

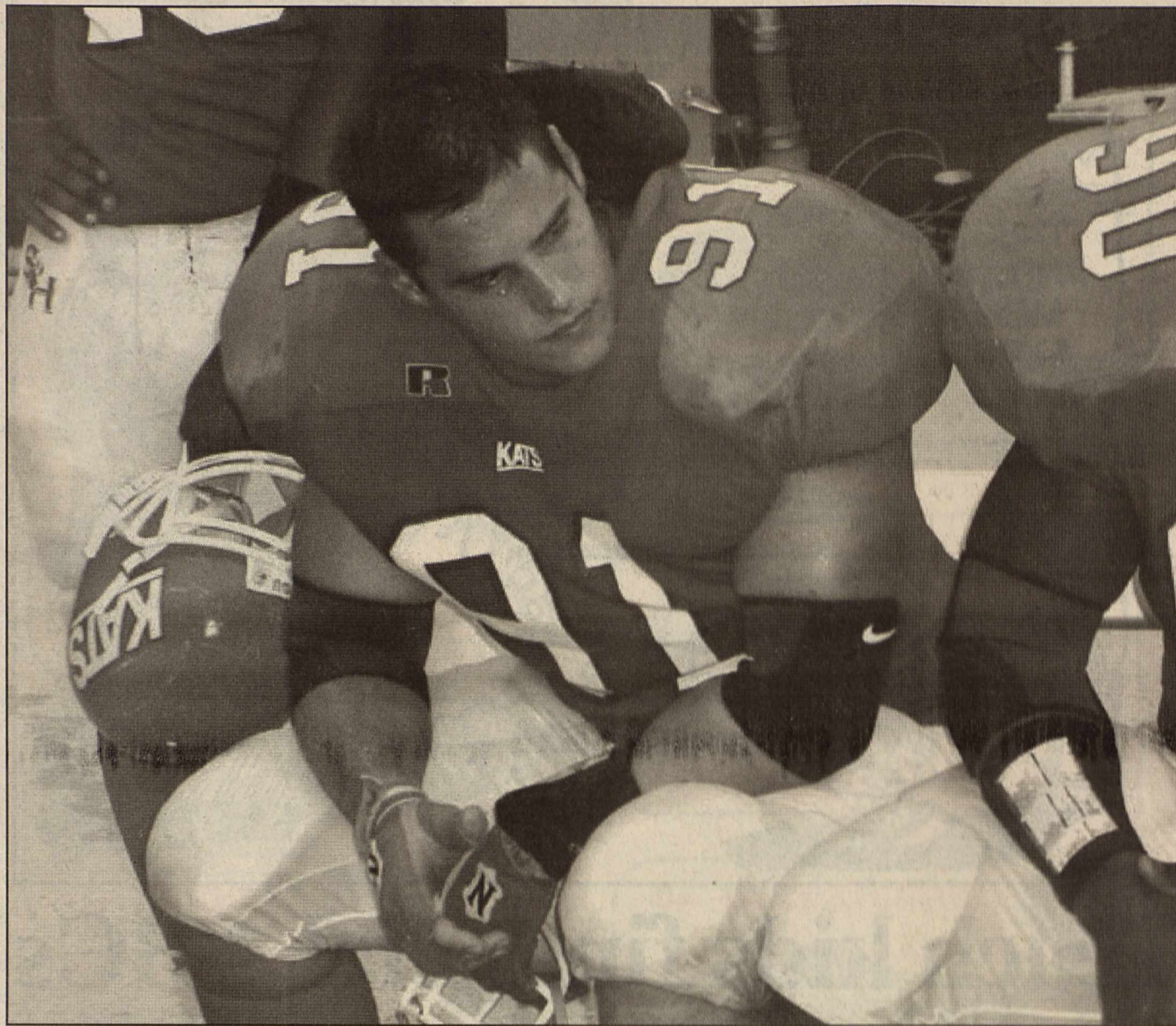
The Brackett News

Community group to focus on local groundwater issues
See story, Page 4

16th year, No. 25

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



Ready to take the field

Brackettville native Steven Hagler (91) is a senior at Sam Houston State University and will start at defensive end for the Bearkats football team this season. He played in only three games last year after suffering a broken leg.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

MAN ON A MISSION

Bearkats looking for leadership from Hagler

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

With eight defensive starters returning from last year's team, Sam Houston State defensive coordinator Mike Hudson is optimistic entering the 2004 campaign.

Hudson is looking for strong leadership from his defensive veterans, and one of those leaders is Steven Hagler. The senior from Brackettville is a captain for the Bearkats and is expected to start at left end this season.

"I thought we had a very good spring training," said Hudson, who took over as defensive coordinator this year. "We improved a lot as spring went on. We played a lot of freshmen last year. We have a long way to go, but we are headed in the right direction. What we need is great leader-

"College football has taken me a lot of places and I've been able to see a lot of things, but there's nothing like playing in Brackettville on a Friday night."

Bearkats defensive end Steven Hagler

ship on the field, and Steven provides that.

"Steven always plays extremely hard. He has really good technique. He just has a knack for playing the game. He has strength and speed, and great athletic ability. Steven is a good football player," he added.

Hudson said Hagler is a leader off the field as well.

"He's the whole package. He is a good football player, but he is also a good student and a good person, and those are the kind of people you want on your football team," Hudson said.

Hagler saw only limited action in the 2003 season after suffering a broken leg. In only three games, he recorded 14 tackles, including six solos, four for losses and two quarterback sacks.

"I felt like I played well in the seventh game of the season. Two injuries in a row was a real shock. It's hard to come back, but I'm ready. I feel good about this season."

Sam Houston State is coming

off a 2-9 campaign, but the Bearkats are losing only 10 seniors from the 2003 football squad. More than half of last year's team consisted of freshmen and sophomores.

"I think we're going to have a good team this year," Hagler said. "Our defense is looking good, and so is the offense."

"I think the Southland Conference is as wide open as it has ever been. It's up for grabs — anybody can take it. We feel like we can win the championship, but we will have to earn it. Nobody is going to give us anything. It is a very competitive conference."

The Bearkats offense should be explosive this season with quarterback Dustin Long, who transferred to Sam Houston State this past spring from Texas A&M. He was the starting quar-

■ See HAGLER/Page 7

Six interview for city position

The Brackettville City Council interviewed six finalists for the city secretary position Tuesday night and are expected to hire a new administrator as soon as next week.

The finalists are Melvin Davis Jr. of Boerne; former Brackettville alderwoman Mary Flores, who lost her bid for re-election May 15; Maggie Banner Kerr, former general manager of Fort Clark Springs; Bonnie Rigby of Brackettville; Florencio Saucedo, former Del Rio city manager; and Neal Simmons of Brackettville.

There were 19 applicants for the city's top administrative position. The council met last week and named six finalists to interview in closed session during the special meeting Tuesday.

The city secretary's position has been vacant since Bonnie Wardlaw resigned in May. She 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.

The annual salary for the position is budgeted at \$22,500.

Former Del Rio city official finalist for Brackettville post

By JOE HYDE
www.delriolive.com

Former Del Rio City Manager Florencio Saucedo is among six finalists for the city of Brackettville city secretary post. He and the other five finalists were interviewed Tuesday by the Brackettville City Council.

Saucedo served as acting Del Rio city manager in February 1999 and was appointed city manager in August 1999. He was dismissed less than a year later.

Following an emotional nine-hour meeting on July 11, 2000, the Del Rio City Council voted 4-3 to remove Saucedo from the position of city manager.

Saucedo's firing instigated a political firestorm when supporters of Saucedo on the council organized a recall election against Councilman Randy Poirer and Councilwoman Otilia Gonzalez for their decision to affirm Saucedo's firing. The recall was defeated by an overwhelming majority in September 2000, strengthening the position of Del Rio's then recently elected Mayor Dora Alcala, who also was a major player in the firing of Saucedo.

Six months after being fired, Saucedo filed a lawsuit in U.S. District Court alleging breach of contract, and demanded more than \$327,000 in damages. He also alleged defamation of character and violations of the Texas Open Meetings Act. In the lawsuit, Saucedo named the City of Del Rio, the City Council, Alcala and Pohler.

One month after Saucedo filed the lawsuit, the City of Del Rio filed an answer. The city and its co-defendants, Alcala and Pohler, denied many of the allegations made by Saucedo.



Florencio Saucedo

In addition to asking for damages for defamation, Saucedo claimed he was terminated without cause and entitled to a payment from the city of exactly \$327,240.24, as specified in his contract. That contract, written and passed with a majority of a previous city council in September 1999, was illegal according to the city's response.

The city argued that Saucedo's contract "violates the City Charter for the City of Del Rio. Defendants further aver the severance pay clause of [Saucedo's] employment contract is void under the Texas Constitution to the extent it obligates the City funds beyond the current fiscal year without creating a sinking fund." In other words, Saucedo's contract was illegal because it was not properly funded according to Texas law.

The city, mayor and Pohler asserted in their response that Saucedo "is a public figure and, absent a showing of malice, [they] are not liable to [Saucedo] for defamation" and that as elected city officials, it is their duty to express opinions concerning Saucedo's job performance. The city also claimed it did not violate the Texas Open Meetings Act as alleged by Saucedo in his complaint.

Months later, the lawsuit was dismissed by a federal judge.

INSIDE	
■ Cemetery honored	
The Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association of Brackettville will be included in the National Underground Railroad Network to Freedom. Lifestyles/Page 5	
■ Successful sale	
The 17th Joint Haby-Lockhart-Ross-Speck Angora Production Sale was held on Saturday in Kerrville at the Hill Country Exhibit Center. Farm & Ranch/Page 5	
■ Grand opening	
The Kinney County Chamber of Commerce was on hand Wednesday for the grand opening of Home Medical Supplies. Business/Page 7	
INDEX	
Business	7
Classifieds	8
Community	4
Crime	4
Farm & Ranch	5
Lifestyles	5
Opinion	2
Religion	7
Service Directory	6
16th year, No. 25	

Satellite launch provides affordable broadband Internet for rural residents

Rural residents have their hopes pinned on a satellite launched from, of all places, French Guiana. The launch July 17, from Guiana Space Center, Europe's Spaceport, successfully put into orbit the world's largest communications satellite.

The satellite also makes history as the first to fully commercialize the Ka frequency band — a breakthrough for delivering cost-effective, two-way broadband services.

This cost-effective broadband, called WildBlue, will enable even those in the most remote areas to receive affordable satellite broadband Internet.

Long disconnected from the information age, rural people will finally be able to receive the service they have longed for, thanks to the efforts of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative.

The co-op is one of only about 237 nationwide which purchased rights to provide this service. The co-op did this in order to make WildBlue available at a price that would not be cost-prohibitive to those who need it most. After thorough testing, the satellite service should be available to the public by January.

Mary Forbes lives on a ranch in the vicinity of Marathon, and is ecstatic at the prospect of soon being able to receive satellite broadband for her home office. In fact, she is already on the waiting list for service.

Forbes transcribes medical reports and said, "There's nothing worse than being in the middle of transmitting a lengthy report and the Internet goes down."

She believes satellite broadband will save her family money and drastically improve their service.

Forbes says she is currently paying exorbitant rates for dial-up Internet, that only works about half the time.

Jerry Firebaugh of the Del Rio area said, "We are stuck out here at the lake (Lake Amistad), and were without access to any Internet for a long time. So, the first time I saw the announcement about this satellite broadband, I called and got on the waiting list. I offered to sign up for a year's subscription that very same day."

Firebaugh said that there's a world of knowledge out there if you have the means to find it,

and affordable satellite broadband is the first step in that direction.

"It's a big part of our retirement, and how we communicate with our children. It extends to us the advantages of living in town, without having to live in town," Firebaugh said.

"Rio Grande is responding to a very real need. They are able and capable of doing this and it's the only way we will get services like this out here," he concluded.

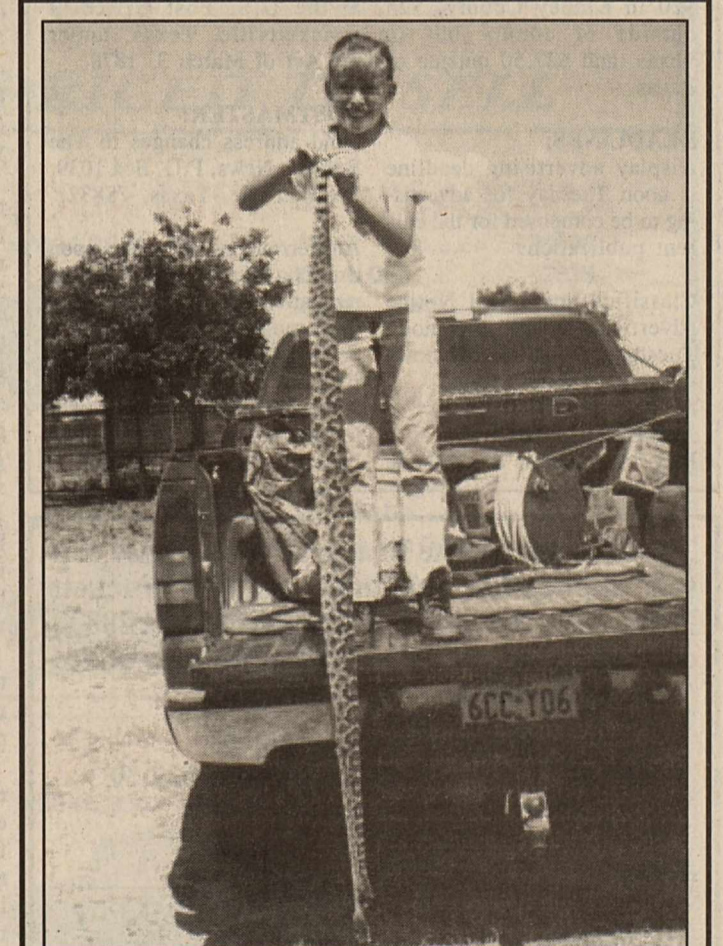
Out in Marfa, Dee Crabtree echoes the sentiment expressed by others. He said that he depends on the Internet for researching medications and ranching.

"It's almost like having a library in your own home," he said.

And, since there is not mail delivery to his remote location 35 miles south of Marfa, Crabtree utilizes the Internet to pay bills and keep in touch with family and friends.

WildBlue is an innovative new form of satellite internet utilizing the Ka-Band and geostationary (GEO) earth orbit satel-

■ See SATELLITE/Page 7



6-foot snake

Photo Special to The Brackett News

This 6-foot snake was killed by Sarah Davis and her brothers, Robert and Tillman, while rounding up goats at their family farm. They were glad they were on horses when they came upon it.

State focuses on small town revitalization, rural tourism

With three of the 10 largest cities in the United States located here, Texas has become much more urban over the years.

As Texas cities rise in prominence, rural Texas cannot be left behind in terms of infrastructure, water, jobs, health care, technology and economic development. There's still a substantial rural population and many rural issues that need to be addressed quickly and carefully.

Many rural Texas communities are finding that through grit and innovation, there are solutions to these challenges. With the U.S. economy making a positive turnaround, the Texas Department of Agriculture (TDA) is poised to help rural Texas move forward.

Various programs are in place to assist rural communities in creating jobs and boosting business development. Texas Yes! is the agency's campaign to promote agricultural diversification, small town revitalization and rural tourism and the Texas Capital Fund program promotes business development and retention by providing funding awards to qualified applicants.



Think
Texas

Susan
Combs

In fact, a new Capital Fund program was recently developed called the Downtown Revitalization Improvements Program. It is a matching fund program that provides financial assistance for projects that breathe new life into downtown areas. It puts hard dollars toward new, inventive projects, and we expect to see great things from communities across the state.

With a variety of resource guides and rural development specialists positioned across the state, TDA offers hands-on assistance to communities looking to grow.

Texas was built on home-grown successes and roll-up-your-sleeves determination and we are tapping into this spirit to gather fresh ideas for the future of rural Texas. Together, let's not leave rural Texas behind.

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.

Big Mama
Sez!



Some people are like french bread
— little dough and lots of crust.

The Brackett News

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Teach kids financial ABCs

Kids today can receive e-mails on their cell phones or use a CD-ROM for their homework. Yet, many don't know basic money skills like saving, budgeting, balancing a checkbook and comparison shopping, among other real-life skills.

Recent studies show that kids aren't learning about money management at school or at home. And to top it off, our national savings rate is now lower than during the Great Depression.

Studies show that Americans spend more than \$9.99 for every \$10 they earned in income — literally, a penny saved — with no relief in sight.

If parents, schools and community leaders don't teach children how to manage money, today's young people may become tomorrow's bankrupt statistics. That's why I'm participating in a program called Teach Children to Save, created by the American Bankers Association Education Foundation (ABAEF).

Kids are advertising targets in the marketplace and statistics say they spend an average of \$104 a week. Now that's a lot



Weekly
Report

Henry
Bonilla

more spending money than what I was used to.

From video games and trendy clothes, to compact discs, the message they receive is "spend" and by the time they become adults, it could be too late to teach them financial skills. Financial education now is an answer and an investment.

This month I'll visit a school district to teach kids about money, using presentations that include educational games and hands-on activities covering the concept of saving, how interest makes money grow, budgeting and needs versus wants.

The Teach Children to Save program uses lesson plans that incorporate activities, videos and budget exercises that children can relate to, such as "Buying a Scooter" and "Living in the Real World."

I encourage parents to teach their children about money. It's critical for their future — good habits start early and healthy money skills last a lifetime. Here are some simple suggestions to teach your kids the value of money:

1. Give children an allowance. Six is the age when most children learn to add and subtract. With this money, you can introduce key concepts into a child's vocabulary such as budget, savings and interest. Help them create a budget worksheet with their money and teach them to save a portion of their allowance.

2. Let children help with shopping. Compare prices and values of grocery and household items. Give kids a small sum of money, or play money, for practice.

3. Teach young people the difference between needs and wants. Talk about the rewards of saving money rather than spending it. Start a savings account for the child and go over bank statements together. Explain the miracle of compound interest.

4. Reach teens before it's too late. Go over a sample credit card statement with them; develop a budget; and explain the impact that bad, and good, credit can have on people's lives.

5. Best of all, teach by setting a good example. Show them how you save. Deposit a portion of your paycheck in a savings account or make this the year you save your tax refund.

Finally, parents should realize that personal finance is a life skill, just like reading and writing. Even with adequate personal finance education in school, students must learn from their parents.

People who learn to save early in life usually make smarter financial decisions later. The Teach Kids to Save program starts young people off on the right path to saving for their future.

If you're a grown up with young savers in your life, make the extra effort this month to Teach Children to Save. If we don't teach our kids the difference between a "need" and a "want" — Madison Avenue will.

U.S. needs its 'boots on the right ground'

"You may fly over a land forever; you may bomb it, atomize it, pulverize it and wipe it clean of life - but if you desire to defend it, protect it and keep it for civilization, you must do this on the ground, the way the Roman legions did, by putting your young men into the mud."

Those words were written by my friend T.R. Fehrenbach in his definitive work on the Korean War, "This Kind of War: A Study in Unpreparedness."

I have often turned to Ted's insights when reviewing the mission and structure of our military. His observation of the importance of "boots on the ground" is incisive and has served our efforts well.

During the World Wars and later, during the Cold War, the importance of an American military presence in Europe and Asia was critical.

Our struggle to uproot Nazi totalitarianism and dispel Communism called for a strong, physical presence abroad.

But today, we face a different kind of enemy: terrorism. An enemy with no borders, no uniforms, no respect for the traditional rules of war, and more importantly, no respect for human life.

It is an enemy that showed us on Sept. 11, 2001, that the greatest battle of our generation will not be fought in one country or even a single continent.

It is a global battle that requires a renewed, sharpened

strategy, a changed and relevant force structure, and demands we take a close look at how we position our military at home and abroad.

As chair of the Senate Military Construction Appropriations Subcommittee, I oversee the allocation of federal funds for our military installations worldwide. It is an important role, which requires an in-depth understanding of our force alignment and the facilities and infrastructure necessary to support it.

In recent years, I have become increasingly concerned with the Pentagon's tendency to shut down U.S. bases in an effort to modernize, consolidate and make our Armed Forces more efficient.

Bases in Germany and Korea, while relevant to a Cold War strategy, must be considered for closure first before bases in Louisiana, California and Texas face possible reductions or shut down as part of the 2005 Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC).

In past BRAC rounds some stateside closures have been conducted hastily, and the military has only later realized their mistake costing millions of taxpayer dollars, displacing soldiers and their families, and wreaking havoc on the local economies.

Another growing concern is the increased restrictions being placed on our training capabilities



Capitol
Comment

Kay Bailey
Hutchison

ties abroad. In some areas our ability to fly helicopters at night, conduct live-fire exercises, or move vehicles over the countryside during war preparation has been severely limited.

Not only do some bases fail to meet our national security needs; in some cases, the host countries are openly antagonistic toward our troops.

Last year I enacted an Overseas Basing Commission, responsible for a comprehensive study of U.S. military facilities abroad that will help defense policy makers arrive at more informed decisions. The panel's charge is to review the existing base structure and location, as well as assess whether our infrastructure is in place to meet current and future missions.

This July, the commission held its first public meeting in Washington, the first of a series of meetings, which will culminate in a report to the president and Congress later this year. At the meeting the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) presented its study on the costs of and options for changing the Army's overseas basing structure.

CBO documented potentially

significant savings in many areas, such as moving units home from Germany, where it costs about \$1 billion annually to maintain forces, and from Korea. Locating forces in Poland, Bulgaria or Romania was also recommended, as was consolidating the many bases and outposts in Korea.

If, as has been suggested in the media, the Pentagon returns 29,000 soldiers from Germany, approximately two divisions, we would save \$400-\$575 million annually and give our troops far better training capabilities and opportunities. And Texas is well poised to benefit from returning troops. Analysts suggest that Fort Bliss in El Paso or Fort Hood in Killeen could accommodate soldiers transferring from overseas.

The review is long overdue, but timely. With the 2005 BRAC rapidly approaching, we must know exactly what our troop commitments need to be internationally before we limit or close any bases here at home.

I'm pleased the commission's work is now underway. At year's end it will provide conclusions and recommendations to help us make sound decisions about our overseas basing structure.

By taking a comprehensive look at our force structure, we can more effectively place our boots on the right ground at the right time to combat the new threats we face in the 21st century.

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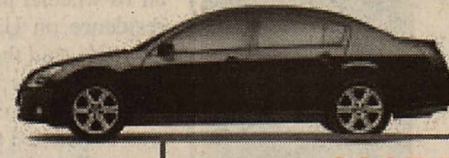
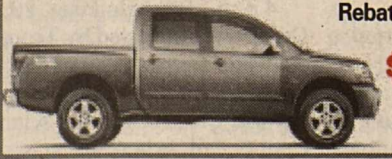
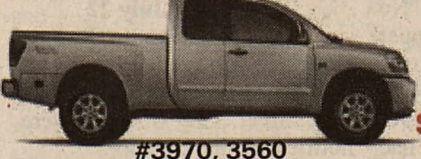
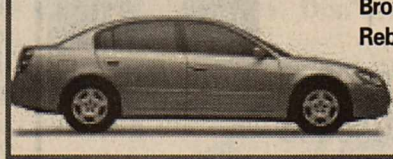



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Community group to focus on local groundwater issues

A grassroots organization named the Kinney County Groundwater Citizens is being formed here in Brackettville. The mission of this group is to promote communication, cooperation and education regarding our county groundwater issues. "We hope that all members of our community will become involved, no matter how diverse their interests," said Silk Waters Mooney. "If we can talk openly, be willing to cooperate, and become effective in educating every citizen of Kinney County on water rights, we can make a difference. We need willing citizens who can accept this goal as their own."

For more information, call Mooney at 563-3443.



Flag presentation Photo Special to The Brackett News
Kinney County Judge, Herb Senne (right) was presented with an American flag by Leigh Ann Sanderlin of the Rio Grande-Nueces Resource Conservation and Development Council following Monday's Commissioners Court meeting. The flag was flown over the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C., especially for the local Commissioners Court.

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Roping for Christ



ABOVE: Winners in the 5th Annual Roping for Christ held at the Dust Bowl Arena show off their awards. There were 236 teams participating in the event, which drew approximately 420 people. Winners were Mario Fernandez of Barksdale and Jody Williams of Pearsall, first place; Mitch Moore of D'Hanis and Ruben Ybarra of Uvalde, second; Nacho Bermea of Hondo and Jorge Escamilla of Del Rio, third; Mike Handley of LaPryor and Jay Johnson of Del Rio, fourth; Donnie Crow of Uvalde and Jack Stephenson of Charlotte, fifth; and Pete Cordova of Del Rio and Daniel Hernandez of Sonora, sixth.



RIGHT: Doc Dorrell (from left) presents saddles to first-place winners Jody Williams of Pearsall and Mario Fernandez of Barksdale.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Saturday, July 10
12:30 a.m., Armando Estrada, 31, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ramon Gutierrez for criminal trespassing. No charges were pressed.
2:07 p.m., David Buciaeger, 23, of Del Rio was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for driving without a license. He was released two days later after posting a \$1,200 bail bond.

Thursday, July 15
10:40 a.m., Arturo Joel Barrera, 19, of Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Trevino for driving without a license. He was released three days later after posting a \$1,200 bail bond.

Sunday, July 18
8:34 p.m., Gerrardo Hernandez Jr., 22, of San Antonio was arrested by Deputy Donald Page on a warrant out of Bexar County for criminal trespassing. He was released the next day after posting a \$500 bail bond.

Monday, July 19
2:25 p.m., A 911 caller reported that a red Neon that needed help on U.S. Highway 90, west of Brackettville near the A.J. Foyt Ranch. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the location.

7:10 p.m., A woman reported that she had locked her keys inside her vehicle at her residence on S. Beaumont Street. Reserve Deputy Gary Robinson was dispatched to the scene.

10:13 p.m., A man reported an 18-wheeler parked next to his residence on U.S. Highway 90 East. He said the truck was running and keeping him from sleeping. Deputy Donald Page was dispatched to the residence.

Tuesday, July 20
12:35 a.m., A woman reported that she was involved in a two-vehicle accident at the stop light on U.S. Highway 90. No injuries were reported. Trooper Hernandez was dispatched to the location.

10:50 a.m., A woman reported that her ex-husband had dropped her children off with a woman and then left for San Antonio. Deputy Page was dispatched to the woman's residence at the Senior Apartments.

Wednesday, July 21
4:20 p.m., Roger Juarez, 38, of San Antonio was arrested by Trooper Anguiano on a warrant out of Bexar County for assault with a deadly weapon. He was released after his attorney posted a \$25,000 bond.

4:35 p.m., A man reported that a semi-truck had rolled over on U.S. Highway 90, approxi-



A semi-truck rolled over last Wednesday afternoon on U.S. Highway 90, approximately 8 miles east of Brackettville. The truck came to a stop on its side and the trailer was upside down.

mately 8 miles east of Brackettville. Deputy Karl Chism, DPS, EMS and members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department were all dispatched to the scene.

7:19 p.m., A woman reported that an 18-wheeler that had jacked-knifed on U.S. Highway 90, about 16 miles west of Brackettville. DPS officials were dispatched to the scene.

9 p.m., Fort Clark Springs security officials reported a loose cow on U.S. Highway 90. The owner of the cow was notified.

Thursday, July 22
2:05 a.m., Deputy Ramon Gutierrez reported a big water leak at the corner of Third and Fort Street. City officials were notified of the situation.

7:27 a.m., A woman said that her neighbor's dog had attacked her little dog, which was on a leash, near her residence on E. Veltman Street. The woman was unable to contact the city. The dispatcher notified a city official about the situation.

9:15 a.m., A man reported having dog trouble and wanted someone to go to his residence on W. El Paso Street. City officials were notified of the situation.

11:10 a.m., Michael Lyon Hobbs, 34, of Arizona was arrested by Trooper Martinez for unlawfully carrying a weapon and possession of drug paraphernalia. He was released the next day after paying \$267 in fines.

6:15 p.m., Hector Pina, 23, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ring for theft. He was released the next day after posting a \$1,000 bail bond.

10:12 p.m., A woman reported a fire at the city's brush area on E. Sheedy Street. City officials were notified of the situation. They said they would put the fire out with dirt.

Friday, July 23
11 a.m., A woman reported a green Cadillac without a back window. She said she believed the occupants were shooting a pellet gun out of the window. Constable Bobby Guidry was notified of the situation and said he would look for the vehicle.

4:26 p.m., A man reported that he had seen another man hitting a woman and forcing her to get inside his van near the Brackett ISD tennis courts. Deputy Chism was notified. He pulled the van over and the couple said everything was OK.

11 p.m., Felix Clisso Garcia, 20, of Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Whitaker for possession of marijuana. Garcia was released the next day after post-

ing a \$5,000 bail bond.

Saturday, July 24
10:30 a.m., A Brackettville couple reported that some things had been moved or possibly misplaced from their residence.

10:45 a.m., A man requested that a deputy check on his business, located on U.S. Highway 90. Deputy Manny Pena was dispatched to the location.

1:20 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported that his plane had been vandalized. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the scene.

4 p.m., Eduardo Pena, 20, of Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Whitaker for possession of marijuana and probation revocation. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Sunday, July 25
3 a.m., A man reported a suspicious car hanging around his goat pen on W. El Paso Street. Deputy Page was notified of the situation.

7:52 a.m., A 911 caller reported illegal aliens on Highway 90, east of Brackettville. U.S. Border Patrol agents were notified of the situation.

12:34 p.m., A man requested assistance at his residence on W. Spring Street. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the location.

