

The Brackett News



Ashabranner and Swinson
make all-state track team
See photo, Page 7

16th year, No. 22

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Del Rioan sought in attempted murder of local man

Law enforcement officials are looking for a suspect they believe was the driver of a vehicle involved in a hit and run here Sunday night in which a Brackettville man was injured. Authorities now believe the incident was an attempted murder.

Jesse Sanchez of Brackettville was airlifted to University Hospital in San Antonio Sunday night shortly after the incident. His condition is unknown, according to Kinney County Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess.

The driver of another vehicle involved in the incident was apprehended by Department of Public Safety troopers on Highway 90 Sunday night shortly after the incident. Both drivers were headed toward Del Rio, according to delriolife.com.

The suspect in the shooting is being held in the Val Verde Juvenile Detention Center in Del Rio.

"The vehicle and the suspects are from Del Rio," Burgess said.

The Kinney County Sheriff's Office received a telephone call from a female caller at approximately 10 p.m. on Sunday. The woman requested assistance with an intoxicated individual at her residence on W. El Paso Street.

"The individual was not located at the time," Burgess said.

The same woman called 911 two minutes later and requested medical assistance at her residence. Local EMS personnel were dispatched to the scene.

"When we arrived at the scene, we saw the individual we were looking for laying on the ground. We identified the victim as Jesse Sanchez, who had been hit by a car. Another subject was shot at and was not hit," the sheriff said.

Witnesses told law enforcement authorities that the driver or occupants in one of the vehicles fired off several gunshots. Then the driver of the other vehicle made a u-turn and, in the process, struck Sanchez. Both drivers fled the scene after the man was hit, Burgess said.

A DPS deputy who was patrolling the area assisted local deputies in the pursuit of the two vehicles. The deputy stopped one of the vehicles, but the other one got away.

The Kinney County Sheriff's Department and the Department of Public Safety are investigating the incident.

Celebrating Independence



'In harm's way every day'

ABOVE: The theme for this year's Community Fourth of July Parade was "In harm's way every day." Local military, law enforcement, firemen, Border Patrol, EMS and other personnel who daily place themselves in harm's way and risk their lives were honored at the event. Each honoree was presented a commemorative medal and certificate recognizing their role in keeping the community safe.

LEFT: Jeffrey Tipps performs the National Anthem at Fort Clark Springs Saturday following the Fourth of July Parade. Tipps is a member of Brackett High School's Class of 2003.

Photos by J.J. Guidry

Council begins search for new city secretary

Brackettville officials have begun their search for a new city secretary. The City Council met recently to discuss filling the position, which has been vacant since Bonnie Wardlaw resigned last month.

Wardlaw was hired as city secretary on Oct. 14. She was elected to the City Council in May of last year and served four months before resigning to apply for the city secretary's position.

"I've already had some inquiries about the position," Mayor Joe Garza Jr. said. "I've had some people send in some resumes. I really haven't looked at them that closely, but people are beginning to apply. I had one local applicant submit a resume."

Garza said the city secretary's position has a budgeted salary of \$22,500.

"I don't think, if we ask for somebody with a degree, that

"I've had some people send in some resumes. I really haven't looked at them that closely, but people are beginning to apply."

Mayor Joe Garza Jr.

they will be willing to come in and take this amount of money," the mayor said.

"We have to look at education. I think education is a pivotal point. It's like the old saying goes, 'what you pay for is what you get.' If we're going to insist on someone with a degree, then we're going to have perpetuate in terms of money."

The aldermen agreed not to stipulate specific education requirements for a city secretary.

"There are qualified people that can do the job that may or

See COUNCIL/Page 4

City may lower business rates

The city will lower business rates for trash services, according to a public notice issued by Mayor Joe Garza Jr. The rate decrease, however, has not been approved by the Brackettville City Council.

The current cost for the trash service is \$7 per residence, \$15 for businesses with less than two employees and \$30 for businesses with more than two employees.

According to the notice, bills for the May 15 through June 15 cycle were mailed last Wednesday. The next billing cycle, June 16 through July 15, will be prorated to \$11.50 for businesses with less than two employees and \$19.50 for businesses with more than two employees. The July 16 through Aug. 15 billing cycle will reflect the former cost of \$9 per business, regardless of the number of employees, the public notice says.

The City Council voted earlier this month to revert to the former method of collecting garbage, where citizens dispose of their trash at the collection site at the City Annex.

City personnel began collecting trash on April 19. The aldermen raised the garbage fees prior to making the decision to pick-up garbage. One official said since the two actions were separate, the rates should not change without council approval.

The City Council did, however, stipulate in its decision to solicit bids from independent contractors for garbage collection. The vote passed by a 3-2 margin. Matt Bland, Lydia Tipps and Tomas Gomez Jr. voted in favor of the action, while council members Francisca "Chica" Garza and Tully Welch opposed.

The collection site will be open Monday through Friday from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m.

"The revised hours will compensate for the station being closed on Saturdays," the mayor said. "This is a cost-effective measure implemented in an effort to save the city money."

"Water bills will no longer be required. The attendant will have a printout of all eligible citizens," he added.

INSIDE

■ Guidry honored

United States Army Specialist Ryan Guidry has been awarded the Army Commendation Medal for "valor and heroism" during wartime. Community/Page 3

■ RC&D Week

The Rio Grande-Nueces RC&D is joining the 375 other councils across the country in celebrating RC&D Week July 11-17. Community/Page 3

■ Efforts continue

The Texas Council on Family Violence and Attorney General Greg Abbott kicked-off the second phase of its public awareness campaign Lifestyles/Page 5

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16th year, No. 22

Scientific findings presented to water district directors

Dr. Steve Young of URS presented the latest findings of science relating to the groundwater resources of Kinney County during the monthly meeting of the local groundwater district.

The presentation was done on behalf of WaterTexas, which is developing Edwards Trinity groundwater from the Pinto Valley area in western Kinney County, and Grant Snyder of URS, who conducted much of the research. Snyder was unable to attend the meeting because of his obligation to the U.S. Army Reserves.

"This was our attempt to re-establish a dialogue with the district concerning sound science," said Lynn Sherman, president of WaterTexas, after the meeting.

Two years ago, WaterTexas offered to fund \$250,000 in scientific research to be conducted by a mutually chosen consultant. In the months following the offer, district officials claimed

poorly worded agendas and omitted action items kept them from taking action. After six months, WaterTexas began the science on their own.

Young, who has 22 years experience in water resources, including work with numerous groundwater districts, explained Kinney County spring flow data that was found at the International Boundary Water Commission (IBWC), located in Del Rio, along with conclusions reached from numerous published studies.

The IBWC data contained monthly spring flow readings for Las Moras Springs, Pinto Springs and Mud Springs. The Las Moras Springs data began in the 1930s while Pinto and Mud Springs data began in the mid-1960s.

While monitoring of Las Moras continues by the Edwards Aquifer Authority, landowners'

See SCIENTIFIC/Page 4



Putting on a show

Jewel Robinson (from left), Patti and James Ham, Sally Phillips and Dorothy Miller and The Texas Guns took first place Saturday in Alamo Village's 5th Annual Gunfighter Competition. The event was a part of the famed movie set's Independence Day celebration.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

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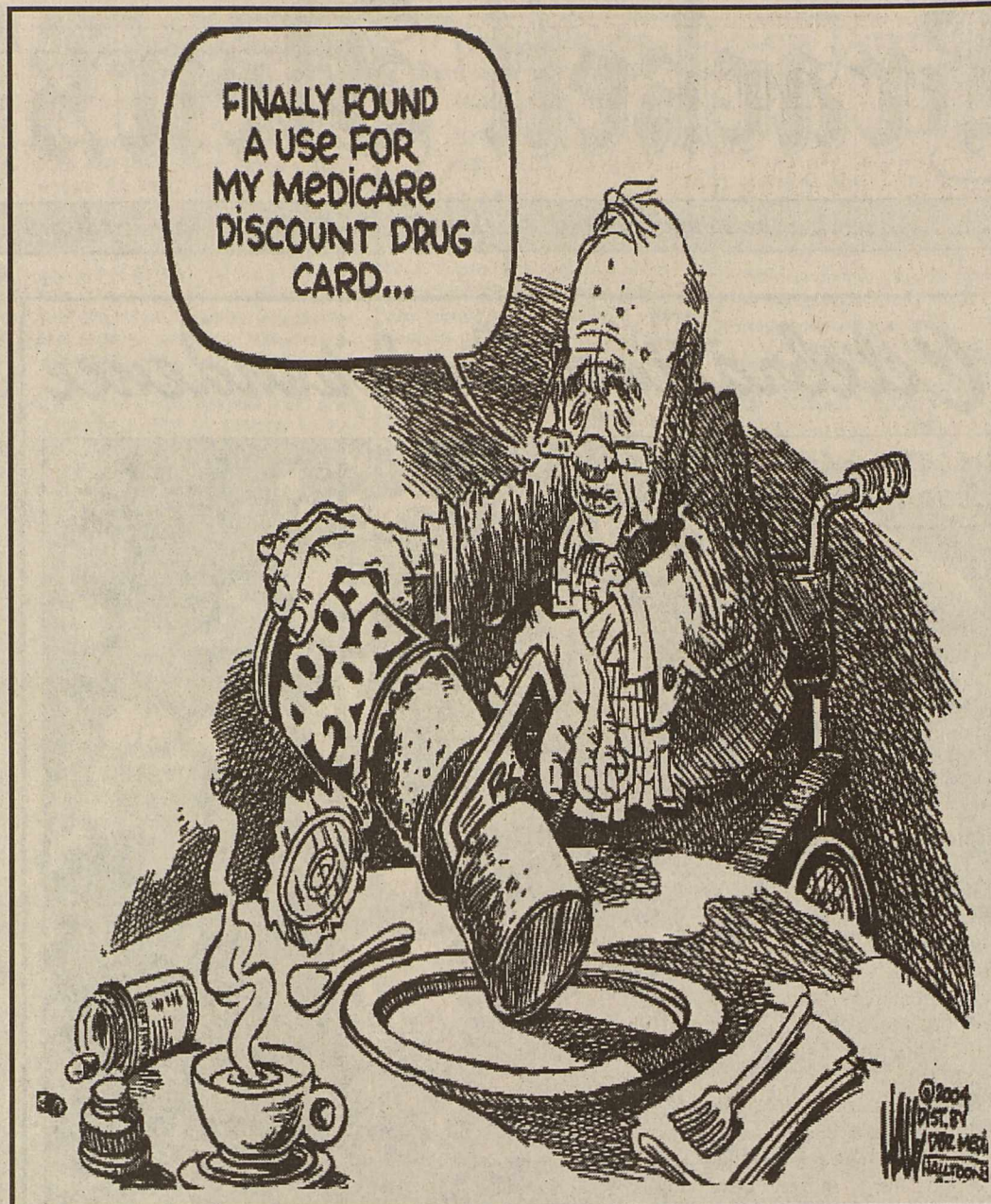
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10 steps to owning your own home

Did you know that home ownership is at a new high in our country and interest rates are at new lows? There is no better investment than owning your own home. I'd like to share a few thoughts with you that make the home-buying easier.

The single best piece of advice I can give families looking to buy a home is to educate yourselves on the home-buying process.

With the help of homebuyer education programs and down payment assistance funded by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), families are learning how to navigate the home-buying process and realizing their home-ownership dreams.

Here are 10 tips on how to navigate the home-buying process:

1. Obtain a credit report. You can request a free online credit report from any of the major credit-reporting agencies: Equifax, Transunion or Experian.
2. Attend a home-buying workshop conducted by HUD, real estate organizations or lenders. These will guide you through the basics of the home-buying process and outline a to-do list on how to proceed.
- At these workshops, you can learn about HUD down payment and closing cost assistance and grant programs, your eligibility and how to apply for these.



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

HUD plays a large role in home-ownership by making loans available for lower- and moderate-income families.

3. Contact a lender. Lenders can help pre-qualify you for loans and help you determine your buying power.

Pre-qualification is an informal but necessary way to see how much you may be able to borrow. Without any obligation, this helps you arrive at an estimate of the amount you may have available to spend on a house.

4. Choose a real estate broker. Determine what you are looking for in a home. Your home should fit the way you live, with spaces and features that appeal to the whole family. Before you begin looking at homes, make a list of your priorities.

5. Do your homework. Visit several homes. Ask lots of questions. Research home prices in the area before you bid on the home of your choice. Take pictures. Make notes.

6. Be realistic about your capabilities. Aim for a home you can really afford, based on what

you earn and what you owe.

7. Determine what type of loan program is best for you. Lenders now offer several affordable mortgage options which can help first-time homebuyers overcome obstacles that made purchasing a home difficult in the past.

Lenders may now be able to help borrowers who don't have a lot of money saved for the down payment and closing costs, have no or a poor credit history, have quite a bit of long-term debt or have experienced income irregularities.

8. Enlist a home inspector. He or she will bring out potential problems that could require costly repairs down the road. An inspector checks the safety of your potential new home.

9. Buy a home insurance policy. A paid homeowner's insurance policy is required at closing, so arrangements will have to be made prior to that day. Plus, involving the insurance agent early in the home buying process can save you money.

10. Enjoy your home and invest in it. Owning a home has many benefits. When you make a mortgage payment, you are building equity.

Owning a home also qualifies you for tax breaks that assist you in dealing with your new financial responsibilities like insurance, real estate taxes and upkeep.



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

A sovereign Iraq

From the moment the first bomb dropped in Baghdad last March marking the launch of Operation Iraqi Freedom, our nation's dialogue has centered on seeing the mission through to a successful end. Since declaring a date for the official transfer of power, American and Iraqi diplomatic and military leaders have been preparing the nation for the June 30 handover.

Late Night Surprise

However, on June 28, we awoke to the news that sovereignty had traded hands during the night — two days ahead of schedule and under a cloak of secrecy. The early transfer was an inspired step and a testament to how far the budding government has come under the newly minted leadership of President Ghazi Al-Yawer and Prime Minister Ayad Allawi.

Officials cited security concerns and the threat of attacks by insurgents as the principal reason for the change and, in addition, the new Iraqi government said they were ready to take the reins of their nation's future. Iraqis had already been in control of all ministries, from defense to electricity, and this official transfer was the final symbolic act, dissolving the Coalition Provisional Authority and solidifying Iraqi control.

The swiftness and ease with which the handover took place was an early, hopeful sign that the interim government was prepared to run the country.

The U.S. goal in Iraq was never one of occupation. The goal was the removal of Saddam Hussein and the threat he posed to the U.S. and the entire free world.

Within hours of the departure of Iraq's acting administrator, Paul Bremer, the new U.S. Ambassador to Iraq, John Negroponte, landed in Baghdad and took his seat as our nation's envoy to the fledgling Republic.

A New Beginning

In a *Washington Post* column that ran hours before the handover, Prime Minister Ayad Allawi clearly captured the vision for the nation's future when he wrote, "We want a free, democratic Iraq that will be a source of peace and stability for the region and the whole world."

Yet within that same breath of optimism, he also recognized the enormity of the task that lies ahead: "The challenges are great, and the stakes are high, both for Iraq and the world. We must not underestimate the magnitude of the task that lies ahead. Despite the hardships, we Iraqis are determined to work together and assume responsibility for our country... With these efforts, God willing, Iraq will take its rightful place among the free and prosperous nations of the world."

To move forward with these goals the interim government has outlined the following goals:

1. Establish security.
2. Address the dire economic situation.
3. Develop a strong and independent judicial system.
4. Accelerate the nation's political process and march toward democracy.

These four goals will not be met overnight and they won't occur without international support. U.S. troops will remain in Iraq in an effort to achieve the first goal and assure the remaining can take root.

It is our hope that other nations who have stood on the sidelines will see the progress in Iraq and step up to the plate.

We did receive welcome news that the North American Treaty Organization (NATO) has agreed to help train Iraq's security forces, but it is also time for NATO to send troops to support the critical mission of stopping the terrorists.

It is clear that we have more work to do, most notably to stamp out the treacherous attacks against innocent Iraqis and U.S. soldiers.

But, with this important transfer of power, we are closer to establishing a fully democratic Iraq and sending an unequivocal message to the terrorists that their tactics will fail and their time is up.

The Brackett News

Member of



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BRIEFS

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 next Wednesday 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.

Hunts garner academic accolades

Sam and Duquesa Hunt have both been named to the Dean's List for the spring semester at their respective colleges. Sam is attending Sul Ross State University in Alpine and Duquesa is attending Our Lady of Corpus Christi. To be selected to the Dean's List, an undergraduate student must complete at least 12 semester hours during the semester, achieving a grade-point average of at least 3.30 during the semester. Sam Hunt ended the semester with a 4.0 grade-point average and Duquesa Hunt had a 3.8 GPA.

Crumley and Meeks earn degrees

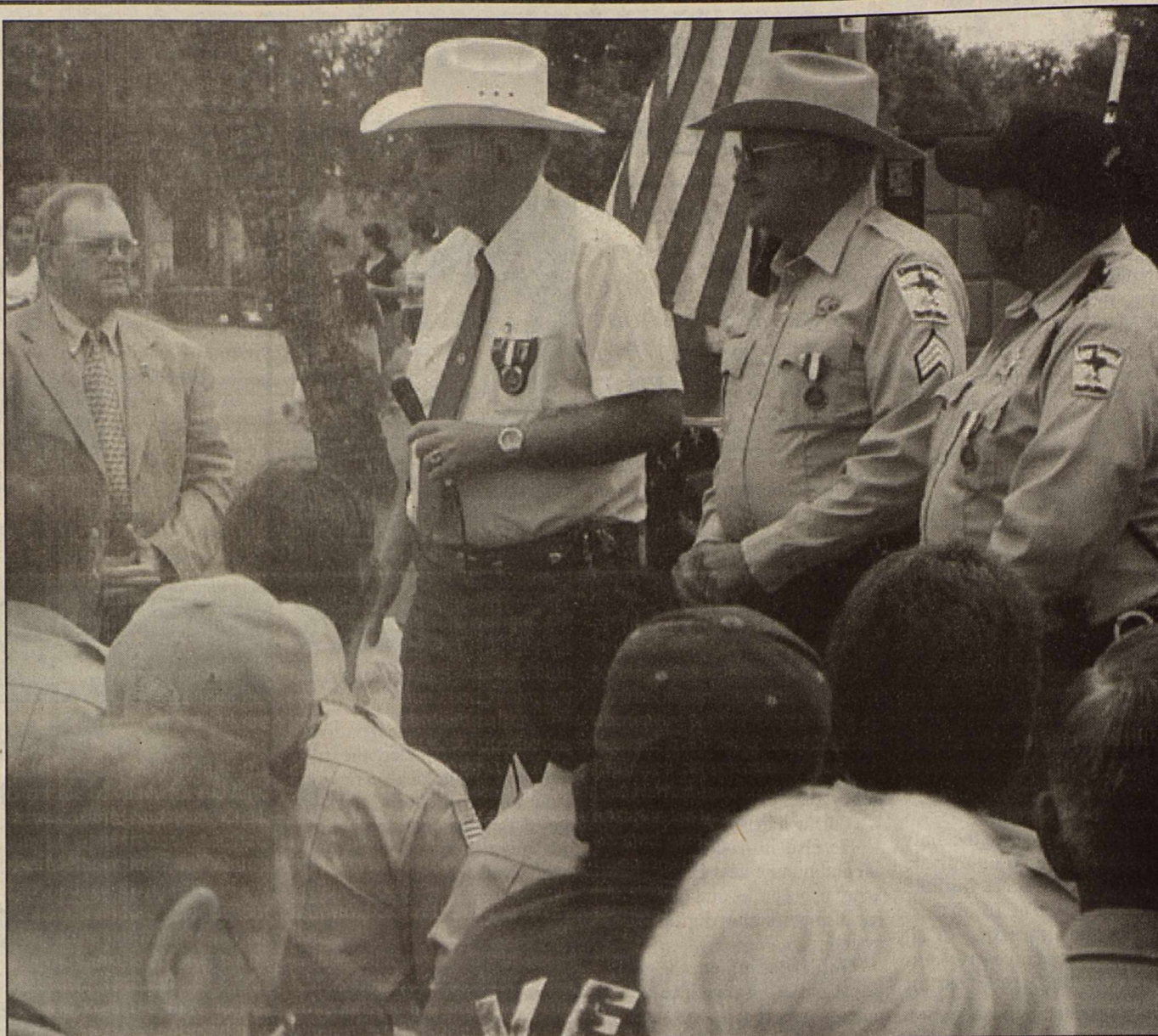
LUBBOCK — Caleb Crumley and Jerritt Meeks of Brackettville were among more than 2,330 Texas Tech University students who were awarded degrees at spring commencement ceremonies May 15 in the United Spirit Arena on campus. Crumley graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering, while Meeks earned his bachelor of business administration degree in management information systems.

BHS volleyball camp being planned

Brackett High School is hosting a volleyball camp July 26-27 for students entering the fifth through ninth grades. The camp will be from from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. with an hour off for lunch at noon. Lunch will not be provided. The cost of the camp is \$30. For more information, call 563-5181.

Athletic physicals set for Wednesday

Physicals for Brackett high school and junior high athletes will be held from 4 to 7 p.m. Wednesday at Tiger Gym. There is no cost for the scheduled physicals. For more information, contact Brackett Athletic Director David Yeager at 563-2491, Ext. 190.



Honoring law enforcement

Bill Haenn (from left), a member of the Community Fourth of July Parade Committee, looks on as Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess and deputies Karl Chism and Manny Pena are honored Saturday at Fort Clark. Local military, law enforcement, firemen, Border Patrol, EMS and other personnel who daily place themselves in harm's way and risk their lives were honored at this year's Independence Day celebration.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

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Birth Announcement

Dietrich James Jost

Jennifer and Jim McDaniel are proud to announce the arrival of their grandson Dietrich James Jost, born June 21st. Shelley and Gerald Jost of Wall are Dietrich's parents and his big sister Laney, age 3, also welcomes him to the family.

Council seeking city secretary

Continued from Page 1
may not have a college degree," Councilman Tully Welch said. "To a point, yes, you get what you pay for, but the last guy we had here making over \$50,000 didn't have a high school diploma, and you saw what we got and what we paid for."

"If we find there's a qualified person that doesn't have a college degree, I don't think that should keep them from getting the job necessarily," he added. The council agreed that the salary would remain the same, but did discuss amending the

budget to increase the amount if necessary.

"I do agree to a large extent that, if we're requiring a degree, we're kind of sealing our own doom because it's going to be very difficult to find somebody to come down here for the amount of money that we can afford to pay at this time," Garza said.

"Maybe five years down the road, our situation will be improved. But at this point, I will have to agree that education should not be a big factor."

Council member Lydia Tipps

said the city needed someone with a strong financial background, and experience with book-keeping, community relations and working as a supervisor.

"We also need somebody that is able to assist the council in writing policies, procedures and grants," Tipps said.

"And, of course, someone with strong moral convictions — someone that has the desire to get our city back on track," she added.

Bland said he would like the new city secretary to have ex-

perience in maintenance so the person "knows, more or less, what's going on with the people outside."

Garza said he would advertise the position in *The Brackett News*, *The Del Rio News-Herald* and *The San Antonio Express-News*.

City officials are expected to start interviewing candidates this month.

"I think we are on the right track," Welch said. "We need to advertise the position and see what we get, and then go from there."

Scientific findings presented to water district

Continued from Page 1
denial of access has stopped the readings for both Pinto and Mud Springs.

Las Moras Springs are the sole source of water for the City of Brackettville and Fort Clark Springs.

Both Sherman and Young acknowledged there will always be a need for more science, but the scientific community agrees this is the most accurate and up to date data available.

Young said the data represented in the presentation has

been peer reviewed and was well received by renowned geologists and hydro-geologists alike.

In other business, the district accepted a letter from the Ring family, presented by board member Chris Ring, for two more monitoring wells on his property.

There is already one existing monitoring well on the Ring land.

Sherman asked the board if Ring would have to enter into a contract as his company did when it donated a monitor well

to the district.

The directors said they were unaware such a contract had been signed by then General Manager Don Ralston.

Sherman stated his concern about a lack of process that seemed to be in place concerning monitoring wells and urged the district to come up with a monitoring well program.

Cecil Smith, president of the district, said he had never heard of the "required" contract and told Sherman that he signed an agreement with a general man-

ager, not the board, and that the matter had never come before the board.

Board member Don Hood admitted to being present during Ralston's contract discussions. Smith said Hood was the only board member who knew anything about it. However, Hood later denied any real knowledge of the event.

"Lynn, I have no knowledge whatsoever of the agreement, and if you don't believe me, I don't give a damn," he said during the meeting.

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Dr. Kent Lowery, D.C.

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Chiropractors are experienced in finding and treating the cause of headaches, including migraines. A series of treatments may be required to return the spinal bones to their proper position and relieve the immediate pain. All chiropractic treatments are natural and drug-free, eliminating any troublesome or debilitating side effects that sometimes occur when taking medication. Various methods of preventing future headaches will also be discussed with you, including lifestyle modification, diet changes to address possible allergic reactions causing the headaches, or relaxation techniques.

If you are having similar symptoms, please call **Dr. Kent Lowery**, located in Brackettville, for an appointment at (830) 765-4917.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, June 28

11:01 a.m., A woman reported that her daughter's truck had been vandalized while parked on Thorn Street. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene.

8:35 p.m., Christopher, Maldonado, 17, of Baytown was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for possessing a prohibited weapon. He was released the next day after posting a \$1,500 bail bond.

Tuesday, June 29

12:18 p.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent reported that an individual had lost control of his vehicle and hit a guard rail near the Cline checkpoint on U.S. Highway 90. The vehicle was drivable, but the driver requested to speak with a deputy for insurance purposes. Deputy Donald Page was dispatched to the scene.

Wednesday, June 30

12:15 p.m., Juan Pablo Munoz, 35, of Del Rio was arrested by DPS Trooper Cordova for possession of marijuana and driving with a suspended license. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

2:10 p.m., Hector Pina, 23, of Del Rio was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess for failure to appear on a warrant for assault causing bodily injury.

He was released the next day after posting a \$3,000 bail bond.

Friday, June 2

3:30 p.m., Aurelio R. Rodriguez, 33, of Austin was arrested by DPS Trooper Auguian for driving while intoxicated and failure to appear. He was released later the same day after posting a \$2,500 bail bond.

5:40 p.m., Jesus Terrazas, 72, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch for public intoxication. He was released the next day on a personal recognizance bond.

5:55 p.m., A man requested to speak with a deputy about an argument over the ownership of a dog. Deputies Ramon Gutierrez and Ron Ring were dispatched to the residence on Beaumont Street.

10:06 p.m., The Uvalde Police Department reported an 18-wheeler driving reckless on U.S. Highway 90, east of Brackettville. Deputy Page was dispatched to the scene.

10:53 p.m., A woman reported that a man ran her off the road. Deputy Page was informed of the situation.

Saturday, June 3

9:30 a.m., Emiliano Z. Villanueva, 27, of El Paso was arrested by Trooper Welch for public intoxication. He was released the next day after being credited with time served.

9:47 a.m., A man reported that a man in a white van hit his car on the passenger side and then drove off. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched to the scene.

12:47 p.m., A man requested assistance in regards to a dog. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched to the residence on El Paso and Beaumont Street and city officials were notified of the situation.

5 p.m., A man reported that someone had broken into his ranch, located about 19 miles north of Brackettville on Highway 674. Deputy Page was dispatched to the ranch.

7:30 p.m., Samuel Dominic Zuniga, 33, of Dallas was arrested by Deputy Gutierrez for driving while intoxicated. He was released the next day after posting a \$1,500 bail bond.

10:10 p.m., A woman reported that a reckless driver almost hit her vehicle. Deputy Page was dispatched to the scene to speak with the woman.

10:36 p.m., A woman requested to speak with a deputy because a man was acting weird. Deputy Page was dispatched to the residence on W. El Paso St. He said everything was alright.

Sunday, June 4

11:34 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance at the gate. Deputy Manuel Pena was dispatched to the scene.

11:42 a.m., The Century Alarm Company reported an alarm sounding at a Fort Clark Springs residence on Fairway Circle. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the residence.

7:39 p.m., A man reported a large grass fire about 16 miles north of Brackettville on Highway 334. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the scene.

8:14 p.m., Sentry Security reported an alarm sounding at a local ranch on Highway 334. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched to the scene.

9:53 p.m., A woman requested assistance because she was having trouble with a man at her residence on W. El Paso Street. The same woman called 911 two minutes later and requested medical assistance at her residence. EMS personnel were dispatched to the scene.

10:02 p.m., A man reported that a train was blocking the road on Highway 131 in Spoford. Union Pacific officials were notified.

Monday, June 5

3:20 a.m., A woman reported a house on fire on E. Veltman Street. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the scene.

Officials continue domestic violence awareness campaign

140 Texas women killed last year by husbands or partners

DALLAS — The Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott last week kicked-off the second phase of its highly effective public awareness campaign, "Break the Silence - Make the Call" in the state of Texas.

This phase of the campaign will focus on educating friends and family of domestic violence victims about available safety and shelter assistance options and will encourage them to act by getting more information themselves or referring the victims in their lives to local domestic violence programs and services. Domestic violence continues to be a leading issue in Texas, with research revealing more than two women are killed by their partner every week.

"My daughter was murdered by her husband after years of physical and emotional abuse," Jackie Bolden said. "I knew about the abuse and tried to help, but I didn't know enough about how to help her find safety. I don't know if I could have saved my daughter's life, but I believe in my heart that the chances of her escaping the abuse would have been greater if I had known more. I will continue to speak out on this issue as a part of TCFV's 'Break the Silence - Make the Call' campaign because I believe my story and the information TCFV is sharing with family members and friends of domestic violence victims will save lives."

The Texas Department of Public Safety and TCFV report that there were 140 women killed by acts of family violence in Texas last year alone, and that's just the tip of the iceberg. Statewide research shows that 74 percent of Texans have been abused, or know someone who has suffered abuse.

Based on the results of research conducted as part of phase one of the campaign, a person who is abused will turn first to a family member or friend for help. However, 35 percent of Texans who are themselves a victim or learn of a family member's violent circumstances do nothing, either because they don't realize how they can find help or they don't want to get involved.

These findings indicate that educating friends and family members of victims of domestic violence is vital to building a well-informed community that can support those being abused and hold those who are hurting their partners accountable for their behavior.

Many victims of domestic violence suf-



Attorney General Greg Abbott (right) and Thomasina Olaniyi-Oke were among those at a recent news conference who urged Texans to take active roles in combating domestic violence. Abbott and the Texas Council on Family Violence last week kicked-off the second phase of its highly effective public awareness campaign, "Break the Silence - Make the Call" in the state of Texas.

fer silently each day, alone and afraid," said Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott. "We want all Texans to be aware of the signs of abuse and to know how to help a family member, friend, or even a coworker find safety, because domestic violence is not just a family problem, it is a crime with serious repercussions that the victim and the entire community must face. This campaign will go a long way in building Texas communities that are informed about domestic violence and equipped to take action in support of loved ones suffering abuse."

In 2002, with the aid of a \$2 million grant from the Office of the Attorney General, TCFV launched an unprecedented 16-month, bilingual public awareness campaign called "Break the Silence - Make the Call," empowering domestic violence survivors with the information they need to seek and obtain help.

Phase one of the campaign resulted in a 69 percent increase in English-language calls from Texas to the National Domestic Violence Hotline and a staggering 93 percent increase in Spanish-language calls in its inaugural month.

The first phase also included extensive research via a statewide poll and focus groups with survivors of abuse to determine the knowledge base and direct impact of

domestic violence in our state. The results of this research indicated that friends and family of victims need specific information in order to effectively help their loved ones who are experiencing abuse.

"We hope that all Texans, not just survivors, become more informed about the impact of domestic violence on all our communities and the lifesaving programs and services available to help domestic violence victims find safety, including the National Domestic Violence Hotline," said Sheryl Cates, executive director of TCFV. "When a friend or family member of a person living with abuse calls the Hotline at 1-800-799-SAFE or TTY 800-787-3224, we can offer helpful information about these available programs and services, as well as advice on how to approach a friend privately about her options, and we encourage everyone to use these confidential and anonymous services to find the help they need."

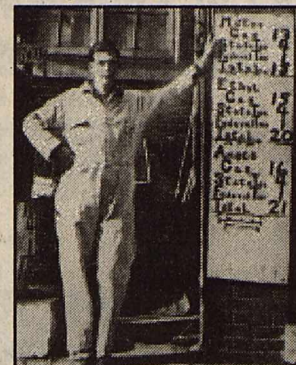
As part of the kickoff, Abbott officially announced phase two of TCFV's statewide "Break the Silence - Make the Call" campaign at press conferences in Houston, Dallas and Austin. The fully bilingual extension of the campaign will ensure that the awareness efforts of the first phase have the basis and longevity needed to have a significant impact on victim safety, and will extend awareness efforts and education to friends and family.

Information will include how to recognize possible signs of abuse, what Texans should know about domestic violence, what friends and family can do to help loved ones in abusive relationships and how to contact local domestic violence programs and services.

The campaign will heavily promote the National Domestic Violence Hotline number, 1-800-799-SAFE or TTY 800-787-3224, which is operated by TCFV through television, radio and print public service announcements, statewide media relations and wide distribution of printed materials.

"Domestic violence hurts not only victims, but also children and other loved ones in their lives," Abbott said. "This public awareness campaign will provide crucial information on domestic violence to friends and family, guiding them to 'break the silence and make the call' on behalf of a loved one experiencing the isolation, fear and trauma of domestic violence."

Happy 90th Birthday Louis Sofaly



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FILL'ER UP? "In 1938, I worked in the parking garage and service station at the Penn-Albert Hotel in Greensburg, Pennsylvania," says Louis Sofaly of Brackettville, Texas. "There's a big difference between the gas prices back then (see the sign) and those today - wages, too."

Enchilada casserole goes together easy

The great lazy days of summer are here. That's true if you have a supply of quick fix meal recipes!

Here is a snappy South Texas dish that goes together easy and cooks in 20 minutes.

Throw together a cool salad of sliced cucumbers and red onions drizzled with a mustard vinaigrette and ice cream for desert for a labor-saving meal.

Enchilada Casserole

1 15-ounce can chili beans
8 6-inch corn tortillas, quartered

1 10-ounce can enchilada sauce (mild, medium or hot)
1 7-ounce can chopped green chiles

1 1/2 cups (6 ounces) shredded Monterey Jack or sharp cheddar cheese

2 tablespoons chopped fresh cilantro

Heat oven to 425 degrees, and spray an 8-inch square



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

baking dish with non-stick cooking spray. Pour the sauce from the beans into the baking dish.

Spread one-third of the tortilla pieces over the sauce. Top with one-third each of beans, enchilada sauce, chiles and cheese. Repeat to make two more layers, ending with cheese.

Bake uncovered, 15 to 20 minutes, or until hot and bubbly. Sprinkle with Cilantro.

This recipe serves four. It has 360 calories, 41 1/2 grams of carbohydrates and 40 milligrams of cholesterol per serving.



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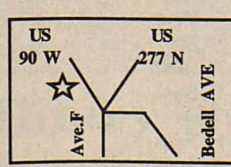
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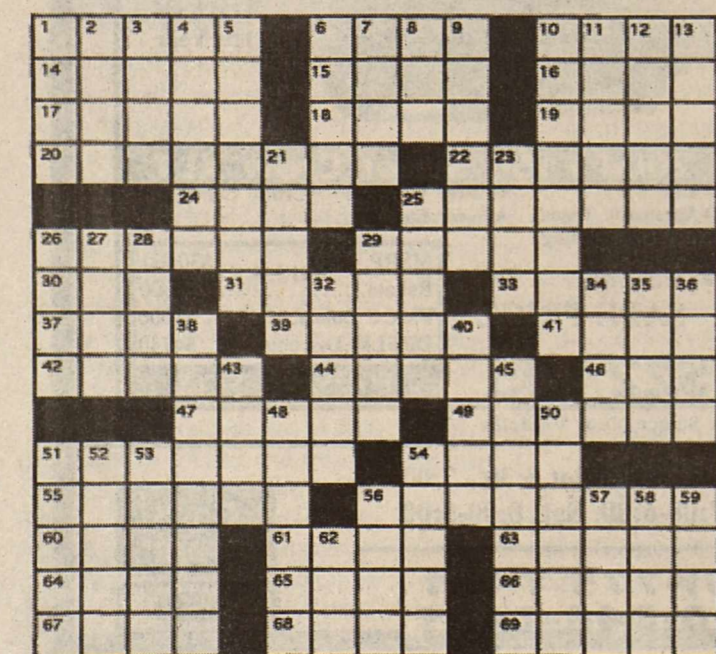
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16 High
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A. Arthur
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28 Bride's
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29 Flamingo
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32 Cut into
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34 In ___ of
35 Always
36 France's
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38 Sermon
topic
40 Bargains
43 In one's
right mind
45 Like a hill
48 Bach or
Wagner
50 Like more
expensive
hamburger
51 Dandruff
site
52 Salk's
subject
53 Europe/
Asia
boundary
54 Nest
56 Periods
57 Conception
58 Disen-
cumber
59 "Lip"
62 Lennon's
lady



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: HOMES FOR MAN AND BEAST

S	H	A	C	K	E	H	T	U	E	1. Shack
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T	G	L	R	N	H	H	A	N	R	6.
D	A	A	X	D	O	D	N	O	I	7.
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY

July 8.....Norman Frost	July 11.....Loretta Woods
July 8.....Jackie Smith	July 12.....Gerald Ivey
July 8.....Jennifer Terrazas	July 13.....Claude Roberts
July 9.....Theresa Davis	July 13.....Kenneth Tridle
July 9.....Saida Martinez	July 13.....Chase Ward
July 9.....Elida Talamantez	July 13.....Bea Workman
July 10.....Jose A. Aguilar	July 14.....John McClure
July 11.....Pat Callinan	July 14.....Lester Shinabarger
July 14.....Lou Sofaly	

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Aerie	11. Hovel
2. Apartment	12. Hut
3. Barn	13. Igloo
4. Castle	14. Manor
5. Condo	15. Nest
6. Convent	16. Palace
7. Duplex	17. Shack
8. Hive	18. Sty
9. Hogan	19. Teepee
10. House	20. Trailer

ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You experience an epiphany of sorts. This means that something you'd long held as true suddenly appears in a new light to you. Use this revelation to revamp your approach toward life's goals.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone close to you doesn't fulfill a commitment. Try to deal graciously with this latest disappointment. You'd be wise to recognize this person's limitations.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Career interests are highlighted this week. Perhaps a promotion or raise, or both, are in the works. Later in the week, romance takes precedence.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're peeved that things aren't happening as quickly as you'd like. Worse, someone keeps you waiting for an important meeting. Try to curb your temper.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're in an introspective, somewhat nostalgic mood this week. Contact an older relative for clarification on a childhood situation. This new insight gives you peace of mind.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Those of you who have children may find yourselves a bit impatient this week. However, try to get the kiddies involved in activities that will spark their imaginations. If they're not bored, they'll behave better.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You make some financial gains this week, which relieves your mind. In general, business interests are favored. This weekend, interactions with a certain friend are a bit sticky.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Your patience runs thin this week with a certain person who always seems to need something from you. Feel free to say no. However, doing so with tact and diplomacy is your best approach.

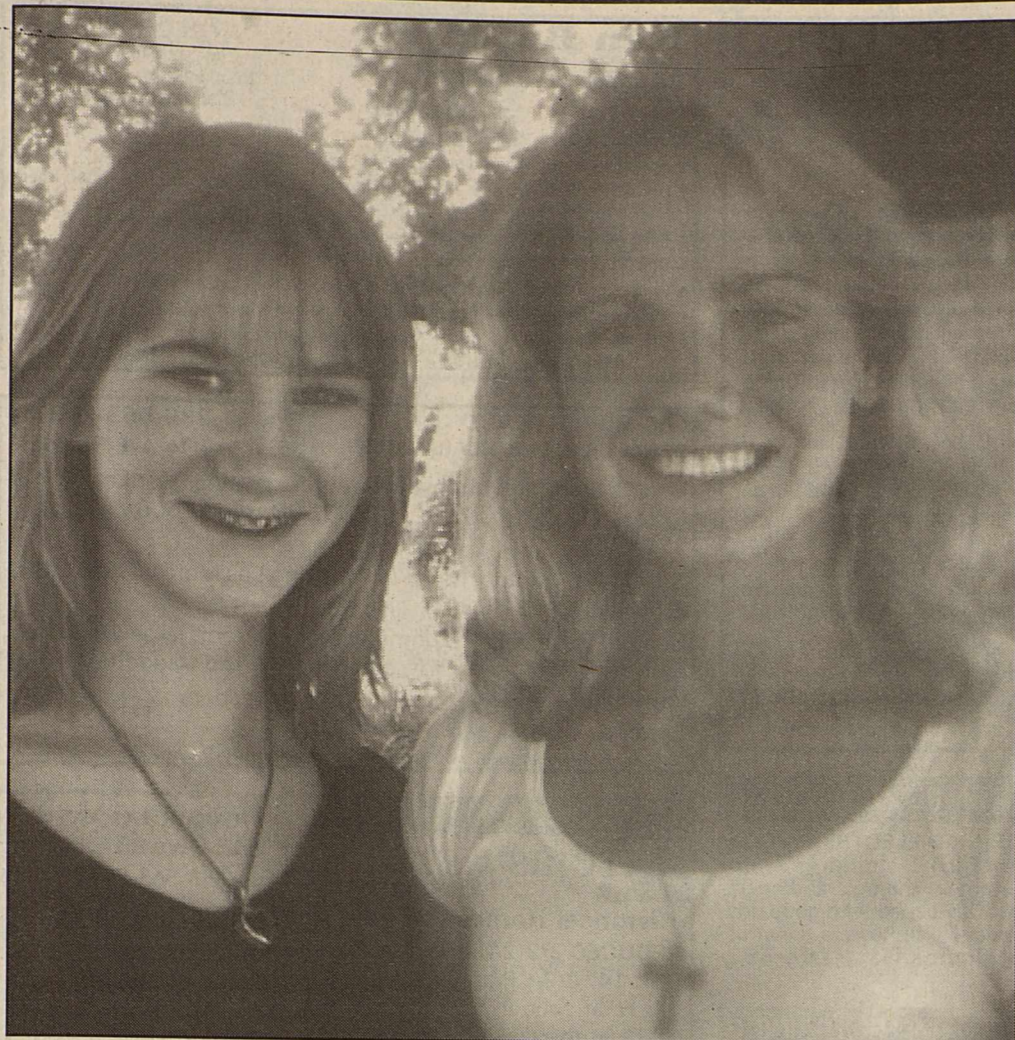
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're apt to dwell on a past slight as the week begins. Try to put this into perspective. No real harm was done, so let it go.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It seems you take two steps forward and one step back this week. Don't let this get you down. Ultimately, you are making progress.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) It's not wise to mix friendships and finances. While you've realized this in the past, you're tempted to loan someone money. That would be a big mistake, so close that wallet.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You have a hard time controlling your anger this week. Try not to let this get the best of you. It's ultimately not good for your health - or your relationships.

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All-state runners

Brackett's Rachel Swinson (left) and Juliann Ashabranner have been named to the 2004 Texas Girls Coaches Association Class 2A all-state track team. Tigerettes coach Dusty Brotherton was the only 2A coach with two girls making the team.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

Help wildlife only when help is needed

It happens every year. Birds start singing, young animals start moving around, and the phones at Texas Parks and Wildlife information desks start ringing. Young animals inevitably mean more phone calls from people concerned about injured, orphaned or what they perceive as out-of-place animals.

While these calls come from well-meaning people, studies have shown that most of the calls are unnecessary. The calls place the animal and the state's volunteer resources under unnecessary stress, according to John Herron, TPW wildlife diversity branch chief.

"Many well-meaning wildlife rescues are actually wildlife kidnappings, with a doe standing there calling for her fawn while someone herds it off to the car," said Herron.

Herron says that with a few simple considerations, the number of calls received by an already stressed network of volunteer wildlife rehabilitators could be cut in half.

The most common scenario when someone brings in an "orphaned" animal is one of a



A Little on the Wildlife Side

Henry Lutz

young animal apparently abandoned in or near the nest.

"Adult animals will seldom willingly make themselves visible at the nest," explained Mark Klym, information specialist with the wildlife diversity program at TPW. "They want to avoid attracting attention to the nest, especially from predators. As a result, we seldom see the adult animal near the nest, even when the young are creating a racket."

It is common in Texas to happen upon a seemingly orphaned or abandoned fawn. Doe deer frequently leave fawns bedded down while they go foraging.

"Unless the fawn is covered with fire ants or is in obvious need of medical assistance, do not handle or disturb it," Klym said. "Your presence will place undue stress on the animal, and

the doe will not return while you are nearby."

If a wild animal really needs help, it is important for the wellbeing of the animal and for human safety that it receive the best care possible. Unfortunately, we do not have many options in this area for care of animals that have been removed from their natural habitat.

There are few if any people in this part of Texas that are licensed or equipped to take care of animals removed from the wild. It is illegal for anyone to possess wildlife without the required permits. TPW issues permits to highly trained wildlife rehabilitators.

The best solution is to leave the bird or animal alone and call someone trained to handle wildlife. In most cases, the mother is not far away. Never offer the animal food. Bread is not digestible by most birds. Hotdogs and hamburger will make hawks and owls ill. Cow's milk will sicken many young mammals.

Once again, the best solution is to leave the wild animals alone and remember that they are wild animals.

RELIGION

Are Americans truly free?

On July 4 1776, 56 men affixed their names to the document we know as The Declaration of Independence of the 13 Colonies. But I wonder if there might not be some parallel, some connection, between part of what they composed and part of some insights our Sacred Scriptures offer us, especially the New Testament from which Christianity developed.

Those 56 in the beginning of their declaration inscribed these words: "We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness."

The key word here is "liberty." We pride ourselves on being free in the "land of the free and the home of the brave." Are we really?

Freedom encompasses two faces: "freedom from" and "freedom to" — freedom from what enslaves so that a person, a family, a nation can branch out into the freedom to be whom God thinks it's best for them to be.

As a nation, 228 years old now, we say we are the United States of America.

We may be united, but we are also quite diverse, made up as we are from those numerous cultures that have emigrated into these 50 states from other nations of the world.



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

The Apostle Paul shares with us this insight: "The body (family, church community, nation?) does not consist of one member but of many ... the eye cannot say to the hand, 'I have no need of you,' nor again the head to the feet, 'I have no need of you' ... if one member suffers, all suffer together with it; if one member is honored, all rejoice together with it."

Are we really free from as well as to?

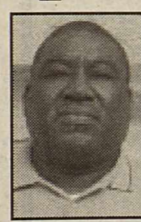
President Abraham Lincoln ended his Gettysburg Address this way: "It is for us the living, rather, to be dedicated here to the unfinished work, which they who fought here have thus far so nobly advanced. It is rather for us to be here dedicated to the great task remaining before us ... that we here highly resolve ... that this nation, under God, shall have a new birth of freedom ... and that government of the people, by the people, for the people, shall not perish from the earth."

We are not finished yet, despite 228 years of experience and struggle.

Picken to speak at St. John's on Sunday

John Picken of Beaumont will be the guest speaker at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church this Sunday at 11 a.m. and 7 p.m.

Everyone is welcome! "And the people spake against God, and against Moses, wherefore have ye brought us up out of Egypt to die in the wilderness? For there is no bread, neither is there any water; and our soul loatheth this light



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

bread. "And the Lord sent fiery serpents among the people, and

they bit the people; and much people of Israel died.

"Therefore the people came to Moses, and said, We have sinned, for we have spoken against the Lord, and against thee; pray unto the Lord that he take away the serpents from us. And Moses prayed for the people.

"And the Lord said unto Moses, make thee a fiery Ser-

pent, and set it upon a pole and it shall come to pass, that everyone that is bitten, when he looketh upon it, shall live.

"And Moses made a serpent of brass, and put it upon a pole, and it came to pass, that if a serpent had bitten any man, when he beheld the serpent of brass, he lived." (Numbers 21:5-9)

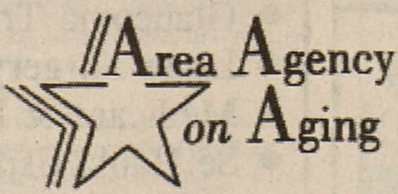
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Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245

Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:30 a.m.

Worship Service - 10:45 a.m.

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

Evening Service 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

Pastor Darin Koenig

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Church of Christ

808 N. Ann 563-2616

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& 10:30 Worship

Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes

Minister: Ray Melton

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11:00 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies

Nursery Provided

Pastor: Ned Sitzes

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BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

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DRIVERS/A/CDL FLATBED DRIVERS. \$50,000 yearly potential. High weekly miles. 1 year T/T experience. SMX, 1-800-247-8040, www.smxc.com

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DRIVERS- DRIVING SCHOOL graduates needed! Tuition reimbursement. Up to .37 cents/mile. No waiting to upgrade. Pay on delivery. Guaranteed hometime. USA Truck, 1-800-237-4642.

DRIVERS- NO NEW YORK CITY! Singles start .34 cents. Teams start .41 cents. Owner/Operators and CDL graduates needed. OTR, dedicated and regional. USA Truck, 1-800-237-4642.

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DRIVERS - COMPANY. REGIONAL & OTR runs. Start up to .40 cpm, stop off & layover pay. Regional home weekly. (80%), OTR out 14 days. 6 mos. experienced. w/A/CDL, 1-800-666-0380, NFI Industries, www.natifreight.com

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT. Teams and solos check out our new pay plan. Owner/Operators, experienced drivers, solos, teams and graduate students. Call 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729).

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EMPLOYMENT

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EMPLOYMENT

THE CITY OF Brackettville is accepting applications for the position of City Secretary. This position is administrative in nature and the person selected will act as the chief executive officer for the City of Brackettville. This office is responsible to the city council and is salaried. The salary is set at \$22,500 a year and requires full time employment. The city council is seeking someone with accounting, administrative, supervisory, leadership and public speaking skills. An applicant's educational level and experience will be a factor in the selection process, however, there is no minimum educational requirements mandated by the council. The position will be advertised through July 14, 2004. Applications and resumes may be mailed or delivered to Mr. Joe N. Garza, Jr., Mayor, at the City Hall located at 119 W. Spring Street in Brackettville, Texas 78832. If you have any questions, you may contact Mr. Garza at (830) 563-2412.

THE FOLLOWING POSITION is open at BISD: Secondary History Teacher/Coach. Application Procedure: Download from website: www.brackett.k12.tx.us, pick up at the BISD Central Office, 400 Ann Street or request by mail, Brackett ISD, PO Box 586, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, TX 78832. For information, call Central Office at (830) 563-2491, fax (830) 563-9264. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Direct inquiries to Paula Renken, Principal. Brackett ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

UNITED MEDICAL CENTERS is accepting applications for the following positions for Brackettville. Part-time LVN & Medical Record/Business Office Clerk. Applications and job descriptions may be picked up and accepted until the positions are filled. United Medical Centers, 202 James St. Brackettville, TX 78832. (830) 563-2434. Competitive salaries & fringes*. Equal opportunity employer.

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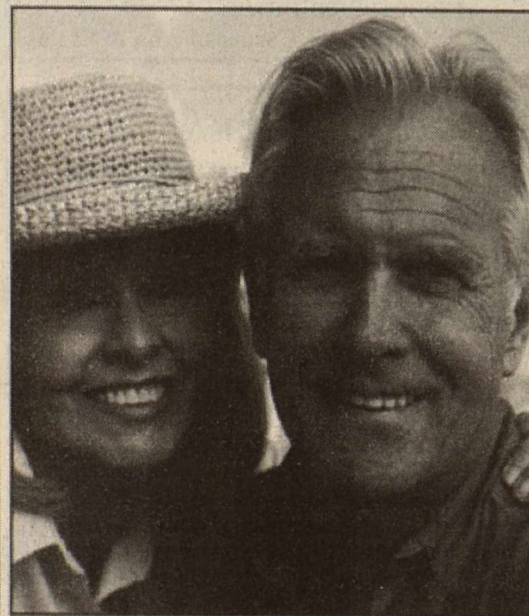
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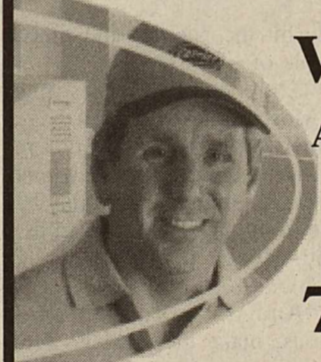
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