

The Brackett News



Girls' tennis wins 5th straight district title
See story, Page 7

16th year, No. 12

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



Discussing the issues

Brackettville mayoral candidates J.J. Guidry (from left), Joe Garza and Ponce Padron discuss issues facing the city during a debate at the Brackett ISD Auditorium Monday night. Early voting in the city election began Wednesday.

Photo by Wes Robinson

Candidates debate city issues

The 2004 Brackettville city election has turned out to be one of the most controversial in recent times, with mudslinging and the vandalism of political signs.

But there were little fireworks Monday when close to 100 citizens turned out to meet the candidates and to ask questions concerning local government.

The forum, held at the Brackett ISD Auditorium, was organized by Beverly Garcia and Elizabeth Goebel. Neil Simmons served as the moderator for the event.

"This is a first," said Joe

Garza, mayoral candidate.

J.J. Guidry, also seeking the mayor's post, added: "I am so glad that we have this opportunity to discuss the issues with you this evening. I'm thankful that you chose to come out and spend some time with us to get to know us better."

The forum began with the mayoral and council candidates discussing their platforms.

Garza, Guidry and Ponce Padron are all vying for mayor.

Garza said he is running for mayor because of the turmoil facing city government.

"I'm very familiar with this community," he said. "We're not a rich community. Our tax base is not as healthy as I would like for it to be. But I believe that I can take this community in a positive direction."

Garza, a native of Brackettville, has 29 years of experience in education.

"I feel very strongly about my qualifications and credentials," he said. "I feel like I have something to offer this community. I have extensive knowledge, extensive experiences in many areas, budgetary as well

as administrative.

"The role of the superintendent is a very complex role, and I served in that capacity for eight years. You have to be prepared for everything. It is very politically oriented, but the rewards are great."

Guidry, also a Brackettville native, served a two-year term on the City Council.

"During that time the city was very prosperous," he said. "We had over \$500,000 in the bank. We never raised taxes while I was on the council and

See CANDIDATES/Page 4

Miller joins water board

Shahan considers taking GM's post

Dub Miller of Fort Clark Springs was appointed to the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors by the Commissioners Court Monday morning during a special meeting.

Miller is filling the vacancy for an at-large position for Fort Clark following the resignation of Bob Young.

The motion to appoint Miller as a director was made by Pat Melancon, commissioner of Precinct 4, which includes part of Fort Clark Springs.

"In talking to Tom Saylor, the president of the Fort Clark board, he only had one name. He recommended Dub Miller, who has a geology background and is willing to serve. I think he helped some on the development of the master plan," Melancon said.

Terrazas asked if the position had been advertised.

"We don't have to (advertise)," County Judge Herb Senne said. "We can if you want to."

Terrazas replied: "I just wanted to know how they went about it and how many people knew about this."

In previous appointments, the court advertised the openings and then interviewed the appli-

cants.

"I didn't have anyone else indicate an interest to me," Senne said. "I didn't advertise, but the action of the groundwater board was publicized. I would assume that if there are folks interested in the appointment, we would have heard from them."

"We don't have to pull the trigger now," Melancon said. "The position is up for election in November."

Senne replied: "I'm ready to make the appointment, but if y'all are hesitant to do so, we can wait."

Melancon added: "I don't know that you can find anybody willing to jump into this fire."

Senne said the court may soon be faced with appointing another director, "if the groundwater board wants to fill it between now and the election."

Darlene Shahan is expected to resign her position from the board to become the general manager. She was offered the job earlier this month. Shahan had previously served as the interim general manager.

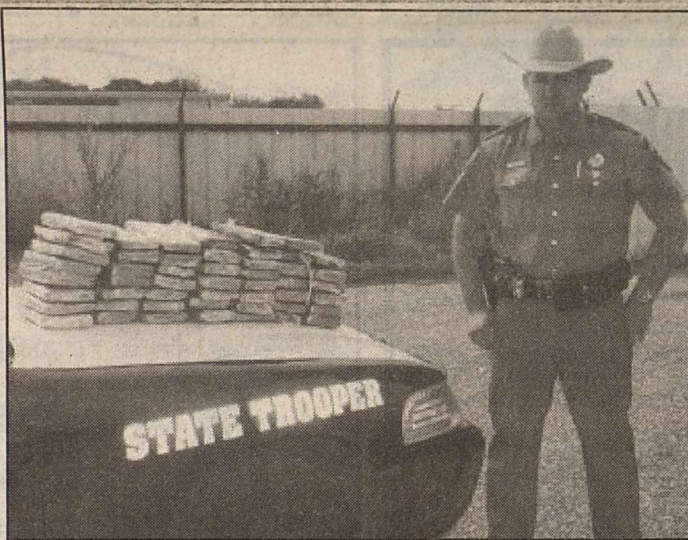
"I think there was some sort of verbal announcement that she made at their last meeting when she was appointed general manager," the county judge said.

Couple arrested for drugs

A Del Rio couple was arrested Sunday evening after a routine traffic stop resulted in the seizure of over 54 pounds of marijuana.

Jesse Martinez, 18, and Vanessa Briones, 22, were both arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch on a second-degree felony charge of possession of marijuana. Martinez was booked into the Kinney County Jail and Briones was transported to the Wackenhut Correctional Facility in Del Rio. Both were still in custody at press-time.

Welch was on routine patrol when he stopped a black Pontiac for illegal window tint on Highway 90, about 8 miles east of Brackettville.



DPS Trooper Tully Welch poses with the more than 54 pounds of marijuana he discovered Sunday during a routine traffic stop.

The driver and the passenger of the vehicle gave conflicting stories about their trip. The driver gave consent to search the vehicle and 35 bundles of marijuana was found in the spare tire well of the trunk. A subsequent

search the following day revealed an additional 15 bundles located in the left rear of the fender.

The Kinney County Sheriff's Office assisted in the investigation.

Local Emergency Planning Committee meets

The Kinney County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) met Monday at the EMS building with chairman James Reesman presiding.

Among those present were County Judge Herb Senne, the county chairman of LEPC; Steve Burch, the Brackettville Committee Coordinator; County Commissioners Pat Melancon and Joe Montalvo, Commissioner-elect Marvin Davis and Brackett ISD Superintendent Bobby Templeton, as well as various other key personnel from local organizations, and interested community members.

This all-volunteer committee, as mandated by state and federal law, meets on a monthly basis to determine and implement a county-wide response to emergency situations, such as widespread flooding, hazardous material spills on the highway or railway, or other such natural or man-made disasters that might

pose a threat to life or property in our community.

The recent flooding in Crystal City and the floods here and in Uvalde in past years are prime examples of situations that require prompt and accurate response to minimize loss of life and property damage.

This committee is responsible for coordinating activities during a time of emergency, including recruiting and directing volunteers, the acquisition of emergency equipment such as generators, gas masks, water, medical supplies, and shelter as well as being responsible for working with the American Red Cross, FEMA and other governmental agencies to provide basic and on-going services in such an emergency.

The Kinney County LEPC plan, written in 2001, has been recognized state-wide as a model for other counties. This plan sets out specific duties and respon-

sibility for each agency or individual in case of an emergency situation. Procedures for providing appropriate warning, shelter, search and rescue, food service, transportation and appropriate routes in case of evacuation, legal support, and law enforcement are just a few of the areas addressed in this comprehensive plan.

"Having an active and well-trained LEPC and volunteer force ready to act in times of community emergency is similar to having an insurance policy in effect in case of a personal emergency," Susanna Lowery said. "Even though you never know if or when you might need it — and you hope you don't — it is mandatory and comforting, to have it in place should the situation call for it."

The next meeting of the LEPC will be Monday, May 24, at 6:30 p.m. at the EMS Building. Meetings are open to the public.

INSIDE

■ Kay Hutchison
They say everything's bigger in Texas. Unfortunately, according to the latest obesity study by *Men's Health* magazine, so are the people in Texas. **Opinion/Page 2**

■ Clay Hunt III
Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is truly risen! Be not afraid for the Light has conquered the darkness and we are children of the Light. **Religion/Page 7**

■ Cornelius Scanlan
It is interesting to me to observe what the media reports to us about what "they" are saying during the current political season. **Religion/Page 7**

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16th year, No. 12

4-H shooters competition recently held

Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports recently held a county competition for 37 of the 47 local youth who had successfully completed this year's shooting project.

The competition consisted of three age groups, seniors and juniors shooting three positions and pre-juniors shooting prone.

The top shooters from each age group will represent Kinney County at the District 10 competition in Kerrville on May 1.

Those shooters are Justin Calk, Seth Frerich, Tony Jamail and Beau Watkins, senior division; Brooke Bowlin, Emily Calk and Daphne Hunt, juniors; and Chris Blake, Bryan Calk, Ramon Gutierrez and Tyler McDonald, pre-juniors. Alternate shooters are Brandon Kluzek, Katie Bowlin and Mike Flores.

The Bank & Trust and the U. S. Border Patrol donated all of the awards for the event, which were presented immediately following the competition.

Shooters eligible for district

See 4-H/Page 4

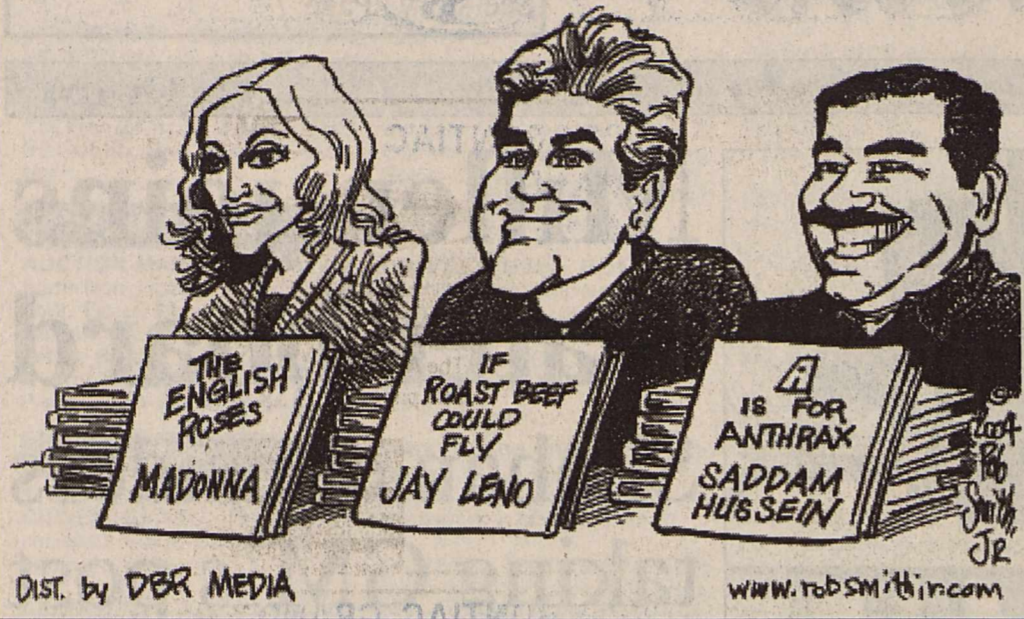


Right on target

Members of the Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports are shown participating in the recent county competition. The top shooters from each age group will represent Kinney County at the District 10 competition in Kerrville on May 1.

Photos Special to The Brackett News

PUBLISHERS EXPAND THEIR QUEST FOR CELEBRITY CHILDREN'S BOOKS.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

County officials need to do their jobs

I read in the paper that Kinney County may have to cut services due to the Governor's proposed legislation. We have the resources to raise money, but it seems our county officials don't want to do the work. Kinney County is doing itself an injustice by not issuing traffic citations. Several years ago the Texas legislators passed a law allowing sheriff departments to enforce traffic laws on privately owned homeowner association properties. The Sheriff's Office has been very lax in enforcing any traffic laws of Fort Clark. Everyone on the fort, including our youth, knows that tickets for speeding and running stop signs are not issued. When our kids leave for college, they find out that speeding and running stop signs will cost them a ticket. The "good old boy" system of telling them to slow down does not work in San Angelo, Austin or College Station. In just one hour, I witnessed 19 cars run a stop sign. The ticket for that violation is \$110. That would make how much for the county? Imagine how much could be made in a day at that intersection? And speeders, those tickets start at \$145 and go up from there! The county commissioners and sheriff should be ashamed! Are you afraid of doing your job and losing some votes? Let me tell you that you are losing more votes by not doing your duty! Instead of cutting services to the county, why not have our law enforcement do their jobs, earn money and make our streets safer.

Why are so many Texans overweight? The answer can be summed up in one word - lifestyle. In general, people spend more time sitting in front of computer and television screens than they did 30 years ago. Suburban sprawl has not helped our declining level of inactivity either. Today we spend more hours in our cars because there are fewer places within walking distance of our homes. People are simply not getting enough regular physical activity. To make matters worse, our dietary habits have deteriorated. We eat more saturated fat, sugar and processed food products. Fast food diets combined with sedentary lifestyles are a recipe for disaster. To make healthy changes, aim to eat foods that are low fat and lean, increase your consumption of fruits and vegetables and, most importantly, keep a close eye on portion sizes. If you have school-aged children, pack wholesome lunches and encourage them to eat healthy snacks. Our state's agriculture commissioner, Susan Combs, recently unveiled a plan to limit the availability of junk food and fatty snacks in public school cafeterias. If her plan is implemented, our children will learn to eat right at an early age. I applaud her leadership. Change is not easy, but this is more than your health we're talking about here - it could be your life. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recently released a study finding that by next year obesity will be the leading preventable cause of death among Americans. Tobacco is the No. 1 cause of preventable deaths, but the growing obesity epidemic will soon claim as many as 500,000 American lives each year. That's an astounding number of people dying before their time. There are several things you can easily alter in your daily routine to help you and the ones you love live a more healthy lifestyle. I have a rule that I always take stairs at the Capitol, rarely using the elevator. At work, walk over to your coworkers' desks periodically instead of using e-mail or the telephone. You might try parking toward the rear of a parking lot and slightly increasing the distance you walk to get to wherever you're headed. Establish a regular program of physical activity three or more times per week, but take it slow. Start with one day a week and go from there. Also, make sure to check with your physician before making any drastic changes in your exercise routine. For further motivation, sign up to participate in a walk or race for a charity or non-profit organization. To help children stay physically fit, enroll them in activities that get them off the couch and on the move, and encourage schools to increase physical education requirements. The growing number of people who are overweight and obese is alarming. Fortunately, it's a problem we can work together to address.

Russell F. White

Downsizing can be healthy



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

They say everything's bigger in Texas. Unfortunately, according to the latest obesity study by Men's Health magazine, so are the people in Texas. Five of the 10 fattest cities in America are located in Texas. This is one contest no city is proud to win - obesity is not a laughing matter. Poor diet and physical inactivity are becoming a leading preventable cause of death in the United States. The U.S. surgeon general has even gone so far as to call obesity an epidemic. One-third of adults in the U.S. are overweight and another third can be classified as obese. These statistics mean that fewer than half of America's adults are living at a healthy weight. The costs associated with excess pounds and obesity are enormous. Diabetes, high blood pressure, heart attacks and cancer are just a few of the health risks more prevalent in overweight individuals. Health care costs are at an all time high, not to mention the economic costs due to lost productivity, which recently totaled \$117 billion.

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Big Mama Sez! The real problem of your leisure is how to keep other people from using it. Includes an illustration of a woman sitting on a bench.

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- Auto Trans.
- Cruise Control

The Actual sale price **\$18,495***

| | |
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City candidates participate in public forum

Continued from Page 1
we never raised water rates, gas rates or waste collection rates. The city was very sound fiscally."

Guidry said he is seeking office to "make our town better."

"I stand confident behind my voting record while on the council," he said. "Every decision I made I felt was for the benefit of the whole community, and I say this wholeheartedly. I'm not a person to make a decision to benefit me or my neighbor — it'll always be for the betterment of the whole community."

"I want to improve life for everybody. That means keeping your taxes down, keeping the money that you work hard to earn in your pockets, and to make your tax dollars work for you."

Padron moved to Brackettville in 1997. His wife, Martha, is the county tax assessor-collector.

"I have never been involved in any kind of politics and I thought I would give it a go," he told those attending the forum.

Padron said he has "over 25 years of excellent leadership and interpersonal skills, beginning in 1974 when I began my career in public relations."

"I was pretty much involved in the selection of hiring, training and executing a lot of the daily procedures that are involved with that," he said. "As I continued, I got into a lot of budgeting and scheduling."

Padron said he wants to help improve the city's financial status.

"I started attending meetings when we were in debt," he said. "We had a lot of problems. Today, because of the City Council and because of people getting involved, we are pretty much level and we want to continue this. I think I got the experience to handle it, and the leadership skills."

Camilo Cruz Jr., incumbent Place 1 councilman, was not in attendance at the forum, but his two challengers, Richard Guajardo and Tully Welch, were.

Cruz was appointed to the council last year to fill a vacancy left by Bonnie Wardlaw, the current city secretary.

The Place 1 position will have one year remaining following this year's election. The mayor's post and other council positions all have two-year terms.

Guajardo was born and raised in Brackettville. He has a background in construction, and said this was his first time to enter the political arena.

"I'm very concerned with the problems in Brackettville," he said. "I would like to see it grow and prosper. I feel that I can give valuable opinions on many issues concerning the growth of Brackettville, such as maintenance, the upkeep of city parks and streets, and resolving the issue of abandoned houses or lots."

"I feel I can do a good job, try to keep people honest, and

try to work with the other council members and mayor to do the best I can.

"If elected, I promise to listen to the peoples' opinions and try to get issues resolved in a timely manner. I promise to be a voice for the citizens of Brackettville."

Welch is a Uvalde native. He has lived here for two years and has worked for the Texas Department of Public Safety for the last four years. He has also worked in education as a high school science teacher.

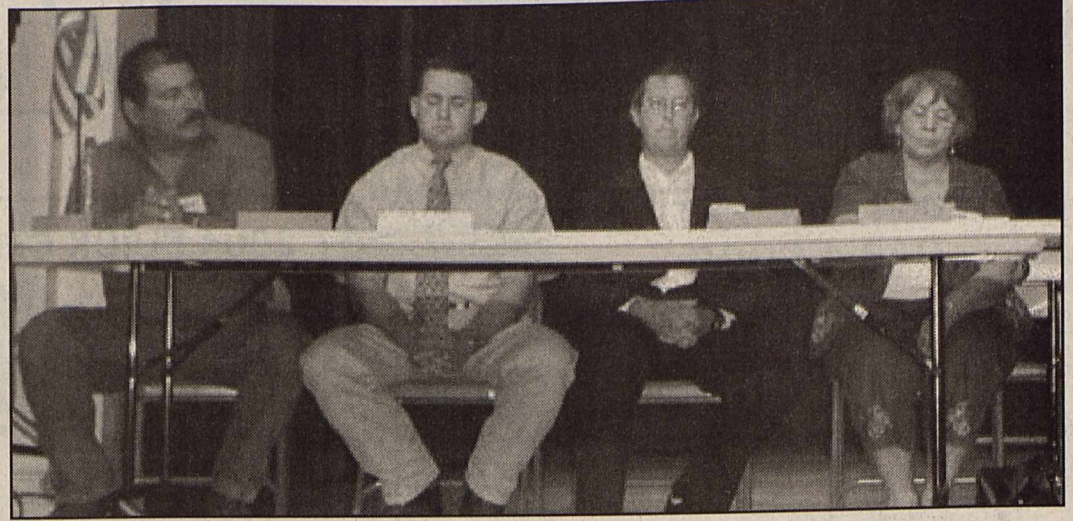
"A lot of people have come up to me and voiced concerns about the city of Brackettville and Kinney County," he said. "There are several reasons that I decided to run. In the two years that I've lived here, I have not had a single elected official ask me my opinion on any political or public matter. I think we need people in public offices that are concerned about the well-being of the public, their constituency. That is my goal as a city council person, if elected, to represent the people that put me in office."

Welch said he wanted to revitalize the city's defuncted police department.

Place 2 candidates Matt Bland and Mary Flores attended the forum, while Ramon "Dido" Garcia and Stephanie "B'Ann" Gomez were absent.

Flores, originally from Uvalde, has served 12 years on the council.

Currently, employed with



Brackettville City Council candidates Richard Guajardo (from left), Tully Welch, Matt Bland and Mary Flores discuss issues facing the city during a forum at the Brackett ISD Auditorium.

Guajardo Family Investment and Mortuary Services, Flores said she has "extensive accounting and management experience."

"When we had problems last year, the city was very much in need of revenue, and that's why we took action," she said.

"Those of you that went to the meetings know that we were about to lose everything. The doors of City Hall were about to be closed. The council and I got ourselves out of that. We have paid all the accounts in arrears. The city is out of debt."

"If re-elected, I want to work on the streets, city police and the fire department," she added.

Bland, who described himself as a "hometown boy" is the former owner of the Brackett Service Center and has worked

in sales and security for Fort Clark Springs.

"I bring 15 years of business management experience and about 20 years of public relations experience," he said.

Bland said he is running for office to "try to establish a tax base in order to ease the tax burden on the citizens."

"Over the past 15 or 20 years, the city has lost a host of businesses," he said. "Only a handful of these businesses have been replaced by other businesses. This is one of the reasons why we have a very high unemployment rate and increasing taxes."

"We need to have people on the City Council that have the initiative to solve some of our economic problems. We have two major sources of income, one

being tourism and the other being hunting. We need to help these two major resources grow."

Incumbent Johnny Samaniego and Lydia Tipps, Place 5 candidates, did not attend the event.

Simmons read a letter from Tipps, who said she was absent because her husband, Jeff, was recovering from brain surgery.

"I want to encourage all of you, regardless of who you vote into office, to attend not just the council meetings, but the school board and Commissioners' Court meetings as well," she said in her letter. "You and I, the voters, have the power to bring change in our community, but we must attend meetings to be informed, to voice our opinions, and we must vote."

BRIEFS

Cancer Support Group set to meet

The Cancer Support Group meeting will be held at the Frontier Baptist Church Fellowship Hall, located at the corner of Ann and El Paso Street, next Thursday, May 6, at 6:30 p.m. This group includes survivors, those who are currently receiving treatment, in remission and their caregivers and family. There is a pot luck supper, and the main dish will be provided.

Group hosts wine and cheese party

The community is invited to the annual Old Quarry wine and cheese party Monday at 5 p.m. at the Post Theater. The party is to thank those who support the group during the season. New officers will be installed and there will be a preview of the 2005 season. For more information, call Charlene Simmons at 563-3070.

Cavalry Brigade to gather Saturday

The Cavalry Brigade will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at Shafter Hall for its monthly cleaning of Fort Clark Springs. Lunch will be served from 11:30 to 12:30.

Rabies clinic planned for Saturday

A Rabies Clinic will be held at City Hall on Saturday from 9 a.m. to noon.



Winners in the junior division were Brooke Bowlin (from left), third place; Emily Calk, second; and Daphne Hunt, first.



Winners in the pre-junior division were, top row (from left): Katie Bowlin, first alternate; Tyler McDonald, third place; Chris Blake, second place; and Bryan Calk, first place. Bottom row: Mike Flores, second alternate; and Ramon Gutierrez, fourth.

4-H Club holds county shooting competition

Continued from Page 1
competition in each age category received a medal engraved with their individual accomplishment. Medals were also presented to honor 11 other shooters who successfully completed the county competition and who have been certified as eligible to compete in other statewide competitions, including the "Hot Box" competition in Brownwood on June 12 and the

Texas State Shooting Sports Games in San Antonio on July 12-17.

The event also included lunch and a fun shoot following the awards presentation. Shooters were able to test their skill using different rifles, and shooting a variety of targets, including paint balls and steel spinning targets. The fun shoot also afforded parents the rare opportunity to try their hand at what

4-H shooters make look easy.

Adults are only allowed to shoot on a 4-H range for leader training and special events. Most found it wasn't as easy as it looked!

There are 27 members of the 4-H Shooting Sports project currently entered into a postal competition. The postal competition is basically the same as the county competition except that the targets will be mailed away

to be scored and ranked with targets from shooters from all over the state of Texas.

The shooting of the postal competition has already begun and is scheduled to be completed around the end of the month. Results for those who complete the course of fire should be back sometime in late May.

For more information, contact the Kinney County Extension Office at (830) 563-2442.

EL PASO STREET BAR

A Friendly place to visit your neighbor's & friends? Join us Saturday, May 1st for Cinco De Mayo Party. Starts at 12:00 p.m. Mex Food "Covered Dish Lunch" 4:00 p.m. "Broom Stick" Pool Tournament.

Every Sunday join in or watch our Pool Tournament. Play Blow Darts on Tuesday Night

Thursday's 'Karaoke Night' come by for "Local Entertainment."

Coming May 15th "Chili Cook-Off" Come by to sign up & info.

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Dr. Kent Lowery, D.C.

In this day and age, people are having more health concerns due to stress, pollution, and increased exposure to disease. One essential area to include in your health plan is care of the spine - one of the most important parts of the human body.

Almost every nerve in the body runs through the spine first before it reaches your organs and muscles, which are essential to maintain life. From childhood through your adult life, your spine gets a lot of abuse from lifting, sports injuries, exercising, falling down, auto accidents and other actions. Through these sudden movements, small bones called vertebrae that compose your spine can get misaligned, causing pressure on the nerves. This pressure prevents proper nerve flow, which may result in neck pain, tension headaches, dizziness, insomnia, lower back pain, some diseases and many other symptoms.

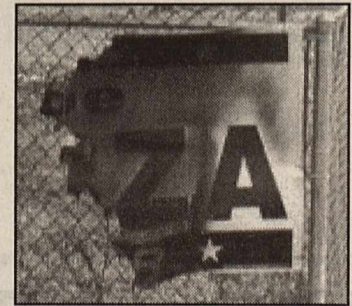
Chiropractic care is a safe, drug-free, natural way of helping the body to heal itself. By adjusting the spine to its correct position, the body is allowed its full potential, thereby leaving the nerves to flow freely and run their natural course again.

Don't wait for an accident or intense pain before caring for your spine. Please call **Dr. Kent Lowery, D.C.**, located in Brackettville, for an appointment at (830) 765-4917.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, April 19
11:05 a.m., U.S. Border Patrol officials reported a red Tahoe driving at a high rate of speed on Highway 90.
10:02 p.m., A 911 caller reported a possible intoxicated driver on Highway 90.
Tuesday, April 20
8:06 a.m., U.S. Border Patrol officials reported a one-vehicle rollover on Highway 90, near the Dust Bowl Arena west of Brackettville.
3:15 p.m., A woman reported that someone had taken out a credit card in another man's name.
7:50 p.m., A man reported a four-wheeler driving recklessly on

Fulton Street. Five minutes later, another man reported the same four-wheeler driving recklessly on E. Edwards Street.
Thursday, April 22
11:15 p.m., A man reported loud music between Fulton and Veltman Street.
Friday, April 23
5:55 p.m., A woman reported that a Joe Garza political sign was stolen from her residence on Brown Street and that another sign was being burned on Remote Alley.
11:27 p.m., A Montgomery man reported that \$110 in cash was stolen from his hotel room at Fort Clark Springs.
Saturday, April 24
9 p.m., A man reported an abandoned vehicle on W. Beaumont and Fulton Street. He said he also heard shots fired in the area.
9:14 p.m., A woman reported loud music and cars doing doughnuts in the road.
Sunday, April 25
2 a.m., A Fort Clark woman reported loud noises near her residence in Unit 3.
5:15 a.m., A Fort Clark security employee reported that an intoxicated man had pushed his girlfriend. Ten minutes later, the woman called to report that her boyfriend was fighting with another man at their residence in Unit 3.
9:10 p.m., Deputy Ramon Gutierrez reported illegal aliens on F.M. 693, about 8 miles outside of Brackettville.



Political signs of mayoral candidate Joe Garza were reported burned and stolen last week.

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Registration for the Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc. Head Start Program is currently underway, you can come by the office located at 713 E. Main St. or 566 W. Main St. in Uvalde, Texas or call 278-9167 for more information, for Brackettville call 563-2407 or come by the center at 506 Beaumont St. Parents or guardians must bring proof of income, the child's birth certificate, Social Security Cards for everyone in the household, Picture ID for parents, and the child's immunization record.

Call - **Dominic A. Palma**
(Former Air Force Sgt. LAFB)
at:

DEL RIO

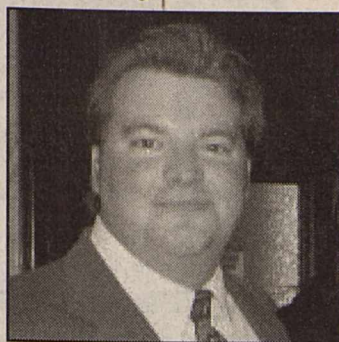
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MAYOR OF BRACKETTVILLE

J.J. Guidry

My name is J.J. Guidry. I have spent most of my life here in Brackettville and it is truly "home" for me — in every sense of the word. Most of my family still lives here, and I love living in a community where I am constantly surrounded by many, many dear and close friends. I sincerely care about our community, and that is why I am asking for your support in my candidacy for mayor.



I believe I have the experience, integrity and dedication to capably serve you as mayor. I was fortunate enough to enjoy two years as a city councilman from 1997 to 1999. At that point in my life, I decided to resume my college education full-time in order to change professions. I will graduate this summer with a bachelor of science degree.

Since returning home to Brackettville in 2002, I have continued to follow the Brackettville City Council in my job as editor of *The Brackett News*. I am familiar with all of the issues surrounding our city, and have a working knowledge of the state laws that govern our city. In addition, I have taken a number of higher-education courses in economics, government and law.

I have a proven voting record as a member of the Brackettville City Council. Every decision I made was based on the needs of the community as a whole. I take pride in running an open and honest campaign. I am more than glad to discuss any of the issues facing our city.

I have always been a big believer in the importance of community involvement and civic duty. I have been a member of various local service organizations, such as the Brackettville Rotary Club (past president), Brackett ISD Superintendent's Advisory Committee, Kinney County Chamber of Commerce, Brackett Band Booster Club (past president), Brackett Athletic Booster Club (past secretary)

and the Kinney County Little League (past vice president).

If elected, my immediate goal will be to help create a budget for the upcoming fiscal year that minimizes taxes and the costs of gas, water and waste collection, while improving the many important services the city provides. Among my priorities are better streets and street lighting, strengthening the city's finances, and further developing the city park, pool and playground areas for the children of the community.

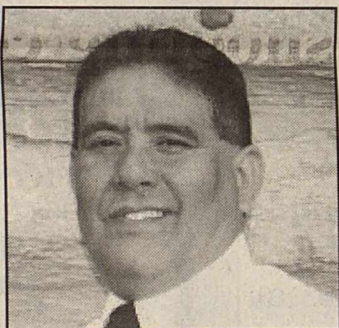
My long-range goal if elected mayor is to attract new businesses and subsequent jobs to Brackettville. By working with the Chamber of Commerce, Kinney County, Fort Clark Springs, Alamo Village and other businesses and organizations, I want to promote our community's rich history and vacationing opportunities to increase tourism, which in turn will help our economy grow and lead to more job opportunities for our local citizens.

I also want to work with local civic organizations to begin a city festival (to include a chili cookoff, arts and crafts, live music, etc.) to bring people into our town. The event can be held every summer to promote our community, and the funds raised can be used to benefit the Volunteer Fire Department through needed equipment and training.

Your support in the upcoming election is greatly appreciated.

Ponce Padron

Hello, my name is Ponce Padron, I have been a resident of Brackettville since 1991. My wife, Martha Pena Padron, is a native of Brackettville. I have over 25 years of excellent leadership and interpersonal skills beginning in 1974 when I began my career in public relations.



The office of mayor is one that requires leadership skills, vision for the future, concern for the entire community and commitment to represent the citizens with integrity, honesty and dignity.

I decided to run for mayor for the purpose of serving my community and to make decisions based on the fact that the quality of life for the future of Brackettville depends on the quality of today's leadership.

I'm not coming in with a master plan. My goal is to have our citizens excited, well informed and proud of our city. I would like to address issues such as much needed street repairs, beautification of our city, health insurance for our city employees, and to assist in improving our financial situation.

One of my top priorities that also needs addressing is our Fire Department and fire protection. These hard working, local unsung heroes volunteer their time and place their lives on the line for our community. They need to be recognized and appreciated. We need to provide our firemen and our city employees with much needed equipment and training that will further assist them in successfully performing their jobs.

I would like to see summer programs for our youth and provide summer jobs within our

local businesses, yet look into government funding whereas not to put the total burden on our local businesses.

I would like to look at issues of incentives through the lens of small businesses. I would like to see every business recognized by having a red ribbon ceremony introducing them to the community and encourage our citizens to support our local merchants.

In addition, proclamations would also be an incentive to citizens by encouraging them to get involved, be recognized and contribute to the betterment of our city.

If elected I will faithfully carry out the duties and responsibilities entrusted to me as mayor with integrity, honesty and dignity. I will work for the improvement of the quality of life of our community, to look out for the best interest of our community as a whole, and to service the needs of our friends and neighbors as best as I can.

A vote for Ponce Padron is a vote for experience in administrative and managerial issues, knowledge in budget issues, fiscal responsibility and strength for "leadership for the future."

Your vote and support is sincerely appreciated.

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ALDERMAN, PLACE 1

Tully Welch

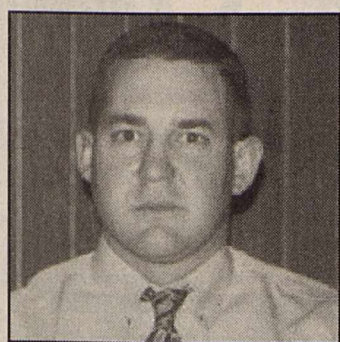
Tully Welch, who is a native of Uvalde, has lived in Brackettville for the past two years.

He graduated from Uvalde High School in 1993 and then moved to San Angelo where he attended Angelo State University.

In 1997 Welch graduated from ASU with a bachelor of science degree.

In 1998-1999, he was employed by the Monahans-Wickett-Pyote ISD as a high school science teacher.

Welch has been employed for



four years with the Texas Department of Public Safety as a highway patrol trooper.

ALDERMAN, PLACE 2

Mary V. Flores

I am announcing my candidacy for re-election for City Council Place 2 on the upcoming May 15 city general election. It is your demonstrated support that encouraged me to become a candidate once again.

One of the greatest challenges facing the city following the months after May 2003 was overcoming the tremendous accounts in arrears. With the downturn of the city this municipality was hurting for revenue. With no loans available to the city, we, the City Council, took immediate action. The following report is the status of my performance and duties as a councilwoman:

I volunteered 64 hours per month for six months helping with the city's finances. After the mayor became ill, I took over the finances of the city with full council approval. I was able to bring the account balance from \$120,000 to \$13,000 by November 2003 and kept the monthly accounts current.

City Council and I amended the 2003-04 budget, revised employee's policy manual, took police inventory of equipment that totaled \$17,830 as well as city inventory.

I was responsible for city auction of equipment that totaled \$17,765. We applied it towards our accounts in arrears. Salaries went down from over \$409,000 to \$238,000 by November 2003. Also, payroll tax, \$13,000; TML

liability insurance, \$20,570; CPS \$1,200; WTG, \$88,000. Balance by November 2003, \$13,000. At present time paid in full.

Numerous local vendors were paid in full. Waste Management, \$17,000. Balance, 0. Employees' retirement, \$4,710. Balance, 0. Credit cards in arrears paid in full. Total volunteer hours in six months: 384.

The interests of the city has been my priority, and it is with a sense of accomplishment that I give you this report. I look forward to working on the new budget of 2004-05. If re-elected I will work on the future of the city for progress and improvement.

I ask for your vote on May 15. Your support of me translate into a statement that you are committed to excellence in financial and government policy leadership. Thank you for your continued support.

Education: Graduate, Uvalde High School, SWTJC. Attended SRSU, H&R Income Tax School, numerous seminars, Texas Election Law, as well as other state seminars. Certified notary public license, State of Texas, pre-need license insurance agent.

Employment: Guajardo Family Investment of Mortuary Services.

Experience: Extensive knowledge in accounting and management.

ALDERMAN, PLACE 5

Lydia Morin Tipps

I was born and raised in Brackettville, and moved back in 1988 after my husband, Jeff, retired from the Air Force. We have three children, Casey, Jeffrey and Jamie.

I graduated from BHS in 1972 and SWTJC in 1973. I have been a licensed vocational nurse for the past 30 years. The last 14 I

have spent working at UMC.

I have no experience in the city government, but I am a quick learner. I have been very active in the council meetings for the past few years.

I would welcome and appreciate the opportunity to serve on our City Council and encourage all of you to attend the meetings.

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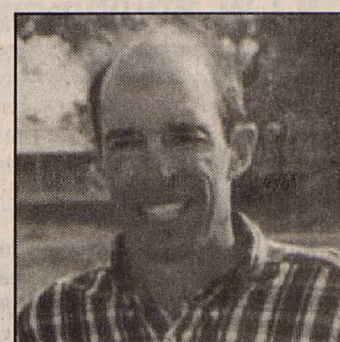
Roy Jay Harris

My name is Roy Jay Harris and I am one of the candidates for school board trustee.

My wife Jenifer and I have three children who currently are enrolled in Brackett ISD. We have lived in the community for five years. However, my wife Jenifer graduated from Brackett ISD.

I have a bachelor of business administration degree from Angelo State University with a teaching certification in special education. At present I am employed with the Eagle Pass ISD as the special education director for the Junior High School. This position has allowed me to become very familiar with the state educational laws as they apply to all students.

I also serve on the EPISD Special Education Budget Committee. We are responsible for distributing large amounts of federal and state money



throughout the district.

Having young children of my own, I am very active as a volunteer for local youth organizations. I serve as a director on the local Little League and as a manager for the local youth 4-H Club.

My hope is to bring to this district alternative methods of dealing with today's changing educational needs. I would appreciate your vote on May 15.

Thank You, Roy Harris

Tom Swinson

I am a candidate for school board trustee of the Brackett Independent School District. I will be fair, open minded and will listen to and consider all points of view. I will consider issues and not personalities, and I will treat everyone respectfully and in a professional manner. The best interests of the students will always be my first priority.

My education and experience have trained me to identify issues, analyze them and make appropriate decisions.

I was born in 1953 in Del Rio and lived there most of my life. I graduated from Del Rio High School. I worked in construction and maintenance during the summers and also started and operated my own pool service and chemical supplies business.

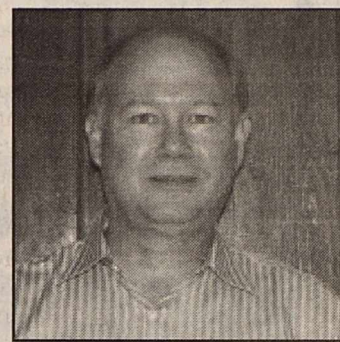
I graduated from Texas A&M University in 1975 with a bachelor of science degree in microbiology. After graduation, I worked as a medical bacteriologist at Texas Children's Hospital in Houston where my responsibilities included bacteriological research and quality control.

In December 1978, I received a doctor of jurisprudence degree from St. Mary's University School of Law. During law school I worked as a law clerk in San Antonio and Austin. I was licensed to practice law by the State Bar of Texas in May 1979.

After law school, I married and returned to Del Rio, where I served as the assistant district attorney for the 63rd Judicial District until October 1980, when I entered private law practice. I have also taught business law classes at a local college and have served as a municipal judge for the city of Del Rio.

My wife, Veronica, and I have been married for 25 years and have three children: Todd, a business major at the University of Texas at Austin; Rachel, a sophomore at Brackett High School; and Laura, a seventh grader at Brackett Junior High.

We now reside at Fort Clark Springs. We moved here so that our daughters could attend



Brackett schools. We have had experience with a child attending Brackett's elementary, junior high and high school.

We are parishioners of St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church, and I have been appointed recently to the Fort Clark Springs Planning Committee.

My past memberships and activities include the Val Verde County Bar Association (secretary/treasurer, president), Uvalde County Bar Association (secretary/treasurer), Medina County Bar Association, Kerr County Bar Association, Zavala County Bar Association, Border Bar Association, Texas District and County Attorneys Association, Texas Municipal Judges Association, Sacred Heart Catholic Church (parish council vice president, constitution and bylaws committee chairman, finance committee, cemetery committee, parish newsletter co-editor, grounds supervisor), Boy Scout of America (Concho Valley Council member-at-large, Amistad District finance chairman and banquet chairman), Del Rio A&M Club (vice president, secretary/treasurer), Val Verde County Historical Commission (genealogical research committee chairman), and the Del Rio Lions Club.

Veronica and I are very pleased with the quality and environment offered by the Brackett schools. As trustee, I want to serve the district by maintaining its strengths and by continuing to build upon and improve the quality of its programs. I appreciate your support and vote.

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Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Turf, 4 Recommendations for sore muscles, 8 Of the neighborhood, 13 Aleutian Island, 14 Broncos' home: abbr., 15 Deteriorate, 16 Complement, 17 Of an age, 18 Business transactions, 19 Showy, 22 Naval vessel, for short, 23 Tried, 24 Metric unit, 26 Drifting, 29 Goodies, 32 Gemstones, 36 Otherwise, 38 U.S. writer, James, 39 In the center of, 40 Witch's home, 41 Restoration, 42 Contemplative, 43 Affirmatives, 44 Unsmiling, 45 Vending machine purchases, 47 Actor's concern, 49 Outbursts of laughter, 51 Solution, 56 Ben, 58 Top newspaper positions, 61 Musical production, 63 Give for a time, 64 Altitude: abbr., 65 Flower parts, 66 Ornamental trim, 67 Cartoon roadrunner's word, 68 Depulized group, 69 European river, 70 Beast of burden, 1 Take off, 2 Web-footed swimmer, 3 Because of, 4 Panoramas, 5 Red beverage, 6 Jai, 7 Performs alone, 8 Not as significant, 9 pro nobis; pray for us, 10 Business associate, 11 Quenchers, 12 For fear that, 13 Electric guitar accessories, 20 Save up, 21 Complete, 25 Respond, 27 Counter's start, 28 Rapidly, 30 Region: abbr., 31 Spotted, 32 Pokes, 33 Amo, amas, 34 Differs in opinion, 35 Swell situation?, 37 Unexceptional, 40 Let up, 44 Elected ones: abbr., 46 Satisfy, 48 Place for stored food, 50 Foolish, 52 Biblical queen's home, 53 Stratagems, 54 Swords, 55 Common French abbr., 56 Place with many beds: abbr., 57 Until, 59 Social affairs, 60 In the past, 62 House divs.

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: SNACKS

Grid for Roaring Twenties puzzle with words MA ERCECIKSK, DCARROTSJPLA, EDONUTDLHIAN, TBROWNIEDHED, DRDNKKJZECRY, BDUDRIHTGOER, AEKGEOEENTCA, NHLLOICRAADI, AHPDPYGPRTLS, NPUDDINGOOOI, ADDSTUNAEPCN, ESEEHCIWDNAS

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

HAPPY BIRTHDAY April 29.....John Story May 2...Lawrence Salazar April 29....Edward Salazar May 4.....Sapopo Castillo April 30.....F.M. Huffman May 4.....James Conrad May 1...Rosemary Abrigo May 4.....Cubie Kurtz May 1.....Sammy Smith May 5...Tom Faulkenberry May 1.....Arnie Trautwein May 5.....Eleanor Frerich May 5.....Johnny Smith

Roaring Twenties Solution: 1. Apple, 2. Banana, 3. Brownie, 4. Candy, 5. Carrots, 6. Cheese, 7. (Cold) cereal, 8. Cookie, 9. Donut, 10. Ice cream, 11. Orange, 12. Peanuts, 13. Pie, 14. Popcorn, 15. (Potato) chips, 16. Pretzels, 17. Pudding, 18. Raisins, 19. Sandwich, 20. Yogurt

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need to pay more attention to what your body's telling you. Good nutrition and proper rest should be priorities now. At work, you're still able to focus on what must be done. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You're surprised by a social invitation extended to you this week. You hadn't anticipated it. However, it's obvious your presence is both wanted and welcome; say yes. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Happily, you see eye-to-eye with a loved one this week. The two of you can collaborate on a home improvement project quite well. This weekend, socializing takes precedence. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Try your best to avoid controversy this week. Those around you seem to be in disagreeable moods. In fact, they'll probably be negative just for the sake of it. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Business and financial matters are favored this week. In fact, success is yours with a little ingenuity and some hard work. Travel is most possible during the latter part of the week. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It's a good week for you to get out and about and enjoy some great weather. Physical activities will be most satisfying. Later in the week, a financial opportunity arises. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You spend some happy hours debating issues of the day with a friend. While the discussions are spirited, you manage to get through them without angering each other. Over the weekend, you're relaxed and refreshed. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You try too hard, this week, to be the life of the party. Make an effort to relax more. If you do, you'll be more successful on the social scene. LEO (July 23 to August 22) Do your best to curb your tongue this week. A co-worker in particular has you riled up. Remember, a sharp retort made in anger can lead to nothing but trouble. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Your romantic life takes a surprising twist this week. However, it's a pleasant one. At work, you're charismatic and creative. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You tap into some great ideas business-wise. A family member can help with this. It's this person's area of expertise, so be sure to listen. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're quite energetic this week. Take the opportunity, then, to harness this and handle what must be done. This is particularly true of domestic chores.

Live the Faith and know peace

My Dear Brothers and Sisters of Brackettville,

Peace be with you! Rejoice and be glad for the Lord is truly risen! Be not afraid for the Light has conquered the darkness and we are children of the Light.

Darkness has no hold on us because we walk in the light of Christ. Therefore clothe yourselves in the Light and no longer live according to your old ways.

He has made all things new. He has given us freedom from sin that we may cry out "Abba, Father." No longer do we have to walk in the sleep of forgetfulness and confusion. He has given us the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Death has been put to death for he is risen. Allelujah!

Rejoice and be glad my dear people. His light shines brightly. In this time rejoice but remember, your ransom has been paid at a dear price. The passion of the Christ was greater than you can imagine. Without the cross there is no resurrection, without the passion no redemption. The mystery is one.

No man before and none after knows the suffering that this man knew. The weight of the sins of all time seized upon him such that blood came forth from his very pores.

This anguish has been known by none other. He was beaten so severely that he could not be recognized as a man. He was hung on a cross, the wood of a

tree. As he was raised up, he drew all things unto himself. Although he could have, he did not call on 12 legions of angels to rush to his aid. Rather, he poured himself out in mercy crying, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

This act of salvation resounded throughout all eternity, spanning all time know to man — from Adam to the very last soul that will receive the breath of life. By His blood we are healed. He died that our sins may be forgiven.

Remember also, on the night before he died, he gave us the gift of the Holy Priesthood and the gift of the Holy Eucharist. Be grateful for these gifts and preserve them.

The priesthood is holy because there is only one priest and one priesthood. Christ is the priest and his priesthood. All who are ordained to the holy priesthood are one in the priesthood of Christ. There is no separation. Do not be scandalized by the sinfulness of some priests, which has opened the very gates of hell in an attack on the holy priesthood. Remember that from the beginning there have been those who have given themselves to be sons of perdition. Judas Iscariot was one of the 12.

But Christ founded Holy Mother Church on the Rock and he led the other apostles who where the first bishops. They



Postcard Home

Brother Henry Clay Hunt III

were given authority and the promise, sealed in the Holy Spirit, that they would shepherd the people in the truth and preserve the Faith until the Second Coming.

This is the promise on which we stand. This is why you must love and defend your priests. Without the priest there is no Eucharist and without the Eucharist there is no Jesus.

This is the gift He gave at the Last Supper, before he gave himself to return to the Father: "This is my body, which will be given for you. This cup is the new covenant in my blood, which will be shed for you."

This is his presence among us until his return in glory. This is the plan of God the Father.

As Saint Padre Pio said, "The world would sooner cease to exist without the sun, than without the Eucharist."

Pray for your priests and love them. As I said, be not afraid. Although the seas are rough, he is with us, he is right there in the boat, asleep beside us. The promise stands and continues. Trust ... believe. The price

has been paid. Listen not to those who say it was too much or too graphic. Christ was tempted with the same words, "It is too much for one man."

So what can you do? Listen to your mother (another one of the great gifts that the Father has given us).

The Blessed Virgin Mary says, "Dear children, I invite you for your individual conversion. This time is for you. Come to realize the plan of God. Dear children grow day by day closer to God through prayer. I give you the weapon against your Goliath. Here are your little stones ...

1. Prayer with the heart: the Rosary (the mysteries of the life of Christ).

2. Eucharist (daily Mass): "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him."

3. Holy Bible (the Word of God).

4. Fasting (the prayer which leavens all other prayer) on Wednesday and Friday.

5. Monthly confession (an encounter with the Most Holy Trinity).

Be not afraid. Christ has conquered. Live the Faith and you will know the peace, you will know the joy. Courage!

From Rome, Br. Henry Clay Hunt, III S.O.L.T.

St. Maria Faustina: Pray for us.

Never make friends with someone who is a gossip

The front door shut noisily and a very tired but happy 13-year-old David bounced into the house.

"Hi hon, how was the pajama party last night at Jimmy's? You must have had a lot of fun. It's almost noon. You slept late this morning."

"We had a really great time, Mom. We played a lot of games, listened to music, and talked until we couldn't stay awake. Jimmy's parents are really neat. I like them a lot. Can I have a pajama party here?"

"As long as you're agreeable to Dad and I being here to chaperone, David I don't see why not. I'm really proud of your choice of friends. Who'll you invite to your party?"

"Well Mom, pretty much the same kids that came to Jimmy's. Except for Joe," David said.

"Why not invite Joe, honey?"

"Mom, all Joe wants to do is talk about other kids and the bad things they do. It seems like he's got something on everybody. I just get tired of listening to it. Sometimes I think he makes a lot of it up. Even if it is true, I don't like the idea of all that gossip."

"You're right David, it isn't a good idea to be the friend of a gossip. Do you know why?"



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

"Sure Mom. He'll gossip about me, too."

"That's right David and do you know what's worse than just listening to gossip?"

"Passing it on?"

"Right again, honey. A very wise man long ago said that a person who enjoys the evil of others and who passes it along meets up with evil in his own life. It is the fool, who when he hears gossip, cannot stand it until he tells another. Never repeat gossip, and let all that you hear die within you. (Sirach 19:5-10)

"You don't need friends who are like Joe. It's wise to avoid them. Now let's make a list of the kids you want to invite to your party."

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

In passing judgment you condemn yourself

It is most interesting to me to observe what the media continues to report to us concerning what "they" are saying and doing during this current political season.

Countless persons are engaged in running either for a national or a state or a local structure of a governmental office to serve the people on the national, the state or the local scene.

According to the statistics available, the greater majority of those hoping to be elected by their peers profess



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

some affiliation with one or another of the numerous religious denominational groups making up the splintered followers of Jesus of Nazareth.

I wonder if they ever read and assimilated what the author of the Letter to the Ephesians ad-

vised. (Chapter 4)

What follows is a translation of the original Greek via the 1989 NRSV: "Putting away falsehood, let all of us speak the truth to our neighbors." (Verse 25) "Let no evil talk come out of your mouths, but only what is useful for building up, as there is need, so that your words may give grace to those who hear." (Verse 29)

The New Jerusalem Bible translates those same Greek words thusly: "There must be no more lies. Speak the truth to one another." (Verse 25)

"Let your words be for the improvement of others, as occasion offers, and do good to your listeners." (Verse 29)

The question: Is all this faultfinding, actually a negative approach, the Christian approach?

How about this from Paul's letter to the Romans (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."

'Give me this mountain'

"And Moses swore on that day, saying, surely the land where on thy feet have trodden shall be thine inheritance, and thy children's forever, because, thou hast wholly followed the Lord my God.

"And now, behold, the Lord hath kept me alive, as he said, these forty and five years, even since the Lord spake this word unto Moses, while the children of Israel wandered in the wilderness: And now, lo, I am this day fourscore and five years old.

"As yet I am as strong this day as I was in the day that Moses sent me: as my strength was then, even so is my strength now, for war, both to go out, and to come in.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

"Now therefore give me this mountain, where of the Lord spake in that day; for thou heardest in that day how the Anakim were there, and that the cities were great and fenced: If so be the Lord will be with me, then I shall be able to drive them out, as the Lord said. (Joshua 14:9-12)

Amen. Glory. Praise the Lord!

SPORTS

Tigerette netters claim fifth straight district tennis title

The Brackett Tigerettes swept the singles and doubles titles at the District 30-2A tennis meet recently, claiming their fifth-straight conference championship.

Sarah Meyer and Ashley Smith won the girls' doubles title, while teammates Whitney Hobbs and Kristin Meyer finished second.

In girls' singles, Jackie

Duncan took top honors and Laura Meyer came in third.

Tillman Davis and Tony Jamaill claimed the boys' doubles title, while Leon Woolsey won second-place honors in boys' singles.

Stanford Conoly also competed in boys' singles, while Trey Smith and Michael Stephenson competed in boys' doubles.

In the junior high district tournament, Whitney Gum, Ashley Stephenson and Anolda Watkins took first, second and third, respectively, in eighth grade girls' singles.

In the eighth grade boys' division, K.J. Bonner and Josh Kluzak finished second in doubles. In singles, Alex Gonzalez and Conrad Moore were second and third, respectively.

Summer Allen and Laura Swinson won the seventh grade girls' doubles title, while Becca Mann and Samantha Moore took second.

Robert Salmon placed second in seventh grade boys' singles, while Bianca Martinez took third in the girls' division.

Seventh graders Katie Braesicke and Jessica Stafford also competed in the tournament.

NOTICE

I, Ponce Padron, candidate for Mayor would like to give notice to the citizens of Brackettville that my wife, Martha, and I were not associated in any way with the most recent negative campaign mailouts. I will continue to conduct my campaign in a positive, professional manner. Your vote and continued support will be sincerely appreciated.

Pd.Pol. Adv. By P Padron, PO Box 925, Brackettville, Texas 78832

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Pastor Darin Koenig

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The Brackett News

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SOD SPAS LOCAL ATTU COLO ERODE MATE ERAL SALES PRETENTIOUS LST STROVE STERE

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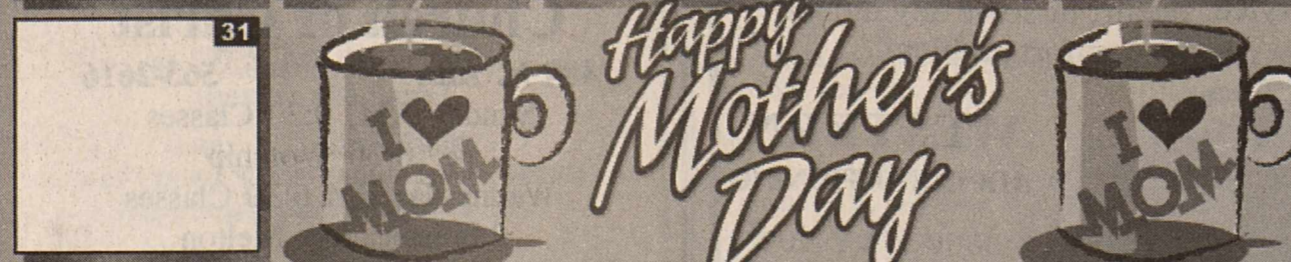
Table with 5 columns: MONDAY, TUESDAY, WEDNESDAY, THURSDAY, FRIDAY. Rows 3-31 listing physicians and their specialties.

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- Bitar, Jamil, M.D. Internal Medicine & Cardiology..... 591-1294
Box, Gloria G., M.D. Orthopedic Surgery..... 278-2292
Carpinteyro, Ralph, M.D. Internal Medicine..... 278-6681

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- Gregory Baber, D.M.D. Dental Surgeon..... (830) 278-7105
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