

The Brackett News



Independence Parade is planned for July 3
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16th year, No. 20

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Will Brackettville try to annex fort?

In his first City Council meeting as mayor, Joe Garza Jr. was faced with a rumor circulating in the county.

Bill Haenn, the county's chief appraiser, asked the new administration if the city had any plans to annex Fort Clark Springs and make it part of the city of Brackettville.

"I have not given it any consideration," Garza said. "I'm sure that it will come before the

council, at which time we will make a decision, but as of right now I really can't speak for the council."

Haenn asked Garza to clarify his feelings about the possibility.

"That topic has not been discussed," Garza responded. "It may be on the agenda at a future date — I'm not sure. If it does become an agenda item, then we will discuss it.

"I have not given it any consideration. I'm sure that it will come before the council, at which time we will make a decision, but as of right now I really can't speak for the council."

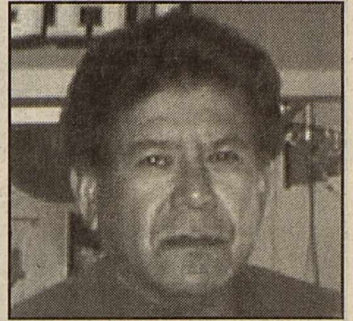
Mayor Joe Garza Jr.

"If it is an agenda item, I would certainly like to see the pros and cons of the issue be-

fore I, individually on a personal basis, decide whether to support it or not to support it. I can't

speaking for the rest of the council."

Council members Matt Bland, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez, Lydia Tipps and Tully Welch did not comment on the issue. Bland, Tipps and Welch, along with the mayor, were elected to their first terms last month. Over 50 citizens — and three law enforcement officers — were at the first meeting of the new City Council.



Mayor Joe Garza Jr.



Simmons wins first place in state for column writing

Local newspaper brings home four awards at Texas Press competition

AUSTIN — *The Brackett News* brought home four awards, including Shanae Simmons' first-place finish in column writing, Saturday at the Texas Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.

The awards were presented during the association's 125th Annual Summer Convention, held at the Omni Austin Hotel Downtown.

"It is always gratifying to be recognized by your professional peers," said J.J. Guidry, editor of *The Brackett News*. "We take pride in keeping our neighbors aware of all the issues facing our community."

This year 198 newspapers submitted 1,662 entries in 10

different divisions. The entries were judged by members of the New Mexico Press Association.

This was the second year in a row that Simmons, a student at Brackett High School, earned an award in column writing. She finished second last year, and took top honors in the state in this year's competition.

"Shanae is such a talented young lady," said Jewel Robinson, publisher of *The Brackett News*. "We are all extremely proud of her. She was competing against long-time professional journalists and she proved what we've known all along — she is an incredibly gifted writer."

About her column entitled

Simmons' winning column ...2 Staff photo with awards4

"Crushing a crush," the judges said: "Good writing — honest, personal, but smartly done."

Simmons' second column entered in the contest was entitled "Society places unrealistic goals on personal appearances of teens."

"Nice way of dealing with issues on a personal level," the judges wrote about the piece.

The Brackett News took second place overall in the general excellence competition. The entire newspaper is judged in the category.

"Strong news coverage," the

judges wrote. "*The Brackett News* finds a balance among local hard news, soft news, state, editorial, sports and features like no other newspaper in this category. The newspaper is solid."

Guidry and Danielle Moore, also a student at Brackett High School, each won a third place award for sports photos.

The judges said their entries had "great action," "captured the shooter very well" and were "nice shots."

Guidry also won a third place award for page design.

"Easy to read," the judges said of the local newspaper. "Layout is reader-friendly."

Council debates garbage pickup City officials to consider new map for collections

City officials have agreed to separate residential garbage collection into two days so employees can pick up trash in the mornings and perform other duties in the afternoon.

The City Council made the decision during its monthly meeting last week. The aldermen will meet again tonight at 6 to review a map to reflect the new schedule.

"This has been an interesting issue for quite sometime since the inception of the program by the city to pick up the trash," said Mayor Joe Garza Jr. "There have been some extensive problems in getting the trash picked up."

City Council members Matt Bland, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez Jr., Lydia Tipps and Tully Welch all voted to change the collection schedule.

"I think it's worth a try," the mayor said. "That might work. If it doesn't work, we can come back to the drawing board."

The city has been collecting residential trash on Mondays. Francisca Garza's motion was to pick up residential trash two days a week, only in the mornings.

"I think one of the reasons it's taking so long is because we haven't established a permanent route yet," she said. "To me, I think, if we started on the east side of town, and go longitude first and then latitude, it would work out better."

"In the mornings, when you first come in, you're fresh. We can stop at 12 because it is too hot and we don't need anybody having a heat stroke."

"It's not going to be perfect overnight. I would like us to continue offering this service to

"I have not heard any complaints, personally, about it not working. Actually, there have been several citizens come to me and say they are really appreciative of the service."

Tully Welch

the citizens. I know we're having a lot of problems, but we can fix the problems," Garza added.

The mayor said the city did not have the manpower or the equipment to handle garbage collection.

"We need more people because there is not enough persons to pick up the trash," said David Martinez, the city's maintenance superintendent. "Back in May, it was cool and it was OK. Now that the weather is getting hot, it's taking more time and it's harder."

Martinez said the employees could not pick up all of the city's residential trash in one day.

"We've been putting in anywhere from two to four hours of overtime. One night we were out there until 9:30," he said.

The mayor said the city employees are neglecting their other duties on Mondays and Tuesdays because they are too busy collecting garbage.

"Our manpower has been diverted. In my opinion, I think it's hurting the city. I think we're short-changing the citizens of Brackettville. People don't seem to be too happy with the

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I read an article recently on DallasNews.com and it really made me stop, think and be extra thankful for our little school out here in West Texas.
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Two unusual things happened to me. One was of the aviary nature. A bird flew over my head and did a very disrespectful thing to me.
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Shahan steps down from water board

Officials discuss November election

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Darlene Shahan has officially stepped down from the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors.

Water board officials said Shahan would resign from the board when she was hired as general manager in April. She had previously served as the interim general manager while serving as a director.

"She is resigning to accept the position of general manager," said Cecil Smith, board president. "This was more or less to keep things from an uproar and on a level pace."

The board accepted her resignation last week during the district's monthly meeting, but the directors did not specify if the position would be filled prior to the November election.

Appointments to the water board are made by the Commissioners Court.

"She will have to keep the

minutes and so forth through the next meeting, and then we'll have to elect us another secretary," Smith said.

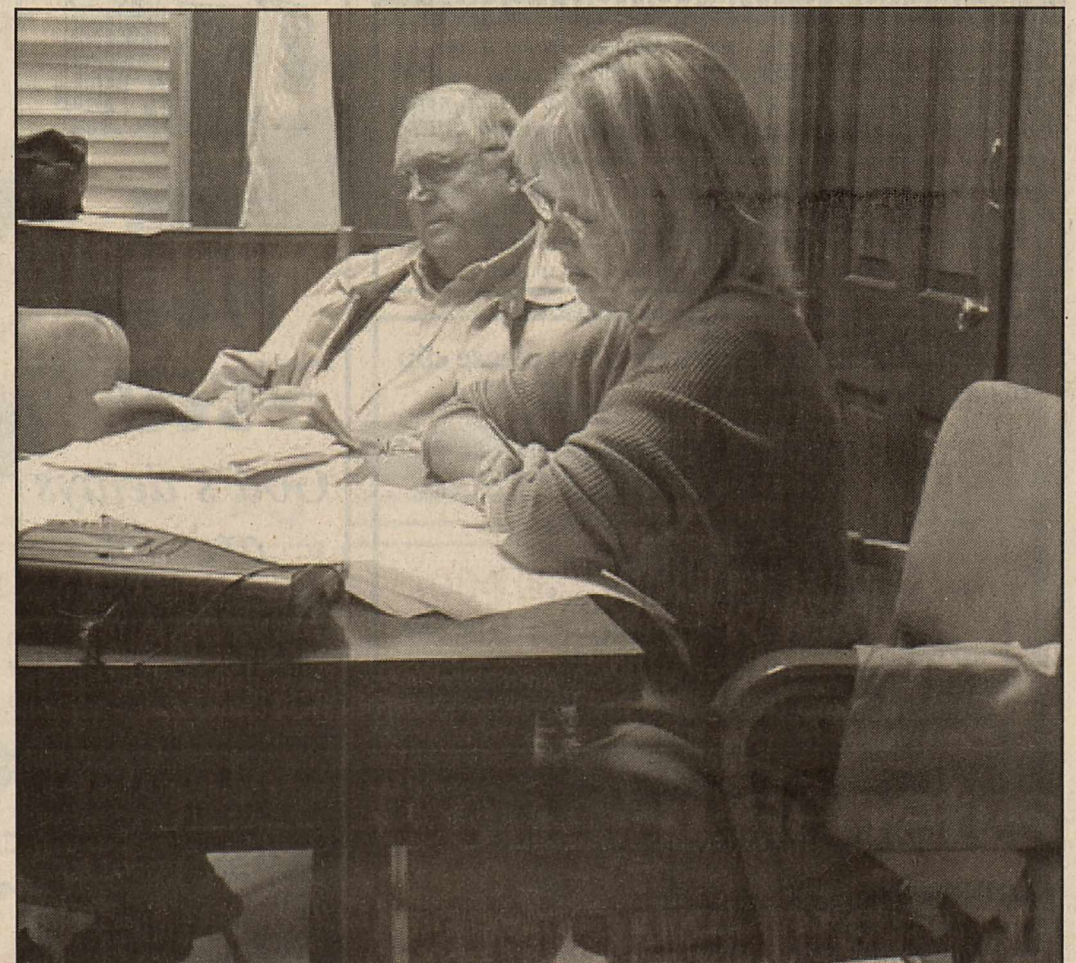
"I think we can make that part of the general manager's position," Director Chuck Hall said.

All seven positions on the board will be up for election in November. The water district is paying the county \$1,000 to have the candidates for the water board included on the ballot for the general election.

"Last meeting we said we would have to get a contract with the county clerk (Dora Sandoval)," Smith said. "She has changed her mind."

Candidates can file to run for the water board from July 5 through Sept. 9. Smith said filing was scheduled to begin on July 4, but will be delayed one day because of the holiday.

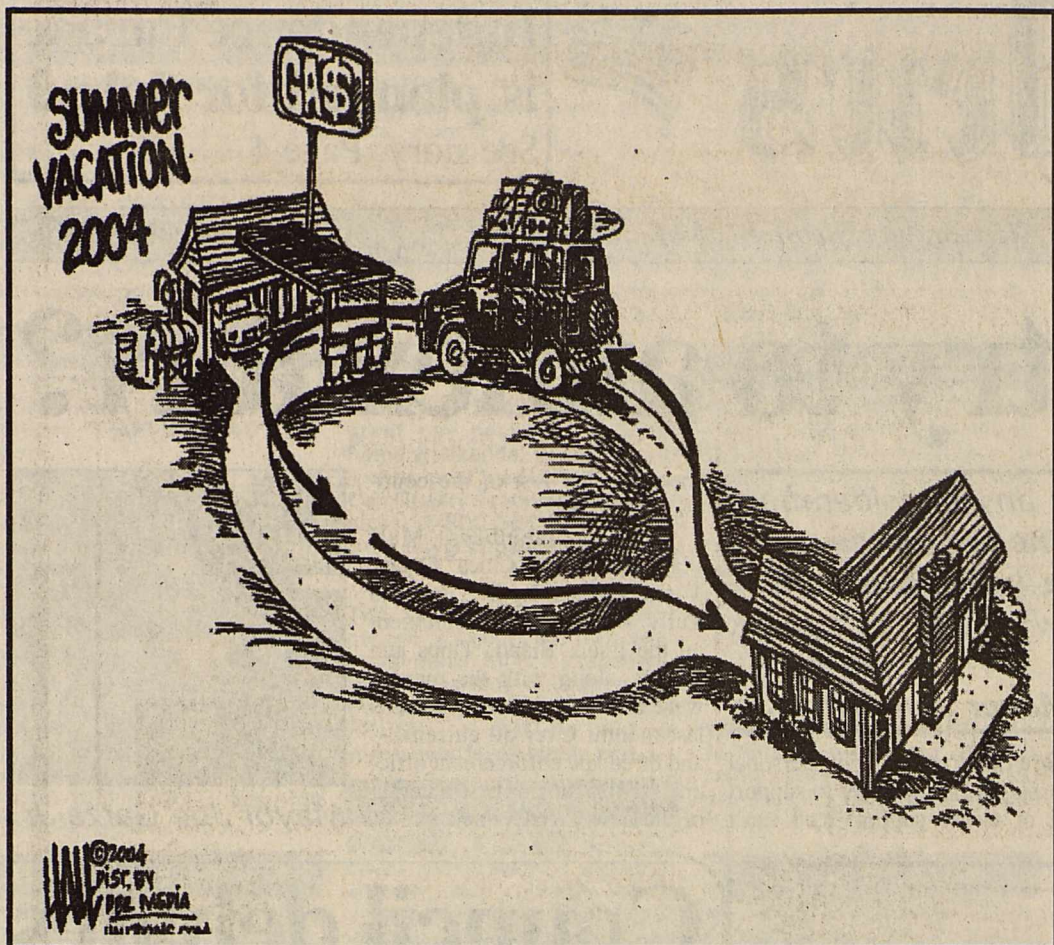
"I don't think that on July 4 that too many people want to come down and file anyway," he said. "There will be plenty of time."



Stepping down

Darlene Shahan (right), shown with fellow director Hadley Wardlaw at a recent meeting, officially stepped down last week as a member of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District. She relinquished her position as board secretary to serve as general manager.

Brackett News File Photo



Don't forget the Alamo

Did you know that Texas is the second-most popular travel destination in the United States?

With summer upon us, Texans are busy mapping out their vacations. The good news is that an exciting vacation doesn't have to include travel agents and complex flight arrangements. Texans can find some of the country's greatest destinations right here in the 23rd Congressional District.

Take a stroll down the River Walk in San Antonio, explore out west or set up camp at one of the many recreational spots in the southwestern region of our state. The opportunities are endless!

I am fortunate to represent some of the most popular tourist sites in the world. I encourage residents of the 23rd District to explore or revisit some of these famed spots.

I have created a list of hot spots and summer events that are sure to provide an exciting and meaningful vacation.

Big Bend National Park
You can enjoy sightseeing by personal car, backpacking, jeep touring, camping, fishing, float trips, hiking and wildlife viewing just to name a few of the many activities. Commercial float trips on the Rio Grande are available through outfitters just outside the park.

Big Bend National Park is open year round, 24 hours a day, seven days per week. For more information, visit www.nps.gov/bibe/home or call the park at (432) 477-2251.

Alpine/Marfa Labor Day Weekend
Big Bend Balloon Bash and the Marfa Lights Festival: There are few more amazing sights than the contrast of colorful hot air balloons in the morning West Texas sky above the Alpine Valley against the Davis Mountains — except perhaps for the mysterious and unexplained Marfa



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Lights, seen by motorists almost every night of the year.

The Marfa Lights Festival will feature a performance by local band Wild rIdE. If you're looking for wide open spaces and a touch of mystery this Labor Day weekend ... go west!

For more information, visit the Marfa Chamber of Commerce online or call them at (800) 650-9696.

San Antonio: The Alamo & The Riverwalk

I am proud that more than 2.5 million people visit San Antonio each year to see the 4.2 acre complex known worldwide as "The Alamo."

The Alamo is open every day of the year, except Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Visitation hours are 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Saturday, and 10 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on Sunday.

The jewel of San Antonio is the Riverwalk. After the Alamo, it's the most visited attraction in the state! The Riverwalk offers a variety of attractions and activities, including riverboat rides, live music, art galleries, great shopping and world class restaurants.

For more information on the above attractions, visit www.sachamber.org or call (210) 229-2100.

Del Rio: Lake Amistad, National Recreation Area
Situating on the U.S.-Mexico Border and near the city of Del Rio, Lake Amistad is known primarily for excellent water recreation, including boating, fishing, swimming, scuba diving and water-skiing. Areas sur-

rounding the lake provide opportunities for picnicking, camping and hunting.

Ciudad Acuna is just a short drive from the lake where visitors can cross the border for an afternoon of shopping and authentic Mexican cuisine.

For more information on the lake and the recreation area, visit www.nps.gov/amis or call (830) 775-7491.

Garner State Park
Profound canyons, crystal-clear streams, towering mesas and chiseled limestone cliffs are among the many sites that you will discover within this intriguing terrain.

Garner State Park is found in the northern part of Uvalde County. Located 30 miles north of Uvalde and 7 miles north of ConCan, Garner State Park has 10 acres of awe inspiring riverfront. The park offers camping, hiking, picnicking, canoeing, fishing, swimming in the Frio River, miniature golf, paddle boat rentals, juke box dancing at the concessions building and bike riding.

"Friends of Garner State Park" has introduced a new program called "Cowboy Sunset Serenade." This program gives an overview of the history of the American Cowboy through songs and cowboy poetry. These performances are held from Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend.

For more information, visit www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/garner or call (830) 232-6132.

There are hundreds of ways to make Texas your vacation destination this summer. Take joy in the natural beauty and wonder of our state and invite a friend "down" to share in the fun.

For more ideas about where to go with your family in the 23rd Congressional District of Texas, visit our state's website at <http://www.TravelTex.com>.

Evil never rests

One of the most recent attacks on our Christian heritage and our moral foundation has failed — at least for the moment.

Newdow v. U.S. Congress, the case where a divorced father who did not have custody of his Christian daughter, sued the government on her behalf, saying that her having to say the Pledge of Allegiance was unconstitutional since it contained the words "under God," has been rejected by the Supreme Court on the grounds that he had no legal right to represent his daughter. A victory won, but for the wrong reasons.

It has become the "in thing" these days to attack anything that is deemed patriotic or Christian. The Religion is fine as long as it is Islam, Buddhism, Hinduism, Shintoism, Scientology, satan worship, Wicca or hundreds of other ungodly "faiths."

The only thing we can't do is equate God the Almighty with the U.S. government in any way. You see, we have grown so intelligent and civilized that we do not need God to guide us any more. We are perfect now, we are totally capable of making all our own decisions and do not need divine guidance.

Also, there are 5000 many people out there who do not believe in God that we certainly don't want to insult them or embarrass them by making them speak the name of God. You see, God is divisive. If we say a pledge of allegiance that uses the term God then any non-believer might feel, well, uncomfortable, so let's just do away with God altogether — for the benefit of the nation, you understand.

You Christians, weird and exclusionistic as you are, can still pray and worship as you please, just do so in a church or in private so the atheists and pagans won't be forced to feel uncomfortable around you.

And in fact, I think the pledge should be done away with com-



The Way I See It

Steven R. LaMascus

pletely. You see there are people out there who think that reciting the pledge is akin to idolatry. And that makes a pledge of any kind divisive.

Pardon my anger, but if they don't like the Pledge of Allegiance and don't believe in God, that's their problem! Let 'em keep their mouths shut and stick their fingers in their ears while I recite the Pledge and sing The Star Spangled Banner with tears in my eyes.

Take my word for the fact that there will be another case in court about the pledge being unconstitutional, probably before the ink dries on the last decision.

This time it will be a parent who is an atheist and whose poor little child is forced to listen while other children recite those terrible words, "under God." And this time the parent will have the legal right to represent the child.

And this time the Supreme Court won't have the luxury of hiding behind a cowardly legality. They will have to decide the constitutionality of the pledge as it is, and I will bet you a good steak dinner that they decide against God!

They will look reality in the face and ignore it. They will study the Constitution and ignore what it says. They will decide constitutionality based on false principals instead of what is written in that document in black and white.

Folks, evil is tireless. Evil never rests. We win a battle and think the war is over, but evil is just looking for another chink in our armor. We are fighting a

defensive battle when we should be fighting an offensive war. We need to attack evil instead of sitting around on our tails wondering where it will strike next.

How do you attack evil? With faith, honor, truth and love. God is love. God is truth. God is honor and faith.

If each of us will wear our faith like armor, speaking out at every opportunity, instead of sticking our heads in the sand and hoping that the problems will go away, we will begin to win the battles and eventually the war. But we have to do it like the other side. We have to be looking for weaknesses and taking advantage of the chinks in their armor. We cannot win by doing nothing.

We need to turn our righteous indignation, anger and frustration into actions. Use the energy we spend telling each other how wrong it is to tell others how lost they are.

We can only win this war one convert at a time. Each time a nonbeliever is saved, Satan loses a warrior, Jesus gains a soul, and we gain a valuable ally.

The old song says, "There is power, power, wonder working power, in the precious blood of the Lamb," and it is absolute truth. The Apostles and the First Century Christians spread the Good News of Jesus Christ one city at a time, one soul at a time, and one step at a time. Eventually, they covered the world. Why can't we do the same thing?

2 Corinthians 4:7-10 — "But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body." NIV

Crushing a crush

Following is Shanae Simmons' award-winning column that took first place in the Texas Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest.



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

Crushes, how nice, how sweet, how evil. OK, maybe they are not evil, but crushes sure do "crush" you. Having a crush is something that just can't be avoided during your teen years. They can make you feel on top of the world, but then can turn around and smash you like a bug.

I personally hate having crushes. I don't like the kind of person I become. Some examples of symptoms suffered during the crushing period involve thinking about them, talking about them, and trying to find ways to see them. Basically becoming an infatuated freak.

So I have created a type of rehab from this evil form of torture. It is a guaranteed way to rid yourself of those pesky crushes. But before I share the secret, I will take you on a journey through my horrible crush-hood.

It all began in kindergarten. I can still remember his name, Michael Chavez. He was smart, funny, athletic and the only boy taller than me. We were constantly competing against each other, and I liked him even though he thought I was a major dork, which, truthfully, I was. We fought all the time and I was really mean to him, but I was in love. Not really, but I was in kindergarten, what did I know?

Eventually, I moved from that school and went to another so it was over, but I still thought about him occasionally. Then to my surprise, I ended up going to junior high with his cousin a few years later. When I found out that this was a relative of one of my biggest crushes, I was shocked.

He was in one of my music classes, and I found him extremely annoying. During one

class period his cousin told me that he knew who I was because Michael talked about me still, and about how much he hated me. OK, so maybe I was a little too mean to Mike, but I was in kindergarten.

Next was Mathew Medina. He was the shortest boy in my third-grade class, but boy was he dreamy. I wasn't too mean to this one, but he still disliked me. One Valentine's Day, I brought a bag of chocolate kisses to school and asked Mathew if he wanted "a kiss" after showing him the bag.

"Sure," he said. I now had him in my little trap — I planned to give him a real kiss, and started in for the kill. I puckered up my lips, and suddenly found myself on the floor. He had seen what I was trying to do and pushed me. I eventually stopped liking him. Not just because he pushed me down, but because he had an abnormal amount of nose hair that I hadn't noticed before.

I don't remember many people after Mathew, but his nose hairs still haunt my memory. But, by far, my biggest crush was the one going into eighth grade. He was dreamier than little Mathew Medina, or Michael Chavez, plus he was in high school. He was my best friend's older brother.

He was smart and funny, but he didn't even know I was alive. I liked him into ninth grade, with the occasional celebrities in between. I finally got the courage to declare my mushy feelings for this older guy.

It was Valentine's Day (I don't seem to be very lucky with this day) and I had decided to make him a valentine from a secret

admirer. I even wrote a poem, it was something like: "Roses are red, violets are blue, Red Hots are hot, and so are you."

I even bought him a bear, and some chocolate. It was really funny, and my friend and I were in on it together, so I didn't think anything could go wrong. I even made an e-mail address he could write to, to try and figure out who his admirer was, even though I didn't intend on telling him.

I thought I was really smooth, and that I would never get caught, but oh how I was wrong. Needless to say, I was found out and left totally embarrassed. He and his friends ate my chocolates and laughed at me — I was a joke. I was even told he threw my bear in the trash.

So that is where I made the rehab program. I decided never to like anyone again, because you just get crushed with crushes.

So here it is: To be de-crushed you first think only of their bad qualities, and imagine them doing things that you didn't like. Then the second step is, whenever you think about them, you pinch yourself really hard, so their memory is associated with pain. Then lastly, you never talk about them, unless it is something mean. There you go, an anti-crush.

So maybe the process is slightly crude, but it works ... kind of ... a little ... OK, so maybe it doesn't work that well, but it is better than nothing.

So maybe I have yet to master the art of de-crushifying someone, but I am getting there. So far, time is really the only way to really get over a crush, but maybe someday I will find the true antidote.

By the way, a few days ago, my friend and I went into her brother's room and on his dresser, in plain view, sat the little bear I gave him. Maybe the whole thing wasn't a waste after all.

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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MSRP \$17770
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BRIEFS

LEPC set to meet Monday at 6:30

The Kinney County Local Emergency Planning Committee will meet Monday night at 6:30 at the Kinney County EMS building.

Little League hosts softball tourneys

The Kinney County Little League will be hosting the district Little League all-star softball tournaments. Teams from all over the region will be coming to compete in the tourneys.

Kinney County has an all-star team consisting of local 11- and 12-year-old girls. The district tournament is scheduled for July 1-9. The Section 3 tournament will be held July 17-22. Most games start at 6 and 8 p.m.

The Kinney County Little League will have a concession stand each night. The league would appreciate any volunteers interested in announcing, scorekeeping, etc. If interested, please contact Manny Pena, tournament director, at (830) 317-5846.

The Kinney County Little League baseball all-stars will be competing in Del Rio and Eagle Pass June 28 through July 11.

Education program being planned

Laurel Ridge Treatment Center, in collaboration with Camino Real MHMR, is providing a community education program for Eagle Pass, Del Rio and the surrounding area. The program, which is free and open to the public, is set for Wednesday, July 14, at the South Texas National Bank in Eagle Pass.

The three-hour morning session is titled "Depression/Bipolar in Children and Adolescents" and will be presented by Miriam McClendon, clinical director for Laurel Ridge Treatment Center in San Antonio.

Registration is strongly encouraged due to limited seating. For more information, call the Laurel Ridge Treatment Center at (800) 624-7975. Free CEUs will be provided for RN/LVN, LPC, LMFT, LMSW-ACP and Ph.D. The program is sponsored through an educational grant by Janssen Pharmaceutica Inc.

Petrosky named to TLU Dean's List

SEGUIN — Chris Petrosky of Brackettville has been named to the Dean's List at Texas Lutheran University for the spring 2004 semester. Petrosky is a dramatic media major. The Dean's List was announced by Dr. John T. Masterson, executive vice president. To qualify for the Dean's List, students must carry a 3.5 to 3.99 semester grade-point average with a minimum of 12 graded hours in the past semester.

Berg earns academic honors at ACU

Kami Berg of Quemado was named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Abilene Christian University for the spring 2004 semester. Berg is working toward a bachelor of arts degree in English. To make the Dean's Honor Roll, a student must complete at least 12 semester hours and earn a 3.45 or higher grade-point average.



Award winners

Brackett News staff members Dimple Henry (from left), J.J. Guidry, Shanae Simmons, Danielle Moore, Jewel Robinson and Kathy Wilson display the awards the local newspaper won last weekend at the Texas Press Association's Better Newspaper Contest. The awards were announced at the association's 125th Annual Summer Convention in Austin.

Photo by Wes Robinson

Local students learn in safe environment

I read an article recently on DallasNews.com and it really made me stop, think and be extra thankful for our little school out here in West Texas.



Making A Difference

Bobby Templeton

Last week, officials at Dallas ISD proposed a 13-point plan aimed at getting control of escalating crime in their schools. Their school discipline statistics were pretty interesting ... actually, they amazed me.

In the past year, their rate of aggravated assaults have gone up 33 percent. Their burglary rate has gone up 75 percent. But the one that really gets me is this: their rate of assaults on faculty members have risen 53 percent in the past year.

Part of the Dallas security plan involves installing metal detectors and security cameras on most campuses and requires that all elementary and middle school students receive 30 minutes of violence education every week.

Now I'm so sage and have no keen insight into our society but simply through the experience of fatherhood, it's truly heart-breaking to me that in the greatest society in the world we are in need of systematic violence counseling for our children.

Brackettville is a bit remote and may lack some of the luxuries that seemingly make life more comfortable, but what we gain is far more precious. Our kids still have good old-fashioned fire drills and not

"drive-by" drills like we did when I was teaching in El Paso.

Our kids can ride their bike down the street to the neighbors' house or to the pool with little fear of being run over, kidnapped or worse, and high school football games are not gang wars in disguise. If you think I'm being melodramatic or over simplifying the issue, just watch the news tonight.

Several years ago, I resigned myself to the fact that the genteel America of Thoreau and Emerson were gone for good, but after being part of this community for a while, that assumption may have been made in error. I have said it before and I'll say it again, our children are fortunate to get to grow up here.

By the way, at BISD, the rate of aggravated assaults, burglaries and assaults on teachers is holding steady at zero percent.

Parade planned

The Community Fourth of July Parade is being planned for July 3. Sign-up sheets to compete for awards in six categories are available at the County Library and at the Tax Assessor/Collector's Office. The deadline is July 1. Participants can decorate entries at the Library on July 2. Overnight storage will be available in the Civic Center.

The parade will form Saturday morning beginning at 8 a.m. on Fulton Street in front of the new high school. The parade begins at 9.

Tickets are on sale for the barbecue at the FCSA swim park, following the parade awards ceremony. The committee is seeking donations to help pay for the fireworks display, planned for the night of July 3.

Happy Anniversary



Bob and Cathie Conrey, residents of Fort Clark since 1978, will celebrate 60 years of marriage on Wednesday, June 30, at 3 p.m. at Slator Hall. All their friends and acquaintances are cordially invited. Your presence is their gift.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, June 14

9:58 a.m., A woman requested assistance in unlocking her vehicle on Beaumont Street.

1:10 p.m., A woman requested assistance in unlocking her vehicle at Rockledge Manor on Fort Clark Springs.

Tuesday, June 15

12:25 a.m., A man reported that his daughter was having problems with her boyfriend. He had asked him to leave his residence on Sheedy Street and not come back. He requested to speak to a deputy about the situation.

4:55 p.m., A 911 caller reported that a motorist needed assistance on Highway 90 East.

6:18 p.m., A man requested assistance in picking up some of his property at a residence on Sheedy Street.

10:09 p.m., An anonymous caller reported that the gates at the JP's Office were open.

10:34 p.m., A Security Alarms employee reported an alarm sounding at the Meca Ranch.

Wednesday, June 16

6:45 a.m., A Fort Clark

Springs security employee reported a possible break-in at the golf course. The dispatcher said there was not a deputy working, but someone would be available at 7:30 or 8. The security guard called back at 7:44 and said everything was OK.

8:38 a.m., A woman reported that an unknown vehicle was parked at her trailer on Gove Street.

7:07 p.m., A man reported a loose cow on Highway 90 by Elm Creek.

7:31 p.m., A 911 caller reported that an 18-wheeler was smoking.

9:50 p.m., A 911 caller reported two illegal aliens near Spofford.

10:40 p.m., A woman reported that somebody had broken into her residence at the Senior Apartments on W. Spring Street. She believed the suspects were still in the apartment.

Thursday, June 17

12:20 p.m., A woman reported a prowler around the Senior Apartments, in front of the Auto Parts Store.

3 p.m., Gilbert Fernandez,

19, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ron Ring for theft and debit card abuse. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

3 p.m., A woman reported being injured and requested to speak to a deputy.

3:15 p.m., Celver Coah, 26, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ring for assault causing bodily injury to a family member. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

7:30 p.m., A man reported a loose horse next to Smitty's on Highway 90.

Friday, June 18

9:25 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance at the amphitheater.

2 p.m., Eduardo Ontiveros, 29, of Fort Worth was arrested by Constable Bobby Guidry for unauthorized use of a motor vehicle. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

11:30 p.m., Juan Lumberas, 52, of Brackettville was arrested

by Deputy Ramon Gutierrez for parole violation and indecency with a child. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Saturday, June 19

10:55 a.m., A man reported that an 18-wheeler was driving reckless on Highway 90 East.

6:16 p.m., Texas Department of Public Safety officials reported a white Lincoln headed eastbound, swerving on both sides of Highway 90 West.

Sunday, June 20

2 a.m., Loud music was reported on W. Fulton Street.

8:54 p.m., A 911 caller reported a white car on the side of the road on Highway 90 East. The caller also stated that a man in a wheel chair and some children were among the passengers in the vehicle.

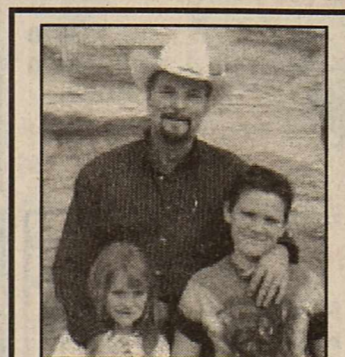
9:23 p.m., An anonymous caller requested that a deputy check out an 18-wheeler at the City Annex.

Monday, June 21

4:50 a.m., An unknown caller reported that a poster had been taken down at the Post Office.

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Garcia, Rex win poster contest

The Rio Grande Electric Cooperative directors judged individual school winners and selected the overall winners of the National Electrical Safety Month Poster Contest at the June 16 board meeting.

Rio Grande Electric is pleased to announce that Rolando Garcia of Comstock ISD was selected as the overall winner in the first through third grade division, and Janine Rex of Brackettville ISD was selected as the overall winner of the fourth through sixth grade division.

Each overall winner will receive a \$50 Wal-Mart gift card, and have their poster incorpo-

rated into RGEC's book cover design for the 2004-05 school year.

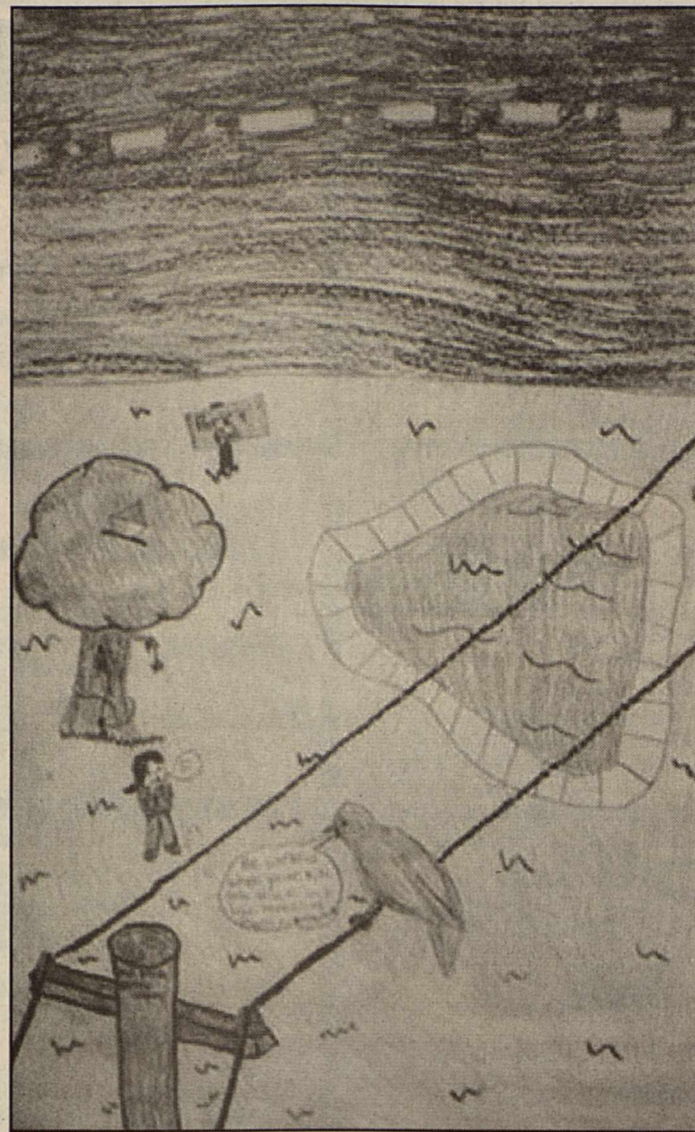
Garcia, 9 years old, used his artistic talents to remind students to "never ever tug on wires or overload outlets."

Rex, 11, of Brackettville, depicts a bird's-eye-view from electric lines. Her poster says, "Be careful when your kite gets stuck in a tree. Make sure there are no (electric) wires in it."

The contest, held annually, is a fun way to bring about awareness of the potential dangers of electricity, and help kids learn how to live safely with electricity.



Rolando Garcia of Comstock used his artistic talents to remind students: "Never ever tug on wires or overload outlets."



Contest Winners Photos Special to The Brackett News
Janine Rex, 11, of Brackettville, depicts a bird's-eye-view from electric lines. Her winning entry in the RGEC poster contest says, "Be careful when your kite gets stuck in a tree. Make sure there are no (electric) wires in it."

Columnist finds a hidden treasure

Two unusual things happened to me this week. One was of the aviary nature. A bird flew over my head and did a very disrespectful thing to me. Very disrespectful.



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

I never did like grackles. First they disrupt my peaceful, quiet, calm world with their grackling, and now this. I recalled a poem from my childhood:

*Birdie, birdie, in the sky,
Dropped a dardy in my eye,
I did not laugh. I did not cry.
I'm just glad that cows can't fly.*

The other occurrence was of a more pleasant experience. I found a small bag. It was just like the small bags the Bull Durham smoking tobacco came in. Do they still make that terrible stuff? I haven't seen it in years.

I had an uncle that smoked it. He smelled awful. His teeth were so stained he could have been the "before" part of a good tooth paste commercial.

Pepsodent would have paid him millions had they known of his existence. His existence and his teeth's existence.

Anyway, inside this small sack was a smaller object. I took it out for closer inspection. It

was a clear crystalline entity. I would say it is about the size of a pencil eraser. Maybe the size of a pencil eraser after a few errors. I examined it like a sleuth I gazed at it and studied it until I was exactly sure about what I was seeing. I showed it to my wife and she proclaimed it to be a piece of broken glass.

Huh! I am sure it's a diamond. I believe it to be a gem of some substantial value. Why else would a person have secured it in an old Bull Durham sack?

I am looking for investors. I need some security before I take the stone from its hiding place and have it appraised. Such security will not be cheap. Connie refuses to allow me to spend our money on this project.

Let me know if you are interested in making big money. Any investment will repay huge dividends. Huge!

But I could be wrong.

Columnist offers hints handy in the kitchen

Today I'm sharing some handy hints. Hope you find at least one that will help you.

Making Colored Sugar

Put a 1/2 cup of sugar in a small bowl and add one to two drops of liquid food coloring. Stir the mixture with a spoon.

Or if you can find paste coloring in a specialty cooking area, it works best because it doesn't get the sugar too wet.

If using paste, put a little on a toothpick and add it to a 1/2 cup sugar, then stir with spoon to blend.

Molding Mini Tarts

Cut out dough to the right size with a biscuit cutter and lay the dough in a cup. Then use the bottom of a shot glass to mold it, or press down the dough into the cups. Remember, don't twist glass or apply undue pressure, which will tear the dough.

Salt Substitutes

Have you found a recipe calling for sea salt or Kosher salt, and like me, have never bought any?

If so, here's how to substitute with table salt, although the



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

swap is not always in equal amounts. The reason: their crystal sizes are not the same.

Standard salt is the smallest. Fine sea salt crystals are the same as table salt, but coarse sea salt and Kosher salt are bigger and

hollower.

If a recipe calls for course sea salt or Kosher salt, to substitute with table salt, use 1/3 less table salt, or conversely use up to 1/3 more course sea salt or Kosher salt than required measurement of table salt. To be absolutely sure when substituting, taste as you add it.

Some of the expensive Kosher and sea salts are very flavorful when used as a table condiment, but lose their delicate flavor as it dissolves when used in cooking.

Happy Birthday

Birthday Blessings on your special day, #1 son! I thank God daily for lending you to me. The joy you have given with your sometimes crazy/silly antics or the thoughtful and kind gestures and words provide me with pride, joy and love unmeasurable.

Happy Birthday Son, #1 Mom & Dad

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9 The Divine Comedy poet
14 Shave
15 Old stringed instrument
16 Pitchers
17 "I cannot tell ___"
18 In addition
19 Washes
20 "...a land flowing with ___" (Ex. 3:8)
23 Cotton gin man
24 Favorite letters
25 Addr. letters
28 Stalin or Khrushchev
32 Thin surface layer
34 Is incon-soluble
35 Not prompt
37 Mariner's direction
38 Suffix for limp or convey

39 Up and about
40 Baseball's Blue
41 Brit. money
42 Encounter
43 Onions' accompaniment
44 Trouble-some situation
46 Wealthy widow
48 Linear measures: abbr.
49 Bug
51 William H. Bonney, ___ Billy
52 Lack of good judgment
58 Healthy
61 Prairie school-teacher
62 Killing time
63 Single bite
64 Robert ___
65 Simon or Armstrong
66 Rose
67 Marsh shoot

68 Suffolk slammer
DOWN
1 Sandwich filler
2 Skeletal parts
3 Seed covering
4 Hive specialists
5 Russian ruler (1353-59)
6 Not harsh
7 Luxurious abbr.
8 Sailboat
9 Remove
10 Gone
11 Part of the U.S.
12 Three for 9
13 Curve
21 Charity
22 Not then, not now, and not in the future
25 Go over past experiences in the mind
26 Humming-bird's "trough"
27 Melancholy, to a poet
28 Group of five
29 Schoolboy's delight
30 "Or ___!"
31 Word with PG or R
33 Steering a ship
34 Wishty-___
36 Late Communist leader
39 Revise
43 Michigan, for one
45 Came to earth
47 Heated
50 Stopwatch
52 Preposition
53 Store event
54 North American Indian
55 Concept
56 Conglom-eration
57 Actress Carter
58 Wall and Sesame: abbr.
59 Edible grain
60 WWII dance sponsor

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27
28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57
58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68

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: **FOUR-LETTER PARTS OF THE BODY**

N	K	A	E	N	O	B	J	J	H	H	
D	E	J	K	R	K	K	J	H	H	G	E
E	J	C	D	D	C	J	H	D	E	S	A
B	A	C	K	F	H	S	E	S	D		
S	D	D	A	L	O	D	I	R	O	E	
W	E	E	A	U	O	M	R	N	N	P	W
E	L	C	D	N	T	M	I	D	K	A	E
R	E	K	E	G	L	K	D	U	L	N	A
D	E	S	R	A	S	S	E	S	D	D	C
N	H	W	P	E	E	H	W	F	H	R	
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

June 24.....Tommy Gass
June 25.....Wally Jones
June 25.....Engarcia Villarreal
June 26.....Gladys Humphrey
June 27.....Rubie Kelley
June 27.....Joe Rivas Jr.
June 29.....Ernest Hall
June 29.....Earl Johnson
June 30.....Anne Butler
June 30.....Jessica DeLeon
June 30.....Briana Garza
June 30.....Laura Martinez
June 30.....Stacey Terrazas

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Arch	11. Iris
2. Back	12. Knee
3. Bone	13. Lung
4. Brow	14. Nape
5. Call	15. Neck
6. Chin	16. Nose
7. Foot	17. Palm
8. Hand	18. Shin
9. Head	19. Skin
10. Heel	20. Ulna

FLOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Keep close track of scheduled appointments. If not, you could miss something important this week. Beware of a tendency to criticize family members.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're not exactly enthusiastic about an upcoming social event. You're particularly irked by some on the guest list. To ensure a good time, simply avoid them.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your mind isn't focused as the week begins. Rein this in. There's much to be done at work.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A co-worker is holding up progress on the job. If he needs, go it alone. That project can't wait.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're uncharacteristically clumsy this week. While you find this disconcerting, it soon passes. A financial decision will just have to wait.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A surprise visit from someone who lives at a distance throws your schedule off. With some doing, you can get back on track. Over the weekend, enjoy catching up on events.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You could lose some sleep over a pending work project. Instead of fretting, action will make you feel better. Later in the week, you need some time by yourself.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some minor irritations keep you from enjoying yourself. In truth, you're blowing these all out of proportion. If you focus more on the positive, you'll be able to overcome this.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) It seems everyone has an opinion this week. The problem is, they're all contradictory. It's best to trust your own instincts.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You and your mate disagree on how to spend that financial windfall. If you both think in practical terms, you'll find the right solution. This weekend, a friend's needs come first.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Make an effort to communicate more clearly this week. This is particularly true when it comes to family members. Later, you'll be pleased when a mutual understanding is reached.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) While the week doesn't go the way you wanted, it will still be productive. Some could have minor mechanical problems with a major appliance. Fortunately, you're just the one who can fix this.

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Awake to a new life in Christ

Any preacher will tell you that people sleep in church. Lots of people do it, and if the truth be known, once or twice I've taken a brief nap between the scripture reading and the offertory myself.

Someone once asked me if I was upset when I saw people asleep in church. I replied that of course I wasn't offended, God spoke to a great many people during their dreams — Jacob's ladder, Joseph's dreams of the stalks of grain, the Revelation of John — all cases of God moving when people were asleep.

My hope is that those I occasionally see sleeping in the pews are ready with fresh insights directly gleaned from their Creator! I sometimes laughingly ask bleary-eyed parishioners things like, "What part of the sermon really spoke to you today?"

Most people that sleep in church do so because they are truly comfortable, but sometimes because they're not engaged in

what's going on around them.

I don't think occasional nodding-off in church is a very big problem, but falling asleep the rest of the week can be deadly dangerous.

We see commercials warning us not to drive if we're unable to stay awake, but how often do you hear Christians remind each other to "wake up" and to "stay alert?"

Sleep in church if you must — preachers know that part of their job is to keep you awake! But the big challenge is not the naps on Sunday but the malaise of Monday through Saturday.

We cannot be complacent believers, content with only a brief moment of encounter with God early on Sunday to insulate ourselves from evil for the remaining week.

I'll accept your nodding agreement on Sunday, but nodding during the week and you'll discover that you've agreed to permissive displays of sexuality



First United Methodist Church
Rev. Roger Baker

on television, profanity on the radio, denial of the right of individual prayer in the classroom, and exclusion of the Christian perspective from discussion of local and national political issues.

Get a bit dozy and you'll never notice that you've failed to study your Bible or pray with your children. Go right to sleep and you'll never notice that some people fail to treat people without "white" skin as brothers and sisters.

Keep sleeping and you'll miss the suffering of Christians trying to escape poverty through ill-conceived activities, such as illegal immigration and vice

addictions.

Sleep too long and you won't hear the cries of the needy. Catch a really long nap and you won't need to visit the sick. Stretch out for a really good rest and you won't have to go out and visit those in jail.

You can probably even sleep right through prayer time — no need to pray for our law enforcement officers, no reason to stay up and remember those service members in harm's way.

Jesus calls us to wake-up to a new life in Him. Just as he described Jairus' daughter as "only sleeping" (Mark 5:39), perhaps we too need to be awakened to a new life in Christ.

If you're discovering a "wake up" call of your own, come worship with us this Sunday. The pews are padded, the AC works fine, and we sing familiar hymns, all starting at 10:45. That's late enough to sleep in just a little bit... and if you need it, we'll find some coffee, too!

Appreciate God the Father

We, in these United States of America, celebrate Mother's Day on the second Sunday of May. We celebrate Father's Day on the third Sunday of June. Interestingly, these national days of appreciation have an attention-grabbing history.



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

These two national but separate recognition days are focused: the one in May on women who have given birth and *became* mothers, and the one in June on men who have cooperated intimately in those births and *became* fathers.

First of all, according to the information available to me, it was Ana Jarvis of Philadelphia who, in 1907, proposed the idea of recognizing mothers with a day honoring them nationally. By 1911 almost all of the states honored mothers during May.

Then, in 1914, President Woodrow Wilson made it official by signing the executive order that the second Sunday of May be celebrated as Mother's Day throughout the USA.

Fathers? Two years after Ana Jarvis proposed the idea for mothers, Sonora Dodd proposed a similar idea to honor fathers nationally. However, it took

more than a few more years! President Calvin Coolidge in 1924 supported the idea, but seemingly made no proactive move toward doing so.

It was not until 1966 that President Lyndon Banes Johnson declared that the third Sunday of June be celebrated nationally as Father's Day.

What gives with men, who happen to be fathers, that it took so long for the leadership of our USA to consider granting them national recognition?

Evidently, we the people, esteem mothers more than fathers. Is there something we men need to learn from the ladies that we have been missing all these years?

An implication: Does God the Father, whom his Son Jesus preferred to address as "Abba," lag as far behind as human fathers in our appreciation of him for all his goodness?

Council debates garbage pickup

City officials to consider new map for collections tonight

Continued from Page 1

Welch disagreed: "I have not heard any complaints personally about it not working. Actually, there have been several citizens come to me and say they are really appreciative of the service."

"I think it's a good service. The way it's being done, I don't think it's efficient. I don't have a quick fix to the problem, because I don't think there is one. Once we get a city secretary on board that can supervise these employees better than we can, we can go from there," he said.

The mayor suggested that the city revert to letting the citizens dump their own garbage once again, or to contract the service to a private company.

Francisca Garza said the previous council obtained estimates from private companies before deciding to have the employees collect the garbage themselves.

"I would like the opportunity to solicit bids," the mayor said. "Maybe somebody can come in

"There have been some extensive problems in getting the trash picked up. I don't think it's working in it's present state, and I think we need to modify our program to serve the citizens in Brackettville properly and sufficiently."

Mayor Joe Garza Jr.

and do the job at a reasonable price and free up our crew so they could perform the duties for which they were hired — the pertinent duties that relate to city water, sewage, what have you."

Bland agreed with the mayor: "I would like to see that also. I've also been down there. There have been a lot of complaints."

Rina Villarreal, a clerk at City Hall, said 10 to 12 customers complain about the garbage collection each day.

"I do sincerely believe we need to take a pro-active approach to this because I think

it's a problem," the mayor said. "I don't think it's working in it's present state, and I think we need to modify our program to serve the citizens in Brackettville properly and sufficiently."

The mayor also said the work was hazardous to the employees.

"We had one man fall off the trailer," Martinez said. "One of the girls that works there fainted."

Martinez said employees have also been cut by glass and needles while collecting trash.

Tipps said that a written report of the injury should have been filed.

"If there any problems getting hurt, it's not worth it," Bland said. "I would like to see it go back to the way it was. Let's get a plan put together, a well thought-out plan, and go from there. Right now, we have liabilities. If somebody gets hurt, we're liable."

At the mayor's encouragement, Bland made a motion to stop collecting garbage, but his motion died with no second.

"The employees are in danger at all times because they work on the sewer lines and all that," Welch said. "They have to be responsible. They have to report any incident that happens so they can be taken care of at that time. That's up to them. But there is always a potential for injury at any job. I don't think we can shy away from it because it's dangerous. Garbage has been picked up by municipalities for a hundred years. We can't turn our back because it's dangerous. Driving to work every day is dangerous."

Follow the word of God

"Now ye are clean through the Word which I have spoken unto you. Abide in me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself. Except it abide in the vine, no more can ye, except ye abide in me."



St. John's Missionary Church
Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

"I am the vine ye are the branches. He that abideth in me, and I in him, the same bringeth forth much fruit; for without me ye can do nothing."

"If a man abide not in me, he is cast forth as a branch, and is withered; and men gather them, and cast them into the fire, and

they are burned. "If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you." (St. John 15:3-7) Glory! Hallelujah! Praise God!

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Minister: Ray Melton

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Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
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AUCTIONS

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Vacation Bible School Registration Fun Day First Baptist Church 10:00 a.m. - 12:00 noon June 26th

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