

The Brackett News



Softball team wins its district opener
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16th year, No. 7

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



A historical ceremony

Numerous citizens turned out Monday afternoon for the dedication ceremony of a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark for the Kinney County Courthouse, which celebrated its 93rd birthday on that day.

Photo by Jewel Robinson

Historic marker unveiled in Courthouse ceremony

A new Texas Historical Marker was unveiled at the Kinney County Courthouse Monday during a special ceremony.

The local Courthouse, which turned 93 years old on Monday, was officially recognized as a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark by the Texas Historical Commission.

Ailene Reid, chair of the Kinney County Historical Commission, served as master of ceremonies for the dedication ceremony.

County Judge Herb Senne, Brackettville Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca "Chica" Garza and Fort Clark Springs President Tom Saylor all addressed the crowd during the ceremony.

The Brackett High School band provided music for the occasion, Rev. Roger Baker offered the invocation and Rev. Tuck Holt gave the benediction.

The new marker was unveiled by Senne and County Commissioner Francie Wylie.

The designation of a Recorded Texas Historic Landmark is the highest honor the state bestows to a historic structure for architectural integrity and historical associations.

"Historic structures serve as directories of early residents and reflect the cultural influences that helped shape our state's communities," said Larry Oaks, executive director of the Texas Historical Commission.

"The Recorded Texas Historic Landmark helps bring attention to these community treasures and the importance of their preservation. Awareness and education are among the best ways to guarantee the preservation of such architectural and heritage-rich sites. This designation is a tool that will increase public awareness of these important cultural resources," Oaks said.

A proposed marker topic must meet several criteria to qualify.

"It is vital that as we move forward, we do not forget our past," said Francie Wylie, county commissioner of Precinct 1.

"Not only will the Recorded Texas Historic Landmark provide awareness in the community of our fascinating history, but also it will become a building block for the promotion of local tourism," she added.



Unveiling the marker
Commissioner Francie Wylie (left) and Herb Senne unveiled the new historic marker at the Courthouse on Monday.

Photo by Jewel Robinson

Fort Clark to announce voting results

Annual meeting is Saturday at 11

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

third director will serve a two-year term.

Results of the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors election will be announced Saturday at the association's annual membership meeting.

The meeting begins at 11 a.m. at Post Theater. A barbecue will follow at noon at the Service Club.

There are five candidates seeking three seats on the Fort Clark board: Pat Crum, Mary Gray-Partlow, Howard Wakefield, Monica White and Robert Windle.

The top two vote-getters will serve three-year terms, while the

The ballots also included a proposition to change the number of directors from seven to five, effective with the commencement of the 2005 election.

Ballots for the election were sent to members in February and had to be returned to the auditing firm this past Monday.

The agenda for the membership meeting includes a state of the association address by President Tom Saylor, a financial report, recognition of committees, special recognition, recognition of employees and outgoing directors, and presentation of the Member of the Year award.

Rio Grande Electric to sponsor contest

Rio Grande Electric Co-operative is hosting an essay contest for students ages 14 to 18 in the Brackettville area.

To be eligible, a student's parent or legal guardian must be a bona fide member in good standing of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative (RGEN).

Entrants must submit an original 500 word or more essay entitled: "Why Co-ops Are Special."

The winning entrant in the 2004 RGEN Essay Contest will win a new computer system.

The upper right-hand corner of the essay must contain the member's name (parent or legal guardian), address and telephone number as it appears on their Rio Grande Electric bill, as well as the student's name, age and the name of the school the student currently attends.

References to family names, specific locations or any information that might reveal the identity of the writer must not be included in the body of the essay.

Entries must be submitted to Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc., P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, TX 78832, in a sealed envelope, clearly marked "Essay Contest." Entries must be received by April 30.

Cooperative information packets are available from any RGEN area office or by calling (800) 749-1509. Applicants may

find this information helpful in obtaining information about the cooperative business model.

Additional resource material may be found online at www.riogrande.coop, www.ncba.coop/primer.cfm, rurdev.usda.gov and www.coop.org.

Contestants are reminded that judges will be familiar with the information contained on these sites, and plagiarism could result in disqualification.

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, headquartered in Brackettville, is a member-owned, non-profit electric cooperative, serving rural residents in 18 counties in Texas and two counties in New Mexico.

With offices in Brackettville, Carrizo Springs, El Paso, Fort Stockton, Dell City and Marfa, RGEN employs approximately 100 rural residents.

The co-op operates an internet service, RioNet, which is available throughout most of its territory.

RGEN has a strong history of community service and promotion of sustainable rural development throughout its 27,000 square mile service territory.

RGEN also maintains the electrical distribution system for Fort Bliss in El Paso, the nation's largest Army Air Artillery Base.

For more information on RGEN, call (800) 749-1509 or visit the co-op's website at www.riogrande.coop.

INSIDE

Historic Alamo
The Alamo Village, built for the 1960 film on the Battle of the Alamo, was the state's first permanent outdoor movie location.
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A new district
Brackett coach Rhonda Marquardt has finalized the Tigerettes' schedule following the release of the new state realignment for volleyball.
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Baseball falls
The Mustangs broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth, scoring one run, as Natalia claimed a 5-4 victory over the Brackett Tigers.
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16th year, No. 7

Hood presents art workshop

By SILK WATERS MOONEY
Contributing Writer

Jean Hood focused on numerous techniques every artist can use to guarantee a dynamic and proportionate piece recently while presenting an art workshop for Brackettville and Fort Clark residents.

Hood is a member of the Fort Clark Arts, which sponsored the free workshop.

Approximately 20 people attended the workshop — some were beginning artists, some advanced.

Some of the attendees were Betty Gibbs, who won "best in show" at the 2002 Del Rio Art League Judged Show, and Connie Armbruster, who has won several ribbons and awards for her work.

Hood is an accomplished artist who has work exhibited in galleries in several states, including Texas, Louisiana and Wisconsin. She won "best in show" in 2003 at the Del Rio Art League Judged Show.

Hood kept her audience captivated as she explained one technique of keeping a painting "dynamic."

"By dynamic, I mean that the painting keeps the viewer's eye constantly moving. The viewer never becomes bored with it, or loses interest," she said.

By marking a canvas on the side at one-third as well as one-fourth marks, an artist can review the lines contained within the painting to make sure that they are never recurrent. Although it sounds technical and difficult, Hood made it easy and comfortable for everyone in attendance to understand the concept.

Another topic covered was proportion.

"It's so easy to paint a building, but does it look lopsided, or does it look like you want it to?" questioned Hood.

By tracing lines from the edge of the original line of the building to the horizon line in the back of the painting, an artist can ensure that a side view of a building looks like a side view, and not just a block on the page.

Once again a difficult concept, but within minutes Hood had the audience understanding and creating their desired effect.

Fort Clark Arts members meet on the first Monday of every month at 1 p.m. The club



Talking about art
Jean Hood, a member of the Fort Clark Arts, recently presented an art workshop for Brackettville and Fort Clark residents.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

charges \$12 per year for a membership, which entitles members to gallery space in the upper floor of the old Fort Clark maintenance building, an extensive art library, monthly meetings, discounts on art supplies and

wonderful camaraderie. The club sponsors numerous workshops per year. Some are presented by club members for free, while others are presented by local professional artists for a nominal fee. For instance, lo-

cal artist Bud Breen was at the club last week for a workshop on western art techniques.

For more information about Fort Clark Arts, call Betty Wright at 563-2559 or Betty Gibbs at 563-9084.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Wardlaw: City is reaching goals

I am writing to answer some of Mrs. Garcia's concerns. I would like to remind Mrs. Garcia that the City of Brackettville is recovering from an awesome debt of over \$200,000. We have paid all our creditors. This was a priority over everything else.

If you have attended the council meetings, you would know I am working with the county to do street repairs through an interlocal agreement the county and the city approved. We could very well have all the amenities such as a city police and trash pick-up, but our city taxes would increase.

Which brings me to another concern I have for you. If citizens like yourself were not delinquent on their taxes, we might be able to provide more for the city.

I believe if you are in attendance of the monthly meetings and are a diligent taxpayer, you have a right to complain.

I want the City of Brackettville to move in the right direction, but with constant criticism it will not. We finally have a team that is working together, please work with us and give us time. The reality of it is nothing is accomplished overnight, but look what has been accomplished in six months!

The 3 percent cost of living raise amounted to about 1 percent after taxes. Keep in mind they have not had a raise in over three years.

I am fascinated by the amount of people who are so concerned about the city. Where were you during the Luna error?

Bonnie Wardlaw
City Secretary

Gypsies raised \$450 at festival


On Saturday, March 13, the Normandy, Texas Gypsy Motorcycle Club set up a booth at the Fort Clark Springs Festival. They were selling tickets for a powered motor scooter with the proceeds going to assist the Maverick County Hospital District Early Childhood Intervention Program.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who bought tickets from us for this very worthy cause. We are proud to say, despite the weather, we sold \$415 worth of tickets.

A big Gypsy thank you goes out to Mrs. Donna Cummins and a tip of the hat goes out to the citizens of the surrounding area, Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs and winter Texans, for assisting us and making us feel welcome at your festival. The drawing for the electric scooter will be held on March 27 at Las Noches Mexicanas in Eagle Pass.

Normandy, Texas
Gypsy Motorcycle Club

Big Mama See!



You can't fool all the people all the time, but most of us try.

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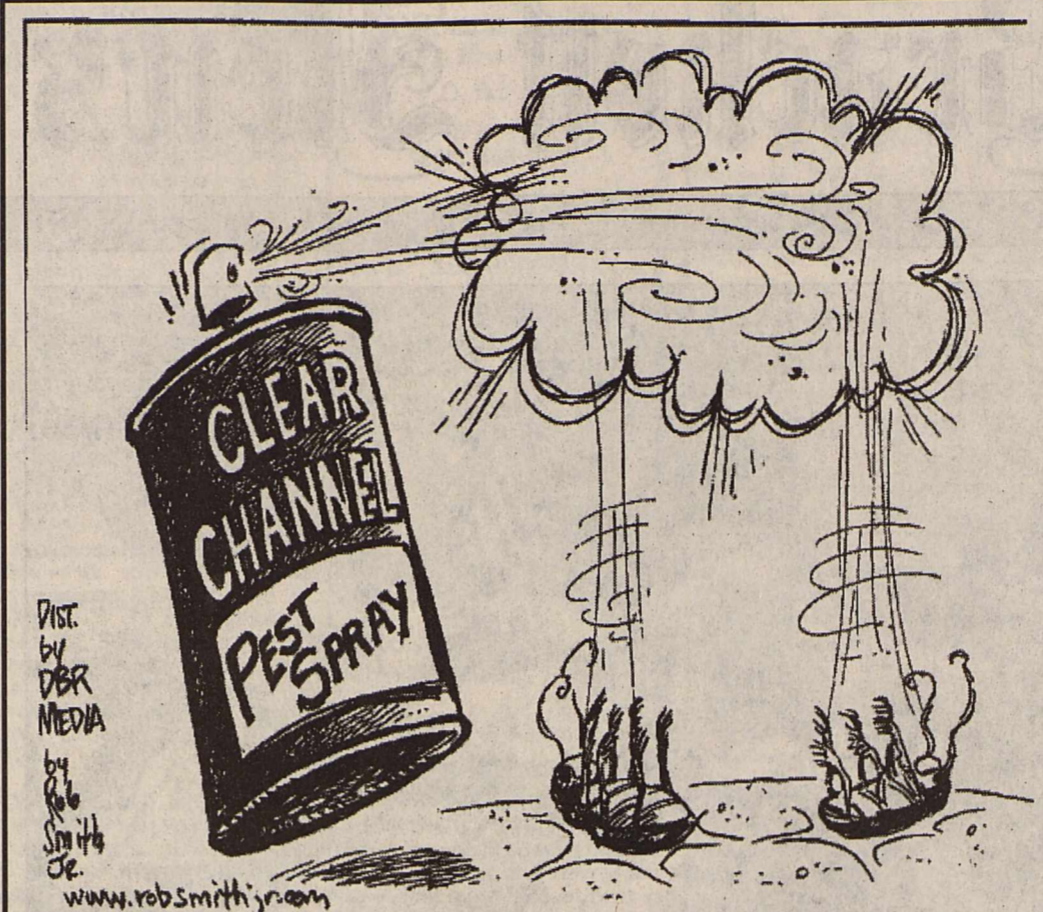
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History repeats itself

I would imagine, everyone has heard the saying, 'History repeats itself'.

The recent actions of our city government make me more inclined to consider it an axiom rather than a saying.

After meeting for three consecutive weeks, the city council raised landfill fees on March 15th. The council also gave a 3% raise to city employees.

Monthly rates for businesses increased 233% from \$9 to \$30 a month. Residential fees remained the same at \$7 per month, however, a number of other fees were added.

To raise business rates 233% while leaving residential rates the same is obviously a politically driven decision.

It's interesting that the first two meetings were posted as 'Council Meeting', held at the annex and well attended by the public. The third meeting, where the council took action, was posted as a 'Council Workshop', held at city hall with only a few members of the public in attendance.

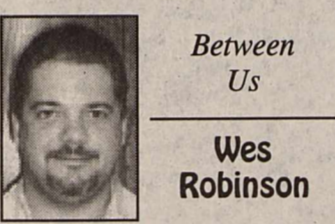
It is also interesting after a considerable amount of negative public input, regarding the proposed fee schedule, at the first two meetings, the council went right ahead and passed that same schedule at the third meeting.

Do you think they had already made up their minds? I certainly do!

To start with a governmental entity can not take action during a 'workshop'. The purpose of a workshop is to come up with a plan that you can act on at a subsequent meeting.

Anyone worthy of an elected position should know this or they shouldn't be in office.

There is another thing that just doesn't add up. The city was



Between Us
Wes Robinson

over \$200,000 in debt, a large amount of which were landfill fees, according to the city secretary these debts have been paid.

Now the only way you could pay these debts is if you had excessive revenues.

So why does the city need to raise fees? What is the council planning to do with that money? Approximately twelve years ago, we had a new city secretary take over with the city in financial trouble.

We had our services cut, our rates raised and as soon as the city could see the light at the end of the tunnel the council gave raises to the city employees. Does that sound familiar to you?

The city council needs to understand, while they need to take care of city employees, their first prior is to provide services to the citizens of Brackettville. You have an opportunity to help them understand in May, I would suggest you use it.

Senator discusses a year of war and Iraq's future

One year ago this March, American troops rolled into Baghdad and in a matter of days, wiped out a brutal regime that had governed Iraq with an iron fist for decades.

Many Americans will recall the "shock and awe" campaign waged by the U.S. military that lit the skies of Baghdad in a brilliant display of the strength and precision of our Armed Forces. This one-year anniversary is a fitting time to appreciate the hope that now exists in the hearts of the Iraqi people.

The Terror Within

The gravest threat to the United States today is the potential cooperation between terrorist groups and rogue states developing or possessing weapons of mass destruction.

Saddam Hussein was a threat to America and the world. He had a track record of unleashing terror. In 1988 he spewed forth a witches' brew of nerve agents, mustard gas and conventional weapons to kill 5,000 innocent Iraqi civilians — mostly women and children — in the town of Halabja.

His wrath also frequently turned on his neighbors. In 1980 he invaded Iran leaving an estimated 1 million dead. A decade later his invasion of Kuwait killed at least 1,000.

This ticking time bomb defied the international community for 12 years and through 17 United Nations Security Council resolutions. Words alone would not stop this monster.

To date we have not found the stockpiles of weapons we



Capitol Comment
Kay Bailey Hutchison

The inclusion of women's rights in the document is particularly significant, as Iraqi women have for generations been oppressed and denied basic rights.

Ambassador Paul Bremer recently recalled the story of one Iraqi woman, Rajaa Khuzai, a 57-year-old mother of seven and one of three women on the Iraq Governing Council.

In 1991, when Saddam Hussein sent Republican Guards to put down a rebellion in her town of Diwaniya, Rajaa was the only doctor left in her hospital. An obstetrician, she remembers performing more than 20 cesarean section births, working alone by candlelight.

With Iraq leaving behind its past under Saddam Hussein, women like Rajaa Khuzai will never again be left in the dark.

A Future

The next months and years are critical for Iraq's development. As we work to remove ourselves from the governance process and hand the reins over to the Iraqi people, we do so knowing the task at hand is great.

Three decades of rule under a regime of murderers and torturers will not be easily forgotten or undone. The fledgling democracy has many challenges to overcome and the road ahead is not easy. But for the first time in many years, the future of Iraq is no longer one of terror — it is one of promise.

And a working democracy in the Middle East will begin to have effects on the whole region.

Do you have something to say about a local issue? Write a letter to the editor today!

Weekly Report
Henry Bonilla

Celebrate our independence

This month marks a special occasion for our great state. It is the anniversary of our state's independence from Mexico.

On March 2, 1836, a convention of 54 men met in the small settlement of Washington-on-the-Brazos to sign the Texas Declaration of Independence.

The Texas Declaration of Independence was produced, literally, overnight. Its urgency was paramount.

While the founding fathers of Texas prepared the document, the Alamo in San Antonio was under siege by Santa Anna's army of Mexico.

In near-freezing weather, in an unfinished building, the convention voted in the early morning hours of March 2 to unanimously accept the resolution. Ultimately, 58 members signed the document. And thus was born the Republic of Texas.

The declaration sent a sign to Mexico that Texans would no longer live under what many of them regarded as a tyrannical rule from a distant source. It was testimony that Texans were ready and willing to fight for their freedom. And fight they did.

Four days after signing the document, William Barret Travis and 184 brave men concluded their gruesome battle against more than 5,000 Mexican troops.

The odds were against the Texas volunteers, but they were determined to stay the course and fight until the end.

When the battle was over, only 15 people — mostly women and children — were spared.

Familiar names like Davey Crockett, James Bowie and Juan Badillo lost their lives that fateful day. These brave souls did not give their lives in vain.

The casualties that the Texas forces mounted against Mexico, and the time lost in reducing the Alamo cut short Mexico's campaign. It gave Sam Houston just enough time to perfect his plans for the defense of Texas and enabled him to win the Battle of San Jacinto on April 21, 1836. This victory spelled a final freedom for Texas.

In the saga of Texas history, there is no period as distinctive as Texas' struggle for independence. The period's heroes are remembered in the names of cities and towns, streets, plazas and public buildings.

The Lone Star flag, inherited from the original Texas Republic, still flies proudly throughout our state.

I'd like to leave you with a quote by Sam Houston just before the Battle of San Jacinto: "We view ourselves on the eve of battle. We are nerved for the contest, and must conquer or perish. It is vain to look for present aid: none is at hand. We must now act or abandon all hope! Rally to the standard, and be no longer the scoff of mercenary tongues! Be men, be free men, that your children may bless their father's name."

Texas Independence Day is an occasion for all Texans to stand proud and remember the men who stood up for their rights and fought for their freedom. God Bless Texas!

The Brackett News

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Then & Now: The other 'Alamo'

Local movie set hosts first-ever outdoor screening of legendary

By ROBERT HUDDLESTON
San Antonio Express-News

The movie set created for John Wayne's epic film "The Alamo" is still available for use as a locale for film productions as well as trail rides, staged "gunfights" and even weddings.

The Alamo Village, built for the 1960 film on the Battle of the Alamo, was the state's first permanent outdoor movie location. It bills itself as the largest and most complete movie set in the nation.

Despite being up for sale, the Alamo Village remains open to the public, except during the week of Christmas.

Kinney County rancher James T. "Happy" Shahan encouraged Wayne and others with his movie company, Batjac Productions, to shoot the film in the middle of Shahan's 18,000-acre ranch, seven miles north of Brackettville on F.M. 674.

The set, originally built to resemble San Antonio as the city appeared in 1836, has more than 30 wood or adobe structures that represent traditional mainstays of a town from the Old West.

The village includes jails, saloons, a bank, general store, hotel, church, stable and blacksmith shop, and of course a replica of the 1836 Alamo fortress.

The facility also has been portrayed as modern European or

Mexican villages. Besides props such as wagons, stagecoaches and buggies, the village has electricians, carpenters, movie extras and others available to help with film productions.

The Alamo Village's official Web site, www.alamovillage.com, lists 55 movie and TV productions, including several documentaries and six music videos by country or Tejano performers, that have been wholly or partly shot at the location. Commercials also have been filmed there.

Productions filmed there include "Alamo ... The Price of Freedom," an IMAX film shot in 1987; the TV miniseries "Lonesome Dove" in 1988; a TV production of James A. Michener's "Texas" in 1994; and two History Channel presentations, "Haunted San Antonio" in 1999 and "History vs. Hollywood" in 2001.

Critics have called John Wayne's film, whose edited versions have run from 2 hours 20 minutes to more than three hours, grossly inaccurate.

Others have said the terrain of the Alamo Village was too arid to reflect San Antonio's fertile, green topography of the 1800s.

A new film about the Alamo battle shot last year used a new set built close to Austin, near Dripping Springs. That two-hour film, also titled "The

Alamo" and produced by Touchstone Pictures, a division of Walt Disney Studios, is set to open April 9.

Today, the Alamo Village has festivals on the Fourth of July and Labor Day weekends, historical re-enactments of the 1836 battle, trail rides in March and October, live comedic gunfighter productions, trick ropers, mariachi performances, hayrides and cattle drives.

Alamo Village has hosted military and family reunions, corporate meetings, weddings and receptions, and can entertain groups of 15 to 1,500 with a traditional barn dance and barbecue or dinner at dusk in front of the faux Alamo shrine.

Visitors can tour more than a dozen buildings on the grounds, including a museum dedicated to the Duke and a cantina-style restaurant.

Virginia Shahan, widow of James Shahan, who died in 1996, is asking \$6.5 million for the 500-acre Alamo Village. She said she's had "several bites" since she put the site up for sale in 2001, including one from a bidder who seemed seriously interested.

"It's kind of in limbo," Shahan, 88, said of sale negotiations. She hopes the village, which has had many coats of paint to cover wear from the elements during its nearly 50 years, will remain in use for

movie and TV productions.

"I hope they keep it like it is," she said. "We're still active, and we want to stay active."

This month's scheduled activities include a wedding, trail ride, a visiting group from Oregon, and a field trip of more than 100 children from nearby Del Rio.

The first-ever outdoor screening of the 1960 "The Alamo" at the set where it was filmed is set for 5 p.m. on April 3, weather permitting.

This historic showing of the film was conceptualized and is being produced by Rob Jones and Cliff Anderson of San Antonio. The wide-screen film has been carefully preserved and restored to ensure that it will be shown in its original Technicolor glory.

Jones works part-time in film archiving and preservation, while Anderson is the owner and operator of Independent Theatre Supply in San Antonio.

Together the two men have meticulously restored over 16,000 feet (over 3 miles) of this print. It will be shown on a very large theater screen with special lighting and effects.

Jack Landman, the creator and host of Cybercity Radio, will serve as the master of ceremonies for the event. He will also be conducting a live Internet radio broadcast of the evening, another first for Alamo Village.

OBITUARIES

Tellis Boutwell

Tellis Boutwell, a 25-year resident of Fort Clark Springs, was born Aug. 5, 1932, in Andalusia, Ala.

Chief Boutwell took his last tour on this earth and went to be with the High Commander March 7, 2004.

Boutwell served in the United States Armed Forces for 24 years, from 1949 to 1953 in the U.S. Army and from 1955 to 1975 in the U.S. Navy, serving in many and varied assignments aboard the following ships and stations: Republic of South Korea; Munich, Germany; NAS Whidbey Island, Wash.; NAS Miramar, Calif.; NAS Adak, Alaska; NOLF San Nicholas Island, Point Mugu, Calif.; NAS Corpus Christi, USS Yorktown (CVA-10) & USS Oriskany (CVA-34).

In recognition of his dedication and hard work, he received the following awards: Combat Infantryman's Badge; Navy Good Conduct, Fourth Award; Purple Heart, Second Award; National Defense Service Medal, Second Award; Korean Service Medal, Sixth Award; United Nations Service Medal; Navy Occupation Service Medal; Presidential Unit Citation; and Cold War Certificate.

Boutwell was a member of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church and served as an Ecumenical minister for many years. He was a member of the Knights of Columbus Council, 3rd Degree, in Brackettville, and 4th Degree, Randy Cote Council No. 1965 in Del Rio. He also

belonged to the DAV, VFW and Fleet Reserve.

Boutwell is survived by his loving wife: Joan Boutwell of Brackettville; his sister: Easter McGinty of Honorville, Ala.; brother: Willis Boutwell and wife Juanita of Leesburg, Fla.; sons: George Michael and Rusty Holt of Jacksonville, Fla., Tellis Jack Boutwell and wife Pat of Las Vegas, Donald Boutwell and wife Rebecca of North Richland Hills, Robert Roberts of San Antonio, Stephen Sean Boutwell and wife Dedra of Corpus Christi; daughters: Vicki Walker and husband Leo of San Antonio, Therese Kule and husband Tom of Warrington, Pa., Laura Boutwell of Austin, Linda McClure and husband George of Lampasas, Patricia Walter and husband Lonnie of Corpus Christi; grandchildren: Stanley Smith and wife Christie, Michelle and Stephen Smith, Bambi Lynn Bamer, Skylar Kule, Curtis Hanna Jr., Sean McClure, Seth and Jonathon Boutwell, Casey, Stephanie and Tellis Jack Boutwell Jr., and Taylor and Micaela Boutwell; great-granddaughter: Bethanie Smith; numerous nieces and nephews, and many many loving friends.

A mass was held at St. Paul Catholic Church of Corpus Christi on March 10, and a Columbarium Ceremony was held at Fort Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio on March 15.

Mass will be held at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Brackettville at a later date.

Juliana Martinez

Juliana Martinez died peacefully in her home in Brackettville with her family by her side.

Martinez was born in San Angelo on Aug. 12, 1928, to Santos and Juliana Hernandez.

She is survived by daughters: Patricia Leal, Gloria Alvarez and husband Raymundo, Sylvia Lopez and husband Raymundo, Yolanda Pesina and husband Joe, Juanita Martinez and Angelica Sandoval and husband Rey; her sons: Guadalupe Torres, Severo Martinez and wife Noemi, Francisco Martinez and wife Dolores, Javier Martinez and wife Missy, Jose Martinez and wife Rebecca, Marcos Martinez and Alejandro Martinez and wife Lucinda; 35

grandchildren, 33 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

She was preceded in death by Celestino Martinez, Celestino Martinez Jr., Gilbert Martinez, and Mike Rodriguez.

Martinez was in state at the Brackettville Funeral Home from 11 a.m. until 9 p.m. A Rosary was recited at 7 p.m., Thursday, March 18th.

The funeral mass was held at St. Mary Magdalene Church at 2 p.m. on Friday. Burial followed in the Catholic Cemetery.

Pallbearers were Patricia Leal, Yolanda Pesina, Angelica Sandoval, Juanita Martinez, Gloria Alvarez, Noemi Martinez and Sylvia Lopez.

BRIEFS

Variety Show slated for Saturday

The annual Variety Show presented by the Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts will be on the stage of Post Theatre on Saturday. The production begins at 7:30 p.m. and includes a presentation of Brackett High School's one-act play, "A Young Lady of Property" by Horton Foote. Individual tickets are on sale for \$5 each at the Adult Center, or by calling 563-3070 or 563-9229.

Committee to meet Monday at 6:30

The Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet Monday at 6:30 p.m. in the EMS building. Members ask that representatives from the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department, Sheriff's Office, Clinic, Brackett ISD, City of Brackettville, Kinney County, Fort Clark, Rio Grande Electric, The Texas Department of Transportation and concerned citizens attend the meeting.

Rock show to benefit Walk for Life

A benefit rock show featuring Nothings Forever and Albrook will be held on Friday at the Brackett ISD Auditorium from 7 to 9 p.m. Admission is \$3 at the door. All proceeds will benefit the Walk for Life and the ongoing fight against cancer.

Chamber of Commerce hosts mixer

The Kinney County Chamber of Commerce will hold an after-hours mixer at the Bank & Trust next Thursday at 5:30 p.m.

Athletic boosters to meet on April 5

There will be a Brackett Athletic Booster Club meeting on April 5 at 6 p.m. in the BISD Hunt Library.

Patties are a nice way to serve okra

Even before I moved years ago to "The South," I loved okra! Fix it any way and that is, and was, my favorite way.

Did you know that if you cook okra whole with the stem end intact to the pod, and cook it only until tender crisp in boiling water, okra will not be slimy? Also, if it is added to a pot of peas in the last 15 minutes of cooking — no slime.

With that bit of knowledge behind us, here's a slight difference in serving fried okra that seems to stick better than most.

Okra Patties
1 large egg, beaten
1/2 cup milk
2/3 cup flour
1 1/2 teaspoon salt
1 10-ounce package frozen



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

okra, cut or fresh vegetable oil
Mix the first four ingredients, add okra and stir. Pour oil in skillet and heat on a hot temperature, 375 to 400 degrees.

Drop by tablespoonfuls and fry until golden, and then turn and cook until done. The batter will be like glue, but when cooked, the okra is not slimy.

This recipe yields 12 to 15 3-inch patties.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sunday, March 14

6:30 p.m., A woman reported a tractor trailer blocking her driveway on W. El Paso Street.

8:30 p.m., A man reported a burglary at his ranch.

Monday, March 15

8:13 a.m., A woman reported a bus parked on the side of Highway 131. Brackett ISD officials were notified of the situation.

8:44 a.m., A man reported two bikes on Fulton Street.

12:03 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported a sick raccoon at his residence on Allen Road.

6:40 p.m., A woman reported that her son's vehicle had been egged while parked at her residence on S. Beaumont Street.

7:22 p.m., A woman reported a fire at the Fort Clark Springs dump.

Tuesday, March 16

8:15 a.m., A woman reported an 18 wheeler blocking entry to her residence on El Paso Street. The owner of the vehicle was notified.

8:26 a.m., A man reported a cow out on Highway 334, about 16 miles north of Brackettville.

8:45 a.m., A Uvalde Police Department employee reported that an 18-wheeler had forced a vehicle off of Highway 90, east of Brackettville.

12:15 p.m., A woman reported that she had locked her keys inside her vehicle at the Courthouse and requested assistance.

4:45 p.m., A woman reported goats out near the Weather Ball on Highway 90, east of Brackettville.

5:30 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs employee reported a skunk foaming at the mouth near the swim park.

8:50 p.m., David Kelly

Crosland, 40, of Crandall was arrested by Deputy Cody Shannon for possession of marijuana and on an outstanding warrant for probation violation. Crosland was released two days later on a \$4,000 bail bond.

Wednesday, March 17

12:58 a.m., Deputy Shannon reported a sick raccoon in Unit 1 on Fort Clark Springs.

3 a.m., A Uvalde Police Department employee reported a possible drunk driver on Highway 90, running vehicles off the road. The vehicle was driving west toward Brackettville.

6:44 a.m., A motorist reported a vehicle upside down on Highway 90 West by Sycamore Creek.

7:34 a.m. A man reported a rabid fox behind the storage units on W. Spring Street.

8:35 a.m., A man reported a boat on the side of Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

11:07 p.m., Deputy Shannon reported that the west-end door of the Courthouse was unlocked. He secured the building.

7:24 p.m., A dispatcher received a 911 call from kids playing on the phone. The children said their parents were not home. The call came from a residence on W. Spring Street.

Thursday, March 18

12:37 a.m., A woman reported hearing gunfire near her residence on Coffin Street.

9 p.m., Border Patrol agents at the Cline checkpoint reported a person walking in the middle of Highway 90 towards Brackettville.

10:55 p.m., Deputy Ramon Gutierrez reported that the Courthouse was left unlocked. He secured the building.

11:30 p.m., Juan Valasquez

Soto, 35, of Mexico was arrested

by Deputy Gutierrez for driving while intoxicated and on an outstanding warrant for failure to appear. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Friday, March 19

6:25 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs employee reported a sick animal at the corner of Bowlegs and Shafter.

2:25 p.m., A woman reported a suspicious person walking around a residence on W. Crockett Street.

8:50 p.m., A woman reported loud music near her residence on N. Allen Street.

11:25 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported that a man in the back of a pickup shot at her dog twice while driving by her residence in Unit 22. Deputy Shannon was dispatched to the scene. The woman identified the driver of the vehicle, but did not know the shooter in the back of the truck. Shannon went to the residence of the man who was driving the truck and his father answered the door. The man began to curse the officer and told him to get off of his property. In his report, Shannon said the man was obviously intoxicated. The son later came to the door, and admitted to driving in Unit 22, but said that there was not anyone shooting any kind of gun from his pickup.

Saturday, March 20

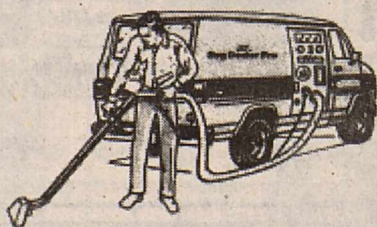
8:19 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee reported a sick raccoon in Unit 1.

10:30 a.m., A man requested assistance after locking his keys inside his vehicle on S. Sweeney Street.

10:53 a.m., A man reported a sick raccoon on Henderson Street.

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God is the seeker of the lost

I received a poem recently that I want to share with the good people of Brackettville and Fort Clark Springs. It goes like this: "I wonder as I sit and look outside, if creation wept when Jesus died."

"Did the fields and forests feel His pain? Or the wind, the clouds, and the rain?"

"Did the animals sense something wrong? And the rivers cease their endless song?"

"Did children playing in the street, feel the earth tremble beneath their feet?"

"Or farmers plowing in their fields, sense the moment His soul did yield?"

"Did all the oceans and the seas, all the grasses, flowers, and trees."

"Cry out with great and sad accord, at the awful death of Christ our Lord?"

"Did the pain He felt travel world wide? Did creation weep when Jesus died?"

I am certain that God in His great compassion and mercy wept the moment Jesus died. I believe that God weeps as well when we humans, His creation, suffer due to the decisions we or others make. God weeps for us, with us, and because of us.

Luke 15 describes an image of God as the seeker of the lost.



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Nathan Lafrenz

He is like the woman who loses a coin, yet turns her house upside down in search for the lost coin. Or God is like the shepherd who has lost a sheep, yet does not count himself lucky that he still has 99 sheep, but rather searches far and wide in hope of finding the lost sheep.

And who can forget the im-

age of the Father in the story of the Prodigal Son. This Father, out of His mercy and compassion for His lost son, is overjoyed at the return of his son, and orders a great feast to be held stating his lost son had returned from the dead to the living.

Our God has compassion on us and seeks to have all His lost sheep return to Him. Come and celebrate the God who loved the world so much that He gave His only Son to die for His creation each Sunday morning at 9 a.m. and 11 a.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal churches.

Bitter water made sweet

"And when they came to Marah, they could not drink of the waters of Marah, for they were bitter: therefore the name of it was called Marah. And the people murmured against Moses, saying, what shall we drink?"

"And he cried unto the Lord; and the Lord showed him a tree, which when he had cast into the waters, the waters were made sweet; and he made for them a statute and an ordinance, and there he proved them."

"And said, If thou wilt diligently hearken to the Voice of the Lord thy God, and wilt



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

do that which is right in his sight, and wilt give ear to his Commandments, and keep all his statutes, I will put none of these diseases upon thee, which I have brought upon the Egyptians: for I am the Lord that healeth thee." (Exodus 15:23-26) Glory!!!

To label or not to label — that is the question

In listening to the voice of the people supposedly delivered to us and interpreted for us by the TV, the news magazines and the newspapers, it is difficult for me to determine what some mean when they place judgmental labels upon a person or a group of persons as "conservative," another set as "liberal." Then, too, other tags come into focus: "on the left" for some, "on the right" for others.

The meanings attached to each of these seem to vary from commentator to commentator, person to person, reporter to reporter, analyst to analyst.

What criteria do they employ



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

to make their judgments? Do these persons, commentators, reporters and analysts use, as their criterion, what they have adopted as their benchmark?

If they do, upon what do they base the conclusions they reached leading to this benchmark? Where lies the truth? Is it on the right or the left of the

continuum, or somewhere in the middle?

Some years ago I encountered what someone, whose name I cannot now remember, found in one of the books of the Jewish Talmud.

Again, I cannot now remember the exact English translation of the Hebrew, but it comes to something quite similar to: "We do not see things as they are. We see them as we are."

St. Paul wrote in his letter to the Romans (New Revised Standard Bible 2:1): "Therefore you have no excuse, whoever you are, when you judge others, for in passing judgment on another

you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things."

The New Jerusalem Bible translates that passage this way: "So no matter who you are, if you pass judgment you have no excuse. It is yourself that you condemn when you judge others, since you behave in the same way as those you are condemning."

Which is better, labeling and tagging individuals and groups or, while respecting difference and making no judgments, merely reporting the opinions expressed by those others?

Believing in dreams is just like chasing the wind

"Morning Jimmy. Hey, you look kind of worried, son. What is on your mind?" Dave asked.

"Aww, it's nothing, Dad," Jimmy replied. "At least I hope it's nothing."

"You hope what's nothing, son?" Dave asked.

"Well, I had a really weird dream last night," Jimmy said hesitantly. "It has me scared and worried."

"Describe it to me, Jimmy," Dave prompted.

"Well, something was happening, like a war. People were getting killed. Some were just little kids. I had a really pan-

icky feeling like a couple of the adults were you and Mom."

Jimmy looked up at Dave. There was genuine fear in his eyes: "Dad, do you think dreams can come true? Didn't God send dreams to people in the Bible that revealed the future?"

"Yes, he did, Jimmy. Many times God used very holy people to communicate his messages to his people. In some cases he used dreams. In some cases he empowered holy people to interpret the dreams of others."

"Do you ever have dreams, Dad?" Jimmy asked.

"Sure, son, I have dreams. But



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

I don't take them seriously."

"Why would I dream something like that Dad?"

"Jimmy, dreams can come from all kinds of things. They might reflect fun you had or some scary experience. It might just be something you saw on TV, like the news. Sometimes

dreams are nothing more than some worry you have or some spicy food you ate. It's pretty normal for kids like you to worry about the safety of their parents. That worry can come out in dreams. Long ago a very wise man said, 'Like a man who catches at shadows or chases the wind is the one who believes in dreams. Divination, omens and dreams are all unreal. Dreams led many astray and those who believed in them perished.' (Sirach 34: 2,5,7)

There's no need to fear, Jimmy. God sends his angels to guard your soul and your life."

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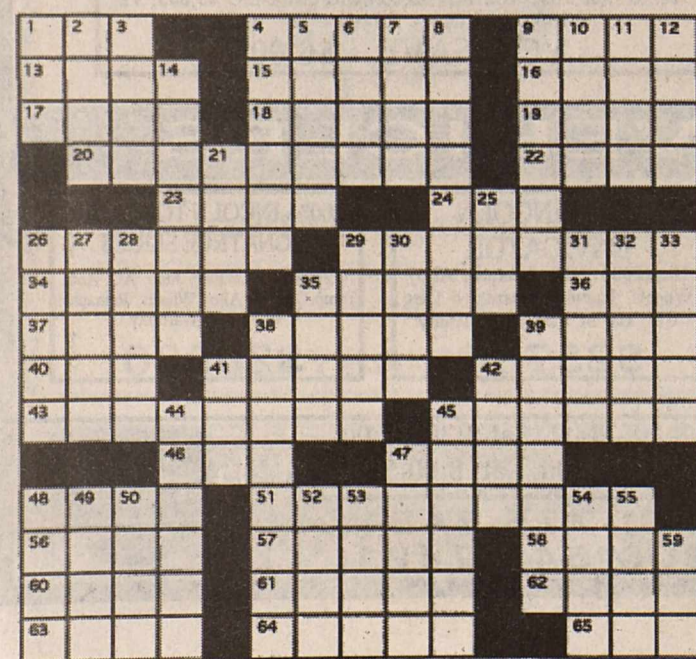
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSS
Nabors
Chauffeurs' spots
Running style
3 Fragrance
5 Playing figure
5 Dog in
The Thin Man
7 Make a hole
9 Island group north of
Tonga
9 Close
9 Cabinet part?
2 Valley
3 Attract
4 Poem
8 Plays an instrument
9 Power; effectiveness
4 Grouchy
5 Burdened
6 Faith; abbr.
7 Roller coaster
8 Beater
9 Canary's morsel
0 Black cuckoo
1 "He is ___".

Easter phrase
42 Stupid
43 Hanging charms
45 Bowl-shaped cavity
46 Possess
47 Jack & Jill's container
48 Mother of Chastity
51 NASA employee's field
56 Gets rid of a squeak
57 Painter's
58 Bar regular on Cheers
60 Flirt with the eyes
61 Fragrant flavoring
62 Work
63 Light carriage
64 Extend one's subscription
65 Nickname for certain Southerners

3 Greater amount
4 Those with high golf scores
5 Incensed
6 PTA member
7 ___ about; approx- imately
8 Spend the night
9 Mother Goose's hubby?
10 Bewildered
11 Eur. language
12 Biblical weed
14 Emily Dickinson or Howard Hughes
21 Jamaican exports
25 TV room
26 Discard
27 Threesome
28 The Thinker's sculptor
29 Lois and Lovers'
30 Treed garden
31 Common

contraction
32 Nincom-
poops
33 Church official
35 Go on and on
38 Red pig-
ment
39 Wax, on Gouda
41 Like hors d'oeuvre tray
42 Boring person; slang
44 Tommy or Jimmy
45 Nut
47 Sheriff's assistants
48 Sounds of contentment
49 Lofty
50 Spanish pronoun
52 Kind of eagle
53 Destroy
54 Eccentric old man
55 Lake ___
59 53 times a score



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—forward, backward, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: CAR MODELS

T C E N T U R Y R M A C
M H C O R V E T T E L M
S U R A G U O C A E G
E S S N D D D A T D D R
W U A T D U R N N L S A
A R B D A E E A C E A N
L U L E I N R D I S C D
L A E V I G G B V A C P
O T I T D D D S I B O R
R R N R U T A S C R R I
O O K R A L Y K S E D X
C A P R I C E M A Z D A

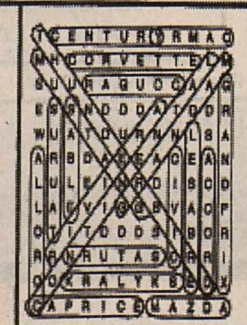
- 1. Century
- 2. _____
- 3. _____
- 4. _____
- 5. _____
- 6. _____
- 7. _____
- 8. _____
- 9. _____
- 10. _____
- 11. _____
- 12. _____
- 13. _____
- 14. _____
- 15. _____
- 16. _____
- 17. _____
- 18. _____
- 19. _____
- 20. _____

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Mar 25.....Victor Abrego
- Mar 25.....Dixie Brown
- Mar 25.....Dwite Gilliland
- Mar 25.....Teresita DeHoyos
- Mar 25.....Laura Rivas
- Mar 26.....Felicia Abrego
- Mar 26.....Benjamin Brinker
- Mar 26.....Arturo Falcon
- Mar 27.....Marge Jones
- Mar 27.....Homer Lewis
- Mar 27.....Roberta Pena
- Mar 27.....Tiffany Reschman
- Mar 28.....Terry DeHoyos
- Mar 28.....Adrian Pena
- Mar 28.....Tim Ward
- Mar 29.....Ivan Pinales
- Mar 30.....Frank Gaujardo
- Mar 31.....Ruth Potter

Roaring Twenties Solution:

- 1. Accord
- 2. Camry
- 3. Caprice
- 4. Century
- 5. Civic
- 6. Continental
- 7. Corolla
- 8. Corvette
- 9. Cougar
- 10. Grand Am
- 11. Grand Prix
- 12. Le Sabre
- 13. Mazda
- 14. Mustang
- 15. Plover
- 16. Sable
- 17. Saturn
- 18. Skyhawk
- 19. Taurus
- 20. Thunderbird



AOROSCOPIES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) All things related to business and your career go well this week. The opposite, though, is true at home. You need to begin paying more attention to loved ones.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) It's a good time to take up pursuits of a creative or cultural nature. You have a sharp, innovative mind which can be put to good use. Later in the week, a friend has a bit too much to say about your personal life.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While you can see the big picture, you're missing some important details. Go over projects carefully so that you avoid careless mistakes. Restlessness sets in over the weekend.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Self-confidence is a good thing. However, cockiness isn't. Avoid an unfortunate tendency to be arrogant and pushy this week.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Money matters are looking bright this week. This doesn't give you a green light, though, to overspend. Instead, look for ways to make that money grow.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're quite quick thinking on your feet this week. Thus, dealings with those in authority go very much your way. Over the weekend, give yourself a break and do something just for fun.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The focus this week is on domestic concerns. Not all is well around the household. Being the natural peacemaker you are, you'll be able to remedy the problems.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're in the mood to put all things serious on the back burner this week. That's a good. Everyone needs to get away from it all once in a while.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your mental and creative abilities come to the fore this week. It's a good idea to put all your thoughts on paper or in a folder on your computer. When you go back to them at a later date, you'll be able to come up with a concrete plan.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're enthusiastic about work this week. As a result, by week's end, you accomplish some goals you'd set aside earlier. Later in the week, private time is a good idea for you.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) A loved one has some good ideas for you financially. If you listen to them, you could build up a nice nest egg. At work, a research project goes well.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your practicality and common sense stand you in good stead this week. You just need to get that special someone on common ground with you. This person has a tendency to be a bit of a daydreamer.

New volleyball district announced

By J.J. GUDRY
Sports Editor

Brackett coach Rhonda Marquardt has finalized the Tigerettes' schedule following the release of the new state realignment for volleyball by the University Interscholastic League earlier this week.

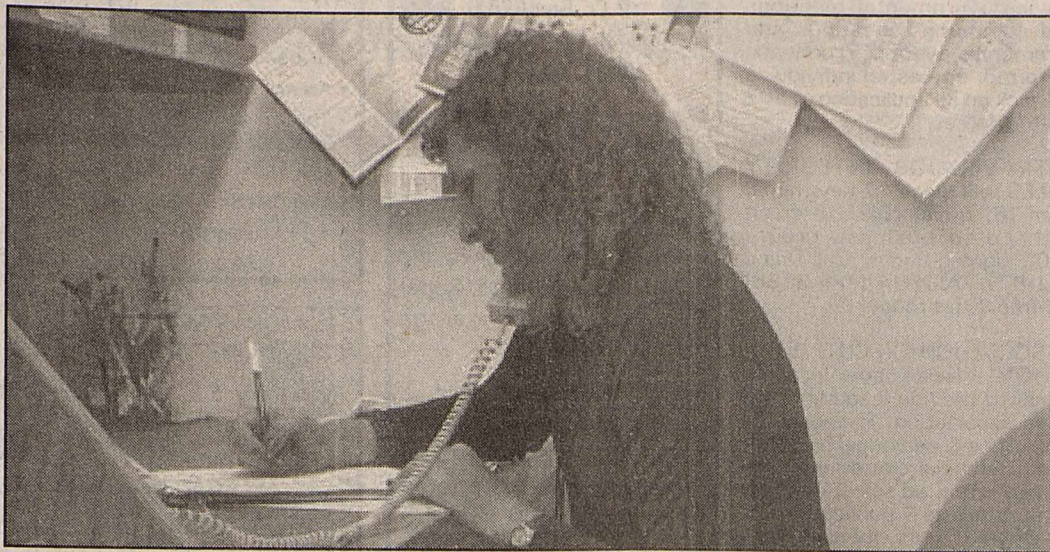
The Tigerettes' new volleyball district includes Comstock, D'Hanis, La Pryor and Sabinal.

Marquardt said she was "ecstatic" about Brackett's new 1A district.

"I'm very happy -- it's what I wanted. I couldn't have picked it better myself," she said. "It will be a competitive district. Sabinal and D'Hanis will be the teams we will have to watch out for."

With the drop to Class 1A, Marquardt said scheduling non-district games has become more difficult.

"It was very hard to fill a non-district schedule," she said. "Now that we're a 1A, the larger schools do not want to play us. And we're so far from so many people that play volleyball, it



Working on schedules

Tigerettes volleyball coach Rhonda Marquardt has spent much of her time on the phone the past few weeks, finishing up Brackett's schedule for next year.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

just makes us difficult.

"We have a tough non-district scheduled. It will be much tougher compared to last year's pre-season matches," Marquardt added.

The Tigerettes return four all-district selections from this year's team. Senior setter Steph-

anie Bonner and junior middle blocker Ashley Castillo both earned first-team honors, senior middle blocker Shanae Simmons was named to the second team, and senior defensive specialist Valerie Terrazas earned honorable mention.

Other returning lettermen for

Brackett include senior middle blocker Courtney Frerich and junior outside hitter Brandy Smith.

"We have good returning players and our junior varsity was awesome so we should be very competitive next year," Marquardt said.

OUTDOORS

Conditions are prime for turkey season

AUSTIN, Texas — Wildflowers are blooming against a backdrop of bright green — signs of spring. But it's the sounds of spring that stir the hunter, like the bellowing of a mature gobbler responding to a hen's invitation.

If prognostications by state wildlife biologists hold true, there will be plenty of gobbling going on this year as conditions around the state bode well for the upcoming spring turkey hunting season.

"We've had good turkey reproduction for three years in a row in some areas of the state," said Steve DeMaso, upland game bird program leader with the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. "If the weather cooperates and conditions remain as they are, we should see an outstanding hunting season."

Rio Grande spring turkey hunting season opens March 27 in South Texas and runs through May 2. In the remaining 119 counties having spring hunting for Rio Grande turkey, the season begins April 3 and runs through May 9.

Statewide regulations allow the use of shotgun, rifle, handgun, legal archery equipment or crossbow to take Rio Grande turkey. However, individual landowners and public hunting areas may further restrict the devices to be used.

The bag limit for Rio Grande turkey is four turkeys per license year. However, regulations and bag limits vary by county, so check the regulations for the county where you are hunting.

Only gobblers are allowed to be harvested during the spring



A Little on the Wildlife Side

Henry Lutz

hunting season.

Consult the 2003-04 outdoor annual at <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/publications/annual/> for season dates and bag limits in your area.

According to Joe Herrera, TPWD district biologist for South Texas, hunters can expect to find plenty of jakes coming to call this spring.

"There will be a lot of young birds in the mix because of the excellent hatch we had last year," he offered. "They'll come to call easier than the older gob-

blers and there's more of them in the population."

That's not to suggest the brush country doesn't have any mature birds, just not as prevalent as the jake population.

"Two-year-old birds will be there, but not in numbers because the year before last was slightly below average as far as production," Herrera said. "Birds ought to be in good shape and we're looking forward to a good season in South Texas."

"Range conditions look really good in light of scattered rainfall throughout much of the area. We had a pretty dry latter part of 2003 from November through mid February and things were looking a little scary, range-condition wise. But in the last month or so things have perked up and conditions look real good."

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Softball team wins opener, baseball falls to Mustangs

The Mustangs broke a 4-4 tie in the bottom of the sixth, scoring one run, as Natalia claimed a 5-4 victory over the Brackett Tigers at home on Monday in the district opener for both teams.

Natalia was trailing 4-2 before tying the score in the bottom of the fifth with a pair of runs.

With the loss, the Tigers drop to 4-5 on the season.

Glen Morgan was 2 for 4 at the plate and scored twice for the Tigers, while teammate Tony Jamail went 2 for 3, driving in two runs.

Natalia jumped ahead 2-0 in the bottom of the third before Brackett scored its first run in the top of the fourth. Morgan singled, went to second on Jamail's single and then crossed home plate on a single by Dietrich Davis.

The Tigers jumped ahead 4-2 after scoring three runs in the top of the fifth. Robert San-

chez and Eli Woolsey led off with walks and then Morgan singled to load the bases. Jamail singled in Sanchez and Woolsey, and Morgan later scored on a passed ball.

Tigerettes Win

The Brackett softball team, now 6-6 on the season, opened its district slate last Friday at home, picking up a 10-6 win over Dilley.

Trailing 4-2, the Tigerettes rallied to take a 6-4 lead after five innings.

Dilley tied the score at 6-all in the top of the sixth, but the Tigerettes secured the victory with four more runs in the bottom of the sixth.

Kara Yeager picked up the mound win for Brackett, while Ashley Castillo, Lisa Morgan and Emily Valenzuela each scored two runs.

Morgan finished 2 for 3 at the plate, while Castillo, Valenzuela and Allison Del Bosque were all 2 for 4.

MONUMENTS

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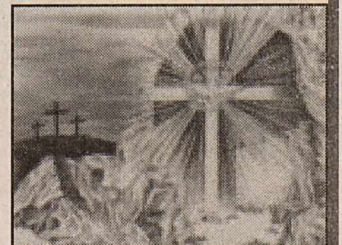
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Dr. Kent is a graduate of Parker College of Chiropractic in Dallas. His practice is located in the building next to the Chevron Stop & Shop. His office hours are:

Mon & Wed from 8 - 12 noon • Tue & Thur from 1 - 5 p.m.
Please call **830-765-4917** for an appointment.

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CROSS LADEN REL
HIDE CANER SEED
ANI RISEN DENSE
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