

# The Brackett News

**Dona's Desperados win Alamo gunfighter contest**  
See Page 4

15 year, No. 22

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## Mayor: City continues to cut costs

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

The City of Brackettville is continuing to cut its costs, according to Mayor Carmen Berlanga.

Total cash assets of the city have decreased \$572,583 or 97 percent over the last five years. Last month the mayor reported that the city has only \$5,348.67 in cash assets, with outstanding debts of \$204,766.44.

"There is a lot of pressure on us because of our indebtedness," Berlanga said. "We have real important bills to pay."

The City Council hired

Hardin and Newsome, certified public accountants from Del Rio, last month to perform financial services for the city at \$50 an hour. The scope of the services has not been defined.

According to a letter from Susan Newsome to the city, the accountants will "code and post through our accounting system your operating account and a summary of your payroll account on a monthly basis. We would reconcile the bank statements and provide compiled financial statements, including a statement would be issued to you on a monthly basis."

Newsome said her estimate

*"We think we can save \$145,694.48 a year."*

**Carmen Berlanga**

for the service would range from \$500 to \$750 a month.

Berlanga said the city's financial reports have not been up to date since Oct. 1 of last year.

In addition, Newsome said the accountants could calculate payroll deposits, prepare quarterly payroll tax reports and annual W-2s for the employees and any 1099s required to be issued by the city for approxi-

mately \$100 to \$200 a month. Berlanga said the decision to hire Hardin and Newsome will save the city money.

"If we're spending \$1,000 a month on financial services, that's \$12,000 a year versus paying a salary. That position was \$35,000 when Ginger was here," the mayor said. "Ginger was here for 24 years and she deserved everything she got, but once she left, everything went to pot. Now we don't have to worry about training anybody. In the last year that Ginger has been gone, we've had three people that have not been able to cope. We lost money with the

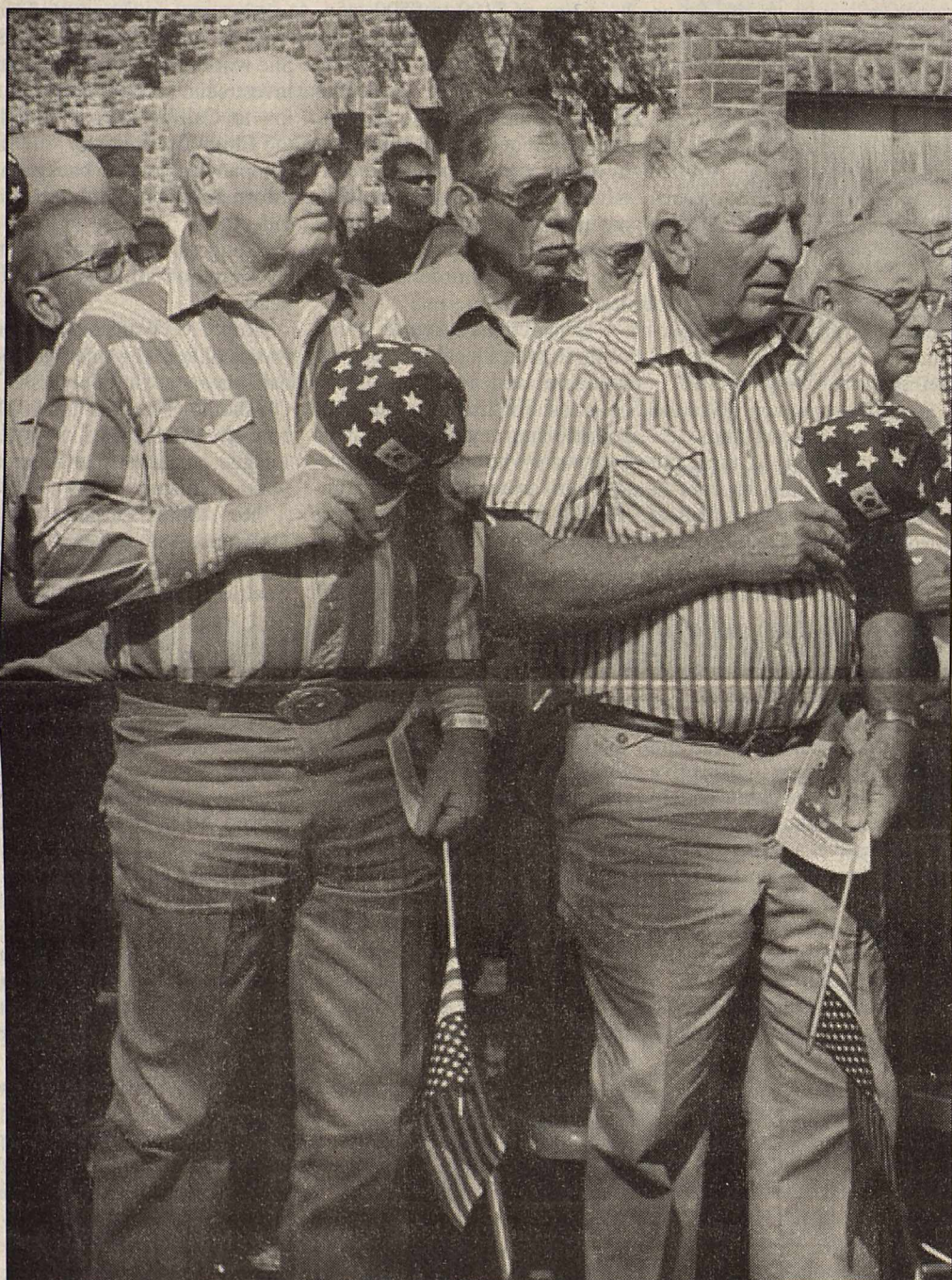
other girls that came and went." Berlanga said the city is making other staff reductions to cut costs.

"We're going to eliminate two people from the back," she said. "The city manager would be a chief clerk. We may eliminate one person from the front and let the chief clerk handle the over-seeing of the operations. What we have now is a secretary to the city manager. We're no longer going to have the high salary for the city manager, the high salary for the financial officer or the high expenses on contract labor. We think we can save \$145,694.48 a year."



Carmen Berlanga

### Celebrating Independence



**Honoring our veterans**

Richard Schafer (from left), Gilbert Hernandez and Cecil Smith were among the local Korean War veterans honored during last week's Fourth of July celebration. See additional Independence Day photos, Page 5.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

## Water board set to discuss status of management plan

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors will review the status of the preparation of its management plan today at 4 at the District Courtroom in the County Courthouse as it meets for the first time in almost two months.

The directors will also approve financial reports, review the annual budget and set a date

for a budget workshop, and take action on a tax rate adjustment.

Steve Walthour, interim general manager, will report on pending permit applications and the implementation of rules, review the district's enforcement authority and program, and discuss public relations.

In executive session, the board is set to discuss personnel and attorney-client matters,

including settlement agreement, potential enforcement for violation of district rules and a pending motion for a rehearing on the district rules.

The agenda also includes approval of minutes from regular meetings on April 21 and May 9, an April 29 special meeting and permit hearing, and hearings on rules May 9, May 12, May 13 and May 15.

## Appraisal District benefits from summer youth program

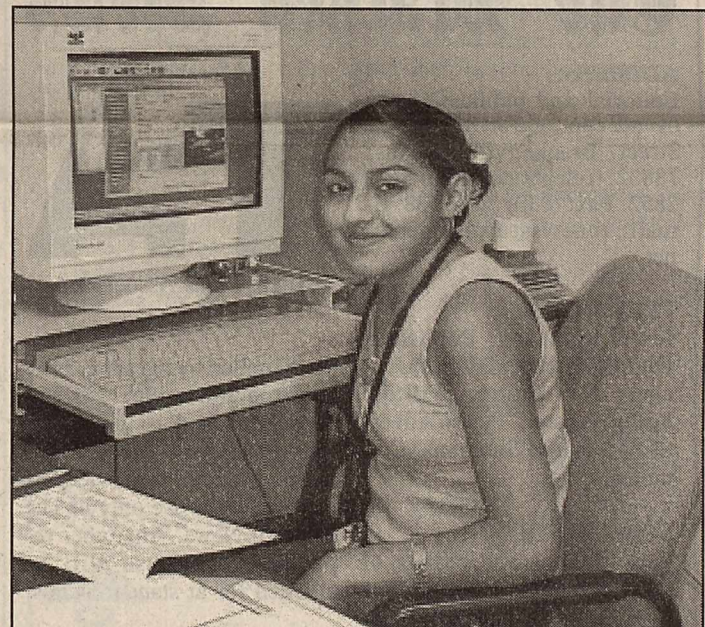
The Kinney County Appraisal District has benefited significantly from participating in the Middle Rio Grande Development Council's summer Youth Program Worksite, according to Bill Haenn, chief appraiser.

Brackett High's Monica Gonzalez has been working with the local Appraisal District as part of the program.

"We not only got to experience a very energetic young person, but we also got some serious work done," Haenn said. "Monica proved to be a fast learner and quickly showed she could 'make a difference' just as Taylor Stephenson would expect her too."

Monica's major project was to assist in the Appraisal District's preparations for Appraisal Review Board hearings. Haenn said it involved not only using her computer skills, but also being able to use logical thinking, math skills and attention to detail to complete complex tasks error free.

"She got the job done sooner than we expected and once she had done a couple of properties, very little supervision was



**Summer program**

Monica Gonzalez (left) is working with the Appraisal District as part of a summer youth work program.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

needed," Haenn said.

"This was no easy undertaking and Monica did a noteworthy job. Her enthusiasm and good humor is very infectious and I know Monica will be an

asset to any employer and a success no matter what career she chooses. I know I speak also for Gene (Slate) and Liz (Luna) when I say we were proud to work with her."

**INSIDE**

- **Wes Robinson**  
You know there really are enough governmental entities within this county that I should not have to write about the same one two weeks in a row. **Opinion/Page 2**
- **Bobby Templeton**  
We have a considerable collection of people who wear a variety of hats. We have railroad engineers who ranch, federal agents who farm. **Community/Page 3**
- **Chuck Hall**  
I have another helpful suggestion for all of you readers this week. It is so astounding that you'll be amazed. Well, it impressed me anyway. **Lifestyles/Page 4**

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## Stephenson discusses history of Fourth of July

By FRANCES McMASTER  
Contributing Writer

Taylor Stephenson discussed the history of the Fourth of July at last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting at Las Moras Restaurant. The former Brackett ISD superintendent added a personal account of past celebrations of the Fourth in which he had taken part, painting a picture of small town parades, festivities, fireworks and fun.

In an overview of the history, he began with the battle cry of "taxation without representation" that arose from the 13 colonies in America because they were forced to pay taxes to England's George III with no representation in Parliament.

Stephenson summarized the process of the writing and adoption of the Declaration of Independence by the Continental Congress on July 4, 1776, and read a paragraph that characterized the document.

Stephenson described the customs that came to be associated with the celebration of Independence Day. These emanated in the legalizing of the Fourth as a

federal holiday always marked by picnics, parades, fireworks and the playing of John Phillip Sousa marches.

During this part of his talk, Stephenson played a recording of the Sousa march, "Stars and Stripes Forever," in the background.

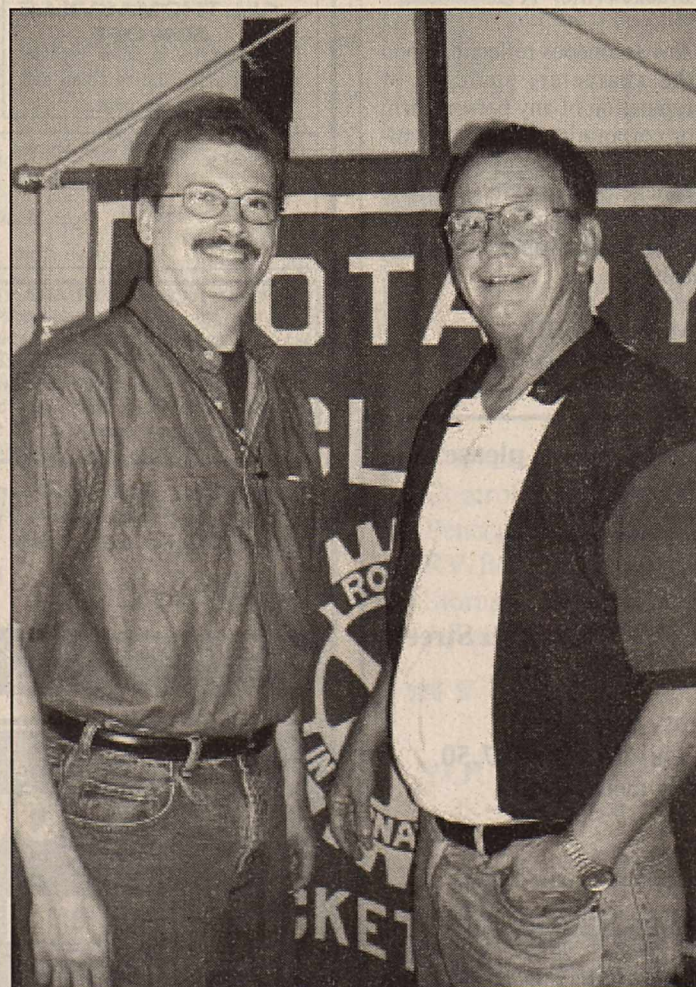
Rotarians enthusiastically sang the trio using copies of the words provided by Stephenson.

He ended the discussion with a description of what happened to the 56 men who signed the Declaration of Independence. He made the point that each of these patriots made great personal sacrifices to gain the liberty many too often take for granted.

Newly-installed president, Paula Renken, presided over the meeting.

Pastor Roger Baker of the First United Methodist Church was inducted into Rotary membership in a ceremony conducted by Frank Cheaney.

It was the last meeting Cheaney would attend before moving to San Antonio. Members regretfully accepted his resignation from the Brackettville Club.



**New member**

Roger Baker (left) is welcomed to the Brackettville Rotary Club by Taylor Stephenson.

Photo by Bill Haenn

## Agents apprehend 382 in Brackettville

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents apprehended 382 illegal aliens in Brackettville during the month of June, officials announced.

There were 2,857 total apprehensions made in the Del Rio Sector, including 1,014 in Eagle Pass, 577 in Carrizo Springs, 316 in Del Rio, 154 in Uvalde, 122 in Abilene, 94 in Comstock, 83 in San Angelo, 71 in Llano and 44 in Rocksprings.

Agents in the Del Rio Sector seized 6,405,858 pounds of marijuana, valued at more than \$5.1 million.

On June 29, Border Patrol agents from the Del Rio station assigned to the check point on Highway 2523 seized 553.75 pounds of marijuana being transported in a 1997 Ford F-150 pickup. The marijuana, valued at \$443,000, as well as the driver and the passenger, both U.S. citizens, were turned over to the DEA.

On June 28, agents from the Eagle Pass station working the check point on Highway 57 encountered an intoxicated U.S. citizen. The woman was turned over to a Texas Department of Public Safety trooper who had stopped at the check point.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fourth of July celebration was grand

Were you one of the many people who enjoyed the Fourth of July celebration at Fort Clark? If not, you really missed a fantastic day. Starting with the wonderful parade in the morning and ending with the beautiful fireworks display, it could not have been a more perfect day. I do not know who was in charge of the planning of all the events, but they certainly deserve our thanks and appreciation. They did a great job. It has been many years since we have had such a grand celebration here at Fort Clark, and it was a special day for all who attended. I certainly hope we will make this an annual tradition. Again, many, many thanks to all who made it possible.  
Barbara King

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Big Mama  
Sez!



Listen carefully before forming an opinion.

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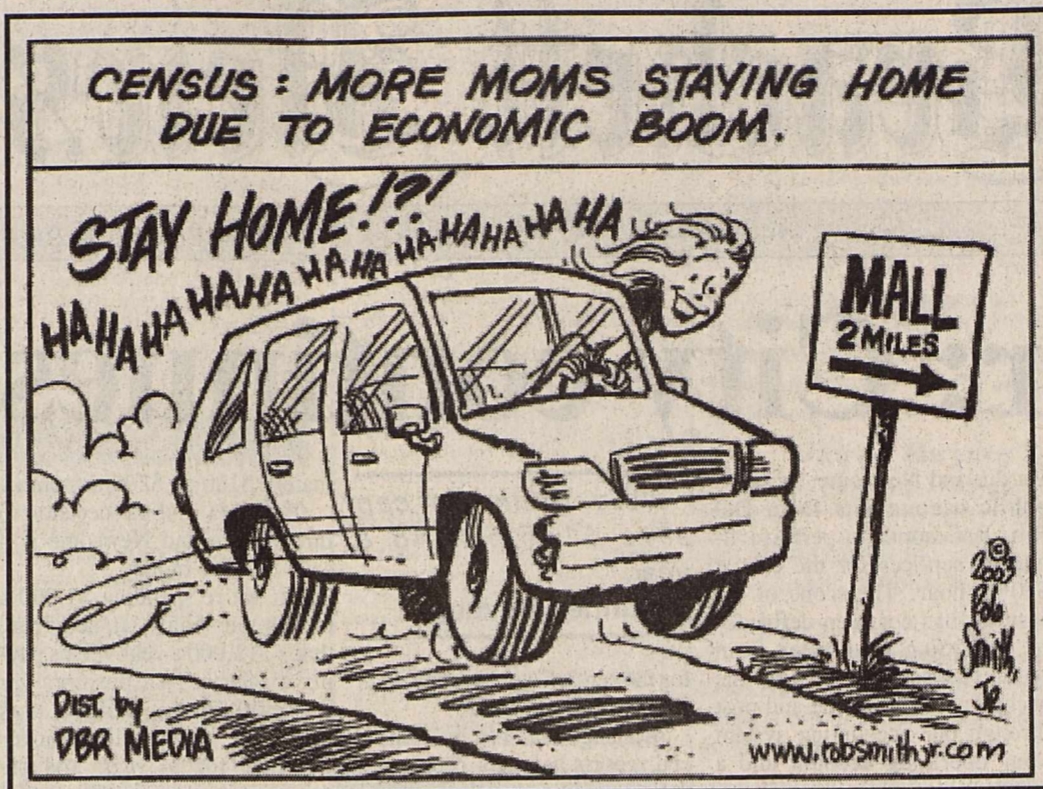
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Was council meeting legal?

You know there really are enough local politics and governmental entities within this county that I shouldn't have to do a column on the same one two weeks in a row. But if the City of Brackettville is going to continue to make itself the biggest target, why not take aim and fire?

On Tuesday, July 1, the City Council apparently held a meeting in violation of the open meetings act. According to the posted agenda, the City Council held an executive session for "personnel policy, financial problems, budget and holidays — Texas Government Code — Chapter 551."

Unfortunately, none of these items are allowed to be discussed during a closed meeting, according to Chapter 551 of the Texas Government Code, Subchapter D, "Exceptions to Requirement that Meetings be Open."

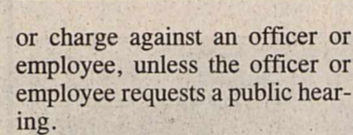
These items are also not mentioned on Pages 27 and 28 of the Texas Municipal League Handbook for mayors and council members. Those pages of the handbook pertain to the Texas Open Meetings Act.

I have read Chapter 551, Subchapter D, extensively, and I found several interesting things.

First, I didn't find the phrase "personnel policy" anywhere. I did find the word personnel in two places.

Section 551.074 pertains to personnel matters and does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or to hear a complaint

Between Us  
Wes Robinson



or charge against an officer or employee, unless the officer or employee requests a public hearing.

Section 551.073 does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting to deliberate the deployment, or specific occasions for implementation, of security personnel or devices.

I think that's pretty cut and dry — you can't discuss the personnel policy during a closed meeting. What do you think?

Secondly, you won't find the phrase "financial problem" either. As a matter of fact, the word financial only appears in Section 551.085, which has to do with the board of directors of a municipal hospital.

Thirdly, the word budget or holidays is not found anywhere in that subchapter.

Maybe I expect too much, but it seems to me anyone elected as mayor six times ought to be fairly familiar with what can and cannot be discussed in executive session. I think the public should know if the council took action after executive session on any of these items. Since the front door to City Hall was locked, I'm sure it was rather hard for anyone to determine when the executive session ended.

Why was this meeting at City Hall instead of the City Annex? Mayor, council members,

here's a little food for thought. I've put this in quotes because its verbatim from Page 28 of the TML Handbook.

"Stiff penalties are provided for violations of the law. A council member or any other person who participates in an illegal closed meeting can be punished by a fine of \$100 to \$500, confinement in the county jail for one to six months, or both. The same penalty can be applied to a council member who circumvents the requirements of the law by using the telephone to poll other council members or who meets with them individually to deliberate over some matter of city business in order to arrive at a decision."

"The actions taken by a city council in an illegal meeting are voidable, and a court may assess costs of litigation and reasonable attorney's fees incurred by a party who substantially prevails in an action brought under the open meeting law. It is an affirmative defense to prosecution that the mayor or council member relied in good faith on the written advice of the city's attorney."

Citizens read that last sentence carefully. It's written advice, not verbal. If the mayor or any council member tells you they did this under the advice of their attorney, ask for a copy of the letter.

By the way, for those of you who have to see it to believe it, copies of the Texas Government Code and TML Handbook are available online at [www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us/statutes/statutes.html) and [www.tml.org/pub\\_handbooks.htm](http://www.tml.org/pub_handbooks.htm), respectively.

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Weekly Report  
Henry Bonilla

The road to the Capitol

When I was attending South San Antonio High School, I never thought I would one day be representing you in Washington as a United States Congressman. It was something of a feat for a student there to graduate, let alone go on to college and beyond.

Most people assume congressmen have worn suits their whole lives, and that a law or business degree is a required ticket of admission. However, Congress is full of self-made men and women who came from every background imaginable. Let me share a few examples with you.

At the young age of 20, Rep. Bob Riley of Alabama began selling eggs door to door with his brother. The small operation grew to become one of the largest totally integrated poultry and egg operations in the Southeast.

Rep. Ellen Tauscher of California was the youngest person to win a seat on the coveted New York Stock Exchange at age 25. She worked as a stock trader and investment banker. After moving to California, she founded the ChildCare Registry, the first company to provide background information on child-care providers.

Congress has also attracted its share of athletes over the years.

Rep. J.C. Watts of Oklahoma was a college All-American football player at the University of Oklahoma. He went on to play for the Canadian Football League, and after that became a youth minister.

Rep. Steve Largent, also of Oklahoma, was also a professional athlete. He played for the Seattle Seahawks for 14 years and was inducted into the NFL Hall of Fame after retiring as the third all-time leader in pass-receptions in 1989.

Congress is also honored by the service of true heroes — its war heroes.

Sen. Bob Kerry of Nebraska served his country in an elite Navy SEAL team in Vietnam and was awarded the Medal of Honor after losing part of his right leg in action.

Rep. Sam Johnson of Plano is a retired Air Force colonel who endured nearly seven years of brutality — half of that period in solitary confinement — in a North Vietnamese prison camp.

Congress is full of people from all walks of life, many who never ran for office before coming to Washington. My colleagues have included a great songwriter (Sonny Bono), a winemaker, a restaurant manager and a self-described "journeyman" carpenter, just to name a few.

As students across America graduate from high school and move on to college and other ambitions, I'd like to remind them that America is still a country where the American Dream can become a reality. It's a country where a child living in a public housing project can grow up to become whatever he or she dreams of becoming.

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## Household hint No. 37

I have another helpful suggestion for all of you readers this week. It is so astounding that you'll be amazed. Well, it impressed me anyway.

I have discovered a foolproof method for finding lost tools. Foolproof, I tell you. It can be used to find any misplaced item. It involves several steps so follow closely.

First, make sure the tool is actually missing. I have found hammers in spots where they actually belonged. Somebody else put them up. So make sure it's really gone.

Then after you have exhausted yourself by looking in all of the places that you think that you might have left the item, try looking in weird locations. Check the bathroom for that sledgehammer. Look in the potato drawer for your belt. Stranger things have happened.

Still haven't located it? Next, check your son-in-law's toolbox for missing tools. Even if you don't find exactly what you're looking for, there's got to be something of yours in



But I Could  
Be Wrong

Chuck  
Hall

there.

I wonder if my father-in-law felt the same way about me that I do about my son-in-laws?

Nah, he loved me.

Still missing? Then let's move on to the final, failure-free step. When all else fails, when all seems hopeless, try the last resort. Go buy a replacement. I promise you that this will work. I've done it many times. Just last week, I could not find a tool that I knew I had several of. When I bought a new one, within hours, I found three of the old ones.

Oh, and by the way, if there are any other perplexing problems out there that you find unsolvable, call me. Even a blind hog will find an acorn once in a while.

But I could be wrong.



### Dona's Desperados win annual Gunfighter Competition

Photo Special to The Brackett News

Dona's Desperados of Helotes won the best overall performance award Saturday at Alamo Village's Fourth Annual Gunfighter Competition, earning an invitation to perform at the Oct. 23 Fandango at the Alamo compound. Individual winners were: Dave Crowe of the Brackett City Gunfighters, best actor; Jan Pierce of the Texas Guns, best actress; David Pierce of the Brackett City Gunfighters, most talented male; Jewel Robinson of the Texas Guns, most talented female; Laura Cataldo of the Cowboy Capital Gunfighters, most beautiful; Mike Nelson of the Texas Guns, most handsome; Wayne Lehman of Dona's Desperados, most comical actor; Emily Petrosky of the Brackett City Gunfighters, most comical actress; Karl Meeks and Tina Meeks of the Texas Guns, most authentic costumes; and Hoot Gibson of the Cowboy Capital Gunfighters, Grubby Hat Award.



**Passing the gavel** Photo Special to The Brackett News  
Tom Saylor (right), past president of the Brackettville Lions Club, passes the gavel to incoming president Mary Dixon at the recent installation of officers at Las Moras Restaurant.

## Chicken spaghetti is a meal for all to enjoy

There's been good fun and activity this past month at G.G.'s house.

It was our pleasure to share small town living style and ranching with my husband's son and wife for five days, their two teen-agers the entire month, and my three daughters and two of their teen-agers for a little over a week.

All but the daughter have left, making it mighty quiet and dull now. I'm sure glad we don't have any more loans to make from Fort Knox in order to feed teen-agers!

My daughters asked me to share their favorite casserole with you, so here it goes.

#### Chicken Spaghetti

Here's what we need: one chicken, 1 pound of spaghetti,

1 pound of velveta cheese, and one can of creamy chicken mushroom soup.

Boil the chicken and de-bone it, and then boil the spaghetti in the chicken broth.

Mix the chicken, spaghetti and cubed velveta and soup in a large casserole dish. If dry, add a little of the broth or milk to mixture. Stir over low-med heat until cheese is melted, or bake at 350 degrees for about 20 minutes.



Goodies  
From G.G.

Vada  
Baldree

## DAR council celebrates Flag Day

It has stripes and bright stars and it's the United States' most powerful symbol — the American flag! The Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution joined the other nine chapters in the Hill Country Council in celebrating Flag Day recently with a luncheon at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville.

The American standard, the emblem of the leading republic of the world, has a history that embraces many interesting facts and stirring incidents connected with the early days of the republic and the American colonies.

The colonies, up to the Revolution, in allegiance to the mother government, retained the standards of the old country, with the addition of some local emblem which was thereon inscribed as a distinctive feature.

For example, Massachusetts adopted the pine tree, which device was placed on the coins as well as flags used by that colony.

The colony of Connecticut adopted on July 1, 1775, this motto, which was inscribed on its standards and drums, "Qui transtulit sustinet," which was construed as "God, who transported us thither, will support us."

The first independence flag displayed in South Carolina was that used at the taking of Fort Jackson on James Island on Sept. 13, 1775. This was a large blue

flag with a crescent in one corner.

In October 1775, a flag to be used by American cruisers was adopted. It is described as a white flag with a pine tree in the center, and bearing the motto, "Appeal to Heaven."

However, on Feb. 6, 1776, an elegant standard to be used by the commander-in-chief of the American navy was presented to Congress. This flag had a yellow field, with a lively representation of a rattlesnake in the middle in the attitude of going to strike, and the words underneath, "Don't tread on me."

Flag Day is celebrated June 14 each year to commemorate the formal adoption of the Stars and Stripes in 1777 as a symbol of America's freedom and liberties. The original design of 13 white stars in a blue field and 13 stripes, alternately red and white, was adopted by the Second Continental Congress to replace the disparate array of flags that had been embraced by the different colonies.

Through the years there were several changes, but finally, on April 4, 1818, it was decided that the flag would never have more than 13 stripes and that a new star would be added to the union of the flag upon admission of a new state into the union, and that the addition would take effect on the fourth of July next succeeding such admission.



### Celebrating history

Photo Special to The Brackett News

William Washington (left), the fifth great-nephew of George Washington, is welcomed to the Hill Country Council's Flag Day celebration by Pat McKelvy, regent of the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The guest speaker at the meeting was William Washington, the fifth great-nephew of George Washington and a descendant of Samuel Washington, George's older brother. William said that although there are an estimated 8,000 descendants of George Washington's siblings today, fewer than 200 have the Washington surname.

Following the luncheon, members were reminded of the genealogical workshop spon-

sored by the Hill County Council on July 19 at the Butts-Holdsworth Library in Kerrville.

On Sept. 20, the council will celebrate Constitution Day with a luncheon in Fredericksburg.

The events are open to the public. Contact any chapter member for more information. Brackettville members include Charolotte Corey, Woodie Hornburg, Marjorie Love, Pat McKelvy, Louise Stone and Woodie Frances Trotter.

## Local Red Hatters attend regional meeting in Uvalde

The Kinney County Red Hatters attended the regional Red Hatter's meeting last week at the Uvalde Country Club. The meeting was hosted by the group from Southwest Junior College.

Two of the loveliest parasols were from the Kinney County group, Lucy Shipman and her daughter, Charollette Corey. They were identical white-lace parasols decorated from the inside with flowers greenery and white fairy lights.

The Kinney County Red Hatters decided to have their own judging. Most beautiful, of course, went to Lucy and Charollette, "most clever" to Lynn McNew, who decorated her parasol with pictures of her grandchildren, "best use of purple" to Pat McKelvy and "tackiest" to Patsy Callnan, who had been in Arizona for a week and decorated her's with a purple flower.



### A 'hat' show

Photo Special to The Brackett News

Attending the regional Red Hatter's meeting from Kinney County were, back row (from left): Lynn McNew, La Vera Clark, Mary Frances Partlow, Bobbie Waddell, Hawkins Huey and Charollette Corey. Front Row: Patsy Callnan, Pat McKelvy and Lucy Shipman.

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### Thank You

We would like to thank Martha Pena Padron and the other volunteers that helped organize the 1970-1979 Class Reunion. It was a great success and enjoyed by all. Thursday's registration and mixer, Friday's parade, picnic and poolside dance, Saturday's memorial service, tour of all school facilities and the dinner and dance left us with unforgettable memories and proud to be former graduates of BHS. We would also like to thank and appreciate Tim Ward and Lloyd Lee Davis for the kind words spoken at the Memorial Service about our deceased classmates, school and community.

To Mr. Schuster for taking us down memory lane by touring our school complex, we also thank and appreciate. For those that did not attend we missed you and you missed a great time.

"Class of 74"



BUSINESS



Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board. Photo special to the Brackett News. The Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board for 2003-04 consists of Oscar Gutierrez (from left), Jose Luis Balderas, Marga Lopez, Patricia Taylor, Pete Castillo and Juan Martinez Jr.

Workforce Board elects officers

Patricia Taylor of Brackettville was elected by acclamation to chair the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board for 2003-04 during the recent annual meeting held in Eagle Pass.

Taylor, director of human resources and diversified services for Rio Grande Electric Co-op, moves up from having served as the board's vice chair for the past two years.

There was one other candidate nominated for chair, but that person's name had to be removed from the ballot since the board chair must represent the private sector.

Elected vice chair was former two-time board chair Juan Martinez Jr., owner of Uvalde's Townhouse Restaurant. Martinez bested James "Skip" Baker,

owner of Del Rio's Mr. Gatti's Pizza, for the post.

Nominated for board secretary were Marga Lopez, executive director of the Maverick County Economic Development Corporation, and Laura Lopez Macias, director of human resources for Lopez Health System of Crystal City. Lopez won the post in a close election.

Lopez replaces David Ojeda Jr., director of Carrizo Springs' Community Service Agency. Ojeda did not seek re-election.

In a three way race for treasurer, incumbent Pete Castillo of Eagle Pass, representing the Literacy Council, bested opponents Billy Joe Brice, chairman of Leakey's Bank of Frio Canyon, and Maria Martinez, president of Del Rio's Border Federal

Credit Union.

The only race requiring a run-off election was that of parliamentarian. In that race, Oscar Gutierrez, Texas Works program manager for the Texas Department of Human Resources in Del Rio, and Ana P. Ramos vice-president and cashier of bank operations for Eagle Pass' IBC Bank, were forced into a run-off by Alicia Rendon, a counselor at Uvalde's Excel Academy. Gutierrez won the run-off election.

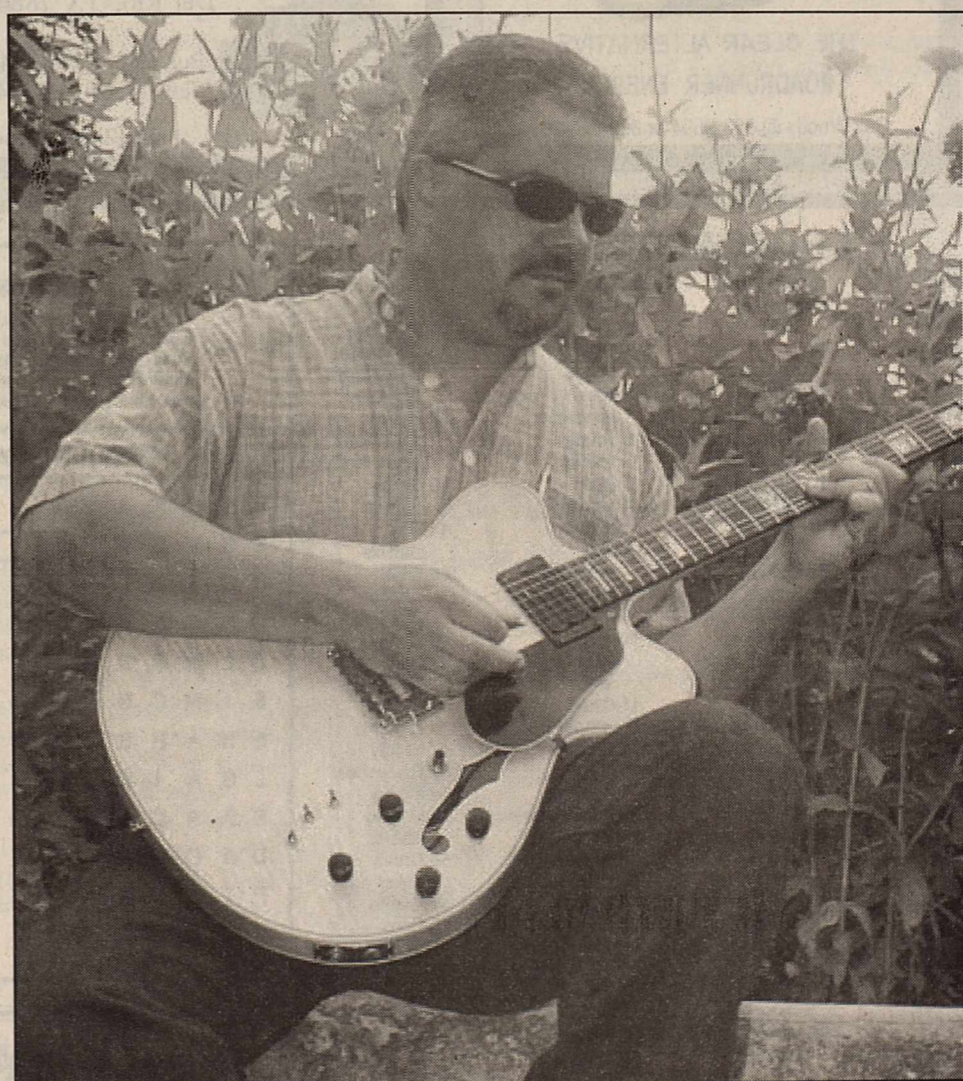
Long-time incumbent Dr. Benito Perez of the Crystal City Independent School District did not seek re-election.

Immediate past chair Jose Luis Balderas of Crystal City remains on the board's Executive Committee.



Diaz announces retirement. Photo Special to The Brackett News. Joe Diaz (second from left), recently retired as transportation maintenance crew chief with the Texas Department of Transportation, just five months shy of contributing 40 years of service to the state. Presenting his retirement certificate is Luis Ramirez, Laredo District engineer (third from left), who is joined by Juan Hernandez, Brackettville maintenance supervisor (far left) and Rosa Treviño, Laredo District director of maintenance.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Large container, 4 Wooden piece, 8 Newscaster, 13 Capital city, 14 Possess, 15 Stranger, 16 D, 17 Religious response, 18 Openings, 19 man, 22 Author of The Purloined Letter, 23 Fool, 24 10/31 option, 26 Run the engine, 29 Celtic soothsayers, 32 Agreements, 38 Singer, 38 Plant part, 39 Fictional captain, 40 Official, 41 Handicapped, 42 Anderson, 43 Heathen deity, 44 Personal quality, 45 Wraps, 47 Pin-like?, 49 Fudd or Gantry, 51 Feline, 56 School subject, 58 Ladies in matching formal, 61 Social division, 63 Word with swipe or walk, 64 Strike, 65 Fall bloom, 66 Like 2, 67 Parts of icebergs, 68 Home and second, 69 Declaim violently, 70 Nourish oneself, 1 Call on, 2 acid, 3 Gliding dance, 4 Was generous, 5 Young animal, 6 State, 7 Article of faith, 8 Be unsteady, 9 Words of commitment, 10 Joyous family events, 11 Cruel emperor, 12 Gaelic, 13 Can't keep up, 20 Sponsorship, 21 Zeal, 25 Emanations, 27 to rest; buried, 28 Singer/pianist John, 30 Measured amount, 31 Now!, 32 Friends, 33 "...There'll be \_ time", in the old town..., 34 Paddlers, 35 Short-term investment, familiarly, 37 Prefix for vision or marketing, 40 Stingy person, 44 Tiny particle, 46 Smoldering remains, 48 Gone, 50 Part of a staircase, 52 Tend a roasting turkey, 53 Eyelashes, 54 Modify, 55 Recipe abbrs., 56 Crusty formation, 57 Toledo home, 59 Aria performer, 60 Ideal place, 62 Ball support

ROARING TWENTIES

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: EUROPEAN CAPITALS

HAPPY BIRTHDAY July 10.....Jose A. Aguilar July 11.....Pat Callinan July 12.....Loretta Woods July 13.....Gerald Ivey July 14.....Claude Roberts July 15.....Kenneth Tridle July 16.....Chase Ward July 17.....Bea Workman July 18.....John McClure July 14.....Lester Shinabarger July 15.....Lou Sofaly July 16.....Nancy Frerich July 17.....Woodie Hornburg July 18.....Brent Smith July 19.....Carmen Berlanga July 20.....Hugh Coates July 21.....Carmen Hernandez July 22.....Stevie Juarez

Roaring Twenties Solution: 1. Amsterdam 11. London 2. Athens 12. Madrid 3. Belgrade 13. Oslo 4. Bern 14. Paris 5. Brussels 15. Prague 6. Budapest 16. Reykjavik 7. Copenhagen 17. Rome 8. Dublin 18. Stockholm 9. Edinburgh 19. Vienna 10. Lisbon 20. Warsaw

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You derive great satisfaction this week from cultural pursuits. A long-overdue trip to the museum is just the ticket. Later, concentrate on a new work project. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your intuition is heightened this week. You're right to be suspicious of a friend's motives. This person isn't exactly sincere. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) A tendency to be impulsive this week could lead to overspending. You don't always have to be the one footing the bill. Let others treat you instead. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You lay out your case quite logically at work. Bigwigs are impressed and follow your suggestions. Over the weekend, creativity is sharp. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) It's a good week to get involved in a community project. Perhaps you could volunteer at a local hospital or nursing home. Doing so boosts your spirits. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're taken aback at the precocious wisdom of a child. Avoid a tendency to dismiss this. What this child has to say is important in the long run. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You gaud about this week visiting friends you've neglected. Don't let this socializing distract you, though, from tasks at hand. This weekend, make peace with a contentious family member. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's best to put aside some work worries. Fretting about them won't solve anything. Just take a break! LEO (July 23 to August 22) You have the opportunity this week to join a club that piques your interest. This could lead to romance for some. Later in the week, a minor spat flares up between you and a co-worker. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You seek out time alone this week. Read, relax and meditate. This recharges your creative juices. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Something left unfinished weighs heavily on you. Get to it! Once you accomplish this task, you have more time for socializing. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Rapport with your mate is good this week. Take advantage of this to tackle some thorny issues. By week's end, you sort it all out together. (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.

# The Lord's Supper is a grand family reunion

This Sunday past I shared the Lord's Supper with folks in Brackettville for the first time.

It was a moving experience for me. I explained in my sermon that I thought the Lord's Supper was really sort of like a big family reunion — when we commune with God at this memorial feast, we are seated at the table with every other Christian who has partaken that same meal.

During this particular supper I was pleased to be able to serve my mother, father and wife. But we certainly weren't the only family present.

The Jones family has deep roots in Kinney County and was having a reunion over the Fourth of July weekend.

Five children were baptized during that same service — Sarah Creager, Daniel Creager, Matthew Creager, Daylon Fohn and Campbell Hancock. The parents wanted their children baptized and received into the church in view of their extended families.

Our church congregation swelled as about 30 visitors made their way into our pews.

Kitten Daly Fohn brought more than her son Daylon — she

also brought a family photo of loved ones who had already gone on to their reward in the Lord. We set the picture down on the altar rail and kept it there as a reminder that these children were being received into Christ's holy church and not just this congregation.

It was also a testimony to our belief that the Lord's Supper is more than just a memorial dinner. It's a grand family reunion where Jesus presides and offers his presence in a tangible way.

The wedding feast of the Lamb is more than a "one time" event — God isn't limited by His creation, and certainly God created time. The supper that Jesus started introduced his disciples to a new understanding of the passover, of betrayal, and of selfless service.

In many ways, the "Last Supper" was a first supper, too. Jesus promised his presence where two or more were gathered in His name, and Christians have been celebrating the supper in His presence ever since.

As we gathered to consume the bread and the fruit of the grapevine, we felt the presence of Jesus — and remembered that somewhere outside of human



Rev. Roger Baker

time our loved ones were sharing that same meal with the same Lord Jesus in God's time.

In understanding that the meal is just as eternal as the One who is always present at the meal, we began to get a sense of the timelessness of God in Jesus Christ.

With a rush of emotion, many of us realized that it meant our loved ones separated from us by death aren't really absent at all — they are in the presence of Christ! So in a way, when we experience God's presence at the Lord's Supper, they are there right beside us, too, sharing the same table and the same meal. In Jesus we truly are united as one family!

We shared the bread and drank the cup in a physical sign, but the Holy Spirit moved upon us to remind us that God didn't limit His love for us.

Throughout time, God is with

us. Outside of time, we can be in God's presence.

By faith, many of us worshiping together Sunday made a leap from the concerns of this world to seeing the greater "family reunion" possible in Jesus Christ.

Having the photo of family members long gone served to remind us of the timelessness of God's love in Jesus Christ.

Having children present reminded us that nothing can separate us from the love of Jesus.

Having the table brought our minds and spirit's into God's presence in a tangible way.

Many of us cried, myself included, when we realized just how wonderful this family reunion is. The old song "I'm So Glad I'm a Part of the Family of God" keeps running through my mind.

I don't know how often the Jones family holds reunions, but at First Methodist we celebrate the reunion of God's family at the Lord's Supper on the first Sunday every month.

You're all welcome to bring your photos of those who've already gone on to the wedding feast of the Lamb before you. We'll save you a space.

## Fill your mind with everything that is true, honorable and pure

"Dad, why is there so much killing?" asked 8-year old Tony, questioning things he heard on television. "Do we know anybody that would do something like that? I mean, how could a man kill his own pregnant wife?"



Dr. Donald Smith

Johnny was asking himself the same question.

"It all seems so senseless, son," he replied. "What do you think?"

"Well, Dad, it just seems like everybody is mad at something or somebody. How can anybody get to the point where they want to kill somebody?"

"Tony, little babies come into this world without hate, anger and bitterness. In fact, they want to be loved and to love in return. Their whole lives depend upon the love of others. But, if they're around angry and selfish adults, then they never get all the love they need. They grow up thinking that anger and selfishness is the normal way to live."

"They think that others are at fault for all their problems. When they get to be your age, they feed their minds on all the garbage they can find on television, on the Internet, in books and from their friends that reinforces their anger and selfishness. Then, when they're adults, they think nothing of killing.

"Son, you're very fortunate to have two loving parents who care enough about you to set limits and enforce rules about things like the TV and the Internet," Johnny said. "We're concerned about what you read and who your friends are. We want you to fill your mind with good things that will build character and strength of spirit."

"A couple of thousand years ago, a very wise man wrote to his friends from a prison cell, 'let your minds be filled with everything that is true, everything that is honorable, everything that is upright and pure, everything that we love and admire — with whatever is good and praiseworthy.'" (Philippians 4:8)

"If you fill your mind with those good things Tony, then you won't ever want to kill anybody," he said.

**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.

## We are all special in the eyes of God

Max Lucado is one of America's favorite Christian authors, with millions of books in print. Max is consistently on the best-seller charts with his children's titles as well, including "The Crippled Lamb," "Just in Case You Ever Wonder," "Small Gifts in God's Hands" and "Jacob's Gift."



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

Max and his wife are the parents of three daughters and live in San Antonio where he is the pastor of a dynamic and growing church.

My grandchildren love Max Lucado's books. At our house, we have "Just in Case You Ever Wonder," and "Hermie, the Common Caterpillar." I have also read several of his books for adults.

What makes Max Lucado's books so great? He constantly reminds children how very spe-

cial they are.

Hermie is just another caterpillar — he doesn't have stripes and he doesn't have spots, but Hermie talks to God. As Hermie and his friend Wormie travel through their daily lives, they meet other animals who seem to have special powers given to them by God. Hermie and Wormie feel sad, because they don't feel special, but God reassures them that He loves them the way they are and that He is not finished with them yet.

As Hermie falls asleep in a

soft bed made for him by Wormie, he talks to God: "You know, God, it's OK that I'm just a common caterpillar. You love me and that makes me special."

When Hermie awakes, he has turned into a beautiful butterfly and he begins to understand what God had been telling him. He wasn't like any of the other animals. He was Hermie, a beautiful butterfly with a beautiful heart.

"Just in Case You Ever Wonder" says everything you want to say to your children about how much you love them and how special they are to God. It carries a warm message of love, comfort and protection.

And there is a message in this for all of us. We are all special, because God made us. God loves us just the way we are.

There is a song that Lionel

Ritchie sang, which says in part, "Don't go changing to try and please me ... I love you just the way you are."

This is what God tells us. Be ourselves — the person He wants us to be — not the person the world wants us to be.

Does this mean we shouldn't try to improve-to be better? Of course not. But what it does mean is that God made us in His image and likeness and that makes us special.

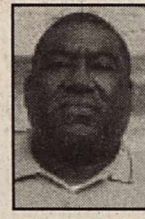
Lord, thank You for making me in Your image. Help me to remember that I am special because I belong to You. Thank You for all the special people in my life.

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

God bless you! You are special!

## The wicked will burn up

For, behold, the day cometh, that shall burn as an oven; and all the proud, yea, and all that do wickedly, shall be stubble; and the day that cometh shall burn them up, saith the Lord of hosts, that it shall leave them neither root nor branch.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

But unto you that fear my name shall the Sun of righteousness arise with healing in his wings; and ye shall go forth, and grow up as calves of the stall.

And ye shall tread down the wicked; for they shall be ashes under the soles of your feet in

the day that I shall do this, saith the Lord of hosts. (Malachi 4:1-3)

Glory!

Let everything that hath breath praise the Lord. Praise ye the Lord. (Psalm 150:6)

## It is easier to give in to temptation in the heat

Hot summertime is here and it brings along with it the opportunity to practice the godly trait of patience.

When you are physically hot, it is easier to give in to the temptation to be contentious, disobedient to the truth, obeying unrighteousness, and practicing indignation and wrath.

Giving in to impatience causes tribulation and anguish upon your soul, mind, will and emotions. (Romans 2)

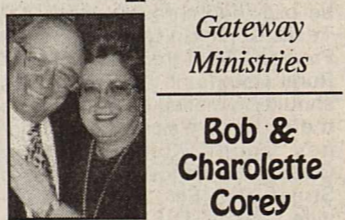
A hard and impenitent heart is the symptom of wrong

choices. It is a lack of trust in God.

It is a heart that does not believe that God is in complete control and has your best interests at heart.

A hard heart is a selfish heart and a heart that puts up barriers, which even God has a hard time penetrating since he does not tamper with your own free will.

God calls each of us to practice forbearance and long-suffering. He calls us to the riches of goodness. This only comes to us



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

when we practice what we preach and forgive others their sins and trespasses.

No matter how others offend you, it is your calling of God to forgive them. "Let go, and let God."

It is your calling to be an "ambassador of peace." So, when you have an opportunity to let the "chili sauce" rise in your veins, take a moment to cool down by remembering who you are in Christ and that you can do all things (according to God's word) through his anointed power which gives you strength to be more than a conqueror, yes, even an overcomer.

Choose to stay cool and not be a fool. Stay righteous. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

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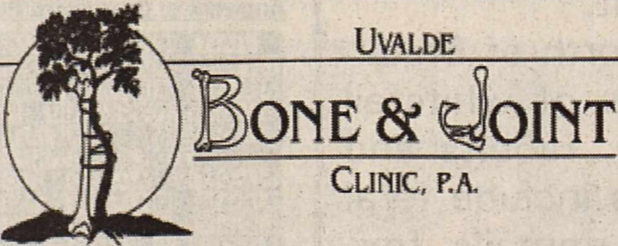
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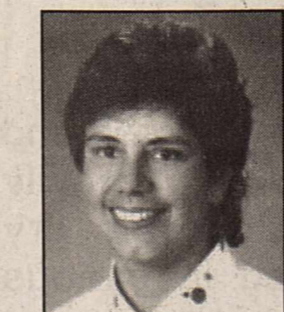
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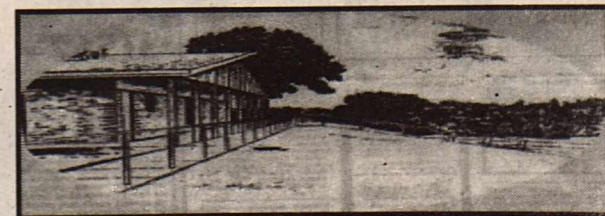
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