

The Brackett News

Tigerettes take second at Uvalde track meet
See story, Page 5

16th year, No. 8

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



New leadership
Monica White (from left), Robert Windle and Howard Wakefield are sworn in as new Fort Clark Springs board members during the association's annual meeting Saturday morning.
Photo by Jewel Robinson

Wakefield, Windle White win election

Fort Clark members OK proposition

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Monica White, Robert Windle and Howard Wakefield have been elected to the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors.

Results of the election were announced Saturday at the association's annual membership meeting.

White and Windle were the top two vote-getters with 1,049 and 966 votes, respectively, and will serve three-year terms.

White was the only incumbent

ELECTION RESULTS

Following are the results of the election of the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors:

Candidate	Votes
Monica White	1,049
Robert Windle	966
Howard Wakefield	915
Mary Gray-Partlow	610
Patricia Crum	231

running for the board. She was appointed as a director last year, along with Sherry Holloway and Ron Pellin following the resignations of Frank Cheaney, Carol Miller and Glen White.

Wakefield finished third among the five candidates. He garnered 915 votes and will serve a two-year term.

Mary Gray-Partlow received 610 votes in the balloting and Pat Crum had 231.

The ballots also included a proposition to change the number of directors from seven to five, effective with the commencement of the 2005 election. The proposition passed by a 723-519 margin.

Easter egg hunt planned Saturday

Cavalry Brigade to gather at 9 a.m.

By WOODIE HORNBERG
Contributing Writer

Move over Easter Bunny, the Cavalry Brigade of Fort Clark Springs Association is taking over a new detail for the children of the fort, Brackettville and Kinney County.

Besides the laying of oodles of eggs at Fort Clark Springs' Rendezvous Park, the troopers prove again that they do "other" things rather than sit on their mounts.

On Saturday at 9 a.m., Shafter Hall is the monthly scheduled mustering of volunteers of the Community Council's Cavalry Brigaders.

This month's date assembly coincides with the community's egg hunt and the Easter Bunny needed help. So the brigade is there to render aid.

Also, the regular projects will be executed and, as usual, there are details for all abilities and disabilities, with the reward of a delicious free lunch from 11:30 to 12:30 — that is, after their egg laying project.

The annual Easter egg hunt sponsored by the Brackettville Lions Club and the Fort Clark Springs Association Recreation Department will be held at Rendezvous Park at 1 p.m.

The event is for all children who can walk through the age of 10.

Brackettville gets national exposure



CBS Sports visits Kinney County

ABOVE: Joseph Zappulla (right), a feature producer with CBS Sports, interviews J.J. Guidry of Brackettville Wednesday for a story to air during CBS' NCAA Final Four Pre-Game Show, which will air nationwide on Saturday from 3 to 5 p.m. The CBS sports crew visited several locations in Kinney County.

RIGHT: Bob and Diane Erickson of Fort Clark Springs donned their 1870s period attire for the segment.

Photos by Kathy Wilson



RGEC sponsors 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 (RGEC).

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

The winning entrant in the 2004 RGEC 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 RGEC area office or by calling (800) 749-1509. Applicants may find this information helpful in obtaining information about the cooperative business model.

For more information on RGEC, call (800) 749-1509.

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Fort Clark Springs honors Avila, longtime employee

In a measure that Fort Clark Springs President Tom Saylor said was "long overdue," longtime employee Juan Avila was recognized for his service Saturday during the association's annual membership meeting.

Avila, a native of Brackettville, has lived and worked here most of his life, except for some time he spent in the U.S. Army during World War II.

"He knows more about Fort Clark than any other living person," Saylor said.

Avila was born in Brackettville on Nov. 29, 1921, as one of six children. The Great Depression hit his family quite hard and this young man had to drop out of school at the age of 13 to go to work to help his family.

In 1934 he came to Fort Clark to work as a dishwasher and cook's helper in the Brigade Headquarters mess hall. They also fed the prisoners in the Guardhouse and the muleskinners from the Pack Train that carried supplies.

Another job he had during those first eight years that he

worked on the fort was mixing cement and helping to build the rock walls along the creek that runs from the pool down to the bridge.

In 1942, at 21 years of age, he joined the Army and left Brackettville to fight in the European Theater during World War II. He spent time in Germany and Switzerland.

After the war was over he got out of the service in 1946 and returned home to Brackettville.

Just a few weeks after returning home, Avila got a job with the Texas Railway Equipment Company that later became known as Brown & Root. He worked as a night watchman, and as a plumber. Later he also did general maintenance work.

Brown & Root had purchased Fort Clark from the Army after the fort was decommissioned.

"Brown and Root salvaged out most of the fort, except for the part we now know as the Historical District," Saylor said.

"When the Parade Grounds were converted into a golf course, this gentleman worked

on that project. In those days all the mowing was done by hand — there were no power mowers, let alone riding mowers. Hand clippers did all edging and trimming. Weedeaters and power edgers had not been invented."

Avila worked for Brown and Root for 25 years, from the time they bought the property from the U.S. Government until they sold it to North American Towns in 1971.

Avila then worked as a supervisor in the Maintenance Department for North American Towns until it was transferred to Fort Clark Springs. He continued working as a maintenance supervisor for FCSA until February 2002 for a combined total of 31 years.

"Altogether this gentleman worked on Fort Clark for 64 years," Saylor said. "Like I said previously, this gentleman knows more about Fort Clark than any living man."

Avila was not present at the ceremony. His son, Joe Avila, accepted the special award on his behalf.



31 years of service Photo Special to The Brackett News
Juan Avila, shown with his wife Leonor, was recognized Saturday for 31 years of service to Fort Clark Springs.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Citizen placed trust in leaders

To address Ms. Wardlaw's recent letter raising questions about my delinquent property taxes and "where was I during the Luna Administration," I drag my feet on paying my property taxes because I mind my husband being humiliated when he goes into the Appraisal District Office and being told to "leave and come back when you're not drunk."

Diabetes and high blood pressure reactions are sometimes mistaken for drunkenness by uninformed individuals.

I also mind my husband being called "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde." Further, I mind the over assessment of our property taxes.

"Where was I during the Luna Administration?"

I was trusting in our elected officials as all of the other citizens in Brackettville were doing. I was trusting in our mayor. I was trusting in our highly overpaid city manager. I was trusting our City Council members to do the jobs they were elected to do. True, this was a mistake — a mistake I won't make twice.

Now, I ask you, by whose authority did you auction our police car or any other equipment belonging to the city?

As this equipment was purchased with taxpayers' dollars, the Police Department and its equipment belonged to the taxpayers. Replacement of this equipment will come from tax dollars, isn't this correct?

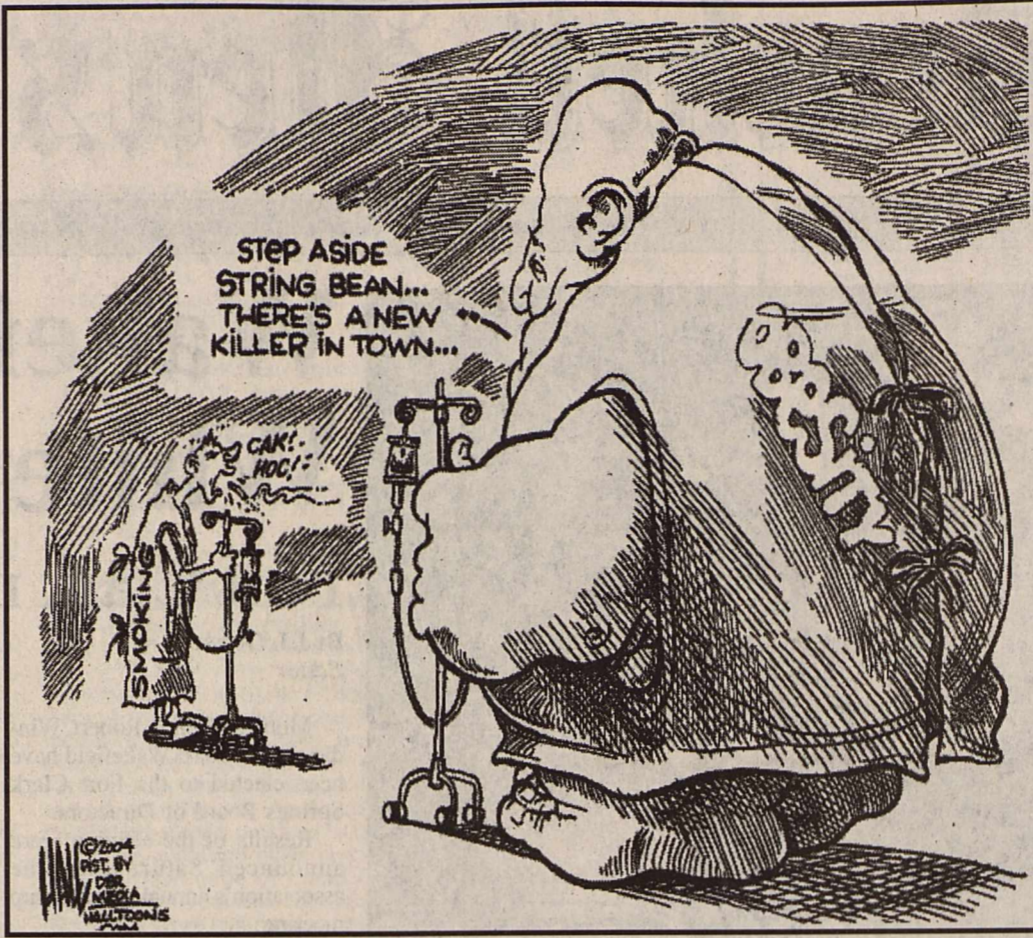
Possibly, you and the council members plan to use your authority, as well as your pocketbooks, to replace this equipment that was auctioned to pay our outstanding debts.

Also, do you presently have plans to auction our fire trucks as well? Where is the money raised by the volunteer fire fighters for the fire department?

Let us remember that we have the right to demand services for our tax dollars. We have the right to ask for the resignation of any elected, appointed or hired city or county employee (or board member). And we have the right to express our views freely, thanks to men like my husband, who is one of the highly decorated veterans in the United States.

Anyone in Brackettville can do as we have done and contact the Governor's Office at (512) 305-7300 or the Board of Tax Professional Examiners at (512) 305-7304 to lodge a formal complaint of unfair tax assessment of property values.

Beverly Garcia



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Ag fuels the U.S. economy

I had a meeting the other day with some folks from the Texas Farm Bureau. They're a great group of people and I always look forward to talking with them.

In our meetings, we discuss everything from the price of livestock to the latest cotton regulations to foot and mouth disease. An interesting point was brought up in our last discussion. Does the American public realize how often agriculture touches their daily lives?

It's not something we think about every day. You probably don't get up in the morning, put on your clothes, and consider who raised the sheep for your wool pants or who grew the cotton for your shirt.

When we get to the breakfast table, we often forget about the corn that was harvested for our morning bowl of cereal or the cows milked for our tall glass of calcium.

When our children arrive at school, we seldom think about the school lunch program they are provided each day. Nor do we think about the vaccinations that keep them safe from disease.

And when we stop at the grocery store on our way home, how often do we take for granted the high quality of the products we purchase.

The produce and meat are fresh, and the aisles packed with availability and variety. Not many countries have this type of luxury.

Agriculture affects so many aspects of our lives. Beyond food and clothing, the agriculture industry accounts for one in every six U.S. jobs. Farmers and ranchers are not the only people working for this huge industry. Agriculture supports your neighbor who works at the clothing production plant, your friend who manages the local grocery store and even your family pharmacist.

When you add up the products, the jobs and the economic advantages you can come to just one conclusion: the agriculture industry is literally the backbone of our country.

This was true when the founding fathers met in Philadelphia, it was true during the industrial revolution of the 1800s, and it is still true today.

So the next time you're in the grocery store picking out apples or at a department store selecting a new shirt, think about the time and energy invested in every product you see.

Let's be thankful for our agriculture industry and for the men and women who work hard every day to keep it strong.

New Alamo film will bring tale to a new generation

This weekend the excitement and glamour of Hollywood shone on San Antonio as the yellow carpet was rolled out for the world premiere of Disney's newest film, "The Alamo."

Yes, the movie premiered with a 1,500-foot yellow carpet, instead of the traditional red one, paying homage to the famed yellow rose of Texas.

Actor Dennis Quaid, touched by the outpouring of people who lined the streets to welcome the Hollywood visitors said, "This is like the Beatles came to town."

I was privileged to join in the festivities and pay tribute to the storied stone edifice that so defines the fight for freedom waged by Texas in 1835-36.

This isn't the first movie made about the Alamo, but it is the grandest. With a budget of more than \$100 million, six months of shooting, Hollywood stars like Mr. Quaid and Billy Bob Thornton, and a movie set believed to be one of the largest ever built, the film goes to great visual, cinematic and theatrical lengths to recall the mystique of the legendary battle.

The fact that, after nearly 200 years, this story is still being retold is testament to the significance of our state's heritage.

We Texans know the importance the Alamo played in shaping that history. From our earliest years we are taught the legacy of bravery, heroism and sacrifice that is held within the hallowed walls of the old mission.

In fact, Texas history is a requirement for all seventh grade students in our public schools. Our children grow up learning the tales of their ancestors and understanding the challenges and sacrifices they overcame to pave the way for the Lone Star state we know and love today.

For me as a youngster, Texas history was something personal since my family helped to form it. My great-great-grandfather, Charles S. Taylor, signed the Texas Declaration of Independence, for which the battle at the Alamo paved the way. I hope to pass on that love of history to my children and keep the stories of our past alive for generations to come.

Though historians are always wary of any attempt to breathe life back into ancient stories, and Texans don't like the idea of anyone messing with our history, Disney's take on the saga is engrossing, adding color, flair and personality for entertainment value as seen in the official plot synopsis:



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

"Where myth meets history... where legend meets reality... the roads cross at San Antonio de Bexar and the small, ruined mission there: The Alamo. In the spring of 1836, nearly 200 Texans — men of all races who believed in the future of Texas — held the fort for 13 days under siege by Gen. Antonio Lopez de Santa Anna, ruler of Mexico and commander of its forces. Led by three men — the young, brash Col. William Travis; the violent, passionate James Bowie; and the larger-than-life legend David Crockett — the Texans and their deeds at the Alamo would pass into history as Gen. Sam Houston's rallying cry for Texas independence and into legend for their symbolic significance."

To many, the character of Davy Crockett will forever be recalled with the image of John Wayne, complete with a raccoon skin cap and a rifle slung over his shoulder in the 1960 version of "The Alamo."

But perhaps the 2004 version of the film with all of its special effects and modern technology will bring this tale to a new generation.

In my unprofessional opinion, it is an absorbing movie... very interesting.

It is my hope that all Americans who see this film will appreciate the deep history that inspired it, and be encouraged to preserve and pass down their own stories.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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

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Columnist offers new ideas for jalapenos

That fiery jalapeno that South Texans love so and that most Winter Texans quickly learn to appreciate is looked forward to at all gatherings. Here are three ways to present basically the same dish. Choose which one to fix by what's on hand at the moment.

Jalapeno Squares
1 11 1/4-ounce jar sliced jalapeno peppers
1 1/2 pounds mild cheddar cheese, shredded
7 eggs.

Grease a 13x9x2-inch pan and line the bottom of the pan with sliced jalapenos. Beat eggs, add cheese and mix well. Pour over peppers. Bake at 375 degrees for 10 minutes on the lowest oven rack in oven. Then, move it to the middle rack and bake another 25 minutes. Cool and cut into squares. Makes about 12 to 15 squares.

Jalapeno Pie
Grease a 9-inch pie pan or square pan for bite size pieces. Cover the bottom of the pan with



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

peppers. Press 10 ounces or more of grated cheese (any kind) on top of the peppers. Beat five eggs until frothy. Pour over cheese and bake at 350 degrees for

about 30 minutes. This recipe yields 8 to 16 slices or 20 to 30 bite-size pieces.

Jalapeno He Man Quiche
Beat six large eggs. Add 10 ounces of grated cheddar cheese, 8 ounces of grated Monterey Jack Cheese and two or three chopped jalapeno peppers.

Pour into a 12x9x2-inch greased pan. Bake 45 minutes at 350 degrees. Let sit for five minutes before serving. Freezes well. Yields 12 to 16 squares.



Yo Shanae

Shanae Simmons

Don't be in a big hurry to find Mr. Right

Yo Shanae: I am very confused. I never know what I want when it comes to guys. It's easy to know what I want when it comes to food, but when it comes to guys, I don't know.

I may remain forever single because I always manage to screw up every relationship I get into. Shanae, please help me find a way to determine what I want.

— Confoosed Chickadee

Dear Confoosed Chickadee, First, I would like to say, nice name. Second, don't be so worried. Everyone has confusions, especially when it deals with the opposite sex, but knowing yourself is what is most important.

Figure out the type of person you are, and the qualities that make you who you are. Remember to keep your positive traits in mind along with your interests, like your love for books or your great sense of humor.

If you're the type of person who loves a good novel now and then, most likely you would be able to relate to someone who also had interests in that area.

Many will say that opposites attract, but this isn't necessarily true in all situations. If there is no common bond, then two people may find it very difficult to relate to one another. Then again, if you are very shy and look for someone else who is equally quiet, then you may find yourself getting nowhere fast.

Also, take into consideration the type of people you surround yourself by, like your friends. What makes these people so special? Is it the way they treat you, or the way they act?

Most likely, if you like the people you associate with because of certain qualities, boys who share similar ones will be quite the catch.

Another good question to ask yourself would be, why is being single so bad?

Many times, people will depend on others to make themselves feel whole because they are lacking in one way or another. Maybe you should concentrate on yourself, and find ways to make yourself happy independently. That way, you will be happy while you are alone and while in the company of others. Plus, if a guy sees you as totally secure and satisfied with yourself as a person, he may be more attracted to your self-sufficient aura.

Well Ms. Chickadee, it seems the best thing to do would be simply to relax. The subject seems important to you, but the best things seem to happen on their own.

If you are out looking for "Mr. Right," the odds are that you will find many Mr. Wrongs on your conquest and those never seem to end very nicely, let him come to you.

So until you meet your match, figure out yourself, and for now, stick to what you're good at, ordering those entrees.

Shanae
If you have any questions about your love life, school, work, or relationships with your parents or kids, then write Yo Shanae at madkewlmonkee@yahoo.com. You never know, she may just have the answer you were always looking for.

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Tigerettes take second at Uvalde track meet

UVALDE - The Brackett Tigerettes finished second last Saturday at the Uvalde Invitational track meet.

Sonora won the small school division with 187 points, while Brackett was second with 169. Kerrville took third with 69, Knippa was fourth with 56, Uvalde J.V. was fifth with 39 and Del Rio J.V. was sixth with 35.

The mile relay team of Courtney Frerich, Stephanie Coronado, Divina Pena and Stacey Castilla finished second with a time of 4:25.8.

Pena, Frerich, Rachel Swinson and Vanessa Williams took second in the 800-meter relay after being clocked at 1:53.8.

Caitlin Wylie, Williams, Brandy Smith and Pena turned in a time of 53.4 to take second in the spring relay.

Swinson won the 100-meter dash with a time of 13.3 and the 400 with a 61.4. Coronado took third in the 400 with a 66.4, while Wylie was fifth in the 100 with a 14.3.

Williams turned in a fourth-place finish in the 400 after be-

ing clocked at 28.8.

Juliann Ashabranner won the 3,200-meter run with a time of 12:36.06. She also won the 800 with a 2:36.7, while Ashley Smith and Castillo were second and third with times of 2:40.5 and 2:43.7, respectively.

Frerich won the intermediate hurdles after turning in a time of 50.4. Smith was third with a 54.0 and Danika Schmidt was fourth with a 54.8. Schmidt also took sixth in the high hurdles with a 19.9.

In the field events, Swinson was second in the long jump with a 15-8 and Pena was fourth with a 14-7 1/2. Frerich took second in the high jump with a leap of 5-0 and Schmidt was fifth with a 4-6. Timmeke Simmons finished fifth in the triple jump with a 30-6.

In the boys' division, Beau Watkins, Noe Talamantes, Tony Rosetti and Cody Edwards won the 400-meter relay with a time of 45.12.

Brackett's track teams resume action Friday as they compete in the Jourdan Invitational.

3:37.14, while Robert Davis, Ivan Pinales, Cesar Ortiz and Whitney Massingill were fifth in the 800 relay with a 1:42.48.

Rosetti won the 100-meter dash with a time of 11.84, while Watkins and Edwards were second and third with times of 11.86 and 11.92, respectively.

Edwards won the 200 with a 24.04, and Rosetti finished third with a 24.25.

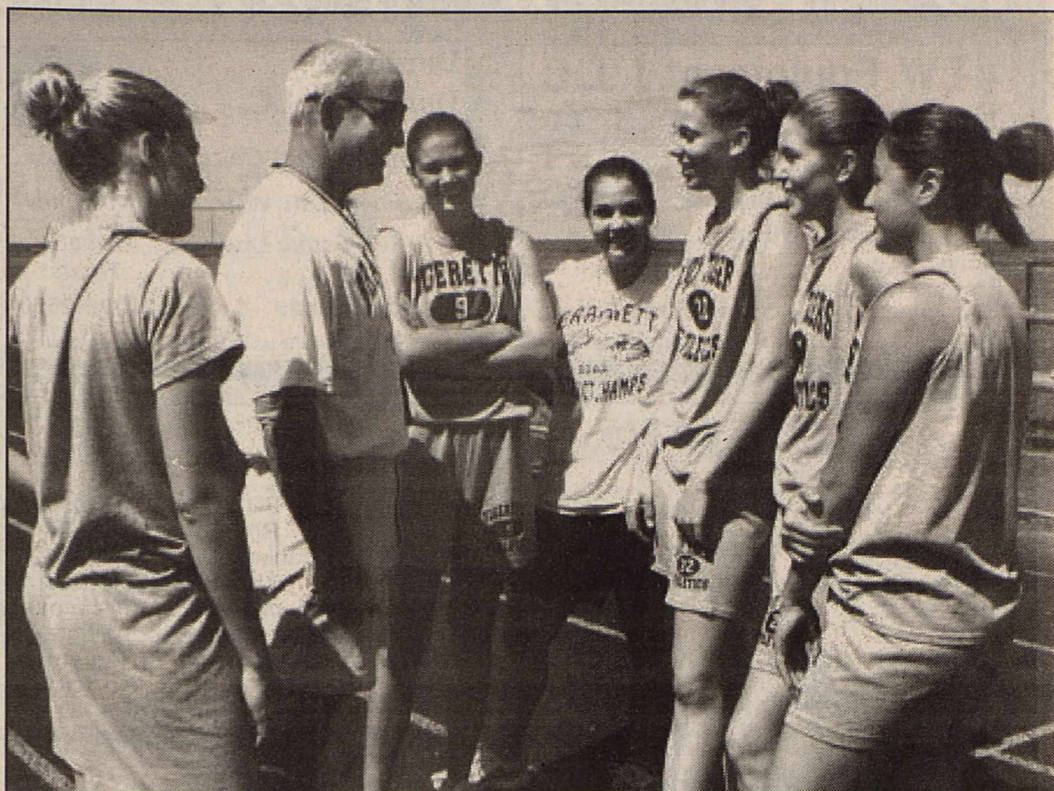
Talamantes took second in the 400 with a 53.16 and Kesteloot was third with a 53.45.

Wylie finished third in the 800 with a 2:09.23. He was also fifth in the pole vault with a jump of 10-feet.

Rolando Ortiz took third in the shot put with a 39-11 1/2 and Glenn Morgan was fifth with a 39-3. John Moore finished sixth in the discus with a throw of 11-7.

Robert Davis took fourth in the high jump with a leap of 5-4, and Tillman Davis was sixth in the triple jump with a 5-4.

Brackett's track teams resume action Friday as they compete in the Jourdan Invitational.



Talking strategy

Tigerettes head track coach Dusty Brotherton (second from left) discusses this week's track meet in Jourdan with team members during workouts this week.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Freer edges Brackett in softball action

Freer scored three runs in the top of the sixth and held off a late Brackett rally for a 6-5 win in district softball action last Friday.

The loss drops Brackett to 6-8 overall and 1-2 in district. The Tigerettes resume action tomorrow when they host Three Rivers at 5 p.m.

Last Friday, Freer took a 2-0 advantage in the top of the second, but Brackett scored two runs of its own in the bottom of

the third to tie the score.

The Tigerettes took their only lead of the game at 3-2 in the bottom half of the fourth, but the Lady Buckaroos tied the game back up in the top of the fifth.

Dana Bonner and Emily Valenzuela each went 2 for 3 at the plate for Brackett, while Ashley Castillo and Lisa Morgan were 2 for 4 and Nadine Terrazas was 1 for 3. Terrazas scored two runs, while Bonner and Castillo both crossed home plate once.

The Tigerettes fell to Natalia 10-2 last Tuesday. The Tigerettes jumped out to a 1-0 run lead in the top of the first, but Natalia built a nine-run lead before Brackett scored its only other run in the seventh.

Yeager paced the Tigerettes' offense with a perfect 3-for-3 plate performance. Valenzuela was 3 for 4 at the plate while Castillo and Morgan were both 2 for 4. Castillo scored both of Brackett's runs in the contest.

Doubles teams win consolation championships

Brackett had two doubles teams win consolation honors at the Sabinal tennis tournament last weekend in Uvalde.

Sarah Meyer and Ashley Smith won consolation honors after defeating teams from Devine, Poteet, Knippa and Center Point.

In boys' doubles, Tillman Davis and Tony Jamail took the

consolation title. They lost to a team from Carrizo Springs in the first round, but bounced back to claim wins over teams from Medina Valley, D'Hanis, Jourdan and Stockdale.

Jackie Duncan and Leon Woolsey both won their first three matches in singles, but lost in the semifinals.

Whitney Hobbs, Kristin

Meyer, Trey Smith and Michael Stephenson also participated in the tournament.

The varsity will host a tournament tomorrow and will then compete against Dilley, George West and Three Rivers at the district meet in Uvalde on Wednesday. The junior high district tournament is Saturday in Brackettville.

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Monica White

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