

The Brackett News

Lafrenz to be installed as vicar of St. Andrew's
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15 year, No. 27

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Water board considers raising fees

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Kinney County Groundwater District officials are considering raising user fees as they prepare to adopt a new budget.

The board will hold a public hearing on the district's budget, tax rate and fee schedule next Thursday at 4 p.m. at the District Courtroom in the County Courthouse.

The directors voted to keep the same groundwater use fees during a special meeting Monday. The fees include \$1 per acre-foot of water per year for agriculture use and \$10 per acre-foot of water per year for all other uses.

The current permit applica-

tion fees include \$200 for applications seeking 100 acre-feet of water per year or less and \$500 for more than 100 acre-feet.

Board member Darlene Shahan proposed that the district change the fees to the actual cost of processing the applications.

"It's my opinion that we need to go to a system that requires a person seeking a permit to reimburse the district for the actual expenses in processing that permit," Shahan said. "We can go ahead and get the \$200 and \$500 deposit, and then reimburse whatever is left out of that."

"Our consultant (Steve Walthour) went over the historic permit applications that are on file right now and projected the cost

"This is what this district needs to do. We have the lowest tax base in the state. We set the highest tax rate that there is in the state because our tax base is so low. We don't have the tax base of Austin or San Antonio."

Water board member Darlene Shahan

for the district to process those. That's what we're basing this on — the projected cost for the next year."

The district raised \$7,850 in revenues from applications through June, but the proposed budget has estimated revenues of \$45,583 for permits and fees.

"This is what this district

needs to do," Shahan said. "We have the lowest tax base in the state. We set the highest tax rate that there is in the state because our tax base is so low. We don't have the tax base of Austin or San Antonio."

Wes Robinson, a local businessman, said the proposed increases for application fees is a

result of the board's fiscal irresponsibility.

"The taxpayers and the users are not the ones that decided to spend more money than they had budgeted," Robinson told the directors Monday.

"We didn't make the decisions to spend \$150,000 in attorney fees. We didn't make the decision to spend \$16,000 to \$17,000 for a consultant when part of the services were offered for free. We didn't make the decision to turn down a \$250,000 groundwater survey. The board did that.

"Regardless of what you raise those fees to, you're not going to generate the money that you're spending right now. So the conversation probably

shouldn't be about raising fees, it should be about cutting your expenses," he added.

The directors only budgeted \$9,000 for professional fees for the current fiscal year, but through the month of June has spent \$40,692.18, which includes \$33,060.33 for attorney Brian Sledge of the Austin law firm Lloyd, Gosslink, Blevins, Rochelle, Baldwin and Townsend, \$6,131.85 in consultant fees for Walthour and \$1,500 for the auditing firm of Coleman, Horton and Associates of Uvalde.

Shahan also suggested that the district charge \$35 for existing exempt well registration. Currently there is no charge to register an exempt well.



Tigers scrimmage Saturday morning
A strong defensive unit helped the Brackett Tigers to a 6-4 record last season. Tigers fans will get their first look at this year's squad in action as it takes the field Saturday morning at 10 for a controlled scrimmage with the Leakey Eagles at Tiger Stadium. Brackett opens its season at home against the Lytle Pirates on Aug. 29 in a 7:30 contest.

Photo by Javier Cervantes

Some local citizens now have choice for free mail delivery

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Some Brackettville residents will now have the opportunity to have their mail delivered for free.

The City Council passed an ordinance Tuesday night allowing mail boxes to be placed in the city's right of ways.

According to Lionel Juarez, the local postmaster, the U.S. Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery to all of its customers.

Because a rural route was established several years ago between the Post Offices in Brackettville and Rocksprings, citizens that live within one block of the route have to pay for a Post Office box because the city previously had no ordinance allowing mail boxes to be placed in the city's right of ways.

Annual costs for Post Office boxes are \$24 for a small box, \$36 for a medium box and \$66 for a large box.

"Any customer beyond these boundaries will be offered a no-fee Post Office box — one no-fee Post Office box per physical address," Juarez said.

"Any customer whose physical location is outside of the geographic delivery zip code boundaries must pay for a Post Office box. What that means, basically, if you're outside 78832, like Spofford is 78877, you have to pay for your box."

With the new ordinance, citizens whose residences are located within one block of the rural route and within the city limits of Brackettville, will have the option of erecting a mail box. The rural route runs from the Brackettville Post Office to the

"She wants to be another David Luna ... And then I was asked, what have I done for the city. I think I've done more in two months than she's done in 11 years."

Bonnie Wardlaw on Mayor Berlanga

intersection of Spring and Ann Street, and then north, all the way to Rocksprings.

"This would be their form of free delivery, but they could rent a Post Office box for a fee," Juarez said. "These rural-type boxes would be on side streets, from Spring Street it would be north and from Ann Street it would be east. The side streets would be utilized for the safety of the highway contract carrier's safety."

"We will not do door-to-door and we will not do curb-side," he added.

Mail on the rural route is delivered only three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.

"It's a tri-route, so if you happen to want to get your mail on Tuesday or Thursday or Saturday, you wouldn't be allowed to," Juarez said. "With a Post Office box, you can get it six days a week."

City Council members Mary Flores, Tomas Gomez Jr. and Bonnie Wardlaw voted for the ordinance. Francisca "Chica" Garza and Johnny Samaniego were absent.

The council tabled the matter last month in order to notify the citizens of the option, but Mayor Carmen Berlanga said Tuesday she decided not to send letters out to the 124 customers that would be affected by the ordinance.

"Mr. Juarez came back to the office and said that they had known about this for the past four years," Berlanga said. "I personally did not send the letters out based on two things — the time that it had been in effect and the fact that I had only two people express a desire."

Juarez was asked why the issue wasn't brought before the council when the rural route was established, and he said he had discussed it with former city manager David Luna, who was fired in June.

Wardlaw said the mayor asked her to send out the notification letter just days before the meeting.

"The mayor told me that I was coming down there and dictating too much, and that the council needed to take it upon themselves to deliver these letters," she said. "I don't feel that's my place — that's her place."

"She went down there the day after David left and she took that job. She took that responsibility on herself."

"If she didn't want it, anybody on the council would have went and helped out, but she wanted it. She's running it like David Luna. She wants to be another David Luna."

"And then I was asked, what have I done for the city. I think I've done more in two months than she's done in 11 years," Wardlaw added.

DRT hosts ceremony honoring 190th anniversary of the Battle of Medina

Caddell-Smith members join the over 100 chapters of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, as well as Sons of the Republic of Texas chapters and Children of the Republic of Texas chapters in inviting the public to the 190th anniversary of the Battle of Medina. A ceremony is scheduled for Monday at 10 a.m.

This is the site where approximately 800 and 1,300 Americans and Mexican republicans were killed or executed.

The site of this, the largest land battle in Texas history, lies about 20 miles south of San Antonio.

The battle was fought by 1,400 troops of the Republican Army of the North, known as the Gutierrez-Magee Expedition, and troops of the Spanish Royal Army, numbering 1,800 under the command of Gen. Joaquin de Arredondo. At this time only about 2,000 people lived in San Antonio, or San Fernando de Bejar, as it was then known.

To reach the site of the ceremony, proceed south from San Antonio on Highway 281 to the intersection of Loop 410 South, to the community of Espey, where signs will direct you to the ceremony.

Descendants of the approximately 3,200 men who fought on both sides of this battle are eligible for membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas, the Sons of the Republic of Texas and the Children of the Republic of Texas.

Arrival of Rotary Club's exchange student delayed

By FRANCES McMASTER
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club met last Thursday, expecting to greet the exchange student who was to arrive from Germany. However, he was delayed because of new requirements — inbound students have to be interviewed at the American Embassy before leaving the country.

Bill Haenn, who is in charge of the youth exchange program here in Brackettville, filled in by discussing this Rotary project and showing a film featuring exchange students enthusiastically talking about their experiences.

Haenn credited retired dentist, Dr. Larry Lindenschmidt, a Del Rio Rotarian, for devoting a lot of time to this project, assuring that it runs smoothly.

This will be the Brackettville Rotary Club's third year to sponsor an exchange student, and the experience has been gratifying, to say the least. It has broadened the lives of all the students involved and added to our understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

It has been so successful that the Rotary Club is now looking to the future and widening its focus. It would like to encourage some young person from this area to take part in one of the two outbound programs sponsored by Rotary.

Besides the exchange student program, young people can go on a summer program that does not involve a school year. The participant goes under Rotary sponsorship and stays with a host family, meets other young people and does some traveling.

Students who have graduated are eligible. Parents must pay airfare to the youngster's destination and some other requirements, but otherwise, Rotary takes care of expenses.

The student exchange program involves going to school and living with a host family for a school year in another country. The planning, support and guidance provided by Rotary is extensive.

Haenn said that students are sent a lengthy letter introducing them to the district, telling them about their host family, and giving them other instructions.



Representing Texas abroad

Photo Special to The Brackett News

Beau Watkins of Brackettville, shown in the Amazon, recently competed in a statewide competition, which consisted of teacher recommendations and a 500-word essay. The reward for this competition was an expense paid trip to China. However, the destination was changed to Brazil after the SARS outbreak in China. Of the 340 students who competed, only 40 were selected to go on the trip. The students were made Texas Student Ambassadors on the behalf of the governor and people of Texas. The trip was a unique learning experience for all the students, who went all across Brazil, from the capitol, Brasilia, to the Iguacu falls, Manaus, Rio De Janerio and many other stops.

INSIDE

Wes Robinson

This is a great community to live in if you want to write a column about local politics. There's an unending supply of fiscal irresponsibility.
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Shanae Simmons

I am finally home and my traveling has been put to a stop for a while. I don't necessarily know if this is the best of situations.
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Chuck Hall

Enough of the traffic articles. It's time to get a little more serious. Serious? Whatever. I guess the summer is not officially over.
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Water district's financial problems caused by board

You know this is a great community to live in if you want to write a column about local politics. There seems to be an unending supply of fiscal irresponsibility among the various governmental entities.

Last week, I attended a budget workshop and subsequent meeting for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District. During the Tuesday workshop, there was considerable discussion regarding the line item for legal and professional fees in the proposed budget.

The 2003-04 proposed budget totals \$125,492. Legal and professional fees are budgeted at \$79,583 for the upcoming year. That is over 63 percent of the total budget.

There was also discussion about raising additional income by increasing the user fees, such as permit renewals and exempt well applications. Currently, there is no fee to register an exempt well.

The main argument was that increasing user fees would shift the burden from the taxpayer to the user. The fact is, the district is limited by state law regarding tax increases.

If the district increases the tax rate over 8 percent, it could be subject to a rollback.

In order for this to happen 10 percent of the registered voters would have to sign a petition requesting a rollback election. If a majority of the voters participating in the election voted to repeal the tax, it would return to the original rate immediately.



Between
Us

Wes
Robinson

The thing that really gets my goat is all the facts that weren't mentioned.

According to the district's preliminary financial reports, it spent \$40,692 in legal and professional fees this year. The district only budgeted \$9,000 for these expenditures.

The district's Aug. 6 balance sheet shows liabilities of \$120,000 for legal fees and \$8,150 for consulting fees. That means the district will still owe at least \$48,567 at the end of the next year.

Now the district directors will most likely tell you that the money was spent to get a good set of rules to protect you from water marketers. Unfortunately, that excuse just doesn't hold water, pardon the pun.

The district was offered free help to write the rules from the Texas Water Development Board and Texas A&M University.

Why did they choose to pay for something they could have gotten for free? All they really needed was the attorney to review the rules prior to adopting them.

Why did the district refuse to accept a no-strings attached offer for a \$250,000 groundwater study? Was it because it came from a water marketing group?

If you're not obligated to give them anything in return, I say take the money and run. The proposed budget includes \$0 for research.

Why did the district hire a \$100-per-hour consultant from the crack of dawn and we headed out. By the time we reached San Antonio, the skies had become filled with grey clouds and rain dropped down in cup-fuls.

"Oh great," I thought. "What a beautiful entrance to the weekend of dread."

But as I got closer and closer to my destination, my thoughts began to change. I love meeting new people and I thought about all the fun that I would have with a new crowd.

Then as I thought, I imagined all the people that would fill up the seminar. As my imagination roamed, my mind's eye filled up with pocket-protecting, note-taking, nerds.

I could see people 100 times smarter than myself, having detailed debates about Socrates' philosophy on something that I

The taxpayers and the users didn't make those irresponsible decisions, the board of directors did. If the board wants to shift the burden were it belongs, they need to pony up the money themselves.

By the way, the water board's budget hearing is August 21 at 4 p.m. in the district court room. Whether you're a taxpayer, user or both, it would be well worth your time to stop by and see how the board operates.

Seminar an experience of a lifetime

I am finally home and my traveling has been put to a stop for a while. I don't necessarily know if this is the best of situations, because now that I have seen the other grand parts of the world, Brackettville doesn't seem as alluring.

I traveled across a couple of states, but one of my favorite vacationing spots was right here in Texas — San Antonio to be exact.

This year, I was invited to a GOLD Leadership Seminar. I was picked out of the sophomore class to represent Brackett High School. I wasn't necessarily flabbergasted about the whole deal, but I was ready — ready at least for it to be over.

I had heard the horror stories from GOLD, formerly called HOBY, alumni. Not only was it supposed to be boring, but you had to write. Of course, my mind was thinking, "Write? I am on summer vacation and these people want me to write!"

I honestly had forgotten how to use a pencil and it was only the beginning of June.

The trip started out well enough. I was planning to just get through this "boring" seminar, go home and then head on to an exciting FCA camp, which had been on my mind for some time.

My family woke up at the crack of dawn and we headed out. By the time we reached San Antonio, the skies had become filled with grey clouds and rain dropped down in cup-fuls.

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But as I got closer and closer to my destination, my thoughts began to change. I love meeting new people and I thought about all the fun that I would have with a new crowd.

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Teen
Spirit

Shanae
Simmons

probably don't even know how to spell.

After day-dreaming, or shall I say day-nightmaring, I finally reached my new home for the next couple of days. It was a nice hotel, and teens my age filled the lobby. I walked in seeing bright shiny faces, and bubbly counselors enthusiastically chatting with their new campers.

I felt a bit alone because I didn't know anyone, but then I realized no one else really did either. We were all floating in the same boat.

As I looked around, I also noticed that the nerds I expected to see, were nothing of the sort. These people were intelligent looking creatures, but not the least bit dorky.

Most of the crowd looked like pretty hip kids and my excitement for new friendships slowly began to rise.

I got settled in my room and that is when the weekend of my life truly began. We made our way over to a large auditorium located on a beautiful campus, where we were to spend most of our trip.

The counselors in the auditorium led us in the most bizarre drills I had ever experienced.

We sang songs about milk, and shouted crazy things about enthusiasm. We shook our bottoms, and wiggled our fingers.

Others around me groaned, or lowered their heads in the beginning, but I smiled and realized ... I was finally home. This was the place I was meant to be — quirky people, with quirky attitudes, acting like complete freaks and not caring a bit.

As the weekend progressed, everyone loosened up and became crazy. We were all assigned to groups and mine was the best of all. I was iffy at first, but in the end, I loved each and every one of them.

Through the days, we played games and actually watched people that were not a bit snore worthy. I sat on the edge of my seat during most discussions, and I was so happy to find myself there. I learned so much about leadership, and I couldn't wait to share what I had learned. Then again, I didn't want to leave either. Everyone knew my name it seemed, and I felt good about myself.

The seminar was truly an experience of a lifetime. We had a dance and karaoke night the last full day, and that was also one of the best times I have ever had. The last morning spent with these people, my new lifelong buddies, would be a sad one though. The night before was a tear-jerker and I felt so good and yet so bad all at the same time.

Let's just say that in the end, my eyes were not dry ones, as our loaded vehicle left the parking lot. That day my nose was red, and my face felt puffy. All I could think about was the large circle we had made the last day, arms around one another, while singing along to "Lean on Me."

I thought about how I wouldn't have those friends to lean on once I got home because they lived so far away, and I wondered if I would ever see them again. I cried more, but I knew that I would have memories of them, and if that wasn't good enough, I had two full disposable cameras and a page full of e-mail addresses.

GOLD was definitely the experience of a lifetime. I don't know if I could have ever experienced something so great anywhere else.

Next year, I plan on going back as a junior staff member. And if that doesn't work out, then I guess that I will just have to gag and hide next year's representative, and take their place.

Because of GOLD, I learned so much and I felt so confident in myself. It was a great leadership seminar. I may not become a CEO or something of that magnitude, but I will be a better person because of it. First step GOLD, next step, president of the United States.

Notice of Public Hearing on Tax Increase

The Kinney County Commissioners Court will hold a public hearing on a proposal to increase total tax revenues from properties on the tax roll in the preceding year by 11.94 percent. Your individual taxes may increase at a greater or lesser rate, or even decrease, depending on the change in the taxable value of your property in relation to the change in taxable value of all other property and the tax rate that is adopted.

The public hearing will be held on September 2, 2003 at 9:00 AM at County Court Room.

FOR the proposal: Herb Senne Joe Montalvo
Pat Melancon Frances Wylie

AGAINST the proposal: Nat Terrazas

PRESENT and not voting:

ABSENT:

The following table compares taxes on an average home in this taxing unit last year to taxes proposed on the average home this year. Again, your individual taxes may be higher or lower, depending on the taxable value of your property.

	Last Year	This Year
Average residence homestead value	\$35,896	\$37,040
General exemptions available	\$4,414	\$4,452
<small>(amount available on the average homestead, not including senior citizen's or disabled person's exemptions)</small>		
Average taxable value	\$31,482	\$32,588
Tax rate (per \$100)	\$0.8018	\$0.8700
Tax	\$252.42	\$283.52

Under this proposal, taxes on the average homestead would increase by \$31.10 or 12.32 percent compared with last year's taxes. Comparing tax rates without adjusting for changes in property value, the tax rate would increase by \$0.0682 per \$100 of taxable value or 8.51 percent compared to last year's tax rate. These tax rate figures are not adjusted for changes in the taxable value of property.

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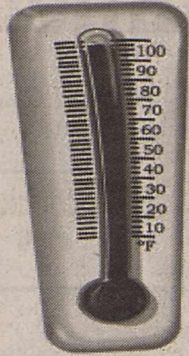
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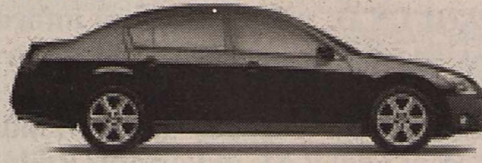


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2855A	2001 Chev. Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab	\$26,995
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P7199	2001 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$22,150
2689A	2003 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$22,995

2929A	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$18,595
P7262A	2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$19,595
2539A	2003 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$22,995
2580B	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$17,995

TRUCKS

2023A	2000 GMC Sierra 1500	\$19,595
2309A	2001 GMC Sierra 1500	\$18,800
2490A	2003 Dodge D150 Ext. Cab 4X4	\$28,395
P7269	1997 Ford F-350 Crew Cab	\$12,795
2497A	2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$16,695
P7307A	2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 4X4	\$23,995
2817A	2001 Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$23,995
2773A	2003 GMC Crew Cab	\$27,995
2845A	2000 GMC Sierra	\$11,995
P7242A	2001 Dodge Ram 1500	\$12,995
2557A	2002 Silverado Ext. Cab	\$20,995

SUV'S

P7309	1997 Chevrolet Blazer LS	\$9,500
2556A	2002 GMC Yukon	\$26,500
P7333A	2001 GMC Yukon	\$24,995
P7325	2003 Ford Explorer	\$23,995

CARS

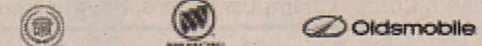
1865A	2001 Cadillac STS	\$25,495
P7281	2003 Cadillac Deville	\$28,595
P7287	2001 Nissan Altima	\$12,000
2473B	1998 Lincoln Mark 8	\$15,995
P7366	2001 VW Beetle	\$14,995
P7331	2003 Buick LaSabre	\$17,995
2816A	2001 Oldsmobile Aurora	\$16,995
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2749A	2000 Nissan Altima	\$10,995

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"Our Cancer Support Group" celebrated its one-year anniversary last week.

Support group celebrates first anniversary

"Our Cancer Support Group" celebrated its one-year anniversary last Thursday with a dinner at the First Baptist Church.

The group started with 12 members, who are cancer patients, cancer survivors and caregivers, and has expanded to 25 members.

"We have cancer survivors of a year and all the way to 19 years," Pat Sitzes said.

"The members of this group have enjoyed eating and visiting with each other, and we have enjoyed programs by a physical therapist, a medical oncologist/hematologist, and have discussed the topics of cancer patients rights related in insurance," she added.

In the future, Sitzes said the group will host a social worker to discuss mental health related

to cancer patients and caregivers, a breast cancer educator to discuss breast cancer awareness, a urologist to discuss cancer of the prostate and bladder, and a plastic surgeon to discuss cancer related issues.

Sitzes invites any cancer patients, cancer survivors and caregivers to join the local group.

"We enjoy fellowshiping with each other, and learning in-

formation that helps us cope with this diagnosis," she said. "Our cancer support is uplifting."

The group will meet again on Sept. 4 at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church Fellowship Hall at the corner of Ann and Veltman Street.

For more information on Our Cancer Support Group, call Sitzes at 563-9515 or Lela Cervantes at 563-2978.

What a summer!

Enough of the traffic articles. It's time to get a little more serious. Serious? More nearly serious?

Whatever. I guess the summer is not officially over, but when school starts, it is the same as over to me.

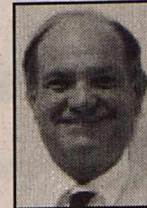
Many of us will return to the regular routine, as we do every year about this time. Fall sports are just around the corner. Football is already on TV.

I had a great summer. I did a lot of fun things. I went to a bunch of exciting places with the grandkids.

I waded in the ocean in Rockport. Birds swooped down on us to grab a free hand out of offerings of bread. We saw the Texas State Aquarium. I did not know there were so many different kinds of fish in the world.

I visited the San Antonio Zoo. Animals are fun to watch. Tillman likes the hipos the best.

We rode the Brackenridge Eagle. My grandchildren all love trains for some reason. I had fun, too. I had never been on a



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

train before.

And what about the weather? This has to be the all-time greatest summer in the history of Kinney County. Rains came just when we needed them. I have not seen grass like this in a long time, maybe never for this time of the year.

And I hope you noticed that I never wrote columns complaining about having to mow the lawn. Not once did I gripe. I hate to mow grass more than anyone alive, but this summer it was almost pleasurable.

It's hot now, but I guess it's supposed to be. Consider this just a positive piece about nice things in general. I'll get back to complaining next week.

But I could be wrong.

Salad is a light, cool meal

If ever a light, cool meal is needed, it's now! This salad requires pre-planning (four or more hours), but certainly makes it worth waiting for.

For a light meal, serve alone. For hearty eaters, maybe a cold bean or pasta salad, tater tots or chilled pickled beets. Get wild!

Crab Salad

Here's what we need: 2 cups of imitation crab meat, 1/2 cup of minced onion, 1/2 cup of diced celery, 1/2 cup of minced green pepper (optional), 1 tablespoon of dry mustard, 1 teaspoon of salt, 1/4 teaspoon of pepper, 2 teaspoons of celery seed, shredded lettuce, four hard boiled eggs and four tomatoes.

Combine the first eight ingredients, mixing well. Cover and chill for four hours or more.

For the sauce, use 1/2 cup of mayonnaise, 1/2 cup of chili sauce, 1/2 cup of sour cream and 1 tablespoon of lemon juice.



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

To serve, make lettuce nests on a salad plate. Fold the sauce into the crab mixture.

Spoon crab salad onto lettuce nests and garnish with tomato and eggs.

For those of us who love cranberries, here's a salad you'll love. It's so easy, too.

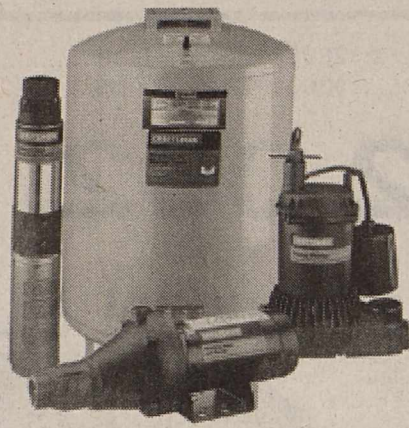
Easy Red Salad

Slowly melt one whole can of cranberry sauce. Add one package of black cherry jello.

Remove from heat and add one can of crushed pineapple (drained), 1 cup of chopped celery and 1/2 to 1 cup of chopped nuts. Chill until set.

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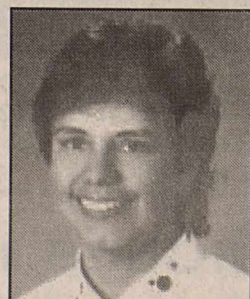


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Brackett I.S.D. will host parent information sessions regarding the gifted program on the following dates and times:

For Elementary Parents: Date: Monday, August 18 at 6:00 P.M. in Portable Building A. Portable building A can be accessed from the back parking lot and the building is located directly behind the 5th and 6th grade building.

For Secondary Parents, Junior High and High School: Date: Tuesday, August 19 at 6:00 PM in Portable Building A. We hope you will be able to attend.

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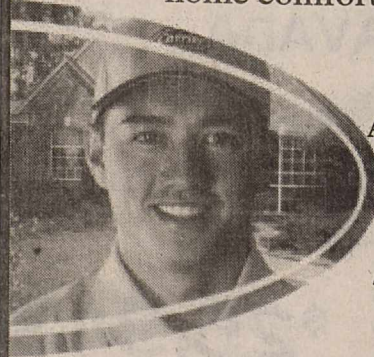
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NOTICE OF HEARINGS OF THE KINNEY COUNTY GROUNDWATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

Notice is hereby given that the Board of Directors for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District will hold Hearings on Rulemaking and district Fees on Thursday, August 21, 2003, at 4:00 p.m., in the District Courtroom of the Kinney County Courthouse located in Brackettville, Texas.

HEARING ON 2003-04 BUDGET, 2003-04 TAX RATE AND 2003-04 FEE SCHEDULES

1. Call to Order
2. Public Forum
3. Public Hearing and possible action on adoption of proposed District Budget for 2003-04.
4. Public Hearing and possible action on adoption of proposed District Tax Rate of \$.0569 for 2003
5. Public Hearing and possible action on adoption of proposed District Fee Schedules for Administrative and Regulatory Fees for 2003-04.
6. Public Forum.
7. Adjourn.

I, the undersigned authority, do hereby certify that the above NOTICE OF HEARINGS of the Board of Directors of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District, is a true and correct copy of said Notice. I have published a true and correct copy of said Notice at least Five (5) days immediately preceding the day of said hearings and will post said Notice on the bulletin board in the Kinney County Courthouse, located in Brackettville, Texas, continuously for at least Five (5) days immediately preceding the day of said hearings; a true and correct copy of said Notice was furnished to the Kinney County Clerk, in which the above named political subdivision is located.

Dated August 11, 2003

Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District
By: Darlene Shahan, Secretary



Grand opening
El Paso Street Bar & Grill, owned by Patsy Graham, is having its grand opening Saturday, which will include live music from 9 to 11 p.m. The restaurant's menu includes old-fashioned hamburgers, nachos and buffalo wings. It will also feature a different era night once a month.

Photo by Kathy Wilson

Jones appointed to UMC board

Helen Marie Jones is now serving as Kinney County representative on United Medical Centers' Board of Directors.

The Fort Clark Springs resident previously served six years on the UMC board from 1990 to 1995 as a representative of Maverick County.

United Medical Centers' Board of Directors is composed of nine members residing in Maverick, Val Verde and Kinney Counties, the three primary communities served by UMC. Board members serve strictly as volunteers, and as a group, they represent medical, business and consumer groups.

The primary role of the board is to establish corporate-wide policy for the conduct of all seven UMC service sites. While the board's function is to establish policy, it is the administrator/CEO and his staff which is charged with the responsibility of the day-to-day operation of the center's services.

"United Medical Centers is proud to welcome Mrs. Helen Marie Jones as a member of this group of dedicated individuals, who are committed to serving the entire community with quality primary health care services," said Dr. T. W. Soret, board president.



Helen Marie Jones

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Fort Clark M.U.D. will hold a meeting at 9:00 AM. On August 20, 2003 in the M.U.D. Board Room to consider adopting a proposed tax rate for tax year 2003. The proposed tax rate is 0.2583 per \$100 of value. The proposed tax rate would increase total taxes in the Fort Clark M.U.D. by 3.86% percent.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Tuesday, Aug. 5

5:20 p.m., A woman reported a dead cat in her garage at her residence on N. Sweeney Street. City officials were notified of the situation.

6:38 p.m., A Del Rio man requested assistance in picking up his furniture at an individual's residence in Brackettville.

8:44 p.m., A Border Patrol agent from the Cline check point reported a reckless driver. He said the driver of a blue Tahoe was forcing another vehicle off the road.

11:51 p.m., A man reported a white Chevrolet pick-up driving recklessly on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

Wednesday, Aug. 6

6:50 p.m., A Del Rio man reported a yellow Ford pick-up driving recklessly on the wrong side of the road.

Thursday, Aug. 7

4:55 a.m., A man reported smoke coming from the city transfer station. City officials were notified of the situation.

1:00 p.m., Adrian Santracruz, 22, of Seguin was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch for possession of marijuana and outstanding DPS warrants. He was

booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

6:15 p.m., A 911 caller reported a brush fire on Highway 674 by the Bluff Creek Subdivision. Edwards County officials were notified.

6:32 p.m., A man reported that two kids were driving a go-cart up and down Louise Street.

Friday, Aug. 8

4:20 p.m., Officials from the Val Verde Sheriff's Office reported a Chevrolet pick-up driving at a high rate of speed on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

8:13 p.m., A man reported a minor accident outside of The Bank & Trust.

11:35 p.m., The Uvalde Police Department reported a three-vehicle accident close to the Cline check point. One person was trapped in a vehicle. Three persons were reportedly injured.

Saturday, Aug. 9

3:10 a.m., A woman reported reckless driver, peeling out on Fulton Street heading towards Ann Street.

8 a.m., Juan Pedro Rodriguez, 21, of Illinois was arrested

by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for driving while intoxicated. He was released the following day after posting a \$1,500 bail bond.

2:46 p.m., A man reported a car on fire inside Bubba's Beverage Barn. The Fire Department was dispatched.

6:16 p.m., A woman reported that her uncle had been shot with a pellet gun at her residence on W. Fulton Street.

6:40 p.m., A woman reported that someone had entered her residence on the corner of Edwards and Gove Street without her permission.

7:38 p.m., A man called 911 and requested assistance in regards to a disturbance at his residence on W. Fulton Street.

8:16 p.m., A woman reported a blue and white truck driving recklessly on Brown and Thorn Street, headed towards Beaumont Street.

11:05 p.m., Maverick County officials reported that a cow was hit by a vehicle at Bed Cow Creek.

Sunday, Aug. 10

9:16 a.m., A man reported that the glass that covers the map at Fritter Park had been broken.

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★★SUV of the Week★★
2000 Ford Explorer
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2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer	18,515 miles	SN 5074
2002 GMC Yukon	34,911 miles	SN 5075
2002 Chevy Silverado Ext. Cab	20,238 miles	SN 5017
2002 Chevy Cavalier	24,711 miles	SN 5026
2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	16,838 miles	SN 5065
2002 GMC Yukon XL	53,914 miles	SN70633A
2002 Chevrolet Silverado	26,232 miles	SN 5062
2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer	44,917 miles	SN 5054
2002 Pontiac Bonneville	25,643 miles	SN 4941
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	6,716 miles	SN 4963

2002 Chevrolet Tahoe	37,317 miles	SN 5028
2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab	27,450 miles	SN 5031
2002 Chevy Avalanche	31,021 miles	SN31783A
2002 Buick LeSabre	28,120 miles	SN 4937
2001 Chevrolet Suburban	53,872 miles	SN70813A
2001 Chevrolet Prizm	22,575 miles	SN 4969
2001 Ford Ranger	37,248 miles	SN30193A
2001 Pontiac Aztek	35,249 miles	SN 5064
2001 GMC Yukon XL	50,181 miles	SN70713A
2001 Chevrolet Silverado Crew	46,024 miles	SN70743A
2001 GMC Sierra 1500	25,956 miles	SN 5010
2001 Olds Aurora	22,317 miles	SN 5032
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2001 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	29,318 miles	SN 5037

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2000 Chevrolet Prizm	34,762 miles	SN 5067
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2000 Ford Explorer	56,834 miles	SN70623A
2000 Chevrolet S-10	47,347 miles	SN 5058
2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	33,780 miles	SN 5014
2000 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup	34,178 miles	SN 5056
2000 Buick LeSabre	35,210 miles	SN 4985
2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	39,832 miles	SN 5005
2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500	28,734 miles	SN 5023
2000 Chevrolet S-10 Pickup	33,243 miles	SN 5052
1999 Isuzu Rodeo	40,941 miles	SN 5072



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 10 Start of a state capital
 11 Jungle beasts
 23 Lauder
 24 Short life stories
 25 Word on a banana
 27 Do a shoe-maker's job
 30 Skippy garment
 31 Holder of groceries
 34 Bismarck, for one
 35 Beverage
 36 Feminine one: Sp.
 37 Cafe em-
 41 Excellent test mark
 42 Ram
 43 Jim Nabors' role
 44 Uncanny sense
 45 Strip
 46 Raised platforms
 48 Hodge-podge
 49 Encyclo-pedia
 50 Blue
 53 Leafy vegetable
 54 Expert
 57 Discharges
 60 Of a branch of the service
 62 __, Alaska
 63 Run
 64 Thirst quencher
 65 Digits
 66 Ending for cigar or novel
 67 Factions
 1 Born
 5 Throw off the track
 6 Residue
 7 Cars of yesterday
 8 Moray
 9 Latin learner's verb
 10 Wipe away
 11 Sound defeat
 12 South African fox
 13 Satisfy
 19 __ sprue; intestinal woe
 22 The Raven poet
 24 Coarse person
 25 Chops well
 26 __ about; approximately
 27 TV's The Trials of __ O'Neil
 28 Group characteristics
 29 Condescend
 30 Example
 31 Warnings
 for boatmen
 32 Leg part
 33 Ozone and oxygen
 35 Sobs
 38 Candles
 39 Silver and uranium
 40 Role for Ron Howard
 46 Monetary unit: abbr.
 47 Fixes
 48 Sea divider
 49 Flavor
 50 Copper
 51 Melville novel
 52 Fruit
 53 Shoelace problem
 54 Zealous
 55 Candy shape
 56 Club
 58 Suffix for favor & graph
 59 Scrap
 61 Jackie's second

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: LANGUAGES
 MYNDHCCIBARA
 (T)HAIHSIDEWSK
 OGERMANRKEGH
 FHRSDKUSSNHE
 ISOKESSEIESS
 NIKESMUTBPWE
 NLRIDGARAHAN
 IGASULENHGHA
 SNSTIWIXTFIP
 HERASSSCHELA
 DONXHCNERFIJ
 POLISHSINADV
 1. Thai
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August 14.....Roland Boysen
 August 14.....Sarah Davis
 August 14.....Audie Herrington
 August 14.....Roger Stephens
 August 15.....Martin Luna
 August 15.....Tilda Sierra
 August 15.....Daniel Woods
 August 16.....Doug Davis
 August 16.....Andrea Garcia
 August 17.....Melissa Davis
 August 17.....Arthur Galther
 August 17.....Jessica T. Luna
 August 18.....Elaine Lord
 August 18.....Johnny Mellor
 August 18.....Matthew Smallwood
 August 19.....Judy Burks
 August 19.....Maria E. Martinez
 August 19.....Frances Mellor
 August 19.....Bill Moody
 August 19.....Danny O'Connor
 August 19.....Adam Pinales
 August 19.....Maria Sanchez
 August 19.....Linda Whalen
 August 20.....Henly Cannon
 August 20.....Juan Garcia
 August 20.....John Sell

Roaring Twenties Solution:
 1. Arabic
 2. Danish
 3. English
 4. Finnish
 5. French
 6. German
 7. Greek
 8. Hebrew
 9. Italian
 10. Japanese
 11. Korean
 12. Latin
 13. Polish
 14. Portuguese
 15. Russian
 16. Spanish
 17. Swedish
 18. Swedish
 19. Thai
 20. Vietnamese

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper
ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
 You reconnect with loved ones who live at a distance. Later in the week, you are highly motivated at work. As a result, you excel in whatever you apply your energies to.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
 Listen to what a close friend is telling you. You'll find the advice invaluable in the long run. This weekend, an unusual dream proves prophetic.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
 You're on a major charm offensive this week. It works so well, a new career opportunity arises. Later, kick up your heels and have some fun.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
 You're the model of domesticity this week. Whether it's mowing the lawn or cleaning out the attic, you're content. This weekend, give yourself a little reward for all your hard work.
LEO (July 23 to August 22)
 Your competitive spirit comes to the fore. While that certain co-worker is spurring you on, it's to your advantage. Sometimes, a little pressure brings out the best in you.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
 Be careful if signing any contracts or business deals this week. It's a good idea to have a competent lawyer by your side. This way, you'll understand exactly what you're agreeing to.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
 You don't find it easy to do, but you must stand up for yourself. Don't allow that obnoxious person to bully you. By week's end, you feel much better about how you handled the situation.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
 You suffer a minor disappointment when something you'd anticipated doesn't happen. You don't know it yet, but it's all for the best. This weekend, be cooperative about joint financial matters.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
 Priorities this week should center on domestic matters. Work is important, but it can be put on the back burner for now. Weekend activities are pleasurable and relaxing.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
 Don't let a personal problem tie you up in knots. If you do some soul-searching, you'll find the solution. Later in the week, your financial prospects look promising.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
 Your mate doesn't see eye to eye with you concerning a career matter. If you lay out your case logically, you'll be better off. Over the weekend, plan something special in a romantic vein.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
 A family member calls on you for help. Be generous with your time. This person really needs your cool head and good reasoning.
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God drops messages in the smallest places

We have probably all heard the usual stories of pennies on the sidewalk being good luck, gifts from angels, reminders of a loved one who has died, etc. I recently heard a new twist on the story. If you have heard this one, I think it bears repeating.

It seems a man and his wife were invited to spend the weekend at the husband's employer's home. The wife was nervous about the weekend. The boss was very wealthy, with a fine home and cars costing more than her house.

The employer was quite generous as a host, and took them to the finest restaurants. As they were about to enter one such exclusive restaurant, the boss was walking slightly ahead of the couple. He stopped suddenly, looking down at the pavement for a long, silent moment. There was nothing on the ground except a single darkened penny that someone had dropped, and a few cigarette butts. Still silent, the man reached down and picked up the penny.

He held it up and smiled, then put it in his pocket as if he had found a great treasure. How absurd! What need did this man have for a single penny? Why would he even take the time to stop and pick it up?

Throughout dinner, the entire scene nagged at her. Finally, she could stand it no longer. She casually mentioned that her daughter once had a coin collection, and asked if the penny he had found had been of some value.

A smile crept across the man's face as he reached into his pocket for the penny and held it out for her to see. She had seen many pennies before!

What was the point of this? "Look at it," he said. "Read what it says."

She read the words "United



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNee

States of America."

"No, not that. Read further," he said.

"One cent?"

"No, keep reading."

"In God We Trust?"

"Yes!"

"And?"

"And if I trust in God, the name of God is holy, even on a coin. Whenever I find a coin, I see that inscription. It is written on every single United States coin, but we never seem to notice it!"

"God drops a message right in front of me telling me to trust Him. Who am I to pass it by?"

"When I see a coin, I pray," he said. "I stop to see if my trust is in God at that moment. I pick the coin up as a response to God; that I do trust in Him. For a short time, at least, I cherish it as if it were gold. I think it is God's way of starting a conversation with me. Lucky for me, God is patient and pennies are plentiful!"

Recently, I was out shopping and found a penny in the parking lot. I stopped and picked it up and realized that I had been worrying and fretting about things I cannot change.

I read the words, "In God We Trust," and had to laugh. Yes, God, I get the message.

If you start looking around, you will find an unusual number of pennies lying around, but then, pennies are plentiful! And God is patient.

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

Lafrenz to be installed Saturday, Sunday morning service set at fort

By CAROLYN CONOLY
Special to The Brackett News

Pastor Nathan Lafrenz will be formally installed Saturday as vicar of Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church.

The Right Rev. Robert B. Hibbs, bishop suffragan of the Episcopal Diocese of West Texas, will install Lafrenz, whose appointment to serve Saint Andrew's was effective July 1. All area clergy are invited to attend the 4 p.m. installation at the church, and the service is

open to all communities of faith.

Lafrenz has served Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the last nine years. The Lutheran and Episcopal congregations have been engaged in a "Call to Common Mission" agreement, approved by both the Lutheran Synod and the Episcopal Diocese. It is said to be the first of its kind in Kinney County.

Lafrenz's new call means that Episcopalians will have a clergy-led worship service each and every Sunday for the first time since 1996.

Lafrenz' duties also include pastoral care, Bible study, hospital visitations, evangelism, baptisms, weddings and funerals.

Area Episcopalians from Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Laredo, Montel, Uvalde and Brackettville will worship together Sunday morning at 10 at Rendezvous Park on Fort Clark Springs.

The casual morning joint worship service, which has come to be known as "Church Under the Trees," will include contempo-



Lafrenz

rary praise music, Holy Eucharist and worship in English and Spanish.

Following the Sunday morning service, the Kinney County 4-H Shooting Club will serve a barbecue lunch, available at \$6 a plate.

■ **Editor's note:** Carolyn Conoly is a bishop's warden with Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church.

Pray for those who care for others

I really love my scanner. There is just something exciting about hearing all the goings-on around the county.

I hear the calls from the Sheriff's Department, the calls for EMS, the stops our troopers make on the highway, and lots of chatter on the Brackettville radios. I have two antennas, a big one on my car and a rubber one for at home.

When a Christian hears a siren or a police call, it is also call to prayer. When I hear the EMS get their "time out" (the official recorded time they respond to a call) it is also a time-out for me, to take a minute to pray for the safety of the first responders and the safety of those on the scene.

When I hear radio codes like "10-29" (check for any outstanding warrants), I know to pray that the response is "10-29 clear" (no warrants outstanding). I have a little list of the police codes in my office to help me pray a bit more specifically — and to follow the action, of course!

Having a scanner is quite practical, or at least I can rationalize it pretty well.

In a small community like ours, a preacher needs to know when folks are in trouble. Sometimes we can respond in ways other than prayer. We can avoid a traffic accident by taking another route. We can ensure that someone has visited the injured person in the hospital. We can visit the deputies, the troopers, the EMS team, the Volunteer Fire Department, and tell them just how much we appreciate their service — and remind them that we are praying for them.

In many ways, Christians constantly have their "prayer scanners" turned on. Christians with a healthy prayer life constantly seek others to include in their prayers.

This is no simple act of blind devotion, either. To pray for someone is to include them in the most intimate relationship we have, our relationship with God. Early Christian churches united in prayer constantly. (Acts 1:14 and 2:42)

The Bible tells us to pray without ceasing (1 Thessalonians 5:17), but we should not be engaged in constant petitions only for ourselves.



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

The Paul's letter to the Romans (12:12) urged them to be devoted to prayer as well as contributing to the needs of the saints.

When our "prayer scanners" detect a need, we should pray fervently and often because we are human and need to pray constantly so we can listen to God.

Prayer is about more than presenting a list of needs to God. It is also about listening for the prompting of the Holy Spirit. We hear our best when we combine a life of prayer with a life of diligent Bible study and eager service to others.

We pray for those who are enemies as well as those who persecute us (Romans 12:14).

Just as we pray for those around us, we look intently for ways we can be part of God's answer to prayer.

James 4:17 warns us to join our faith with action lest our faith become dead, or perhaps meaningless.

For the hungry, we find food. For the naked, we give or make clothing. For those without hope, we offer the hope of Jesus Christ.

I hope those of you with radio scanners will take time as you listen to pray for our volunteer firefighters, our deputies, our DPS troopers, and our EMS team as they respond to the immediate needs of public safety.

You can be a first-responder too, if you respond to God's word by praying for those who care for others in these needed ministries of public service. But no matter who you pray for, I hope you'll keep your "prayer scanners" turned on, looking constantly for people to pray for and ways to be part of an answered prayer.

At First United Methodist Church, we are learning how to be a people of constant prayer. Come join us each Sunday at 10:45 a.m. as we pray for each other together and share the ways God has answered our prayers!

Learning depends on attitude

"Hi Dad," said Jimmy as he threw some papers in his Dad's direction.

"You don't sound too happy with your first day at school, son," John responded.

Jimmy fell into the chair with a bounce.

"School really stinks, Dad," Jimmy angrily exclaimed.

"So, what happened, son?" John asked.

"I thought I had my schedule all taken care of," Jimmy answered. "It was even approved by my counselor. I didn't expect it to change."

"And?" John asked.

"And they changed it on me, that's what," Jimmy said. "I signed up for English with Mrs. Stevens. She's great. So, what'd they do? They put me in Miss Selman's class."

"Dad, nobody, I mean nobody, likes her," Jimmy said with emphasis. "She's a horrible teacher."

John snickered to himself, halfway glad that it would be an opportunity for Jimmy to learn about himself. He also knew well that teen-agers often exaggerate their opinions of someone they don't like for no legitimate reason.

John got up from his chair and moved in the direction of the kitchen. Motioning for



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

Jimmy to follow, he said, "C'mon, son. Men talk better with some food and drink on the table."

As they enjoyed milk and cookies, John continued: "Look son, whether you learn anything in English will not depend upon Miss Selman being a good or bad teacher. It will depend upon you and your attitude toward learning."

"Long ago, a very wise man said if you listen you will learn. If you go to class with an expectant attitude you can be taught and if you apply yourself you will do well." (Sirach 6:32-33)

Jimmy smiled. "I think I've heard this before, Dad," Jimmy said.

John smiled: "And you'll hear it again, son. Remember, what you learn here at home will be the most important things you will ever learn in life. Mom and I support you and we support the school. We'll help you to do well in Miss Selman's class."

The truth of the Lord endures forever

"O praise the Lord, all ye nations; Praise him, all ye people.

"For his merciful kindness is great toward us; and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord." (Psalm 117)

"Commit thy way unto the Lord; Trust also in him; and he shall bring it to pass." (Psalm 37:5)

"God is not a man, that he should lie; neither the Son of man, that he should repent: hath



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

he said, and shall he not do it? or hath he spoken, and shall he not make it good?" (Psalm 23:19)

Teachers are challenged with many responsibilities

Back to school is all the issue this month. Not only are children being prepared, but there is a large load placed upon the teachers who must prepare.

These days they not only have to please the parents, the school board, the school principal and superintendent, but also agents for the district, the state and the federal government.

To be a teacher, stretches not only the limits of the teachers' intelligence, creativity and devotion, but also their time and energy.

My hat goes off to all those who have been called to be teachers.

It takes much commitment and prayer to have the energy and set aside the time to properly prepare all that has been assigned to them. Often times, their own families suffer a bit.

Those who have the gifted



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

ability to teach are held responsible not only to the secular "network of authorities" for what they teach, but also to Almighty God for what they teach. They are responsible for living what they teach as well.

At times, this can be a difficult thing to do. It takes a morally strong person to stand up for what is right in God's eyes.

"Let God be true, but every man a liar; as it is written, That thou mightest be justified in thy sayings, and mightest overcome when thou art judged." (Romans 3:4)

"We shall all stand before the judgment seat of Christ. For it is written, As I live, saith the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall confess to God. So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God." (Romans 14:11-12)

It takes a morally strong person to stand up for what is truth in God's eyes and be prepared to pass this truth on to the students.

Even Jesus, who is the only begotten Son of God and our Lord and Savior, is a teacher. He taught in his lifetime on earth. (Matthew 4:23)

He commended all to "let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Matthew 5:16)

Teachers teach others how to let their "light shine."

When teaching the multitudes, Jesus often taught in parables.

These days we often use TV, videos, tapes, books and cassettes, as well as oral stories or parables to get his point across. Jesus spoke in terms that people could understand and apply in their lives. He knew that each of us have the capacity to understand and learn what is wise and truthful.

This is not a light task. Again, I take my hat off to teachers and ask all to pray for them that they have wisdom with discernment and knowledge with understanding that they may be able to creatively pass along this knowledge to the "soft clay" of the minds of students ready to be molded into vessels that will honor God in their daily lives.

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

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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First Baptist Church (SBC)

Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245

Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service - 11 a.m.

Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.

Evening Service 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study



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& 10:30 Worship

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Minister: Ray Melton

Find breaking news in The Brackett News!

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THE FOLLOWING POSITION is open at BISD: Special Education Instructional Aide. Application procedure: Application/Job Description can be picked up at the BISD Central Office, 400 Ann Street, or request by mail, Brackett ISD, PO Box 586, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, TX 78832. For information, call Central Office at (830) 563-2491, fax (830) 563-9264. Applications due August 25, 2003, 9:00 a.m. Direct inquiries to Bobby Templeton, Superintendent. Brackett ISD is an equal opportunity employer

THE FOLLOWING POSITION is open at BISD: Temporary Full-Time Custodian. Application procedure: Applications/Job Descriptions can be picked up at the Brackett ISD Central Office, 400 Ann Street, or request by mail, Brackett ISD, PO Box 586, Brackettville, TX 78832. For information call Central Office at (830) 563-2491, fax (830) 563-9264. Applications accepted until position filled. Direct inquiries to Bobby Templeton, Superintendent, bobbyt@brackett.k12.tx.us. Brackett ISD is an equal opportunity employer

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 Espiritu Santo, tu que me alcaras todo, que iluminas todos los caminos, para que yo alcance mi ideal, tu que me das el don divino de perdonar y olvidar el mal que hacen y que en todos los instantes de mi vida estas conmigo, yo quiero en este corto dialogo agradecerte por todo y confirmar una vez mas que nunca quiero separarme de ti, por mayor que sea la ilusion material. Deseo estar contigo y todos mis seres queridos en la gracia perpetua. Gracias por tu misericordia para conmigo y los mios. La persona debiera rezar esta oracion 3 dias seguidos sin decir el pedido, dentro de tres dias sera alcanzada la gracia por mas dificil que sea.
 G.S.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle
 STAND AREA ERAS
 PUREE BEEM ROSA
 ENTER HOLOCAUST
 DES APES ESTEE
 BLOS DOTE
 RESOLE MINT BAG
 OTTO COODA UNA
 SHORORDERBOOKS
 ILO ABLE PYLE
 ESP PEEB DATED
 MEO TOME
 COLOR MALE ACE
 EMISSIONS NAVAL
 NOME TROT BRINK
 TOES ETTIE SIDES

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Animal anthrax confirmed near Del Rio, area producers urged to vaccinate livestock

Laboratory tests completed in early August have confirmed that a white-tailed deer near Del Rio died from anthrax. This is the first confirmed case of the disease in Texas in 2003.

"It's not unusual to have a few cases of anthrax in livestock or deer each year in Texas, and usually, they occur in a triangle bounded by Uvalde, Ozona and Eagle Pass, which takes in portions of Crockett, Val Verde, Sutton, Edwards, Kinney, Uvalde and Maverick counties," said Dr. Bob Hillman, state veterinarian and executive director for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency.

"In early July, counties around Del Rio received rains spawned by Hurricane Claudette as the storm moved westward over land.

"The welcome moisture was followed by a normal hot, dry spell. This weather pattern can

trigger the germination of dormant anthrax spores in the ground, causing them to migrate to the surface and contaminate soil and grass, where the bacteria is ingested by grazing animals," he said.

"If the animals haven't been vaccinated against the disease, the anthrax bacteria can cause severe illness within hours and death within a couple of days. Carcasses of infected animals may bloat quickly and blood may ooze from body openings."

While laboratory tests, run by the Texas Veterinary Medical Diagnostic Laboratory in College Station, are needed to confirm infection, all anthrax cases — suspected or laboratory confirmed — must be reported to the TAHC.

The regulatory agency operates a 24-hour hotline at 1-800-550-8242, with state or federal regulatory veterinarians available at all times to take calls and work with private veterinary

practitioners and producers.

Hillman explained that the TAHC has two main concerns about anthrax cases. The first is to ensure that potentially exposed or incubating animals are not moved from the premise.

"We don't want animals to die in transit or on a new premise and then be mis-handled," Hillman said. "Therefore, our regulations require that animals on an infected premises be quarantined for at least 10 days after all the livestock have been vaccinated against the disease. This period of time allows for any previously exposed animals to die from the disease, while healthy animals will develop immunity, thanks to the vaccine.

"Ranchers with livestock in areas where anthrax cases usually occur either vaccinate routinely each spring, or begin vaccinating their cattle, sheep, goats, horses or other grazing animals as soon as a season's first

case is reported," he said. "Although the injected vaccine is very effective, unfortunately, there is no approved method for administering vaccine to free-ranging deer, which can't be rounded up and restrained in a chute for vaccination."

The second concern about anthrax is the proper disposal of infected carcasses.

Hillman pointed out that, prior to release of a TAHC quarantine, carcasses of infected animals must be burned thoroughly, to prevent anthrax bacteria from leaching into the soil, where it can remain dormant for decades as spores.

"Carcasses of animals that have died of anthrax should not be opened, and to avoid bacterial contamination of the soil, carcasses, animal bedding and nearby manure must be burned, and the surrounding soil must be scorched to kill the bacteria, using gasoline or wood as fuel," he said.

Hillman advised producers not to burn oils, diesel or tires, as these products create air pollution. He said proper carcass disposal also prevents wild pigs, coyotes, dogs or other predators from dragging carcasses (and the anthrax bacteria) from one pasture to another.

"When burning potentially infected carcasses, or vaccinating livestock against anthrax, ranchers should wear shirts with long sleeves and put on gloves to avoid contaminating sores or scratches on their arms or hands," Hillman said. "Skin anthrax can cause a nasty sore that requires appropriate antibiotic treatment from a physician, so practice good general sanitation practices.

"Wash your hands and clothes. Consider disinfecting equipment used to move bedding, potentially infected manure or fuel.

"Keep pets away from carcasses, and avoid picking up

bones, horns or antlers from dead animals. Healthy animals should be moved from anthrax-contaminated areas during an outbreak.

"Hunters often ask us about anthrax and risks associated with harvesting animals," Hillman said. "Fortunately, by the time hunting season starts, cool weather usually puts an end to a season's outbreak. Always shoot only healthy-looking animals.

"If a deer has ingested anthrax bacteria, within hours, it will stagger, tremble or exhibit convulsions, and death is inevitable.

"Anthrax is not a danger to travelers or vacationers in an area where cases have occurred," Hillman stressed. "We advise tourists to avoid touching carcasses, and they won't have to worry about the bacteria or contracting the disease. Anthrax has been with us for hundreds of years, and while cases are noteworthy, they are not alarming."

It's never too early to teach good dental health habits

SAN ANTONIO — Good dental health habits are hard to break. As a parent, you can help your children develop good behavior with practice, patience and positive reinforcement to ensure a lifetime of healthy smiles.

In honor of Children's Dental Health Month, Castle Dental offers parents the following smile-saving tips from the American Dental Association:

■ **Take care before birth:** Your baby's teeth start to form during the third and sixth months of pregnancy. Therefore, expecting mothers should consume good amounts of dairy products for calcium to help babies develop strong bones and teeth.

■ **Clean those gums:** Even

though you can't see them, babies have 20 primary teeth that are almost completely formed in the jaw. Parents should wipe the baby's gums with a gauze pad after feeding to remove the bacteria that will harm the erupting teeth.

■ **Go to the dentist:** We recommend that you take your children to the dentist by their first birthday. The dentist will check for decay and teach you proper techniques to clean their teeth daily. He or she will also evaluate potentially bad habits.

■ **Watch out for decay:** Your baby's primary teeth, or baby teeth, are very important for chewing, speaking and hold space in the jaws for permanent teeth.

Protect children with appropriate vaccinations

Little Aubree Milner is lucky. As an infant, she suffered but survived a sometimes deadly disease called pertussis, commonly known as whooping cough.

What began as a raspy little cough progressed over the course of several weeks to pneumonia. In between, there were numerous visits to doctors, antibiotic treatments, respiratory therapy, choking episodes, difficulty breathing because her airways were so restricted by mucous, a cough so severe that it sometimes caused her to lose consciousness and several hospitalizations, the last of which was 12 days in pediatric intensive care with IVs in her feet and head.

Because she was just a few weeks old when she contracted the disease, she was too young to have started the DTAP

(diphtheria, tetanus and acellular pertussis) vaccine series recommended for babies at 2, 4, 6, 12 and 15 to 18 months of age.

So what makes Aubree lucky? Unlike 10 other Texas babies who have died from pertussis in the past 27 months, she pulled through, recovered completely and is now an energetic 2-year-old. She's also up to date on all her vaccinations.

Vaccines save lives and prevent serious illnesses. For that reason, Texas First Lady Anita Perry and Texas Commissioner of Health Eduardo Sanchez are working together to persuade more parents to get their children vaccinated.

"Immunizations are one of the most important ways parents can protect their children against serious diseases," Sanchez said. "We can now prevent more diseases than ever before. How-

ever, parents are often not aware of what it takes to fully immunize a child."

Pertussis is one of 11 vaccine-preventable diseases that babies should be protected against by age 2. The others are hepatitis B, diphtheria, tetanus (lockjaw), diseases caused by the Haemophilus influenzae type b organism, polio, pneumococcal diseases, chicken pox, measles, mumps and rubella (German measles).

In addition, children living in areas having a high incidence of hepatitis A disease should receive two doses of the hepatitis A vaccine — one at age 2 and a second shot six months later.

About 40 Texas counties have a high incidence of hepatitis A. Parents should check with their local health department or their health-care provider to see if their child should have the vac-

cination. Then, at age 14, children should receive a booster dose of the tetanus and diphtheria vaccine.

"Following the immunizations schedule will ensure that your child is vaccinated against these debilitating and even deadly diseases," Perry said. "All parents want to provide a safe environment for their children, and vaccines are one of the most effective ways we as parents can achieve that goal."

The Texas immunization rate is now 75 percent, meaning that one in four children in the state is not up to date on routine immunizations. Texas ranks 42nd among the states for the 4:3:1 series in children 19 through 35 months of age. The 4:3:1 series includes four diphtheria-tetanus-pertussis vaccinations, three polio vaccinations and one measles vaccination.

OUTDOORS

Hunting and fishing licenses set to go on sale tomorrow

New hunting and fishing licenses for 2003-04 will be available beginning tomorrow, and the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department is urging customers to buy early and avoid the Labor Day weekend rush heading into the dove hunting season.

All current annual hunting and fishing licenses expire on Aug. 31.

"If you wait to renew your license the weekend before dove season opens (Sept. 1 for north and central zones), you will be competing with about 300,000 other hunters and anglers that are expected to race to the stores during the holiday weekend," said Mary Fields, chief financial officer at TPWD.

Texas issues 3.2 million hunting and fishing licenses annually through 28 TPWD field offices, more than 100 state parks and at many retailers across Texas.

Hunters and anglers can also purchase licenses by calling (800) 895-4248. The phone license operation serves both Texas

and non-residents, enabling hunters and anglers to buy licenses by phone using a major credit card. Call center hours are 9 a.m. to 8 p.m. on Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to noon on Saturday.

A license confirmation number is issued at the time of purchase, and the physical license is mailed separately. Confirmation numbers will verify that a license has been purchased, but will not allow hunters to take fish or wildlife that requires a tag. A \$5 fee is charged for ordering by phone.

The state is working on an Internet-based system whereby hunting and fishing licenses could be purchased online in



A Little on the Wildlife Side

Henry Lutz

fishing license.

Anyone planning to hunt migratory game birds such as dove and waterfowl this year must be certified under the Harvest Information Program (HIP).

Migratory game bird hunters (doves and migratory game birds) are urged to check their new license at the time of sale. HIP certification will be printed on the license at the time of sale, only after the purchaser answers a few brief migratory bird questions. Lifetime license holders must also be HIP-certified to hunt migratory birds.

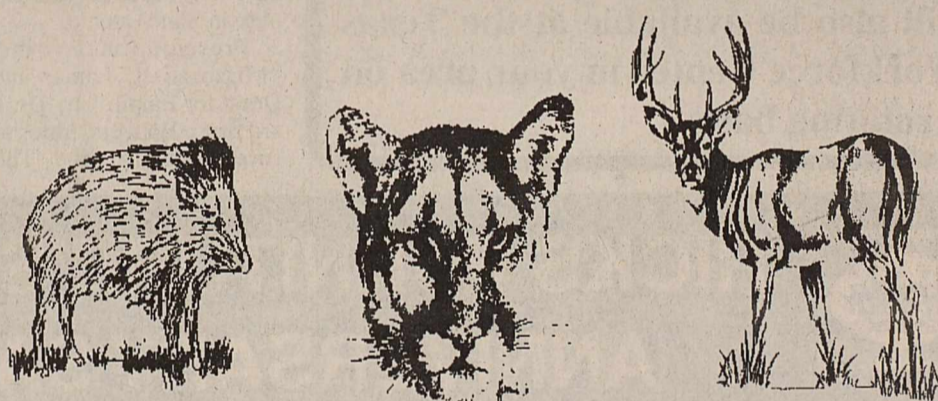
Wherever licenses are sold, several other items for the 2003-04 season are also available, including annual public hunting permits and entries in Big Time Texas Hunt drawings.

The Big Time Texas Hunts program offers the opportunity to win one or more guided hunts with food and lodging provided. Proceeds are dedicated to providing more public hunting opportunities and funding wildlife conservation and/or research programs in Texas.

Entries in the Big Time Texas Hunt drawings are \$10 each. There is no limit to the number of entries an individual may purchase, and entries may be purchased as gifts for others. Purchasers must be 17 years old or older.

Information about the Big Time Texas Hunts and an entry form is available on the Web at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/pubhunt/bigtime.htm>.

The entry deadline on all categories is midnight on Nov. 1. Entries may be purchased year-round, but entries received after the deadline will be entered in the drawing for the following year.

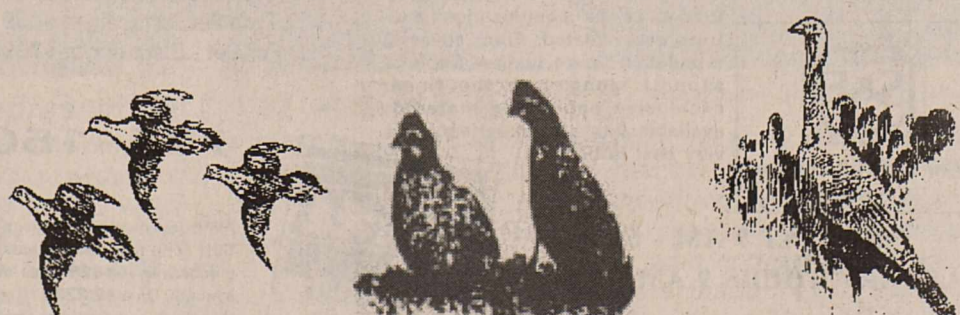


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BRIEFS

DAR planning trip to Fredericksburg

The Executive Committee of Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution met last week to make preparations for the upcoming year.

The first meeting of the year will be a field trip to Fredericksburg on Saturday, Sept. 20. The Hill Country Council is sponsoring a Constitution Day luncheon, which will be hosted by the Ephriam Andrews Chapter. There will be no September meeting in Uvalde.

The luncheon celebration will be at Andy's Diner at 413 S. Washington St. (Highway 87 South) beginning at 11:30 a.m. The guest speaker will be Carter Casteel.

Preregistration is required with checks for \$12 made out to the Ephriam Andrews Chapter and mailed to Margaret G. Phillips, regent, 601 Lupine Lane, Fredericksburg, TX 78624, prior to Sept. 10.

This meeting will be open to the general public and anyone interested in the history of the United States may attend. For further information, contact any local DAR member.

Beginning in October, the chapter will meet on the third Saturday of each month at The Bistro in Uvalde for the regular monthly assembly at 11 a.m.

Little League teams conclude season

The Kinney County Little League concluded another successful season. The 9- and 10-year-old all-stars played three games at district in Eagle Pass, while the 11- and 12-year-old team played two games in Crystal City.

The girls' 11- and 12-year-old softball team advanced to sectionals in Fredericksburg. The teams played three games in sectional play, losing their first then winning their second game. The junior boys also competed in sectional play in San Antonio.

Community health centers: Neighbors helping neighbors

For over 30 years, community health centers have provided community-based care to patients who otherwise may not have received necessary medical treatment.

This month our nation celebrates "Community Health Center Week." It's an opportunity to remind folks about the important role that community health centers play in our lives.

Just recently, I had the honor of touring a new building at the Gateway Community Health Center in Laredo. I hold this building especially close to my heart because it was named in my honor.

As I walked from room to room, I was reminded of the miracles that take place every day in centers just like this one.

Community health centers, like the ones in Laredo and Uvalde, serve the millions of people who choose to live in rural America. They fill a critical role in health care and should not be taken for granted.

Whether it's because the only doctor is too far away or is too expensive, receiving proper medical care is just not an option for some folks. This is where community health centers step in.

We all know that being healthy is important to being a productive member of your family and the larger community. But too often in poor and rural regions of Texas, parents and children are forced to go without proper health care.

Community health centers are



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

able to provide important health services for rural America. Whether it's preventive prenatal care or early detection of diseases like diabetes or breast cancer, community health centers increase access to much needed care.

But community health centers do much more than just treat illness. They also help prevent disease and strengthen entire communities.

Community health centers

improve citizens' health, but they also provide jobs, strengthen schools, stabilize neighborhoods and enhance community pride.

Workers are able to be more productive, children are able to stay in school, and mothers are able to care for their newborn babies.

Community health centers work because they are neighbors helping neighbors to keep their community healthy and happy.

I'd like to say thank you, once again, to all the people who have dedicated themselves to these important institutions. We owe you a great deal of gratitude and in many instances, we owe you our lives. Thank you and keep up the good work!

McKelvy installed as chapter president for Daughters of the Republic of Texas

The Caddel-Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas recently installed a new slate of officers for 2003-2005.

Prior to the installation, Billie Jean Davis, president, called the meeting to order and gave the objectives of DRT.

Bea Carmichael led the opening prayer and Otela Patterson led the pledge to the flags of the United States of America and of Texas. Minutes of the previous meeting were read by secretary Pricilla Montgomery and treasurer Ernestine Carson reported on the chapter's finances.

Names of prospective members were presented by registrar Pat McKelvy: Alta Mae Miller Dutton, Marcella Marie Anderson Epperson and Carolyn Whittle Anderson, all from

Rocksprings, and Ashley Anne Louk from Bakersfield, Calif.

An inactive member of the Kerrville chapter, Mollie Montgomery Wood Scherer, expressed a desire to reinstate with the Caddel-Smith Chapter.

Those desiring to become associate members of the local chapter were Mary Louise Anderson Smith of Round Rock and Lillie Cheaney Lucas Skrobarek of La Vernia. All of the above were welcomed.

The winner of the Caddel-Smith Chapter Scholarship for 2003 was Laura Goodson. She is the 2003 valedictorian of Sabinal High School.

Goodson, along with her mother, was introduced by Fran Brookshier. She was the 1999 District VII DRT essay contest

winner and has made it a point of encouraging local fourth and seventh grade students to participate in the competitions.

Goodson has been accepted by Texas A&M University and plans to major in architecture.

Billie Jean Davis and Fran Brookshier installed the new chapter officers for 2003-05.

Patsy Cummings McKelvy of Fort Clark was installed as president. First vice president will be Kay Allen Anderson of Leakey and second vice president will be Patricia Blalack Moehring of Hondo.

Serving as treasurer will be Ernestine Jessup Carson from Barksdale and recording secretary will be Pricilla Lucas Montgomery from Tarpley. Registrar will be Louise Bruce Stone from

Fort Clark.

Also installed were chaplain Nettie Huddleston Ollre from Leakey, historian Patricia Nichol Burrier from Leakey, flag custodian Otela Davis Patterson from Mountain Home, and parliamentarian Bille Jean Faulkner Davis from Uvalde.

The sponsor of the John Blanton Chapter of the Children of the Republic will be Frances Wyatt Brookshier of San Antonio, assisted by Ruby Huddleston Brigman of Uvalde.

Crystal City member Emalee Carruthers will be a consultant for the chapter's history book.

Other local members of the Caddel-Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas include Charlotte Corey, Mary Seaver and Agnes Vondy.

If you are currently receiving Supplemental Security Income and/or Social Security Disability Insurance and you've always wanted to go back to work on a trail basis, but you have been afraid of losing your benefits.

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Politics, ranching and medicine to be discussed at forum

Politics, ranching and medicine — powerful topics in the Texas saga — will be the focus of the Texas History Forum scheduled on the morning of Friday, Oct. 17, at the Alamo complex in San Antonio.

Presentations include "Mirabeau B. Lamar and the Quest for Empire" by Dr. Richard Bruce Winders, historian and curator of the Alamo; "The Un-

told Story of Early Texas Medicine" by Dr. Byron LaBurt Howard of Dallas; "I Would Rather Sleep in Texas: Why the Valley Drew Settlers Despite Border and Civil Unrest" by Mary Margaret McAllen Amberson of San Antonio; and "King Ranch: Land, Desire and History" by Dr. Don Graham of the University of Texas.

Winders is the author of two

award-winning books: "Crisis in the Southwest" and "Mr. Polk's Army." He was also assistant editor of "The United States and Mexico at War: Nineteenth Century Expansionism and Conflict."

Seating is limited and pre-registration is advised. Please send a check for \$15 for the forum plus \$20 for luncheon reservations at the Lone Star Pal-

ace, overlooking the Alamo, to the DRT Library Committee, P.O. Box 1401, San Antonio TX 78295-1401. The deadline to register is Oct. 10.

The Daughters of the Republic of Texas sponsors the Texas History Forum with proceeds dedicated to the Herpik Conservation and Restoration Fund of the DRT Library in San Antonio.

A balanced diet proves to be valuable for potbellied pigs

It may seem ironic to put a pig on a diet, but obesity in potbellied pigs can negatively affect your pet.

Obesity is an increasing problem in potbellied pigs and can lead to many different health and healthcare problems, according to Dr. Bruce Lawhorn, a professor and extension swine veterinarian in the College of Veterinary Medicine at Texas A&M University.

"Generally speaking, the heaviest mature weight for even the largest frame potbellied pig should not exceed 125 to 150 pounds," Lawhorn said.

A feeding strategy for potbellied pigs should furnish an adequate, balanced diet that prevents excessive weight gain, Lawhorn believes.

Potbellied pigs seem to gain weight very easily. Overweight potbellied pigs usually are about 25 pounds more than their ideal weight, and anything greater is categorized as obese.

"I have seen some potbellied pigs that are 125 to 150 pounds heavier than their frame size will allow," Lawhorn said. "It's a miracle that these potbellied pigs can walk around. Many can't."

Extremely overweight potbellied pigs experience lameness due to the stress of carrying excess weight, Lawhorn added.

Another characteristic of ex-

tremely obese potbellied pigs is that their eyelids are often forced closed by facial fat. Weight loss is necessary before it can be determined if their closed eyelids result from a medical problem or obesity.

Lawhorn said owners should be aware that obesity makes it difficult for veterinarians to perform even a basic physical examination. For example, the slightest excitement and exertion rapidly increases the pig's temperature and pulse rate, making it difficult to take accurate vital signs.

"Fat deposits surrounding the lower neck area, a site where blood is drawn, make blood collection very difficult," Lawhorn said. "It is also very challenging to collect urine samples from obese male or female potbellied pigs. If body fluids cannot be collected, test cannot be performed."

"If that were not enough, ultrasound and radiographs are hindered by the extreme thickness of the body walls," Lawhorn added.

Anesthetic risk during surgery also increases because inherently small chest and lung capacity of the potbellied pig is compounded by obesity. Lawhorn said there is also a higher risk of post surgical complications such as heart, kidney or multi-organ failure.

"Putting a potbellied pig on a balanced diet helps to ensure a healthier pig," Lawhorn said.

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