

# The Brackett News

**City Council to consider loan at special meeting**  
See story, Page 4

15 year, No. 18

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

## Council fires Luna as city manager



Photo by J.J. Guidry

**Sharing concerns**  
Linda Jaso (at podium) addresses the Brackettville City Council Tuesday night after the aldermen fired David Luna as the city manager. The community has been in an uproar after learning the city is broke.

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

With little discussion, the Brackettville City Council fired City Manager David Luna Tuesday night.

Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca "Chica" Garza made the motion to end Luna's employment because of "lack of confidence." The vote was unanimous by council members Garza, Mary Flores, Tomas Gomez Jr., John Samaniego and Bonnie Wardlaw.

Luna was not in attendance at Tuesday's meeting. Mayor Carmen Berlanga said the former city manager is entitled to a post-termination hearing on June 20 if he requests it.

Linda Jaso, who introduced herself as the president of the Brackettville chapter of the League of United Latin American Citizens, asked why Luna was not informed of the meeting. Officials said a copy of the agenda for the meeting was delivered to his residence.

"He told us to go through his

attorney and that's what we did," Garza said.

"He was informed about the meeting. The agenda was posted Friday. He's been city manager for nine years, so he should know that the agenda is posted on Fridays by 5 before the regular council meeting."

Wardlaw asked: "If he had concerns, where is he tonight?"

Berlanga said the council has no intentions of filling the city manager position any time soon.

"I have heard of four people wanting to fill that position," she said. "Nobody has approached me directly. All I can say is, not now. It will be a good while before we can afford to pay anybody."

"At the budget workshops that start in July and after we do some research, the salary for a city secretary-administrator will be comparable to other neighboring small cities in our area."

Luna made \$89,699 during the last fiscal year. He reportedly has threatened to sue the city.

## Citizen asks city leaders to resign positions

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Matt Bland asked Brackettville's veteran officials to resign during Tuesday's City Council meeting. He was one of over 50 local citizens that turned out for the monthly gathering.

"Don't you all feel ashamed of what you've done to this city?" he asked. "You are responsible for the people's money. There is over \$500,000 that is gone. Where did that money go? It's your job to know where that money went."

Brackettville has been in an uproar over the past month af-

ter learning about the city's financial status when David Luna, the former city manager, approached the council about pursuing a \$120,000 loan to pay off the city's debts. Council members said they were not aware of the debt until the May meeting.

"I know that all of us want answers," Mayor Carmen Berlanga said. "When I have answers, I will tell you. In the meantime, I have questions also."

Luna claimed that he made the mayor aware of the city's dwindling finances before approaching the council.

"I would like to know what I was told," Berlanga said during

Tuesday's meeting. "I'm finding out a lot of things I did not know. David used to tell me that he would tell me what he thought I should know. There is a lot of things I don't know, folks."

Total cash assets of the city have decreased \$572,583 or 97 percent over the last five years, according to the mayor.

Lydia Tipps asked the council members if they felt responsible for the current financial situation.

"I've been to numerous meetings before and have heard Mrs. (Mary) Flores praise David Luna for doing a good job," Tipps said. "Do you still feel the same

way?"

"No," Flores replied. "Like the mayor said, we were not aware."

Tipps responded: "Like I said, I've been coming to the meetings for a long time and I have never heard you question anything he (Luna) said — never. You've been on the council for a long time and this has been happening for a long time."

Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca "Chica" Garza, who has been on the council for one year, said officials should take responsibility.

"I do feel that the council was at fault because nobody ever

stood up to him," she told Tipps. "You were here at the meetings. You've heard me argue with him."

In recent weeks, citizens and officials learned about numerous pay advances the city had made. Berlanga announced Tuesday there would be no future salary advances.

Luna made \$89,699 during the last fiscal year, but the mayor said his salary should have been \$53,879. Berlanga said the increased amount of salary was due to cash advances, but Luna argued that the figure included salary paid in lieu of vacation time.

In addition to the city manager, council members also received pay advances.

"In doing a payroll audit, I did find that five ex and present council members drew pay advances of two to five months ahead," the mayor said. "These advances are paid."

"These advances were an arrangement between the city manager and the council person, not approved by the rest of the council and not known to the rest of the council at that time. Only one individual was drawing huge advances and at the same time kept drawing weekly payroll checks," Berlanga said.

## Historical marker set to be dedicated

A Texas Historical Marker for the Seminole Scout Camp on Fort Clark will be dedicated Saturday afternoon at 1:30 at the Red Bridge picnic grove.

The subject marker was awarded by the Texas Historical Commission based on an application submitted in 2001 by the Brackett High School History Club, under the direction of Erica Meyer, president, and Kathy Bader, advisor.

Meyer will discuss the history of the camp at Saturday's addition. The marker will be unveiled by Charles Emily Wilson

and William Warrior.

"The Black Seminoles became scouts for the Army, serving under Lt. John L. Bullis and other noted officers during Texas' Indian Wars," part of the marker reads. "The Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts, as they were known, lived on the fort in a settlement referred to as 'the camp.' They built homes in the Mexican jacal style, using wattle and daub construction and thatched roofs. The scouts and their families also built dams and irrigation systems along Las Moras Creek for farming."



Photo by J.J. Guidry

### BISD recognition

Brackett School Board Trustee Henry Lutz (left) presents a certificate to Marla Madrid, who completed certification requirements for the Texas Association of School Business Officials, at Monday's meeting. See related story, Page 3.

## County to honor local Korean War veterans

A coalition of Kinney County organizations and clubs plans to honor all Kinney County veterans of the Korean War at the conclusion of the annual Fourth of July parade on Friday, July 4.

The coalition has created an "Honor Roll" of Korean War veterans in order to begin identifying these very heroic men and women. If your name does not appear on this "Honor Roll" and you served your country in the Korean War, please contact Bill Haenn at 563-2323 or 563-2010 to have your name added to the roll. All Korean War veterans will be notified of the plans

for the parade as soon as those plans are finalized.

The current "Honor Roll" of Kinney County Korean War veterans includes: Jerry Adams, Alfredo Castro, Henry Castro, Jose Castro, Joe Cruz, Ben Fuentes, Henry Fuentes, Albert Garcia, Felix Gonzales, Alex Longoria, Martin Luna, Gordon Lundquist, David Martinez Sr., Tim Meredith, Bob Nelson, Richard Olvera, Pedro Richard Pena, Emil Schafer, Richard Schafer, Ruben Talamantez, Marcus Tidwell, Howard Wakefield, Robert Windle and Robert Yastic.

### INSIDE

#### ■ Chuck Hall

I had my grandson and granddaughter over several weeks ago. What a thrill. I hope you never tire of reading about my grandkids.  
Opinion/Page 2

#### ■ Henry Bonilla

From the terrorist tragedies of September 2001 to the war in Iraq, world events have driven home the need for homeland security.  
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#### ■ Taylor Stephenson

Dixie Brown, business manager at BISD, announced her intention to retire. She has been truly outstanding in the performance of her duties.  
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## Slubar shares railroad artifacts from old depot at Spofford

By FRANCES McMASTER  
Contributing Writer

Leroy Slubar shared some of his artifacts from his days when he ran the old railroad depot at Spofford with the Brackettville Rotary Club last week.

The Galveston, Houston and San Antonio Railroad started construction on rails for a main line to the West and reached Spofford in 1882.

The railroad constructed a freight house, a passenger station and a wool house to store wool until it was shipped east. It also built a storage area for "less than carload freight." Slubar explained that small package freight was unloaded and stored until picked up by the recipient.

The railroad built houses for the signal maintainer and houses for the three section foremen — one would go east, one west and one to Eagle Pass. Each foreman had five workers. The engine tender was in charge of the oil and water that went into the steam engines. A water tower was

erected and a tank was built on Las Moras Creek where chemicals were added to the water to prevent scale developing in the tanks.

In those days, the railroad was required by law to have separate facilities for white and "colored" passengers. Two waiting rooms were provided with separate rest rooms and each with coal burning stoves. There was a four-room hotel and a café.

Livestock holding pens were built to load and unload cattle. Around 300 carloads of cattle were shipped outgoing to various points to the east.

The depot handled freight, passenger tickets, express and Western Union. Being an agent required being able to be a telegrapher, and he demonstrated the use of a Teletype machine. Spofford had three telegraph operators and someone was on duty 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Two trains a day detrained and picked up passengers. Express shipments and mail were detrained.

Tickets were often long, complicated things. If a passenger was traveling east, five different railroads could be involved, which meant transfers and baggage claims.

Money collected was put in a sealed envelope and sent to the accounting office in Houston. Slubar showed his audience an alcohol lamp that heated sealing wax.

Among the artifacts, Slubar showed train order holders. These were long slender pieces of wood, like a tree branch looped at the end, and a note could be attached to it. The orders had to be received before the train could proceed to the next station. Someone would stand beside the track and hold up this long holder, and someone on the train would catch it, the note taken off, and the holder dropped.

Standing near the track extending this holder, with a train bearing down on you at 50 or 60 miles an hour, required courage and a steady hand, Slubar said.



Photo Special to The Brackett News

### A little bit of history

Bill Haenn (left) welcomes Leroy Slubar to last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting.

If this venture failed, the train would have to stop and back up to get the orders.

"If they didn't like you, they might not drop the holder for a bit, and you would have to walk a couple of miles down the track to retrieve it," Slubar said.

Diesel engines came in some

20 years after World War II. In 1945, 3,000 engines existed and 39,000 steam engines. In 1960, 28,278 diesel engines were in use and 261 steam engines. Now there are only a few left.

Slubar was the guest of Bill Haenn, the club's program chairman for June.



### Don't ever stop kicking

I had my grandson and granddaughter over several weeks ago. What a thrill. I honestly hope you never tire of reading about my grandkids because there will be a lot more articles to come on my favorite subject.



But I Could Be Wrong

**Chuck Hall**

Tillman and I got into the pool to cool off. It was a hot day and the water felt good. Having lots of teaching in my blood, I was instructing him about safety.

I told him how to dog-paddle, and reminded him that if he should ever fall into the pool, to try to swim. My words of encouragement to him were "don't ever stop kicking."

As I reflect back on the lesson, I think there's good advice for us all. Most all of us can find something in those words to apply to our daily living.

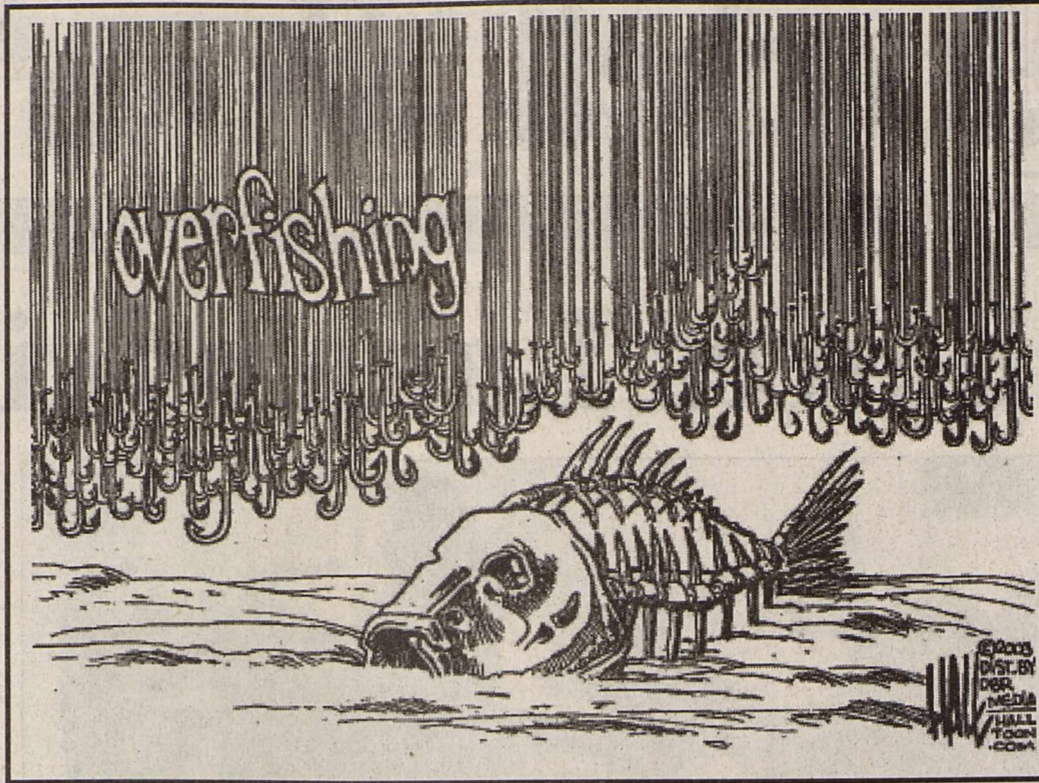
When things go wrong, and they do, don't ever stop kick-

ing. No matter what, don't ever stop trying. Never cease in your attempts to save your life.

Or maybe this isn't about life and death struggles. Perhaps this is about simpler things. Maybe we just need to remember to keep kicking and trying to make little things a little better in our world.

Don't ever stop kicking. That's it. That's all I have this week. Have a great week. Enjoy life. Don't ever stop kicking.

But I could be wrong.



Weekly Report

**Henry Bonilla**

### Network allows officials to share vital information

From the terrorist tragedies of September 2001 to the war in Iraq, world events have driven home the need for homeland security.

Whether it is the security of our borders or the security of high-tech systems that let law enforcement agencies quickly and securely share vital information, Americans now demand that our nation deploy the most effective, proven technologies available to protect them.

As a member of the U.S. House of Representative's Appropriations Subcommittees on Defense and Foreign Operations, it has been my responsibility to help identify and fund programs and technologies to help meet our nation's homeland security objectives.

As a Texan, I'm proud of the unique role our state has played in carrying out its responsibilities through monitoring and protecting the border and coastal areas we share with our international partner Mexico.

As Congress and state governments consider how to establish greater homeland security, initiatives well underway in Texas should serve as a national model for the deployment of high-tech, practical security programs to defeat terrorists and prevent weapons of mass destruction from entering the country.

Law enforcement officials in Texas now employ an information network, CISANet, established by the Criminal Information Sharing Alliance (CISA). A successful program that I have championed as a national model, this network is also used by all the Southwest states that share a border with Mexico.

Established in 1997 as a drug interdiction program, the heart of CISANet is its ability to let local, state and federal officials share vital information securely.

Prior to this network, each law enforcement agency maintained its own limited criminal information system. Because the systems were so different, from the computers they used to the security policies they had in place, sharing of critical information was costly and often impossible.

In practice, it meant that a drug trafficker being pursued by one agency was often unknown to other law enforcement officials, creating a system full of holes that criminals could slip through.

Law enforcement officials needed to securely share information on the criminal activities of drug offenders, regardless of state lines and jurisdictions.

CISANet was established to overcome these barriers and give law enforcement officials a vital tool for their fight in the war on drugs.

Our committee has provided funding for this project as part of several annual federal appropriations bills, and the system soon became both operational and widely successful.

Law enforcement officials' ability to share information with confidence and speed led to the program being expanded to thwart money laundering and illegal weapons distribution, to develop criminal histories across multiple states and jurisdictions, and even to track missing persons.

CISANet is fully operational in Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico. Other states are now joining to take advantage of this successful government program.

Efforts are now underway to expand the network to other states and integrate applications with multiple federal agencies. And I will continue to support CISANet in Congress.

We should all be proud that our Texas law enforcement officials, information technology professionals and technology companies are at the forefront of such cutting edge initiatives.

Providing a secure information-sharing network among authorized government and law enforcement officials means a safer nation for us all.

### LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

**Big Mama Sez!**



Intelligence is like a river: the deeper it flows, the less noise it makes.

## Legislation helps to create new jobs for Americans

Last month, Congress passed and the president signed a \$350 billion jobs and economic growth package to put Americans back to work and stimulate our economy.

The legislation provides tax relief to hard working people and has several provisions to help individuals and businesses during these challenging economic times. It accelerates the 2001 marginal rate cuts, lowers the taxation of dividends and capital gains, and helps small businesses by increasing expensing and depreciation levels.

#### How Texas Wins

Texans directly benefit from the bill because \$1.3 billion in aid is allocated specifically for our state. This assistance, part of \$20 billion in overall aid for states, comes at a time when the state legislature is grappling with a paralyzing budget crisis.

I worked closely with my colleagues in Congress to ensure Texas received its fair share. The funding will provide approximately \$570 million for Medicaid and an estimated \$710 million for essential government services and unfunded mandates, which I'm hopeful will help alleviate problems in our state.

The relief will enable millions of Texans to reap benefits from rate reductions, the child tax credit increase and lower taxes on capital gains and dividends. Texans with children will gain



Capitol Comment

**Kay Bailey Hutchison**

from an increase in the child tax credit (from \$600 to \$1,000) beginning this summer when the IRS starts issuing advance payment checks of \$400 for each child under the age of 17.

#### Marriage Penalty Relief

Additionally, one of the most egregious provisions of our tax code, the marriage penalty, is addressed by this legislation.

I have often said that penalizing couples for saying "I do" is fundamentally unfair, and this bill takes steps to erase that inequity and help 2.4 million Texas couples. I originally introduced legislation to alleviate the marriage penalty and am pleased it is part and parcel of this important relief package.

#### Reduction of Double Taxation

Another element of the bill I helped to author reduced the double taxation of dividends. Dividend income is first taxed at the corporate level and then taxed again when paid out to shareholders. Layering tax upon tax burdens hard working Americans, and especially seniors who may rely on dividend earnings to supplement their

fixed incomes.

The legislation takes a first step at eliminating this burdensome tax by reducing taxes on dividends paid to individuals and on capital gains from the sale of stocks and other assets to a maximum 15 percent.

Despite claims that dividend income is only enjoyed by a few, more than two million Texans — one third of all filers — claimed dividend income in 2001. This bill will put more money back in their pockets.

#### Back to Work

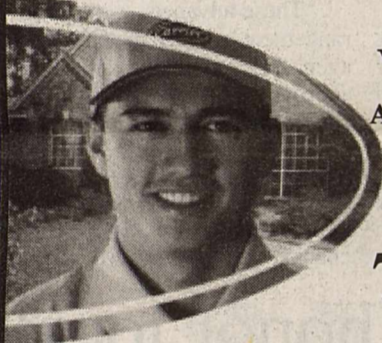
At a time when too many Americans are unemployed, this jobs and growth package provides a much-needed shot in the arm, especially for small businesses, which create two-thirds of the new jobs in the United States.

By increasing expensing and depreciation levels, small businessmen and women will have more cash in their coffers to expand and hire more employees.

Overall unemployment rates are expected to drop by 737,000 in 2004 and 416,000 in 2005, meaning more Americans will be back on the payroll, taking care of their families and contributing to our economy and communities. While more remains to be done and our economy is still struggling, the 2003 tax relief takes important strides to get us on the road to solid economic recovery.

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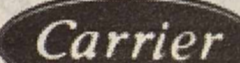
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# 4-H members compete in 'Hot Box' shoot

Nine members of the Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports competed Saturday in the Third Annual "Hot Box" Invitational Shoot at the Brown County Fair Barns in Brownwood.

The event featured 62 shooters from all over Texas, including members of the Texas State Team that represents Texas at the national competition, to compete in a variety of smallbore and air gun events.

Justin Calk shot his personal best score, which earned him a medal for third high individual in three-position smallbore.

Daphne Hunt, Anolda Watkins and Seth Frerich placed fourth, fifth and seventh, respectively, as juniors. Chris Blake, Emily Calk and Bryan Calk also placed fourth, fifth and seventh, respectively, as pre-juniors. Banner Kerr and Ward Kerr also shot in the three-position smallbore event.

Hunt tied for second and ended up with a third-place medal after a shoot off in junior air rifle silhouette. Blake earned a third-place medal in pre-junior air rifle silhouette. Hunt and Justin Calk earned "five in a row" pins in the event.

Kinney County shooters also competed in air pistol target and light rifle smallbore competitions as well.

Kinney County had multiple shooters place in the Top 10 in



### A successful competition

Kinney County Shooters competing in the Third Annual "Hot Box" Invitational Shoot in Brownwood included, back row (from left): Seth Frerich, Daphne Hunt, Justin Calk and Anolda Watkins. Front row: Emily Calk, Chris Blake and Bryan Calk. Not pictured: Banner Kerr and Ward Kerr.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

every event entered, giving them broad recognition among the 62 shooters present.

Kinney County 4-H Shooters are currently working toward their next match, which will be

the 2003 Texas 4-H Shooting Sports Games held in San Antonio on July 22-26.

# Brown announces retirement plans

Dixie Brown, business manager at BISD for the past seven years, announced her intention to retire. She has been truly outstanding in the performance of her duties and has safeguarded school funds for the school district.

During her tenure, the school district's fund balance has grown by \$2 million. The entire school system owes Dixie Brown a huge thanks for a job well done.

The vacancy has been posted and applications are being received at the Central Office by incoming superintendent Bobby Templeton.

#### Board Recognition

Marla Madrid was recog-

nized by the School Board Monday night for completing certification requirements for the Texas Association of School Business Officials. This is a prestigious honor for Marla. We're proud of your accomplishment.

#### Cafeteria Bid

The bid for the cafeteria addition was awarded Monday night to Bizzell Construction Co. Time of completion is estimated as five months. It is projected to be completed by the end of 2003.

Roofing projects should get underway this next week. Building scheduled for new metal roofs are: intermediate school, library, junior high and cafete-



#### Making A Difference

Taylor Stephenson

ria, home ec and band room, new high school, vocational agriculture building and the technology building. It is an extensive project that will require all summer and part of the fall to complete.

#### Vacancy

We have only one vacancy in the system for certified personnel, that of a school counse-

lor to replace Kay Qualia. School officials hope to hire a Spanish-speaking counselor.

#### Upcoming Events

The school budget hearing will be held at 6 p.m. on Monday, June 23, in the central office. Also, there will be a reception honoring incoming superintendent Bobby Templeton and giving the community an opportunity to say good-bye to Taylor Stephenson next Monday from 6 to 7 p.m. in the school library.

#### Web Site

Visit BISD's web site at [www.brackett.k12.tx.us](http://www.brackett.k12.tx.us) for calendar and activity information. Have a great week.

## KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S RE

**Monday, May 26**  
8:43 a.m., A Brackett ISD employee reported that a bench had been knocked over at the high school.

10:56 a.m., A Brackett ISD employee requested assistance at the high school.

3:39 p.m., Richard Flora Antu, 30, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Pena and Deputy Cody Shannon for probation violation and theft of service. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

#### Tuesday, May 27

12:10 a.m., a 911 caller requested assistance on N. Gove Street. The woman claimed that she locked her door and when she arrived home her door was open.

10:45 a.m., A man on W. Edward Street reported that his windshield had been shot by a BB gun.

6:35 p.m., A man requested assistance for a woman that fell at a residence on Veltman and

Ann Street.

10:02 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee reported a car in a ditch.

#### Thursday, May 29

9:28 p.m., A Val Verde Correctional Facility employee reported a possible escapee on Highway 90, inside Kinney County.

#### Saturday, May 31

1:20 a.m., A man reported a reckless driver on Highway 90 West. The Val Verde Sheriff's Office was notified.

1:25 p.m., A man on Highway 90 West asked that a deputy speak to his son about stealing.

3:31 p.m., A man requested assistance at his mother's residence on Beaumont Street.

#### Sunday, June 1

10:15 a.m., A man reported that four wheelers had spun out on his property and rode on his carpet grass at his residence in Unit 1 on Fort Clark Springs.

5:30 p.m., A man reported a gun was stolen from his residence.

## Environmental Quality Incentives Program available in Kinney County

Farmers and ranchers in Kinney County have until June 13 to make application for participation in the Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) funded through the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

These funds are part of the conservation provisions contained in the 2002 Farm Bill.

Eligible program participants may apply for cost-share assistance for eligible conservation practices that address the natural resource concerns identified by the local work group.

In Kinney County, the re-

source concerns include water quantity on both rangeland and irrigated cropland.

Cost-share rates for financial assistance have been set at the local level. Additionally, funding is available to address statewide natural resource concern including animal feeding operations, wildlife habitat, water quality and invasive species.

For additional information or to make an application, interested farmers and ranchers should contact NRCS at the local USDA Service Center in Brackettville, located at 501 S. Anni St. or call (830) 563-2414.

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# City to consider loan Tuesday

By J.J. Guidry  
Editor

The Brackettville City Council will meet on Tuesday to discuss a loan with the Bank & Trust to pay off the city's debts and to hire an independent auditor.

"Our representative from the bond company will be here next week to explain to us all the details of the loan-bond," Mayor Carmen Berlanga said at this week's City Council meeting.

"Once he gets us the details, then he will get a formal approval from the council to proceed with the loan. He will explain all of this to us very effectively so that there is no misunderstanding."

Total cash assets of the city have decreased \$572,583 or 97 percent over the last five years, according to the mayor.

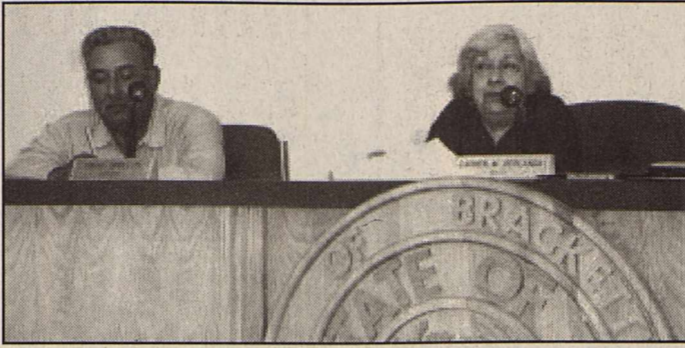
Berlanga said last week that the city has only \$5,348.67 in cash assets, while it has \$204,766.44 in outstanding debts, including \$88,149 to West Texas Gas. The gas company threatened to terminate services with the city, but has given officials until Nov. 1 to pay the outstanding balance.

Berlanga said the city has paid the company \$7,115.60, leaving the balance at \$81,034.

"We will pay West Texas Gas \$17,500 per month for the next five months before the heavy-billing winter months start," the mayor said.

Hundreds of citizens have signed a petition demanding that city officials speedily request an outside audit or face a class-action lawsuit.

There were talks of a free audit from the state, but Berlanga said the city is negotiating



Answering questions  
Alderman Tomas Gomez Jr. (left) and Mayor Carmen Berlanga answer questions from citizens.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

an audit from Hardin and Newsome of Del Rio.

"It's expedient that we know the results of an audit," the mayor said. "We can get it faster than with a free auditor."

Berlanga said Marvin Townsend, executive director of the TML Intergovernmental

Risk Pool, urged the city not to seek an audit from the state.

"Our papers would be taken to Austin and communications would be difficult," she said. "If we want to expedite, we need to do it locally with the people that already know us and our system."

BRIEFS

## Rodriguez earns degree from UT

Alfred Rodriguez, a Brackett High School alumnus, has completed the degree requirements to earn a bachelor of business administration degree in marketing with a minor in international business from the University of Texas at Austin.

The business program at UT-Austin is consistently ranked among the top five business programs in the nation.

During Rodriguez's academic career at UT-Austin, he served as a resident assistant for three years and a freshmen orientation advisor for two years. He also participated in two study abroad programs in Bangkok, Thailand, and in Paris, France.

Rodriguez plans to take a year off before continuing his post-graduate education.



Rodriguez

## Brotherton earns bachelor's degree

KERRVILLE — Brackettville resident Lindsey Brotherton graduated from Schreiner University during campus ceremonies May 11.

Brotherton graduated summa cum laude with a bachelor of arts degree in exercise science.

Brotherton, the daughter of Dusty and Bonnie Brotherton, played volleyball, basketball and softball for the Schreiner Mountaineers, served on the Student Senate and Mountaineer Newspaper, and was a member of the Schreiner University Honors Program.

She was a member of Alpha Chi National Honor Society, and other honors include All West Division All-Conference in volleyball, Who's Who Among American Colleges and Universities, Exercise Science Student of the Year, and being named to the spring 2003 President's List.

Schreiner University is an independent coeducational liberal arts university related to the Presbyterian Church.

## Pacheco receives \$1,000 scholarship

Pedro Pacheco of Brackett High School has received a \$1,000 scholarship award from Super S Foods.

The Texas family owned and operated chain of supermarkets has awarded over \$47,000 in academic scholarships this year to high school graduates throughout Central and South Texas. These scholarships will be used by the recipients to continue their education in various colleges and universities this fall.

All recipients of the scholarships were chosen by their school principal and the selection was based on the students outstanding scholastic achievements.

"This is an exciting time of year," said David McBurnett, president of Super S Foods. "The annual scholarship awards is just one of the many ways we help support the communities we serve, and I can think of no better way to reinvest our funds than by helping further the education of our youth."

## TLU's Petrosky claims accolades

SEGUIN — Brackettville native Christopher Petrosky was part of the Texas Lutheran University mock trial team that competed in the American Mock Trial Association's Regional Tournament in Birmingham, Ala., this spring.

The Texas Lutheran University team, under the guidance of Kirsten Legore, instructor of communication studies, won a trophy for outstanding new team, and individual members received high speaker points each round.

Petrosky, a 2001 graduate of Brackett High School, is studying dramatic media at TLU. He is a sophomore.

Last month, the students staged another re-enactment of their mock trial scene at the Guadalupe County Courthouse in Seguin. This event was presided over by County Court-at-law No. 2 Judge Frank Follis, an elected judge who also serves as an assistant professor of sociology at TLU. The jury for this event was composed of TLU faculty and staff members.

Students assumed all other roles of the trial, including prosecutors, defenders and witnesses. The mock trial case was a wrongful death action brought by the parents of a child who was allegedly hit by a car the defendant was driving. The case is developed from a general script provided by the American Mock Trial Association. While this academic event is particularly helpful for students interested in career in law, students of all majors enroll in the course each year.

## Methodist church welcomes pastor

Roger Baker, a newly commissioned clergy member who has been serving congregations in England since 1999, is replacing Rev. Ken Sellers at First United Methodist Church.

Sellers, 60, who has served the 89-member congregation since 1998, is now the pastor of United Methodist congregations in Bruni and Freer.

Bishop Joel N. Martinez of San Antonio announced the ministerial appointments last week in Corpus Christi during the opening business session of the United Methodist Church's Southwest Texas Annual Conference.

Eighty-seven of the 350 United Methodist congregations in Southwest Texas received new pastors on Sunday. United Methodist bishops assign clergy members under their supervision to posts annually. A pastor may serve a congregation for more than one year if the bishop reappoints him or her to that post.

The Southwest Texas Conference area covers 78 counties in the southern third of the state. Total United Methodist membership in the region numbers nearly 121,000.

## Agents apprehend 743 in Brackettville

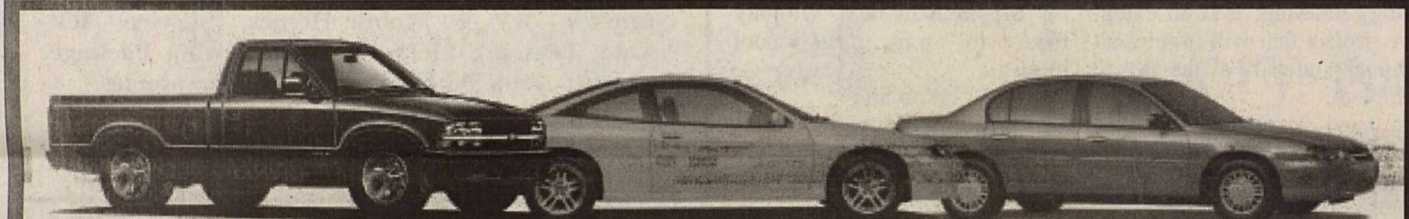
DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended 743 illegal aliens in Brackettville during the month of May.

Agents in the Del Rio Sector apprehended a total of 4,973 illegal aliens, including 1,592 in Eagle Pass, 1,307 in Carrizo Springs, 475 in Del Rio, 280 in Uvalde, 159 in San Angelo, 127 in Abilene, 140 in Comstock, 79 in Rocksprings and 71 in Llano.

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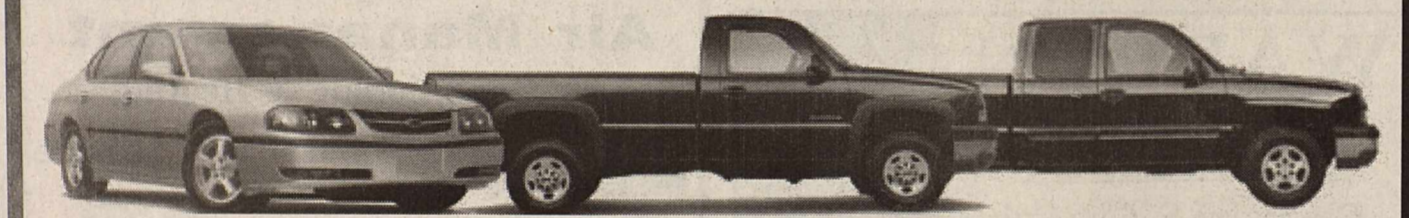
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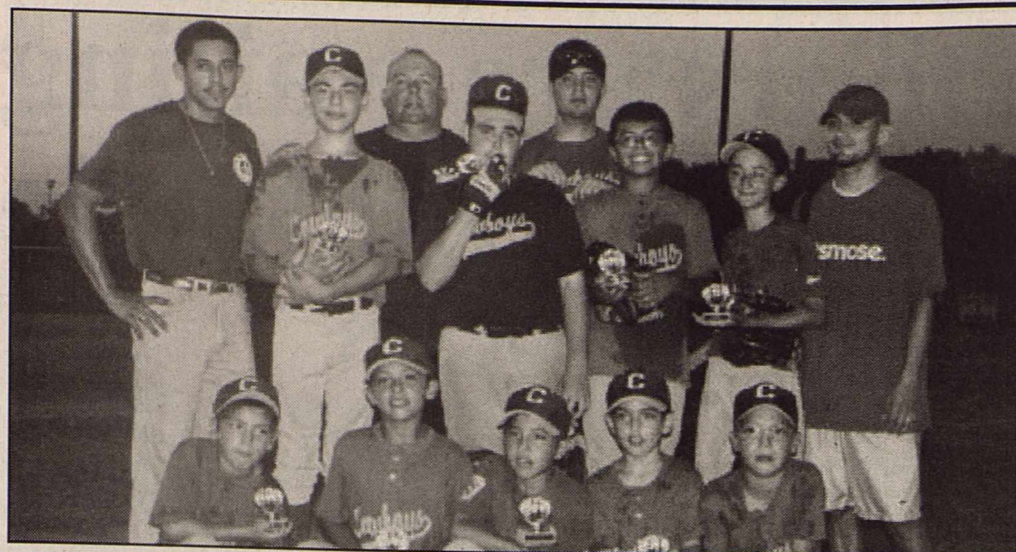
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**Cowboys win Little League title** Photo Special to The Brackett News  
The Cowboys recently won the Kinney County Little League championship. There was a three-way tie for first place. The Cowboys defeated the Rams in a playoff, and then went on to win the title after defeating the Athletics 7-1 last week. Team members include, bottom row (from left): Michael Martinez, Andrew Martinez, Issac Talamantez, Keith Castillo and Jessie Martinez. Top row: head coach Jeffery Luna, Sergio Calvillo, manager Robert Salmon Sr., Robert Salmon Jr., assistant coach Dustin Slubar, Alex Zamora, Paul Novel and assistant coach Frank Castillo.

## Brackett set to host football, tennis and volleyball camps

A tennis camp will be held next week for local netters, while Brackett will be hosting its first-ever high school volleyball camp on June 30 through July 3, along with the Sixth Annual Tigerette Volleyball Camp and the 2003 Brackett Tiger Football Camp on the same dates.

The tennis camp will run Monday through Thursday from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m. The cost for the camp is \$50.

For more information, call coach Terri Rambie at (830) 278-1451.

The first-ever high school volleyball camp will run from 1 to 4 p.m. It will be led by Brackett High graduate Lindsey Brotherton.

Brotherton has just concluded a four-year collegiate volleyball career and has been named the

head volleyball coach at Lexington High School.

The camp will focus on correct passing, setting and spiking techniques, as well as team offense and defense.

The cost for the camp is \$30 and the fee is due by June 20. For more information on the camp, call Brotherton at (830) 563-3303.

The annual Tigerette Volleyball Camp is for students entering the fifth through ninth grades in the upcoming school year.

The four-day camp will be held from 9 a.m. to noon. The cost of the camp is \$30, which includes a T-shirt for campers that register by June 10.

For more information, call Rhonda Marquardt at 563-5181.

The 2003 Brackett Tiger Football Camp will be from 9 a.m. to noon at the Brackett Football Complex.

The camp is open to students entering sixth through ninth grades in the upcoming school year. The cost is \$30.

The camp will include instruction on the Tigers' offensive and defensive schemes, offensive skills with the football, defensive and offensive drills, a variety of football games and an orientation of Brackett's strength and conditioning program.

All participants will receive a camp T-shirt. To ensure a camp T-shirt, registration must be turned in by June 23.

To pick up a registration form, call Brackett athletic director David Yeager at 563-2491 Ext. 190 or at 563-9344.

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# Bat flights and cave tours are waiting at Kickapoo Cavern, Devil's Sinkhole

By Rob McCorkle  
Special to The Brackett News

As the sinking sun tinges the sky above Kickapoo Cavern State Park in pastel pink, a rag-tag squadron of squeaking cave swallows perform aeronautic acrobatics, swooping in and out of the mouth of Stuart Bat Cave — a prelude to the main event.

Tiny charcoal specks of bat guano sprinkle the floor of the concrete viewing platform, where I sit on a v-shaped bench, awaiting the stars of the show at this remote 6,368-acre park straddling the Kinney-Edwards county line.

A full-grown porcupine appears on the rocky hillside just above the lip cave opening, more interested in chomping on the foliage of an overhanging shrub than in the presence of the human intruder less than 30 feet away.

At 8:45 p.m., as if on cue as predicted by park manager Mike Knezek, a handful of "performers" flit into sight at the nearby mouth of the hillside cave. Seconds later, hundreds, then thousands, then tens of thousands of Mexican free-tailed bats hurtle from the cave opening. The air comes alive with a whirl of a million wings beating just above my head as the flying mammals stream into the night in search of their insect supper.

Meanwhile, on the other side of the West Nueces River some 60 miles away, more than a million of their cousins, as well as a lesser number of cave myotis and eastern pipistrelles, are tak-

ing flight from the depths of Devil's Sinkhole, a 310-foot collapsed limestone pit that is the heart of an 1,859-acre state natural area. It reigns as the largest single-chamber and third deepest cavern in Texas.

Like Kickapoo Cavern, the mostly undeveloped Devil's Sinkhole SNA is open to the public by prior arrangement only. The non-profit Devil's Sinkhole Society takes reservations for bat flight observations and afternoon sinkhole tours.

Currently, bat tours take place Wednesday through Sunday nights, and sinkhole tours on weekends only. Tour participants meet at the Visitors Center in Rocksprings for the 20-minute bus ride to Devil's Sinkhole, 6 miles northeast of town.

Thanks to the installation last summer of a wheelchair-accessible viewing platform that extends just beyond the edge of the sinkhole, the public can more readily peer into this amazing registered National Natural Landmark some 70 miles west of Kerrville.

Before the platform was constructed, a park visitor seeking a glimpse into the depths of Devil's Sinkhole would have to lie on his stomach and inch forward to the edge of the 46-foot wide chasm to view the trees, shrubs, ferns and boulders on the floor of the main cavern 140 feet below.

A new chemical vault toilet and picnic facilities near the sinkhole have brought additional creature comforts to tour participants. And by this time next year, the 2-mile, gravel ranch road

leading to the sinkhole will be paved.

Some of the bats at the sinkhole and most of those at Kickapoo Cavern's Stuart Cave head out to maternal bat colonies elsewhere from mid-June through mid-August.

While Devil's Sinkhole Society continues its bat tours throughout the summer, Kickapoo Cavern bat tours take a mid-summer hiatus. Nonetheless, the Kickapoo Cavern staff stays busy conducting cave and birding tours much of the year.

Kickapoo tour participants must make advance reservations to guarantee admission to the park, whose gates are kept locked to control entry to the state natural area, which contains noteworthy, and in some cases endangered, natural and cultural resources.

The former Sargeant Ranch, which was acquired by the state in the mid-1980s, is home to relict populations of papershell pinyon pines and more than a dozen caves, as well as the federally endangered Tobusch fishhook cactus and black-capped vireo.

The breeding population of black-capped vireos is believed to be one of the largest in existence on public lands in Texas.

Kickapoo Cavern traditionally has restricted public access, too, because of a lack of suitable infrastructure — water, sewer, electricity and overnight facilities. But Knezek says that is slowly changing.

A park road and water-waste-water system were recently constructed. Several miles inside the

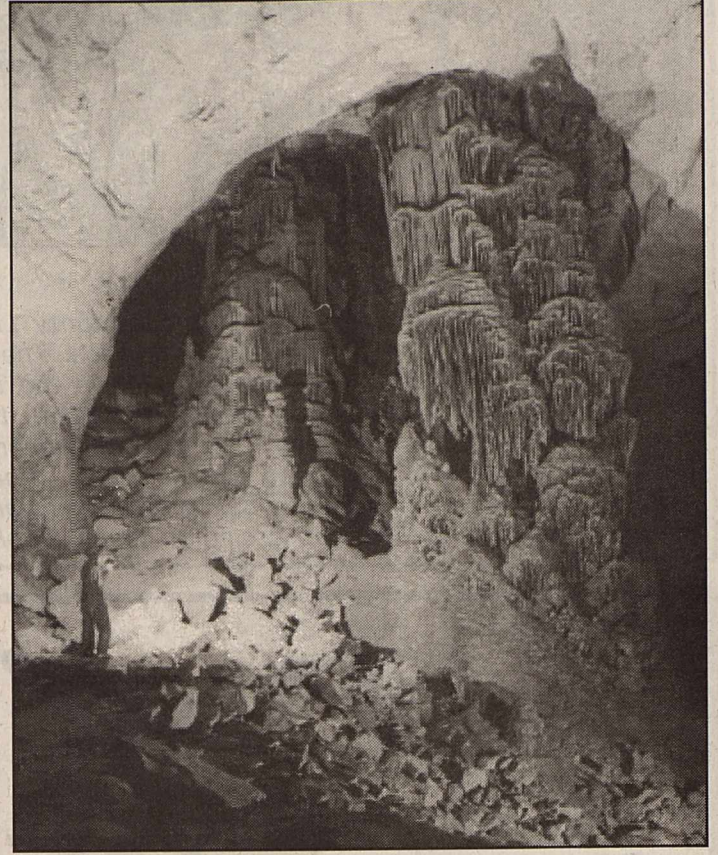
park gates, there are signs of ongoing development. A new restroom stands just off the road and campsite construction is under way next to the day use picnic area. When completed, the campground will feature 14 sites, some of which will be able to accommodate recreational vehicles.

Motorists heading to Big Bend and folks from as far away as Houston and Dallas find their way to Kickapoo Cavern for "wild cave tours."

Trained guides lead visitors through the park's namesake, the largest of 16 caves found in this land of steep limestone hills, extensive canyons and grasslands located roughly 10 miles north of the Balcones Escarpment, an uplift along the Balcones Fault Line. Here over the eons, carbon dioxide-charged water has flowed underground, dissolving limestone structures, creating caves such as Kickapoo Cavern filled with eye-catching cave formations, known as spelothems.

Guided two-hour, flashlight tours take adventurous participants across fields of loose boulders more than 1,000 feet deep into the main rooms of the cavern to view bizarre-looking icicle-like stalagmites, stalagmites and helictites, flowstone and 80-foot twin, crystalline calcite columns — the largest of their kind in Texas.

Here, in this subterranean wonderland of weird formations, trickling water and odd creatures like cave crickets, harvestmen and scorpions, tour participants can marvel at nature at work —



**A little bit of history**

Giant calcite columns — the largest of its kind in Texas — are just a couple of the amazing formations to be seen on a tour of Kickapoo Cavern in Kickapoo Cavern State Park near Brackettville.

Photo Courtesy of Travis Scott

4 million years and counting.

Note: Couch potatoes need not apply for this moderately strenuous tour. Reservations are a must.

Kickapoo Cavern State Park and Devil's Sinkhole State Natural Area are two of more than 120 state parks that make up the Texas State Park System.

Kickapoo Cavern is located 22 miles north of Brackettville and 39 miles south of Rocksprings off Highway 674. Call first (830) 563-2342 to arrange a visit. Devil's Sinkhole SNA is located approximately 7 miles northeast of Rocksprings. For tour reservations, call (830) 683-BATS.

## DRT hosts seminar on family history research in San Antonio

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library Committee has scheduled a summer seminar on family history research which is open to the general public. It will be held on June 27 in Alamo Hall at the Alamo Complex in San Antonio.

According to Pat McKelvy, Caddell-Smith Chapter member serving on the DRT Library Committee, preregistration is highly recommended since seating is limited to 120 persons due to fire code regulations.

John A. Sellers, the featured guest speaker, will cover 4 topics. The first, "History's Role in Your Genealogical Pursuits," is a session that will look at history and its role in research.

The emphasis is on social history, the history of everyday people and their lives. Sellers will illustrate with examples how the history of places, events, and groups can unlock your genealogical puzzles.

Following a mid-morning break, the second session will be "What Are They Saying About

Your Family in the Paper?" Newspaper research in genealogy is both challenging and rewarding. The use of newspapers as evidence and the associated pitfalls are analyzed. Proper research technique and tricks of this research will be also discussed.

Lunch on your own can be at any of the variety of restaurants that are within walking distance. You may also bring your lunch and eat it outside on the patio if you prefer.

The afternoon session begins with "To Be, To Wed, To Pass." This is a study of vital statistics in the courthouse.

The evidence presented in birth, marriage and death records will be analyzed. Substitutes for these, both in and out of the courthouse, will be covered.

"The ABC's and Double S's of Census Research" will follow the mid afternoon break.

Census information is prolific and sometimes it is the most under utilized source available

to genealogists. This session discusses various information from different censuses that can be used and analyzed.

Sellers is a fifth generation native to Hopkins County, and is very active in that county's genealogical organizations.

He is a Texas Tech graduate and received his teaching certification from Texas A&M. He is a graduate of an advanced methodology course at Stamford University in 1995.

Sellers has been doing genealogical research for 15 years. His favorite area of research is the courthouse. He has visited courthouses in several southern states and has conducted extensive research in Texas and Louisiana.

Registration for the seminar is \$35 per person. Proceeds in excess of expenses will benefit the Herpich Conservation and Restoration Fund of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas Library.

For more information, contact any DRT member or call the DRT Library at (210) 225-1071.

## Changes in the kitchen can be fun

We all tend to stick to the tried-and-true ways in cooking. After all, we know what our families like. But who knows, they too might enjoy a change occasionally, especially if it takes little or no effort — on the cook's part.

How about starting with one of these ideas, then begin thinking of other dishes you can change and do so at least once each week. You'll find it is a fun challenge.

**Sausage Corn Bread**  
We need one 6½-ounce

package of corn bread mix. Add ½ pound of cooked ground sausage, ½ cup of onion, ½ cup of chopped green pepper (optional). Cook as directed on the package.

This is the perfect bread to

serve with your favorite beans. My favorite is pinto beans.

**Luscious Cornbread**  
Here is what we need: 1½ cup of corn bread mix, 1 cup of sour cream, two beaten eggs, ½ cup of milk and ½ cup of vegetable oil.

Mix together, just until blended. Do not over mix. Pour into greased muffin tins and bake at 400 degrees for 10 to 15 minutes.

The recipe yields approximately 12 muffins. This is a very moist cornbread, but a goodie.



Goodies  
From G.G.

Vada  
Baldree

## Sorority confers degrees on Keller, Raymer

The Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met on Monday at the home of Lynn McNew. Jan Chism assisted as hostess.

A dinner of chili dogs, cheese potatoes, fruit, cookies and iced tea was served. Cards were signed for members who were

ill. A thank you card was signed for Louise Pflughoeft following the chapter's Founder's Day dinner.

Following a short business meeting, the laureate degree was conferred on Doraline Keller by Pat McKelvy. Then the preceptor degree was conferred by Ali-

cia Raymer to Lynn McNew.

Members present included Luella Gilliland, Bobbi Waddill, Janie Meredith, Alicia Raymer, Doraline Keller, Pat McKelvy, Jan Chism and Lynn McNew.

The next meeting for the sorority will be Opening Day on Aug. 31.

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**Helping others**  
 Certified nurses-aids at Retama Manor Nursing and Rehabilitation include, top row (from left): Belinda Molina, Olga Arredondo and Ramon Martinez. Bottom row: Esther Regalado, Jessica DeHoyos and Enriqueta DelCastillo.

## Help celebrate National Nursing Assistants Week

Retaining good workers is critical to good care. When you recognize your nursing assistants during National Nursing Assistants Week, you join together with thousands of others across the country to validate and promote visibility to this important health care worker — the nursing assistant who provides as much as 90 percent of the direct care in long term care.

The 26th Annual National Nursing Assistants Week is today through June 19, and the focus on the "Great American

Caregiver" continues throughout the year. The 26th Annual Nursing Assistants Convention is June 26-27 in Akron, Ohio.

The Great American Caregiver Program focuses on the nursing assistant as an individual who brings strengths, humor, compassion, dedication, warmth and other qualities that add a human element to the tasks of caring in long term care. We hope you will use some of the ideas and projects and momentum of Nursing Assistants Week to continue this focus.

Certified nursing assistant duties for long term care facilities include: Providing all cares for activities in daily living such as assistance with bathing, incontinent care, oral care, assistance with dressing, making beds, feeding, range of motion, ambulation with gait belt, toileting, hourly rounds and bed checks, observation of skin, preventing breakdown of skin, precautions against pathogen, blood or air-borne contamination by using sterile rubber gloves, and cleaning contaminated areas.

Photo by Kathy Wilson

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### NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING TO DISCUSS BUDGET AND PROPOSED TAX RATE

The B.I.S.D. will hold a public meeting a 6 PM, June 23, 2003 in the Trustee Board Room of the Central Office Building, 400 Ann st., Brackettville, TX 78832.

The purpose of this meeting is to discuss the school district's budget that will determine the tax rate that will be adopted. Public participation in the discussion is invited.

The tax rate that is ultimately adopted at this meeting or at a separate meeting at a later date may not exceed the proposed rate shown below unless the district publishes a revised notice containing the same information and comparisons set out below and holds another public meeting to discuss the revised notice.

#### Comparison of Proposed Rates with Last Year's Rates

	Maintenance & Operations	Interest & Sinking Fund*	Total	Local Revenue Per Student	State Revenue Per Student
Last Year's Rate	\$1.2100	\$.0875 *	\$1.2975	\$2,135	\$5,023
Rate to Maintain Same Level of Maintenance & Operations Revenue & Pay Debt Service	\$1.1800	\$.0875 *	\$1.2675	\$2,135	\$5,023
Proposed Rate	\$1.2369	\$.0606 *	\$1.2975	\$2,339	\$4,565

\* The Interest & Sinking Fund tax revenue is used to pay for bonded indebtedness on construction, equipment, or both. The bonds, and the tax rate necessary to pay those bonds, were approved by the voters of this district.

#### Comparison of Proposed Levy with Last Year's Levy on Average Residence

	Last Year	This Year
Average Market Value of Residences	\$36,892	\$36,931
Average Taxable Value of Residences	\$23,282	\$23,234
Last Year's Rate Versus Proposed Rate per \$100 Value	\$1.2975	\$1.2975
Taxes Due on Average Residence	\$302.08	\$301.46
Increase (Decrease) in Taxes		\$ (0.62)

Under state law, the dollar amount of school taxes imposed on the residence homestead of a person 65 years of age or older or of the surviving spouse of such a person, if the surviving spouse was 55 years of age or older when the person died, may not be increased above the amount paid in the first year after the person turned 65, regardless of changes in tax rate or property value.

Notice of Rollback Rate: The highest tax rate the district can adopt before requiring voter approval at an election is \$1.3422. This election will be automatically held if the district adopts a rate in excess of the rollback rate of \$1.3422

#### Fund Balances

The following estimated balances will remain at the end of the current fiscal year and are not encumbered with or by a corresponding debt obligation, less estimated funds necessary for operating the district before receipt of the first state aid payment:

Maintenance and Operation Fund Balance(s)	\$1,000,000
Interest & Sinking Fund Balance(s)	\$



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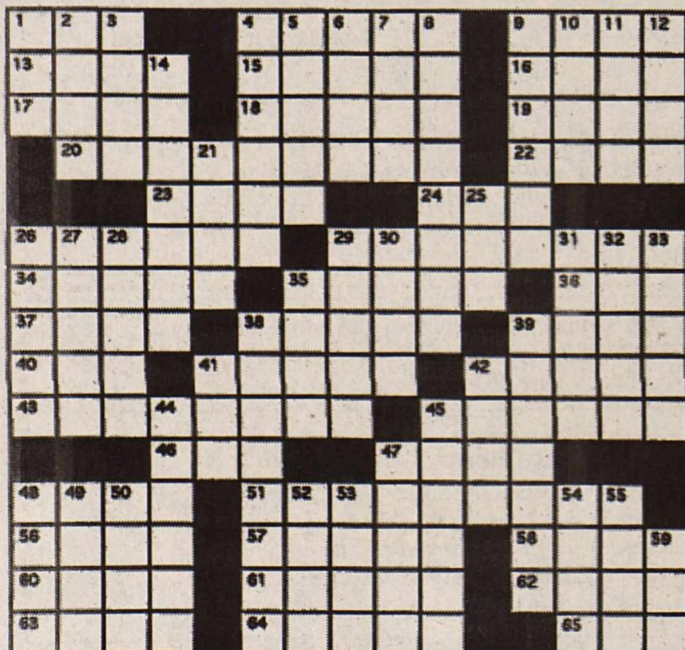
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- ACROSS
1 Copy
4 Feminine title
9 Reach across
13 School subj.
15 Hard stone
16 Blanch
17 On the subject of
18 Forbidden acts
19 Uproar
20 More's brainchild
22 Roman date
23 bargain
24 Funny guy
26 Vocation
29 Novel supporters
34 Frighten
35 Loud noise
36 Island
37 Cleans linoleum
38 Beverage container
39 Crystallized mineral
40 Fraternity letter
41 Intimidate
42 Coupon user
43 Disappointed
45 Suns and Spurs: slang
46 Official, familiarly
47 Word with 1st-degree, 2nd-degree or 3rd-degree
48 Bob
51 Fish homes
56 Land across the sea
57 Crown vodka
58 Sweet treat
60 Poor area
61 Down provider
62 Permanent mark
63 Role for Dan Blocker
64 Boxes
65 Catch sight of
DOWN
1 Burgundy buddy
2 Breathe heavily
3 To be: Fr.
4 Part of a Nativity scene
5 Athenian assembly place
6 Mr. Andrews
7 Perched upon
8 Woven material
9 Carbonated drink
10 Rubber stamp for an accounting department
11 Skin lotion ingredient
12 New Jersey
14 Assistants
21 Type of school: abbr.
25 WWII Gen.
26 David and others
27 Hi in HI
28 Fast
29 Tasteless
30 Potter's kiln
31 Unsophisticated
32 Chopper
33 Deneb and Vega
35 Eye shade
38 Hooplies
39 Guns
41 Grade
42 Mother Teresa's garb
44 Imaginings
45 Doctors, hopefully
47 Lower
48 Meat concoction
49 Skogerrak seaport
50 One of 12 Popes
52 Witty remark
53 Meat inspection agency.
54 Big french fries' accompaniments
55 Punish
59 Essay



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. Words can be found in all directions - forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: BLACK THINGS & WHITE THINGS

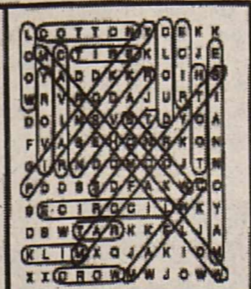
LCOTTONYCEKK
OMCTIREKLCJE
OYADDKKROIHS
WRVRODAJURTI
DOINSVSTDYOA
FVASEHONRKON
GIRNDOMOOJTN
PDDSSDFAKWCO
SECROSSIFLRKY
DSWTARKKELJA
KLIMXQJAKIOM
XXCROWMWJOWW

- 1. Tire
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- June 12...Thomas E. Field June 16...Yvette Clementz
June 12...Martha Moore June 16...George Vipond
June 12...Cecil Y. Smith June 16...Mariay Yeackle
June 13...Molly Montalvo June 17...Janis Floyd
June 14...La Von McLane June 17...James K. Rushing
June 15...Cecilia Terrazas June 18...Caleb Crumley

- Roaring Twenties Solution:
1. Cavalier 11. Piano keys
2. Cloud 12. Raven
3. Cotton 13. Rice
4. Cream 14. Snow
5. Crow 15. Soot
6. Ivory 16. Styrofoam
7. Licorice 17. Tar
8. Marshmallow 18. Tire
9. Mayonnaise 19. Tooth
10. Milk 20. Wood



HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A casual introduction turns out to be quite important in the future. Be sure to keep this person's contact info handy. Over the weekend, a family member misinterprets a quip.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Ridding your house and workspace of clutter is a priority this week. Once this is cleared up, you can begin to concentrate more effectively. Over the weekend, your sharp wit wins over a skeptic.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You overhear something that is particularly provocative. Remember, this wasn't meant for your ears. If you spread this gossip, you'll rue the day.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A task you are given seems deceptively easy. Once you begin working on it, you realize how difficult it really is. Enlist the aid of a co-worker.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Something's brewing on the financial front. However, be sure you research all options carefully before deciding to invest. Later in the week, partnerships are fruitful.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're tempted to immerse yourself totally in work this week. Avoid this. Balancing home life and your career will make you more successful and happier in the long run.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) This isn't the week to go on a shopping spree. Instead, tend to matters on the workfront. This weekend, your creativity is highlighted.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) This is a clean-up week for you. That means you won't have any really huge projects to complete. It will just be a series of small items here and there.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Although you're normally more careful, a phone call could tempt you to disclose sensitive information. Resist this impulse. The deal being offered is definitely not as good as it sounds.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You hit the road once again. Be sure, though, to watch your belongings. Later in the week, be sure to return that important phone call.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You and your mate fall to see eye-to-eye this week. Whether the issue is child-rearing or finances, you just can't agree. By week's end, though, you are able to achieve a compromise.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You seek out the advice of close friends on a work matter. However, neither agrees with the other. Fortunately, a family member comes to the rescue with the proper answer.



# Strive to be a better father

Thirty-one year old Heather told me, "Father's Day and Mother's Day are two bitter sweet pills for me to take."

"When I was 12 my mother announced that she would no longer be my father's sexual outlet and that he could go elsewhere to satisfy his perverted needs," Heather explained. "She was through!"

"A few weeks later my father took me to a doctor, had me examined and I was put on birth control pills."

"I was forced to take my mother's place. He used and abused me until I ran away at 16," she said.

"The really sad thing is that my mother knew what was going on and just pretended that it wasn't happening. She was as guilty as he was."

Today, Heather is happily married and has two little girls of her own. Her husband and children honor her on Mother's Day and she and the children honor him on Father's Day.

The story that you have just

read is the exception. Most fathers wouldn't dream of doing what Heather's father did.

Most fathers are good dads. Here is a list of 10 tips to make even better dads.

1. Respect your children's mother. One of the best things a father can do for his children is to respect their mother.

If you are married, keep your marriage clean, strong and vital. If you're not married, it is important to respect and support the mother of your children. When children see their parents respecting each other, they will feel accepted and respected.

2. Spend time with your children. How a father spends his time tells his children what is important to him. If you're always too busy for them, they can't help but feel neglected. Remember, kids grow up so fast and missed opportunities are forever lost.

3. Earn the right to be heard. Begin talking to your kids while they are very young so the difficult things will be easier to handle as they get older. Take



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

the time to listen to their ideas and problems.

4. Always discipline with love. All children need guidance and discipline. Set reasonable limits and remember fathers who discipline in a calm and fair manner show love for their children.

5. For God's sake, be a role model. A girl who spends time with a loving father grows up knowing that she deserves to be treated with respect by boys, and knows what to look for in a husband.

Fathers can teach sons what is important in life by demonstrating honesty, humility and responsibility.

6. Be a good teacher. A father who teaches his children about right and wrong and en-

courages them will see them make good choices.

7. Eat together as a family. Sharing a meal together provides structure in a busy day and gives the kids a chance to talk about what's going on in their lives and allows opportunity to listen and give advice.

8. Read to your children. Begin reading to your children at a young age and instill them with a love for reading. This will ensure a lifetime of personal and career growth.

9. Always, always show affection. Children need the security of knowing that they are truly wanted, needed and loved. Showing affection every day is the best way to demonstrate your love for them.

10. You must realize that a father's job is never done. Even after your children are grown and leave the nest, they will need your advice and wisdom.

Be an essential part of your children's lives as they continue to grow, marry and build their own families.

# Fathers make sacrifices for their families

Father's Day is a day set aside to honor fathers. I'm glad we have days such as Father's Day and Mother's Day and Grandparents' Day, but I'm sorry that we have to have days appointed to honor the people who mean a lot to us.



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

I've known many wonderful fathers in my life. When I was young, I spent lots of time with my grandfather, "George A.," as he was known to his grandchildren. He owned a grocery store and in those days the stores in our small town stayed open until 9 on Saturday night. On Sunday morning (while everyone else was at church), I went with George A. to clean the store. He always let me have a bottle of grape soda.

He was an early riser and so was I. Since we lived close, he and I used to spend early mornings together in the summer, working in his garden and feeding the squirrels.

My dad loved music. He used to sing with me. We always said Daddy was "hose happy" because when he washed the car or watered the lawn, he would have the porch, the front steps and most of the windows wet as well. He was a wonderful storyteller. Unfortunately, most of his stories were not written down and so have been lost.

As Daddy aged, his ill health often made him difficult to live with, but on his good days, he could still be found singing or whistling.

His grandchildren were the highlight of his life and he loved spending time with them. He died several years ago and I think about him and miss him often.

My husband is a wonderful father. He was always the stabilizing force in our family.

He did all the usual "father" things — coached soccer and baseball teams, put bicycles together for Christmas. But he also showed our children that caring for others was important. He wasn't afraid to give our kids a hug — or a swat if they needed it.

I believe the example set by my husband is what has helped make my son a good father, also.

Because of his Army career, he spends much time away from his family. I think he is more aware of the quality of the time he does spend with them.

His son admires him so much he, wants to follow in his footsteps as an Army officer. His daughters adore him.

Fathers make sacrifices for their families. God the Father made the ultimate sacrifice when He knowingly sent His Son to die for us. Aren't we blessed?

Lord, I thank You for the wonderful, loving Father that You are and for all the fathers who have influenced my life.

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

God bless you, and God bless fathers everywhere!

# Christians share a heritage of faith

By Rev. Roger Baker  
First United Methodist Church

As Sue and I prepared to move back to the U.S., we often played a game we called "What do you miss?"

Living in the rural English countryside, it was easy to come up with a grand list of things we missed from home in Texas.

A dishwasher ranked high on my list. Sue missed having a washing machine that washed more than just a few articles of clothing at a time. We both ached for genuine Tex-Mex cooking and country music on the radio.

Perhaps we ached most of all for the familiar sound of a Texas accent or hearing a friendly "buenas dias!" Anyone away from home a long time can tell you it's the little things you miss the most.

But America has changed in the three years since we've been gone — the election of a new

president, the tragedy of 9-11, the new models of cars on the street. Perhaps the most telling reminder that things have changed was when we saw armed, uniformed troops at the airport in Washington D.C. We left one America and returned to a slightly different one.

As I prepare to welcome people to worship on Sunday, I am keenly aware that for many of them, things have changed.

Some have left the fellowship of a church thinking they could never return, only to find a warm welcome with a different congregation. Others have remained with the same congregation for many years and see the changes each worshiper brings to the community of faith.

As Christians, we share a heritage of faith that started even before the crowds gathered to hear Jesus preach on the hillside.

We worship in different places and at different times, but in prayer we experience the God

of Abraham, Sarah, Paul and Mary — the same God that showed Himself in the burning bush and in the ministry of Jesus of Nazareth.

The church changes, the congregation changes and the hymns change. But God is eternal, and in God we find a special connection with all Christians. That includes not only the people with whom we worship on Sunday, but also those who have gone before us in lives of faith and those who will come after us.

Perhaps expecting church to remain the same isn't reasonable. But we're not told to put our faith in the church — we're told to put our faith in that "which does not corrupt."

Though we worship as a community of faith, and we worship in different places and at different times, we worship one God, eternal and unchanging.

The confusion and worry we feel over daily events does not

change God. His love for us, the sacrifice of Jesus and the power of the Holy Spirit.

When we are buffeted by changes, our God remains the same. He alone is the source of hope, of constancy, of love.

As we face times of change and uncertainty, whether in our growth as a nation or in our personal lives, I believe we need to look to our God for the things that do not fade away. God hears our prayers, God answers prayers, and in Jesus, our hope is made real and alive.

If you need something permanent in your life, there is only one place to meet that need — and that is in the presence of God.

On behalf of the community of faith at First Methodist, I invite you to join us as we worship Sunday morning at 10:45.

But no matter where you worship, no matter where you pray, you can find the peace of the unchanging presence of God.

# Learning will bring great understanding

"Look Mom, look at the grades on my report card." Julie was excited and shouting loud enough for everyone to hear. "I passed and my grade in math went up."

"We're very proud of you," Gloria said. "We were all confident that you could make it. Just wait 'til your dad sees this. He will be proud too."

"I couldn't help hearing," said Tony. "You're telling the whole neighborhood. I too am proud of you, as are the neighbors."

"Well Dad," replied Julie. "I don't care if the neighbors do hear. I worked very hard and the world should know."

"You're right," Gloria answered. "The neighbors hear all kinds of things. They should hear of your hard work that brought about this fine achievement."

The whole family laughed. Tony continued, "We are proud of our children. All of you passed and got good grades."

Tony paused and continued, "Of course the grades could always be better."

The children groaned, and Tony suddenly brightened up. "But, all of you have worked very hard and that is what is important. You have learned discipline and persistence. Now it is time to celebrate. School is out and it is time to have fun."



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

Everybody agreed that the family should celebrate.

Gloria continued the festive mood. Looking at her husband and then at the three children she said, "We have saved for this occasion. There is enough money for pizza and a movie on Saturday."

The elation of the children could not be contained. Gloria

interrupted: "There is something we must do first. We must give thanks to God for his strength and presence with us through the school year. And let us remember our wonderful country that has given us the opportunity to pursue learning."

Tony continued, "Long ago a very wise man said that learning is like a chain of pure gold to the wise. (Sirach 21:21) Learning will bring great understanding and the wise earnestly reach for it." (15:3)

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

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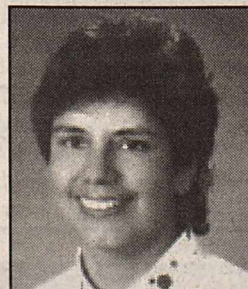
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Join us in bidding the retiring BISS Superintendent Taylor Stephenson a fond farewell & new Superintendent Bobby Templeton a warm welcome. Monday, June 16, 2003, 6:00 to 7:00 p.m., in the Hunt Library.

## God Created the Church to be a Family for ALL His Children.

Sunday Schedule:  
Bible School at 9:30 a.m.  
Choir Practice at 10:15 a.m.  
Worship at 10:45 a.m.

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## Welcome! Church of Christ

808 N. Ann 563-2616  
Sunday AM, 9:30 Classes, 10:30 Worship  
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## First Baptist Church (SBC)

Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245  
VBS July 21st thru 25th  
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Worship Service - 11 a.m.  
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ALARM	BLARE	AIT
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