

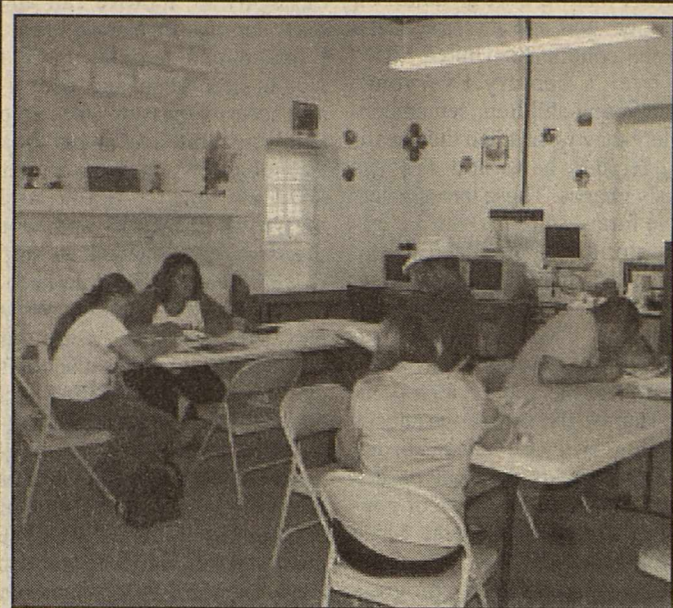
# The Brackett News

**Rigby: City's fragile financial state a challenge**  
Story, picture below

16th year, No. 31

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



**Job hopefuls**

Photo by Jewel Robinson

The Kinney County Detention Center and Kinney County Workforce Center held a Job Fair Wednesday, Sept. 8th, 2004, at the Kinney County Library Annex. Above, Crystal Pulham, Brenda Mendoza and Eddie Fowler fill out job applications. Mickey Hubert, warden of the Detention Center, was on hand to interview applicants.

## Council sides with city secretary

# City quits paying cell phone, home phone bills of employee

After being told that the city was footing bills averaging over \$100 a month for an employee's cell phone and residential phone, council members last Monday voted to cancel service on both phones.

The council made the decision following a recommendation by City Secretary Bonnie Rigby that Mayor Joe Garza initially was against.

Garza relented after being reminded by the council that earlier in the evening, council had approved a job description for Rigby that gave her the authority to decide such matters.

Before the vote, Rigby told the council, "I have researched our cell phones and another phone which is at David Martinez's house. It's delinquent - \$127.46 at this time for the past three months, the city pays this. We are also paying for long distance calls that he makes on these phones. I don't know why we are paying this for his home."

"Also, he has a cell phone - we have two cell phones, actually, one is for standby so whoever is on standby on the week-ends has that phone."

"There have been no long distance calls on the standby phone but the other wireless phone, there are international calls on it, that's the one that David Martinez carries."

"There's long distance calls. The average bill a month should be \$59.99 per month and with extra usage, roam charges, they're averaging over \$100 - one month it was \$106, another one \$96, month before that was \$127, the month of April was \$278."

"A total for three months for those two cell phones should be \$203.80. The actual cost \$329.91 and I understand using one phone but I question two phones and the long distance and international calls."

Garza asked Rigby why the city was paying for Martinez's home phone service. Rigby answered that she did not know.

Council discussion centered on Martinez at one time being the only city employee on standby.

Also pointed out was that all emergency calls go through the sheriff's department.

Garza said he believed Martinez needs a cell phone because he (Garza) needs to contact him to take care of any emergencies.

"I'll give you an example. I was in San Antonio and someone called me from Brackettville and they were upset because they were told they were not going to get sewer service."

"I called Martinez because of the nature of the situation. The

*"The average bill a month should be \$59.99 per month and with extra usage, roam charges, they're averaging over \$100, Rigby told the council."*

man was told he was not going to get sewer service. So I talked to David My point is this, this is my standpoint, David needs to have a cell phone. There is a need but there is no need for abuse. I do not disagree that we need to stop the abuse."

"However, there are times when I need to get in contact with David. He needs to instill self discipline and make sure phone is used efficiently."

Councilman Matt Bland told Garza, "Tonight you have given her authority. Everything should be going through her. During the day, she will have contact with David through the radios."

"At night, you can call him at his regular home phone."

Rigby was asked whether Martinez's cell phone should be discontinued.

"We can't afford it, not right now. If we break the contract on that phone, it's \$435 flat and for the next 28 months that we have to have the contract, we'll spend on the average of what he's spending right now, \$1679.72 the next 28 months."

Mayor Garza asked, "Why don't we keep the cell phone and do away with the home phone? With a little bit of discipline, we can curtail the cell phone usage. If not, it's a personnel matter; matter of insubordination."

Rigby said she used her own cell phone for company business.

"No one is paying for my cell phone, not that I'm asking you to. Why should we pay David's 24/7, 365 days a year?"

Garza was reminded by council members that earlier in the evening, Rigby had been given the authority to make recommendations to the council on such matters.

Following a short discussion, the council unanimously voted to cancel service on Martinez's cellular and home phones.

# Historic use permit hearings begin Friday

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District will begin its Historic Use Permit hearings on Sept. 10 in the Kinney County Courthouse. The hearings are scheduled to end on Sept. 18.

Steve Walthour was hired by the District to evaluate the Historic Use permit applications. Walthour has years of experience with groundwater permits through his work at the Edwards Aquifer Authority. It is his job to make recommendations to the District for how much groundwater each Historic Use applicant should be permitted. He will make his final recommendation on each application during the permit hearings.

According to the District's rules, applicants for Historic Use Permits are owners of existing, non-exempt wells that were completed and operational on or

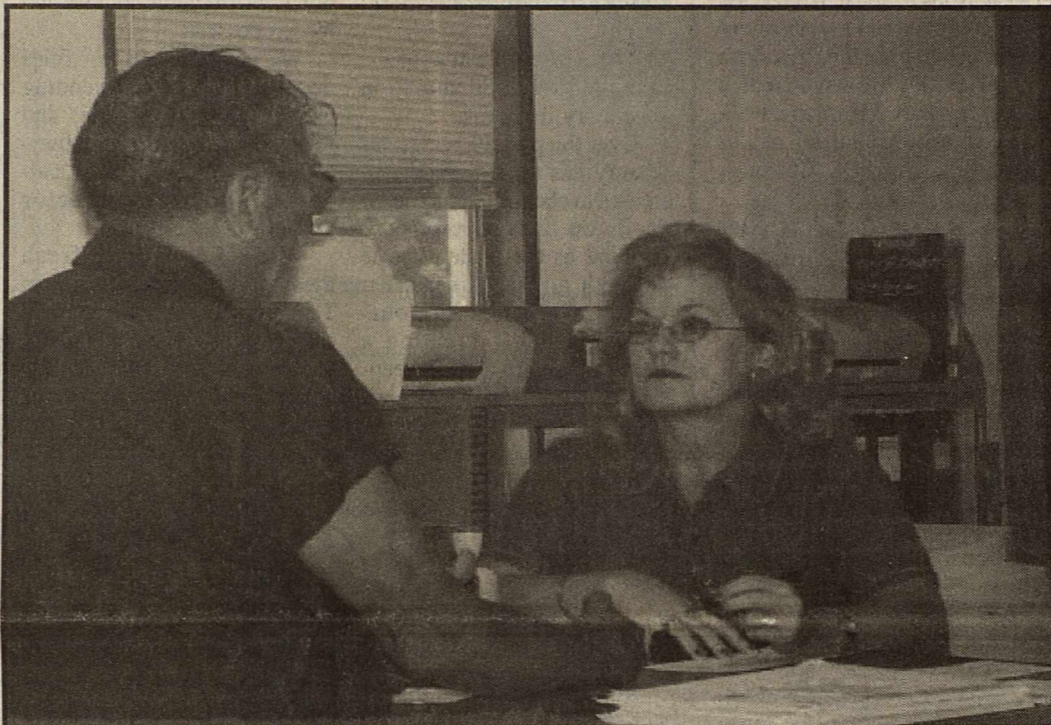
before Dec. 31, 1991. The applicants must prove their well(s) produced and used groundwater at any time during the historic use period, Jan. 1, 1960 through Dec. 31, 1991, for beneficial use.

There are 39 applicants for Historic Use Permits. The majority of these wells were used in Kinney County's agricultural production in the 1960s and 1970s. These are not new wells and although many were drilled 40 years ago they are still producing groundwater today.

Applicants for the District's Historic Use Permits applied in April for the maximum amount of groundwater used on their property during the historic use period. As required by the District rules, the applicants have been paying groundwater use fees that to-

tal \$1 per acre foot claimed in their application in quarterly payments to the District. The District's historic use permit hearings will give applicants the opportunity to demonstrate their proof of the historical, groundwater production on their property and secure their permits. The District has 35 days from the conclusion of the hearings to act on the Historic Use Permit applications.

The District's rules allow for three types of permits for non-exempt water users: Historical Use, Existing Use and Regular permits. Existing Use permits are for applicants whose wells were completed and operational from Jan. 1, 1992 through Jan. 7, 2003. Regular permits are for applicants whose wells were operational from Jan. 8, 2003 to the present.



**Day by day**

City Secretary Bonnie Rigby says she is determined to improve the city's financial situation.

# City's fragile financial state a challenge, says Bonnie Rigby

City Secretary Bonnie Rigby remains undaunted by the city's fragile financial situation. "I'm not intimidated at all; I welcome challenges," said Rigby, who was hired last month by the council from among six finalists.

Currently, she is working on the city budget which, she explains, "was \$400,000 last year, but will be less this year." She also is trying to catch up on paying the enormous amount of bills the city owes.

"As far as our standings, we have available right now, \$6,012.64; operating, \$2,132.47; landfill, \$4,708.25," she told the city

council last week. Mayor Joe Garza asked her about the 'red tag' collections.

"After the last meeting, I got \$10,000... Right after that, I wrote all the checks, paid the bills... West Texas Gas, we owe \$34,000, \$36,000; waste management, we owe \$9,000. Those are regular monthly bills. All of the accounts we have right now are delinquent. I just called CPL, every bill is delinquent," Rigby reported.

Garza, who was elected mayor on May 15 said, "That's the kind of game we've been playing all summer- catch up."

"Yes sir, answered Rigby, "and the auditors tell me we cannot go on another year like this. Money walking in the door - people paying their utility bills - is how we are operating right now. What is hurting us are penalties and interest. It's just tremendous what they charge, especially the state of Texas."

Garza answered, "We're just going to have to endure all those financial setbacks, stay afloat the best we can and that's going to be on a day to day basis." He asked Rigby to continue to meet with the auditors and monitor the progress and to keep the council informed.

# Council approves city secretary's job description

Prior to the council's approval of the city secretary's job description last week, discussion centered on clarification of certain duties.

For example, that the city secretary shall perform: *Any other task(s) that the council may deem appropriate and necessary.*

Mayor Joe Garza explained: "Let's say we're posed with a situation that we have never faced before and let's say that we direct the city secretary to take some kind of action and it's not specifically addressed in her job description. There are a lot of responsibilities that she will be responsible for that are not written into this and that's the nature of most job descriptions. That's why you have this sentence at the very end. "Anything that the

council deems appropriate or necessary." It's just a catch-all, it's not a trick or anything of that nature. It's just in case the council needs the city secretary, the CEO, the chief executive officer, of the city to take care of a particular task and in case there are any questions whether it's in her job description, his job description, whoever the individual is, this will take care of it. That's basically all there is, is a catch all.

"To exercise administrative supervision over all of the departments created by the council or that may be created."

Mayor Garza: She (Bonnie Rigby) is the chief executive administrative officer of the city. We are policy; we are not administration. She is the chief executive administrative officer of the city. She has jurisdiction

over all departments. The buck stops with her. If a particular action should go beyond the administrative level, then it becomes a policy matter. It will come to us, an appeal, if you will. Of course we don't have any procedure that I've seen in the policy manual. To give you an example, it talks about a grievance procedure in the policy manual, but there's no appellate procedures. The decision of the city manager has a wording, is final. In many places, the decision of the city manager or in the case of the superintendent can be appealed to the board in which case the board, or the city council will make a decision. What I'm saying is that she, the city secretary, is the chief administrator of the city. We are

See Council/Page 4

## BRIEFS

### County Groundwater conservation district candidates named

Places were drawn Tuesday, Sept. 7 at 11 a.m. for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors election in November.

They are:  
Precinct 1 - Beth Ann Smith; two year term, running unopposed.

Precinct 2 - Cecil Smith and Lloyd Davis Jr., two year term.

Precinct 3 - Jennifer McDaniel and Christopher Ring, two year term.

Precinct 4 - Don Hood, 4 year term, running unopposed.

City at large - Wes Robinson and Chuck Hall, 4 year term.

Fort Clark Springs, MUD at large - Dub Miller, Donna Saylor and Duke Meek, 4 year term.

County at large - Tootsie Herndon and Tony Frerich, 4 year term.

### FCA meets Sept. 12

The Adult Chapter of the Fellowship of Christian Athletes will meet Sunday, Sept. 12 at 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall of St. Andrew's Episcopal Church on the corner of Fort and Henderson.

Officers will be elected for the new school year and plans for future projects will be discussed. The community is invited to attend. For more information, contact Mary Petrosky at 563-2096.

### 'Piano, Silk and Satin' opens in Uvalde Saturday

"Piano, Silk and Satin," A Tour of Musical Styles of the 20th Century, will be performed by the Fredericksburg Theater Company on Saturday, Sept. 11 in the Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House.

The performance is sponsored by the Uvalde Arts Council. The director is Jeryl Hoover. The program is designed to make people remember and enjoy the good music, past and contemporary.

Members of the group include Jeff Foeh, Tiffany Hartmann, Jeryl Hoover, Jacobi Caldwell, Lee Line and Ruthann Hoover. Songs include those by the Doobie Brothers, Elton John, Irving Berlin, Scott Joplin, Floyd Cramer, The Everly Brothers, Frank Sinatra, The Beatles, Hank Williams, Pat Green, Billy Joel and Frank Bjon as well as Broadway hits.

Curtain time will be 8 p.m.. Tickets are \$12 each and can be purchased at the Opera House. For more information call the Opera House Box Office, 278-4184.

## INSIDE

### Steven LaMascus

It seems so perfect to me that we saw none of this lawless, anarchistic, disrespectful nonsense from the Republicans at the Democrats convention.

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It's hard to believe three years have passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon.

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### Roger Baker

We see lots of warning signs every day - from speed limits to warning buzzers when we leave the keys in the car or our lights on.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

## 'Haenn's remarks ludicrous'

This is offered as a response to Mr. Haenn's letter published in the Aug. 26 edition of your newspaper, in which the opinion was expressed that there is "treachery at work" in the "sinister" efforts of the Fort Clark Springs Association officers and board of directors to examine the possibility of creating a municipality on Fort Clark Springs.

While the point raised by Mr. Haenn as to fiduciary duties of officers and directors of the FCSA and the importance of our water resources to the ongoing viability and success of Fort Clark are undeniably obvious, it is ludicrous to believe that the board or its officers are attempting to perpetrate a "hoax" on the membership of the FCSA by investigating

alternatives to the precarious status quo.

Mr. Haenn intimates that the board or some of its members want to sell Fort Clark water. I know of no place or time when the board as a group, or its members individually, ever espoused or proposed that the Fort's water be offered for sale.

As regards the question of municipality, the board and its members would be negligent in their fiduciary responsibility to the Fort Clark Springs Association if they did not become knowledgeable and consider the ramifications of any situational change which might improve the overall condition of that entity for its membership.

Sincerely, A.B. (Bruce) Trautwein  
Fort Clark Springs resident

## Sept. 11 remembered

It's hard to believe three years have passed since the attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon. We will all remember where we were that morning. Whether you were near ground zero or in Castroville, Texas we all had the same fears racing through our heads. What was happening? Who was behind it? Would my city be next? We prayed together, we stood together side by side, not as Republicans or Democrats, but as Americans ready to do what was necessary to get through this crisis. People across the country asked what they could do to help. Phone calls poured into New York, Washington and Pennsylvania with offers to help and send money. America was facing its ultimate modern day challenge and meeting it. In the following days, we committed ourselves to doing whatever it took to respond. The President focused like a laser beam on the effort to eliminate those on the other side of the world who were responsible. This tragedy showed our nation how strong we are. Our nation's leaders told us to go on with our lives and we did. We resumed our regular schedules as best we could... tending to our children, shopping, going to football games... and becoming reacquainted with our friends and family to once again understand what's really important. Here in Washington there are many of us who remain focused on the fundamentals



Weekly  
Report

Henry  
Bonilla

that preserve our way of life. Strengthening our military, our intelligence operations our federal agencies that watch our ports of entry for killers trying to enter our country. In the days since Sept. 11, 2001 we have created a Department of Homeland Security to ensure that all of our agencies... the FBI, Customs, the Border Patrol, the DEA... operate in synch. This year alone we funded billions of dollars to strengthen our homeland. This funding will assist firefighters, emergency management and law enforcement officials. It will also implement passenger and baggage screening, highway and air security, and training, as well as modernizing our nation's borders. Our nation has made great strides since Sept. 11, 2001. On this important date, I encourage everyone to remember the past so as to make us stronger in the future. We will never forget September 11. Today we should feel proud that this generation, like those past, is every bit as committed to doing whatever it takes to preserve freedom, justice and the American Way.

## 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.



You can't fool all the people all the time, but most of us try.

## The Brackett News

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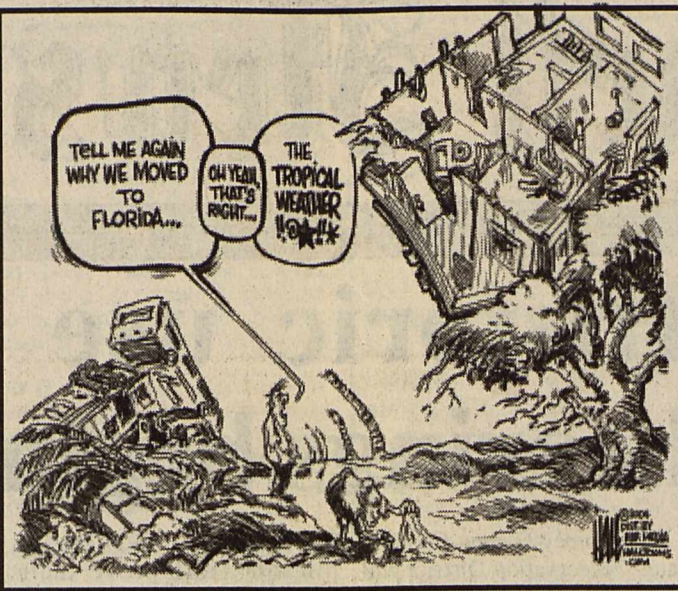
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## Tackling state's obesity issue

A Victoria dietician recently e-mailed me about 4-year-olds in her facility who were three times their recommended body weight. She also recently counseled a junior high school girl who weighed 344 pounds.

I also received a note from a mom who ate lunch with her second-grade son at school and was shocked to see kids eating nothing but cookies, pudding, chocolate milk and ice cream bars, leaving their entrees untouched.

Another parent e-mailed me upset that a teacher was offering candy bars and cupcakes as daily "reading rewards" to her prediabetic daughter.

These are just a few of the examples of child nutrition gone awry in Texas.

Over the past 20 years, our country has seen dramatic increases in obesity. In fact, obesity is on track to take over smoking as the leading cause of death among Americans. We are "supersizing" ourselves, and it's creating a deadly epidemic that's sweeping the nation. That's why we jumped head first into revers-



Think  
Texas

Susan  
Combs

ing this sad trend. Texas is leading the nation in its efforts to combat childhood obesity as the first state to have an all-encompassing school nutrition policy.

We recently released a policy limiting the number of grams of fat and sugar Texas schoolchildren are served each week and also restricted portion sizes for chips cookies and frozen desserts.

We've tightened the rules on everything from vending machines to French fries and released educational commercials with the help of Academy-award winning actor Tommy Lee Jones.

With innovative, fresh ideas and a strong focus on Texas schoolchildren, we will improve our state's obesity problem and pave the way for strong, healthy futures for our kids.

## Democrats win for their own sake

Well, I guess the so called demonstrations (which were really riots) by the Democrats and other liberal slime at the Republican convention just goes to show how democratic the Democrats really are. It seems so perfect to me that we saw none of this lawless, anarchistic, disrespectful nonsense from the Republicans at the Democrats convention. It just goes to show the difference between the two parties.

The Democrats respect nothing and no one. They want to win for their own sake. They want the power to dominate. They care not one whit for our welfare, only the power they can gain and the money they can stuff into their own pockets.

They want us to believe they have the welfare of the nation at heart, and then they demonstrate their unfitness for leadership by such actions as these. They want to win by any means and fairness is not in their vocabulary.

They spit on us, they throw garbage at us, they destroy private property in a senseless rage, they assault our law enforcement officers and then brag that they "have the courage to confront the police." Then they stand up in public and tell us that they are



The Way  
I See It

Steven R.  
LaMascus

better than us and we should vote for them.

What they are, are fools, perverts, and idiots; self-centered, small-minded, anarchistic, socialistic, half-wits; disrespectful, resentful, bitter, angry, rude morons without the decency to allow the democratic process to proceed as it was intended.

They attack at every opportunity and then scream like frightened monkeys when someone has the temerity to counter attack. Everything is fair for them, but the other side has to abide by the rules. Well let me tell you something, if you're gonna sling mud, expect to get some on you. And if you attack a man, don't be surprised if he strikes back! Most of us conservative Americans are natural-born retaliators! Ask the Japanese.

Most of the American people are not fools. There is, of course, the element that would vote democrat if the candidate was Adolf Hitler, but that is primarily a holdover from the Great

Depression and is a dying breed, I hope.

There is also the element that is so gullible that they can't see the reality of the situation - that the democrat candidates of late have been second rate gigolos in search of power and prestige instead of statesmen desiring to help their nation. They can't believe that anyone would lie to them so they are continually taken advantage of by the liberal lie mongers.

There is also the element that votes with their wallet and not their minds. The democrats tell them they will give them what they want - more giveaway programs - so they vote for the money, fully aware that such money has to be stolen from somebody else.

That's just peachy for the if-it-moves-tax-it group, but it drives another nail in the coffin of the nation and drains the life blood of the middle class. This is the power base of the liberal labor organizations.

Then, out in right field, is the poor old center-of-the-road conservative. He believes that everyone should do what is right, simply because it is the right thing to do. He believes that the good of the many outweighs the good of the few and has the instinctual fortitude to make the sacrifices that such beliefs require.

globe. We will see this mission through and send a message to terrorists and the world that freedom will triumph. Clearly, we have more work to do to better protect our homeland, especially to improve rail and port security. Earlier this year, I introduced legislation that would strengthen and coordinate security measures for cargo shipping and use smart box technology. We must ensure our borders with Canada and Mexico are a priority and have the resources needed to stop would be terrorists while keeping commerce flowing. What Next, we must also ensure our law enforcement has the tools they need. The PATRIOT Act has helped us thwart terrorist attacks by granting new authority to law enforcement. But this law will expire at the end of 2005 unless Congress acts. We must not let these tools slip away. The Sept. 11<sup>th</sup> Commission recently proposed a number of changes including a single national intelligence director. Our commander-in-chief must receive comprehensive and accurate national security data, so I will give this recommendation serious consideration. Congress has already held many hearings and I believe more action should follow within the coming months. In the three short years since the terrorists struck, we have achieved significant progress. The surprise attack on our country in 1941 created the climate that produced the Greatest Generation. These men and women overcame evil regimes and other hardships with determination and humility. Today we are in the midst of a similar battle. It is a calling we did not ask for but that we have no choice but to accept. Working together, we are on the path to defeat the terrorists, expand freedom and ensure our children and grandchildren enjoy a more secure future.

He is a patriot who cries when he hears the Star Spangled Banner, who goes to church regularly, because he believes in God and worships Jesus Christ and not because of the impression he makes on the voters. He is the man or woman who volunteers for Little League and 4-H, because it is his civic duty to serve.

He served on the school board because he thought it was his civic duty, not because he wanted to use it as a springboard to higher political office.

He works five or six days a week to feed and clothe his family. He goes to his daughter's basketball games and his son's football games, and for two weeks in the summer takes his family on a vacation somewhere.

He doesn't have the time or the energy to be an "activist," and wouldn't understand the concept anyway. He and she, Mr. and Mrs. Hard-Working God-Fearing Conservative, is where the future of this nation lies, if it has a future. And if you find that offensive - tough! You need to rethink your own values and search for the truth in your own heart! 1 John 4:1 - "Beloved, do not believe every spirit, but test the spirits to see whether they are from God, because many false prophets have gone out into the world." NASB

## Checking up on care for elderly in Texas

The summer season is here, School vacations, travel plans, family reunions and other events keep people on the move as the temperature rises. Fortunately, during the busy time of year, and no matter where one travels in the U.S., help is available to monitor the quality of care provided by nursing homes and home health agencies that are caring for elderly and disabled loved ones in Texas, and resources exist to help make health care decisions if such a need arises while you are away from home.

Reliable and understandable data on the quality of care in Texas is available and can help consumers ensure that family members get good care, or can help them make decisions about health care if nursing home or home health care is needed. The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), and agency

of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, makes quality of care data available on the Internet at www.medicare.gov. One can also get the information by calling 1-800-MEDICARE (1-800-633-4227). These tools are part of a National quality Initiative that help educate consumers and encourages providers to achieve the highest possible levels of care.

Accessing the quality data at www.medicare.gov is an important step in the health care decision-making process and in monitoring a loved one's care. Family members or friends can also visit regularly, talk to health care workers and be aware of treatment plans. Resources in the community can be an asset as well; talk to family, friends, and health care providers to get the best possible information when making decisions for you

or for loved ones.

Since November of 2002, Texas Medical Foundation (TMF), the Medicare Quality Improvement Organization (QIO), for Texas, has been educating consumers on the availability of quality of care data. TMF staff members offer nursing homes, home health agencies and hospitals in our state hands-on training and resources, free of charge, to improve quality of care as part of the National Quality Initiative.

Early data, as part of these quality initiatives, shows that many home health project home health agencies in Texas have achieved statistical significant improvement in their target outcome, such as increasing the percentage of patients who improve in self help skills and more agencies are achieving success every month. In addition Texas nursing homes have succeeded

in dramatically lowering the percentage of patients who need to be restrained by implementing new procedures and evaluation techniques.

TMF encourages Texas residents to contact CMS at 1-800-633-4227 with questions or concerns about health care quality. And we urge health care providers - doctors, nursing homes, home health agencies and hospitals - to take advantage of our skilled quality improvement resources.

The National Quality Initiative is designed to help shed light on good health care quality by educating consumers and health care professionals alike. At TMF we can think of no better mission than to help raise the quality of health care to the highest standards. Keven Warren is director of quality improvement at Texas Medical Foundation.

**\$750 Military Discount**  
Active Duty w/ Military ID. 0% APR For 60 MONTHS ON SELECT 2004 MODELS

# End of Summer Fall into savings

**\$500 to \$2000**  
Downpayment Assistance when Financing with GMAC on Select Models

**04' GMC EXT CAB 4 DOOR**  
#3476  
**SAVE \$7500**



**\$22,097\*\***

Total Vehicle .....\$29597  
GM Discount .....\$1000  
MSRP .....\$28597  
Rebate .....\$3500  
Brown Disc .....\$3000

**04' BUICK CENTURY**  
#3292  
**SAVE \$5235**



**\$17,995\*\***

Total Vehicle .....\$23230  
GM Discount .....\$500  
MSRP .....\$22730  
Rebate .....\$3500  
Brown Disc .....\$1235

**05' GMC CANYON Z85**  
#4034  
**SAVE \$2000**



**\$16,150\*\***

MSRP .....\$18150  
Rebate .....\$1500  
Brown Disc .....\$500

**04' GMC SIERRA REG CAB**  
#3474  
**SAVE \$6000**



**\$17,334\*\***

Total Vehicle.....\$23334  
GM Discount.....\$500  
MSRP .....\$22834  
Rebate .....\$3500  
Brown Disc.....\$2000

**04' GMC YUKON SLE**  
#3883  
**SAVE \$7630**



**\$28,495\*\***

MSRP .....\$36125  
Rebate .....\$4500  
Brown Disc.....\$3130

**04' PONTIAC MONTANA**  
#3201  
**SAVE \$6265**



**\$25,195\*\***

MSRP .....\$31460  
Rebate .....\$4500  
Brown Disc.....\$1765

**04' GMC ENVOY**  
#3355  
**SAVE \$6815**



**\$26,195\*\***

MSRP .....\$33010  
Rebate .....\$4500  
Brown Disc.....\$2315

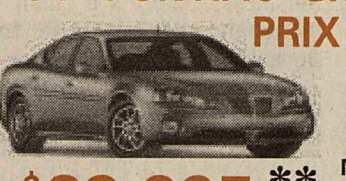
**05' PONTIAC SUNFIRE**  
#4180  
**SAVE \$3460**



**\$13,595\*\***

MSRP .....\$17055  
Rebate .....\$3000  
Brown Disc.....\$460

**04' PONTIAC GRAND PRIX GTP**  
#3117  
**SAVE \$4600**



**\$23,395\*\***

MSRP .....\$27995  
Rebate .....\$3000  
Brown Disc.....\$1600

**04' PONTIAC VIBE**  
#3440  
**SAVE \$3500**



**\$16,755\*\***

Total Vehicle.....\$20255  
GM Discount .....\$300  
MSRP .....\$19955  
Rebate .....\$2000  
Brown Disc.....\$1200

**04' PONTIAC BONNEVILLE**  
#3430  
**SAVE \$5500**



**\$22,995\*\***

MSRP .....\$28495  
Rebate .....\$3500  
Brown Disc.....\$2000

## PRE-OWNED SUMMER CLEARANCE


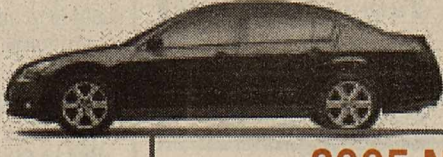
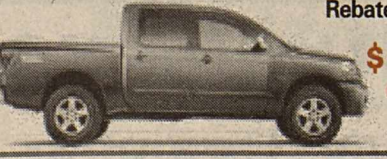

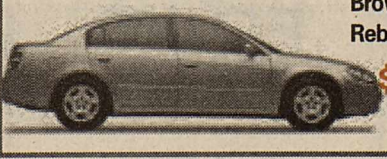



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Nice kitty, kitty  
Brackettville Tiger and fan.  
Photo by Danielle Moore

Council: City secretary in charge of day to day operations

Continued from Page 1

not administrators. We're policy makers. We approve ordinances.

Councilman Matt Bland asked, "In short order, she's the boss?"

Mayor Garza: In short order, yes, in the day to day operations of the city, unless there have been other arrangement made."

Bland: So, in other words, we are under the city manager system?

Mayor Garza: No, we are under the city secretary, that's general law. We're not a city large enough, in terms of population, to be governed by the city manager type of government. We're under the city secretary because of our population.

"I know that the former chief executive officer was called the city manager, but in reality, that was not appropriate. That position should have been city secretary. I don't know how it came about being called city manager, but according to the guidelines, it should have been city secretary."

"Let me restate my position on this. The city secretary is the chief administrative officer of the city, from an administrative standpoint.

"That doesn't mean we don't have the right as council members or mayor, that we don't have the right to have an input on a day to day basis. This simply means that we delegate the day to day operations of the city to one individual, which is our city secretary. That doesn't mean that we can't go in there and suggest or ask questions, we can. But our role is different. In the school systems, it's called a matter of governance-policy vs administration. If policy gets too involved in administration, it

becomes a governance issue. There have been a lot of problems resulting in the school systems over governance. We don't have that problem."

Councilman Bland observed, "Basically, what I see is that...not only in this organization, but in other organizations, military, law enforcement, business...There's a chain of command that has to be followed. What these city employees need to understand is that they answer to the city secretary."

"The city secretary answers to everyone of us sitting up here, and not me not anybody up here should circumvent that chain of command. As an individual, the word, city council, is a conglomerate thing.

"City council persons basically, are nothing by themselves, we act as a body. I don't think any of us need to, or should, input what we have to say, what we think is important to do, to anybody else other than the city secretary."

"I don't have the right, nor the authority to grab a city worker and tell them what to do. I'm not going to do that and I don't think anybody else should do that."

Basically, there's a chain of command that needs to be followed and whether it's going to take a meeting with every city employee and make him understand who they have to answer to on a day to day basis. If we choose not to do that and I'll be the first one to raise the issue somewhere down the road because there's a chain of command that needs to be followed and they need to understand that...."

Mayor Garza: That is correct. The chain of command is terminology that I didn't use ear-

**Monday, August 30**  
8:45 a.m., A 911 caller requested a deputies assistance in checking on her children. Chief deputy Johnny Fritter and Fort Clark security were dispatched to the residence.  
3:50 p.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley reported a loose cow on Pinto Creek.

**Tuesday, August 31**  
11:55 p.m., Silva Igapal Jasso, 33, of Mexico, was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for DWI warrant out of Travis County.

**Wednesday, September 1**  
3:03 p.m., A man reported a break in at his residence on FM 2804. Chief Deputy Fritter, Constable Bobby Guidry and Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess were dispatched to the scene.

3:26 p.m., A woman reported a stalled van on Ann Street. Chief Deputy Fritter was notified of the situation.

6:36 p.m., A man requested a deputies assistance in regards to problems with his neighbors. Deputy Ramon Gutierrez was dispatched to the location.

6:50 p.m., A woman requested a deputies assistance in getting a hold of an individual's mother. Deputy Gutierrez was notified of the situation.

9:33 p.m., A man reported a bicycle that he had found at the school playground.

**Thursday, September 2**  
7:03 a.m., A Uvalde Border Patrol Agent reported an 18 wheeler westbound on highway 90 was dragging a chain and causing sparks. DPS Trooper

Tully Welch was notified of the situation.

9:30 a.m., Maritza Madrid, 25, of Brackettville, was arrested by DPS Trooper Welch for theft of service out of Val verde County. She was later released after posting bail.

11:30 a.m., Tomas Glen Gomez III, 20, of Brackettville, was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess for probation violation. He was later released after posting bail.

**Friday, September 3**  
2:15 a.m., A woman reported loud music. Deputy Donald Page was informed of the situation.

10:20 p.m., The High School principle reported a woman on the Brackett Tiger Stadium Field, harassing a referee. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the area.

**Saturday, September 4**  
3:21 a.m., A man stated that he had a flat tire about 1 mile east of Brackett. Deputy Page was dispatched to the location.

7:50 a.m., Kakine Breen, 21, of Brackettville, was arrested by DPS Trooper Welch for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

6:32 p.m., A man reported that an individual was driving around without a drivers license and had his daughter with them. Deputy Manuel Pena was notified of the situation.

7:55 p.m., Isidro Chavez Montoya, 49, of Del Rio, was arrested by DPS Trooper Ashley for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

9:30 p.m., The Cline Check Point reported a DWI. DPS Trooper Ashley was dispatched to the location.

10:24 p.m., Armando Gonzalez, 33, of Brackettville, was arrested by Deputies Page, Pena and Friday for public intoxication. He was later released after posting bail.

10:55 p.m., Carlos J. Guajardo, 39, of Brackettville, was arrested by Deputies Page, Pena and Friday for public intoxication and disorderly conduct. He was later released after posting bail.

11:10 p.m., Jesus Noe Gonzalez, 55, of Uvalde, was arrested by DPS Trooper Ashley for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

**Sunday, September 5**  
12:53 a.m., Henry Tracey William, 45, of Rosharon, was arrested by DPS Trooper Ashley for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

2:15 a.m., A woman reported minors drinking alcohol at her residence on East Thorn Street. Deputies Page, Pena and Friday were all dispatched to the residence.

2:38 a.m., A man reported a possible break-in at his vehicle on North Street. Deputies Page, Pena and Friday were all notified of the situation.

3:15 a.m., A woman reported children at a vacant house across from her residence on East Edwards Street. Deputies Page, Pena and Friday were all dispatched to the scene.

4:05 p.m., Juan Castillo Saucedo, 57, of Cameron, was arrested by DPS Trooper Welch for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

6:33 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs employee reported a woman pulling a little girl's hair. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the Fort.

10:30 p.m., A man requested to speak with a deputy at his grandfather's residence on Thorn and Sweeney. Deputy Page was dispatched to the residence.

10:48 p.m., Luis Antonio Alcantar, 44, of Big Springs, was arrested by DPS Trooper Ashley for DWI. He was later released after posting bail.

lier. But the chain of command is quite simple. We have a public works superintendent and all the maintenance men answer to him directly.

"He answers to the city secretary and it goes on up the chain of command. Except under the city manager type of government, the mayor is the chief executive officer just as the governor is the chief executive officer of the state.

"The mayor presides over city council meetings, is the signatory for the city and generally recognized as a ceremonial and governmental head of the city for most purposes.

"Basically, in a form of government of this nature, a small form of government, it's not the city manager type, the mayor does have a little more power.

"From my position, I prefer to relegate most of it to the city secretary because I consider myself policy rather than administration.

"At the current time we have an understanding of how the city is going to be run for the next six months. My role is going to be a little bit different.

"But once this probationary period passes, that, if the council is agreeable, the city secretary should have the authority to run the day to day operations

of the city."

To make hiring and termination recommendations to the council.

Mayor Garza: Does the council want to continue with the current system, whereby the city secretary makes recommendations to the council?

"I know that at one time, I don't know this year or not, but for sure last year, the city secretary didn't have it. I would like to know if the city would like to continue accepting recommendations from the city secretary and making the final decisions on the hiring and firing and or terminations of employees.

(The council said yes). To act as purchasing agent for the city and purchase all needed merchandise, materials and supplies, with the approval of the council.

Mayor Garza: We need a purchasing procedure. That is one of the things that I would like to see implemented.

"Some type of a purchase order system instead of just buying things at random, designate people who have the authority to purchase in the name of the city and who must have a purchase order number before any merchandise is handed over to them.

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**Notice To Parents**

The Uvalde ISD and the Cluster Five Special Education Cooperative, through the Department of Special Education, provides comprehensive special education services to eligible students with disabilities in accordance with current federal and state policies and the guidelines regarding the education of the disabled.

**Special Education**  
Special Education is the provision of a continuum of child-centered educational and supportive services in combination with those provided in the general school program to meet the needs of students who are disabled.

**Students With Disabilities**  
Students with disabilities are students between the ages of three and 21, inclusive, with educational disabilities (physical disability, mental disability, emotionally disturbed, learning disabled, speech disability, autistic, or multiple disabilities); students leaving and not attending public school due to illness or accident; and students between birth and age 22, inclusive, who are hearing or visually impaired, whose disabilities are so limiting as to require the provision of special services in place of or in addition to instruction in the regular classroom.

For further information, you may contact the school district where the child resides.

Uvalde ISD	830 591-4928
Brackett ISD	830 563-2491
D'Hanis ISD	830 363-7216
Knippa ISD	830 934-2176
Leakey ISD	830 232-5595
LaPryor ISD	830 365-4004
Nueces Canyon CISD	830 234-3514
Sabinal ISD	830 988-2472
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Cluster Five Special Education Coop	830 278-6695

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No Passes 1205 250 530 755 1015

**CELLULAR (PG13)**  
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Broncos lose highly emotional battle

# Tigers stop Sonora, 21-20

Darin Koenig  
Sports Writer

Last Friday night, the Brackett Tigers proved that lightning can strike twice. For the second time in two years the Tigers faced off against the Broncos, had the defense stop Sonora late in the fourth quarter, and came away with a thrilling one point victory. The game was a highly emotional battle involving Brackett, ranked eighth in class 1A, and the ninth ranked, class 2A Sonora Broncos.

The Broncos got the ball to start the game and marched down the field. The Tiger defense stood strong when Sonora hit the Tiger 15 yard line and threw the Broncos for a loss. After an incomplete pass and a penalty the ball was spotted on the 21 yard line, Sonora then missed a field goal. After a penalty the Tigers took over on their own 16 and, like last week's first play, Noe Talamantes took off on a 84 yard touchdown run. The remainder of the first quarter was a defensive battle and neither offense was able to move the ball effectively until the end of the first quarter when the Broncos drove to the Brackett 27.

Three plays into the second quarter the Broncos found the end zone on a two yard touchdown run. The Tigers' Gumaro Martinez blocked the extra point and Brackett still had the lead 7-6. Brackett's offense stalled again on the next drive and the Tigers were forced to punt. Sonora took the ball and marched 63 yards to pay dirt for their second touchdown of the quarter. The Broncos then converted the two point conversion to go ahead 14-7. The Tigers fumbled the kick-off and Sonora was once again in great position at the Brackett 33. On the very next play Kody Yeager came up big when he picked off a pass attempt to give the Tigers the

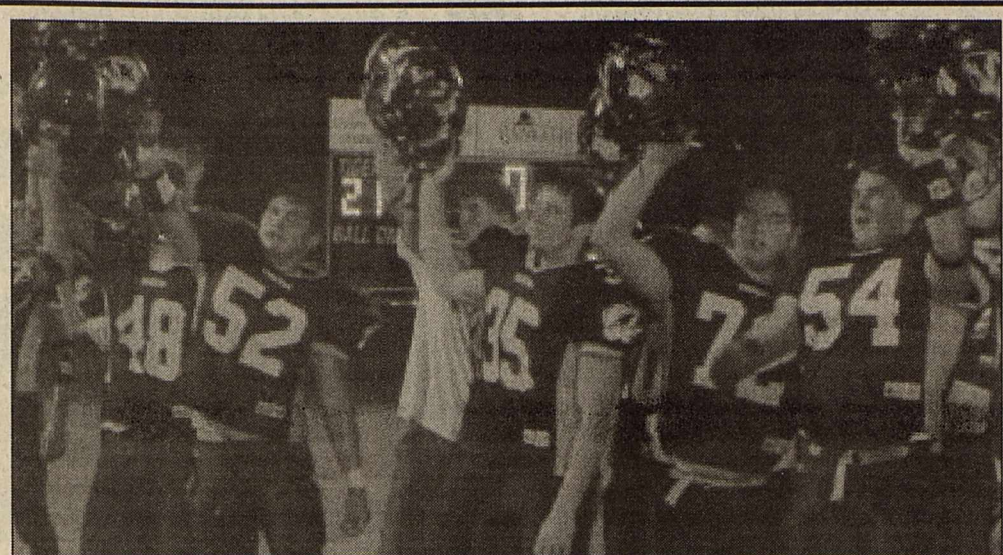
ball back. However, both defenses stood firm and the Broncos took their lead into halftime.

The Tigers got the ball to begin the second half but the offense again went three and out. Sonora began their drive moving the ball effectively, but disaster struck when the Broncos put the ball on the turf and Leon Woolsey came up with the fumble recovery. The Tigers then put together a 50 yard drive that culminated with a seen yard TD run by Charlie Slaughter, but Mark Kesteloot missed the extra point attempt to keep Sonora ahead 14-13. Late in the third quarter BHS put together a drive that was spearheaded by Cody Edwards' 37 yard scamper down to the Sonora 19 yard line.

At the beginning of the fourth quarter the Tigers were able to finish the drive when Kesteloot busted through the defense from one yard out. In a bold move the Tigers went for two and Talamantes carried Sonora's defense into the end zone to put the Tigers up 21-14. After a Robert Davis interception the Tigers marched to the Bronco 17 yard line, but were stopped inches from converting fourth and three play. Sonora then marched to the Tiger 20 and, after a play that involved an injury to Sonora's quarterback and two penalties, the Broncos struck on a 25 yard touchdown pass. Sonora decided to go for two points and the victory, rather than kick the extra point and send the game to overtime. On the biggest defensive play of the night, Tres Rueda knocked down the pass and denied Sonora the two points and the victory.

In a game marred by penalties, Talamantes led the Tiger offense with 12 carries for 147 yards including one touchdown and the game winning two point conversion. Kesteloot contributed 13 carries for 64 yards and

a TD, while Slaughter carried five times for 39 yards and a touchdown. Clyde Adams and Edwards combined for six carries and 58 yards. The Tigers totaled 295 yards rushing while Yeager completed one pass to Kesteloot for 15 yards. This gave the Tigers 310 total yards on the night. Sonora's quarterbacks combined for 202 yards passing on nine completions with one TD and two interceptions for the night. The Bronco running backs total 127 yards on 26 attempts and two touchdowns. The most astounding statistic of the night was the penalty yardage. Brackett was hit 13 times for 80 yards while Sonora was flagged 11 times for 85 yards. The eighth ranked Tigers, 2-0, will square off against 0-2 Nueces Canyon next Friday at 7:30 p.m. in Camp Wood.



**The thrill of victory**  
#40 Noe Talamantex, #52 Gumaro Martinez, #35 Mark Kesteloot, #72 John Moore, #54 Whitney Massingill and the rest of the Brackett Tigers raise their helmets in victory over Sonora.  
Photo by Danielle Moore

## Tigerettes finish third in Leakey tournament

Darin Koenig  
Sports Writer

The Brackett Tigerettes finished a rollercoaster week with a third place finish in the Leakey tournament. The varsity volleyball team played five times in five days, including the tournament. The Tigerettes ended the week of heavy competition winning two matches and losing three.

In the Leakey tournament, the Tigerettes won their first match against LaPryor 25-13, 25-19, 25-7. The girls jumped out to an early lead and never looked back. Coach Rhonda Marquardt said, "The team served 96 percent, the highest percentage of the year." Six Tigerettes served 100 percent for the game. This led the team to a dominating victory over a district opponent. In the second round the girls were beaten by Utopia 25-17, 25-20, 17-25, 25-11. The Tigerettes struggled in



**Valiant effort**  
#4 Brandy Smith and #11 Jessica Crane give their all, at the Leakey Tournament last week.  
Photo by Danielle Moore

the match-up, only serving seven aces in the entire game. Despite the loss the Tigerettes earned a spot in the third place match.

In the third place match the varsity squad matched up against tournament host Leakey. The Tigerettes completely dominated Leakey in the first two games, winning 25-12, 25-13. Leakey refused to be swept out of third place, squeaking out a 26-24 win in the third game. The Tigerettes roared back in the fourth game, winning 25-10, to capture third place honors for the weekend.

The team was led by Ashley Castillo and Courtney Frerich, who each had 20 kills, Shanae Simmons, who contributed 14 kills, and Stephanie Bonner with 10 kills. Frerich also led the team with 10 blocks, while Shanae Simmons had five, Castillo contributed four blocks, and Timmeka Simmons had three. The offense was led by Jessie Crane's nine aces, Brandy Smith served up seven aces, while Castillo and Bonner contributed six and five

aces respectively, and Kristin Meyer with three aces. Assisting the offense were Timmeka Simmons with 43 assists during the tourney and Kara Yeager 23 assists. Castillo led the Tigerettes with three digs during the tournament and Smith had two during the three matches.

The Tigerettes dropped their other two match-ups this past week. On Tuesday the girls lost to a tough Eagle Pass team 25-12, 26-24, 25-19. Despite the loss, there were some highlights for the Tigerettes. "Eagle Pass runs a faster offense than any one else we play and I feel like the girls adjusted well to that," said Marquardt. This was also Brackett's second best serving game of the season.

Leading the Tigerettes in the game were Ashley Castillo with four kills, while Timmeka Simmons and Brandy Smith each contributed three kills to the effort. Courtney Frerich had five blocks, with Shanae Simmons and Castillo each blocking three. Leading the way in digs

were Timmeka Simmons and Smith, who both had five, Stephanie Bonner and Castillo with four each, and Jessie Crane with three. Assist leaders against Eagle Pass were Timmeka Simmons with seven and Kara Yeager with six.

In Friday's match the Tigerettes lost to Utopia 25-16, 25-17, 17-25, 25-16. The squad could not overcome Utopia's powerful serving, which was 100 percent for the match. Bonner and Castillo led the way with eight kills each, while Shanae Simmons contributed seven. Castillo also racked up seven digs on the afternoon. Frerich led the team with six blocks and Shanae Simmons blocked five in the losing effort.

Offensively, the Tigerettes were led by Whitney Hobbs and Kara Yeager with three aces each, while Timmeka Simmons and Yeager had 12 and 11 assists respectively. The Tigerettes will next compete in the Utopia tournament on Friday and Saturday.

## 8th grade girls' volleyball team defeats Del Rio

Darin Koenig  
Sports Writer

The eighth grade girls beat the Del Rio Blue team on Monday, Aug. 30 in Del Rio. The team moved to 1-1 on the season with the victory.

The eighth graders came away with the victory 25-14, 25-20. The girls pulled away early in the first game behind the pow-

erful serving of Esna Herrera. Herrera served up nine straight points to build a large early lead for the Brackett girls.

The team was led by Herrera in serving as she went 100 percent for the match.

She was supported in her effort by leading passer Jessica Garza and the best hitter for the match was Becca Mann. Mann led the team with 5 spikes dur-

ing the match. Esna Herrera was voted as the eighth grade Cubette of the Week thanks to her performance during the match.

The girls will try to repeat the performance at home Tuesday, Sept. 7 against Eagle Pass Memorial. The seventh grade girls will play at 5 p.m. with the eighth graders following at 6 p.m.

## Girls' Tigerette Cross Country Team Roster



- | No. | Player                    |
|-----|---------------------------|
| 1   | Juliann Ashabranner       |
| 2   | Jessie Crane - Jr.        |
| 3   | Ivory Perez - Jr.         |
| 4   | Lola Crane - Soph.        |
| 5   | Daphne Hunt - Fresh.      |
| 6   | Julie Castillo - Fresh.   |
| 7   | Elva Garcia - Fresh.      |
| 8   | Heather Baggett - Fresh.  |
| 9   | Gabby Schroeder - Fresh.  |
| 10  | Lauren Cornelius - Fresh. |

## Brackett girls win cross country meet

Comstock Cross Country Meet Results  
Aug. 28, 2004  
High School Girls:  
Team Total:  
1. Brackett - 29, 2. Comstock - 35, 3. Sanderson - 76.  
Brackett - Team Champions Ind.  
2nd - Juliann Ashabranner - 14:13  
3rd - Daphne Hunt - 14:26  
7th - Julie Castillo - 15:48  
8th - Elva Garcia - 15:59  
9th - Ivory Perez - 16:05  
10th - Lola Cano - 16:13  
12th - Jessi Cran - 16:47  
14th - Gabby Schroeder - 17:14  
15th - Heather Baggett - 17:19

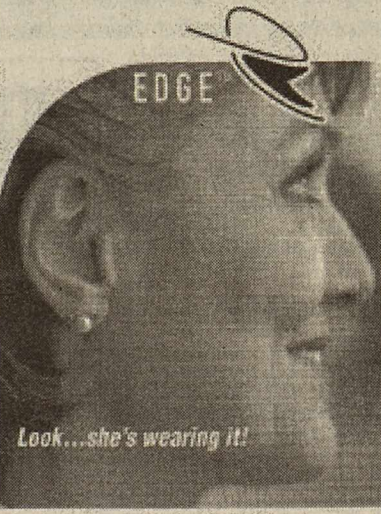
High School Boys:  
3rd - Justine Calk - 19:40

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# Warning signs for Christians, too

Have you had a cup of coffee at a McDonald's lately? There is a little notice that warns you that your "hot coffee" may be hot and you might get burned.

This is one result of a law suit some years ago when someone was apparently unaware of this basic physical fact. You might find it a bit reassuring to know that our British cousins are just as bad about product labeling, if not worse. My favorite British label was on bottled water - "suitable for vegetarians." If you need a good laugh, try looking at the web site www.dumbwarnings.com.

It might be fun to add a few labels where needed. A friend suggested that my sermons be labeled, "Caution - May cause drowsiness!" In that case, maybe the pews should have a warning label, too: "Stir frequently for maximum effectiveness." Perhaps you'd like a label for your Bible, "Best results from regu-



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

lar use!"

We see lots of warning signs every day - from speed limits to warning buzzers when we leave the keys in the car or our lights on. After a while, we become used to the warnings and they have no effect: we stop listening. That's when we're in trouble - we need to change the sound, turn up the volume, and strengthen the message. Preachers sound the same warnings every week and so they constantly try to find new ways to properly present the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Likewise, Christians need to

find new ways to share the love of Christ. We need to stay "fresh".

What did Jesus warn us about? He warned us against becoming settled and proud in our faith (Luke 18:9-14), against worshipping our possessions (Matt 19:16-26), and even against trying to avoid taxes (Matt 17:24-27 & Matt 22:17-22). He warned us against the "leaven of the Pharisees and the Sadducees" - two extremes of religious thought that might equate to today's far left and far right religious and political extremes (see Matt 16:6-12). Jesus emphasized a middle way that neither compromised, nor forgot charity and love (Matt 7).

When was the last time you went out on a limb for Jesus? When was the last time you took a risk to reach out with Christian love?

Opportunities are all around us - there are plenty of hungry,

thirsty, homeless, sick, and imprisoned people in Kinney County. It doesn't take a church program to reach out - it just takes a committed Christian. Sure, some will put up warning signs right away - "that's too dangerous" or "I wouldn't be caught dead doing that", but Jesus didn't warn us away from caring for His sheep. He encouraged it. And He told us to be glad when we were criticized for it (Matt 5:10-12), but warned us that we must keep on being Christians and doing the things Christians are called to do.

At First United Methodist Church we're willing to take some risks and we're always looking for new ways to share the wonderful news of God's love through Jesus Christ. Join us for Sunday School at 9:30 and stay for worship at 10:45.

# Bless the name

Bless the Lord, O my soul: and all that is within me, bless his holy name.

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all his benefits: Who forgiveth all thine iniquities: who healeth all thy diseases;

Who redeemeth thy life from destruction who crowneth thee with loving kindness and tender mercies; Who satisfieth thy mouth with good things; so that thy youth is renewed



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

like the eagle's.

The Lord executeth righteousness and judgment for all that are oppressed. Psalm 103 1-6. Glory! Praise God!

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9:45 am Bible Study/Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies.  
7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service  
Nursery Provided  
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Frontier Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann & El Paso

## Welcome!

### Church of Christ

808 N. Ann 563-2616  
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& 10:30 Worship  
Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes  
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## First United Methodist Church

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## First Baptist Church (SBC)

Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245  
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Evening Service 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study  
Pastor Darin Koenig

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# He will make me proud

Josie watched as her son drove away. Her heart burst with both sadness and pride. The years had been trying, but her faith had grown. Now she confirmed her parent's wisdom that her own sacrifices for her son would bring reward.

The car turned the corner and toward the highway that journeyed to a new place and new people two hundred miles away. The distance seemed like a lifetime. She was glad she'd taken time off work to go to college orientation. Her boss wasn't sympathetic but it was important to her.

Josie's thoughts drifted to the past. She laughed out loud at her immaturity. Roger swept her off her feet with his attention. He dropped out of school and she knew he was experimenting with drugs. But she'd be the princess that would transform him from the ugly frog into a handsome



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

prince.

Josie's parents advised against it but she was pregnant and married Roger anyway. Over the years of her son's childhood, the relationship with Roger was up and down. He never kept himself out of the slimy past where she'd found him. He drank heavily and became abusive.

Josie moved in with her parents and found a job. They insisted she make it on her own. They helped her save money to buy a car and get started with her own apartment. Roger was in and out of his son's life but

finally wound up in prison.

She learned to value her mom's wisdom. Over the years she put aside her own needs for male companionship and devoted all her time to her son and his future. "You will look back on these times and thank God, Josie," her mom had advised over and over. "A very wise man once said whatever you want your son to become, you must teach him when he is young (Proverbs 22:6)."

A gentle breeze blew Josie's hair and ruffled her skirt. She felt young and invigorated again. "Yes," she said into the wind. "God is my strength and my help. He will look after my son and he will make me proud."

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

# You win through Jesus Christ!

You WIN! If you have Jesus as your Lord and Savior, YOU WIN!

Read Revelations, YOU WIN through Jesus Christ your Lord. What can the devil do to you? The worst thing he can do is take your life and that is forever settled in heaven. (John 3:16, Rev. 22:2-5).

Your assignment is to Love the Lord with all your heart, soul, mind, and strength and your neighbor as yourself. (Mark 12:30) Strength or might also means your possessions.

You accomplish this through the power of the Holy Spirit, not of yourself, lest you should boast. You accomplish this by daily seeking the face of God and allowing him to reveal his heart to you. God is love and his motivation for his will in your life is love. You can always trust him. He will never leave

you nor forsake you. No matter what anyone else says, YOU WIN!

You have one condition to fulfill and that is to believe his word, receive his word, and DON'T QUIT. Like the old adage says, "Quitters never win and Winners never quit." No matter what troubles have assailed you, attacked you, even tried to take your life, DON'T QUIT! Keep on keeping on! God is for you, not against you. The devil will try to lie to you and tell you that no one cares. He'll try to tell you to look around and compare yourself to others who appear to be successful. Resist those thoughts of defeat, disappointment, and disillusionment. The wiles of the devil are twisted and his plans for you are to destroy you. He will tell you anything to get you to quit. DON'T LISTEN! Resist the devil

and he will flee from you. Say "NO" to his lies and keep on in faith! If you don't see the answers to your prayers, it simply hasn't manifested yet, keep on standing. Keep on planting the good seed of God's love into people's lives, it will return to you, multiplied. Keep on planting your tithes and offerings as seeds of obedience and faith, they will return to you, multiplied. Remember, you are not forsaken! You are the beloved of God. You are the Redeemed of the Lamb. You are more than a conqueror. You have overcome by the blood of the Lamb. You are a child of the living God and his plans for you are for good and not for evil. The truth will set you free! YOU WIN! Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

# Are you too busy to go and tell?

Now that I have lived in Brackettville/Fort Clark for almost a year, I have finally adjusted to life here.

I moved here from Fort Worth and it was an interesting transition. When I was in college I majored in Sociology and I have always enjoyed studying people.

One of the most interesting aspects of human life is the varying schedules we live on.

In today's society we tend to be driven by schedules, agendas, and plans. In every city I have ever been to, there is one of three ways that things need to be done. In larger cities, like New York and L.A., everything needs to be done yesterday.

In other cities, like Austin, things need to be done today. Yet, in smaller cities things will usually be done tomorrow.

I, personally, enjoy a slower pace of life and not having deadlines constantly hanging over my head. However, any schedule you prefer always leads to another problem. This problem is known as the "I'm too busy" syndrome.

We have developed a mindset in America that we are too busy for things that are not important. In the book of



First Baptist Church

Pastor Darin Koenig

Nehemiah we see a perfect example of this. Nehemiah was commanded by God, and given permission by the king, to rebuild the walls of Jerusalem. Nehemiah gave the king a definite time for his plan, and like us, placed a deadline on himself. Nehemiah began the work when those who had no understanding of his goal or vision began to disrupt him.

The mayors and governors of the cities and states around Jerusalem began to send messages to Nehemiah requesting a meeting. What was Nehemiah's response? "I am too busy!" No one in their right mind, especially in today's society, would turn down a request to meet with the mayor or governor to discuss business, politics, or anything. Yet, Nehemiah did just that. He told them, I don't care who you are, I don't have time for you.

Now you may think I am con-

tradicting myself, I'm not. You see, we miss the major underlying principle that drove Nehemiah, and should be driving us. He was too busy with God's work. He did not have time for those who were seeking to distract him from what God had told him to do. In many ways popular culture, which is not driven by Christian principles, seeks to distract us from the Lord's work.

Are you too busy? Are you focused on your portfolio, your job, or anything else?

Today's society tells us that corporate worship is an annoyance, a hindrance, or a distraction from what we should be

doing. Society says that our priorities should be on making more money, fame, or a high standing in our community. The Bible tells us that our priorities should be on serving.

In Acts 1:8 Jesus tells us that we are to go and share His message with the world. Are you too busy to go and tell?

Most are too busy to go to corporate worship each week, much less go and tell. Don't be too busy! Participate in corporate worship this week.

I promise you that every church in Brackettville has space available for you. I hope to see you this Sunday.

Vida Nueva Christian Center  
312 First Street  
Brackettville, TX 78832

Pastor: Bernie Cervantes and his wife Maria  
(830) 563-3201 church

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Sunday/Domingo 6:00 p.m., Monday/Lunes Prayer 7:00 p.m., Tuesday/Martes Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Wednesday/Miercoles Family Night 7:00 p.m., If you need a ride please call the church.

**ADOPTIONS**

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**NOTICE TO CREDITORS**

**NOTICE IS HEREBY** given that the original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of Billie J. Lindeman, Deceased, were issued on Sept. 3, 2004, in Docket No. 1019, pending in the County Court of Kinney County, Texas, to Ava J. Lindeman. The residence of the Independent Executor is in Kinney County, Texas, and the address is: P.O. Box 495, Brackettville, Texas 78832. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated the 3rd day of September, 2004. Ava J. Lindeman, Independent Executor.

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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE CITY OF BRACKETTVILLE** will hold a public hearing at 6:00 p.m., on September 14, 2004, at the Brackettville City Hall Annex Highway 90 West in regard to the submission of an application to the Office of Rural Community Affairs for a Texas Community Development Program (TCDP) grant. The purpose of this meeting is to allow citizens an opportunity to discuss the citizen participation plan, the development of local housing and community development needs, the amount of TCDP funding available, all eligible TCDP activities and the use of past TCDP funds. The City encourages citizens to participate in the development of this TCDP application and to make their views known at this public hearing. Citizens unable to attend this meeting may submit their views and proposals to Honorable Joe Garza, Mayor, City of Brackettville at the City Hall. Persons with disabilities that wish to attend this meeting should contact City Hall to arrange for assistance. Individuals who require auxiliary aids or services for this meeting should contact City Hall at least two days before the meeting so that appropriate arrangements can be made.

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY** to make comment or request a public hearing is hereby given by the Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc., located at 713 East Main Street in Uvalde, Texas on the continuation of rural public transportation services within the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, LaSalle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, and Zavala. Financial assistance to provide this service is being sought from the Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation. Services will be for the general public, run on fixed route and demand response route. Fares will be charged for the service. Written comment or a written request for a public hearing is being accepted at P.O. Drawer 1709 or 713 East Main Street in Uvalde until September 20th, 2004. Further information can be found at the above address or by contacting Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, CCTM, Transit & Safety Director at 830-278-6268 ext. 140 or ccswt-swtransit@sbcglobal.net.

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