss Elliot; 3. Jean-Claude "Baby Doc" Duvalier; 4. The War of 1812; 5. "Peyton Place"; 6. It can walk on water; 7. Triggers; 8. The War of 1812; 9. Roy Rogers; 10. Swear

ROARING TWENTIES
In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid.

Today's Category: NEW TESTAMENT BOOKS
G N O I T A L E V E R P
A H E J E D U J E S K H
L E S P P J O S N E I I
A B S S H H W A L M J L
T R U E N E I S U A O I
I E T R H S S L K J H P
A W I T S N T I E J N P
N S T O D A D C A M S I
S A L O R M R R A N O A
M O Y H T O M I T I S N
C M A R K R E T E P I S
S N A I H T N I R O C I

Trivia Time by Walter Branch

- 1. What amusement park ride did Americans originally call a whirligig?
2. What role on "Dallas" was played for a short while by Donna Reed?
3. What Haitian leader kicked his wife's grandparents off the plane in order to make more room for money when he fled his country?
4. What Yugoslavian car came to America in 1985?
5. What 1964 prime-time soap did Jack Paar refer to as "television's first situation orgy"?
6. Why is the "Jesus bug" so called?
7. What Hollywood horse learned to sign an X on hotel registers?
8. What was the first war in which West Point graduates got a chance to fight?
9. Who became "King of the Cowboys" when Gene Autry entered the Army in World War II?
10. According to a Sydney language doctor in 1993, what should newcomers to Australia learn to do to help them adjust to their new country?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
July 5.....Lonnie Barrett
July 5.....Max Hensley
July 6.....Bill Adams
July 7.....Damien Falcon
July 8.....Norman Frost
July 8.....Jackie Smith
July 8.....Jennifer Terrazas
July 9.....Theresa Davis
July 9.....Saida Martinez
July 9.....Elida Talamantez
July 11.....Pat Callan
July 11.....Loretta Woods

AOROSCOPIES

by Charles Cooper
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Competition is fine. However, don't get carried away. This isn't a war, after all!
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to tighten your financial belt somewhat. In general, it's a productive week for you. This weekend, approach a loved one with patience.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good time to cultivate new interests and hobbies. If necessary, do some research on the topic you've chosen. Over the weekend, a minor spat occurs between spouses.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Before signing any contracts, read the fine print. You don't want to be caught by surprise. Later in the week, a social contact becomes an important business ally.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're used to being in the lime-light. However, this isn't your week to shine. Keep to your own counsel.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You find yourself doing a good deed this week for a friend who's in need. Don't get carried away, though. Maintain some objectivity.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Self-confidence is fine. However, don't let this lead to cockiness. Achieve that famous Libra balance.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:
1. Acts
2. Colossians
3. I Corinthians
4. Ephesians
5. Galatians
6. Hebrews
7. James
8. John
9. I John
10. Jude
11. Luke
12. Mark
13. Matthew
14. I Peter
15. Philemon
16. Philippians
17. Revelation
18. Romans
19. I Timothy
20. Titus

