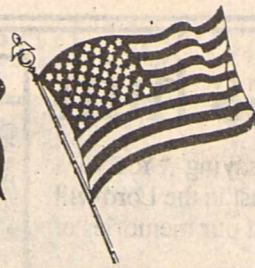


# The Brackett News



Meet the local Candidates  
See Page 3

12th year, No. 4

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## Commissioners working to formulate a system for employee pay raises

By Dottie Cruz  
Staff Writer

At a special meeting of Commissioners Court held February 17th, commissioners established the salary base, for Deputy Clerk Josie Meyer, at \$6.50 per hour.

Meyer replaced Norma Sandoval. Sandoval was chosen to replace secretary Joy Williams from the Justice of the Peace office who retired.

After Meyer has completed her 6 month probation period commissioners included in the motion to raise her salary base to \$6.79 per hour.

Motion was approved to hire Early Voting election workers for the primary and run-off elections and set hours they would need to work.

Robert Aguirre was hired at minimum wage for the two weeks of Early Voting which began last Monday.

Commissioners participated in a personnel management workshop session with Texas Association of Counties (TAC) employee Maryann Saenz.

They are continuing to work on the criteria that would include job descriptions for each employee of each department, a rating system

and grade/step system.

"It's a rating system that measures job complexity. Raises will, in all probability, be based on performance, merit system which have performance tied to that," said Judge Herb Senne.

"What that grade and step system will do, is put in place what salaries will be from this day forward," added Senne.

The next step will be to gather information from similar counties about their work-force.

"We're asking other counties and they are providing us with their salaries for different departments, different individuals in those departments," said Senne. "Getting a feel from a comparison point."

They are obtaining information from Edwards, Terrell and Bandera Counties.

"It doesn't hurt to look to see what larger communities are able to pay because their tax bases are much bigger than ours," explained Senne.

"We will probably pick up one from Uvalde and Del Rio," added Senne.

Saenz is compiling the information and will forward a report to the commissioners.

## Rio Grande Elec donates computer

Clarence G. Ward, President of The Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association (SISCA) has a new computer thanks to Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

General Manager/CEO Daniel G. Laws received a request for help from Mr. Ward, who wrote in his letter that the association badly needed a computer in order to store important documents, such as membership records and in order to have the ability to print their own programs and flyers.

The SISCA was established for the scouts who were quartered at Fort Clark for 25 years. They were excellent horsemen, highly knowledgeable of Indian ways and performed a valuable service to the Calvary. Four Seminole-Negro Indian Scouts received Medals of Honor and are buried at the cemetery with special markers.

"The request came at the same



From left: Audrey and Clarence Ward accepting a computer from RGE Co-op General Manager Dan Laws.

time Rio Grande ECI was upgrading their computer systems," said Laws, who was "glad to be of assistance."

Mr. Ward, accompanied by his

wife Audrey, humbly accepted the computer on behalf of SISCA, and stated, "He was asking for a small favor and received much more."

## School Board approves amendments of \$23,039

By Dottie Cruz  
Staff Writer

The Brackett Independent School District Board of Trustees approved three budget amendments totaling \$23,039 at their February 14th meeting.

The Accelerated Reading In-

struction Program Entitlement budget was increased \$15,000. The district will be using the funds to benefit children suffering from dyslexia.

The Optional Extended Year Program Entitlement was increased by \$7,498. The program is for students who are behind in class and in jeopardy of failing.

"It's a short summer program that we work in the elementary and middle school and the state gives us \$7,498 for that. We wrote the grant for that and this is coming," explained Stephenson.

The Career and Technology Education budget was increased \$541. These funds are used for vocational programs.

The board was presented a price from Nailor Mechanical for installing air conditioning and heating in the gym.

"This type of thing would have to be bid on anyway. I just wanted you to see approximately what the price would be," said Stephenson.

The project would require installation, engineering plans and electrical work. All items would be priced separately, excluding the price of the unit.

"This amount in itself will run you over \$40,000," said Davis. "Because you don't have anything for the electrician."

"My feelings are still the same. We basically have used the gym the most during the school year, August through May. And we're only looking at maybe two months at the most of hot days."

"Yet everybody else that went to school here, went to P.E. and athletics in that gym. They sweated in there and I don't see anything wrong with that. To me it's a pure luxury to air condition the gym," added Davis.

"I think it's hotter now than it used to be 20-30 years ago," said

Rosemary Slubar. And I don't recall it ever being 110-112 degrees when I was growing up here."

"If the board doesn't want to air condition the gym, I certainly think it would be worthy to invest in insulation as well as cross ventilation. You got the fans but there is no cross ventilation," said Tim Ward.

"This is just in the superintendents report and its not like we can take action. It's not an agenda item it was just something for discussion," said Davis.

According to Stephenson the 99-00 School Budget is in great shape. Comparison of revenue to expenditures indicates the administration is spending at a decreased rate.

The board approved memorial benches and landscaping in memory of Geneva Tresenriter Haag and Else Sauer.

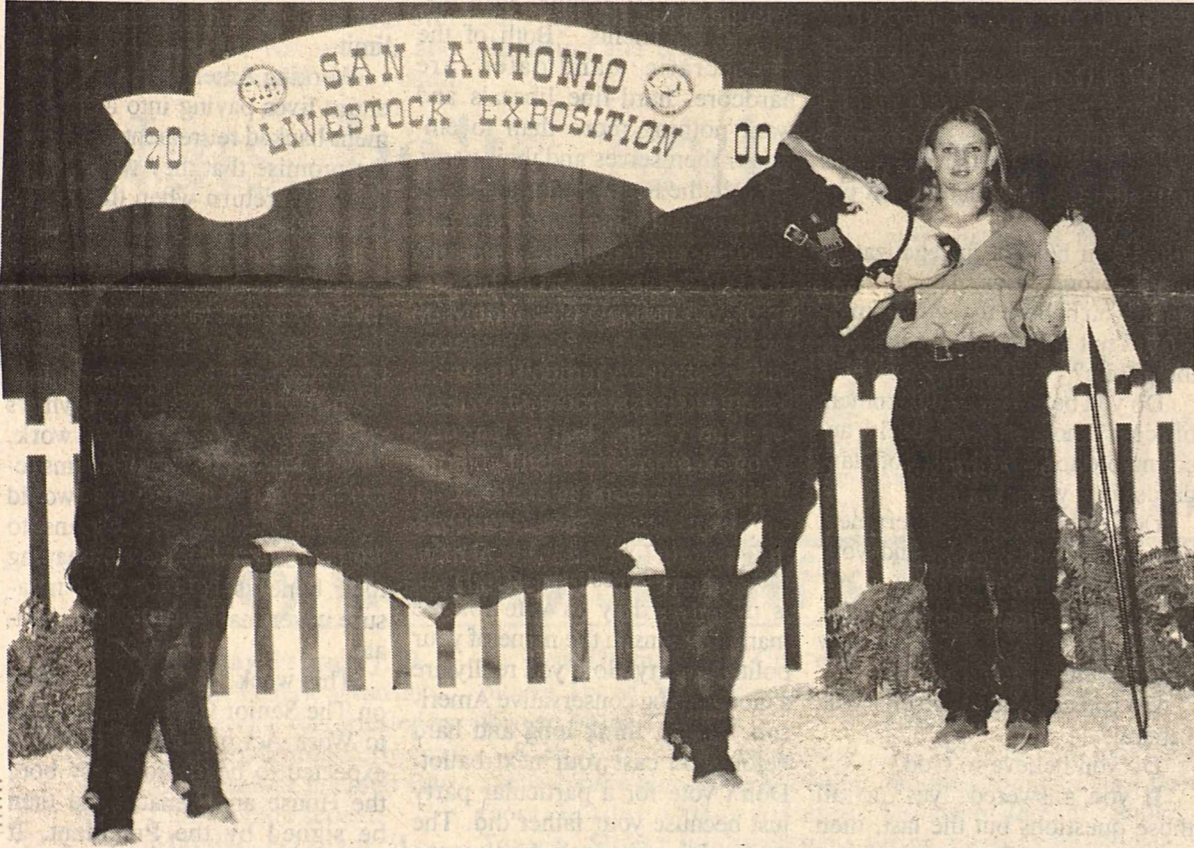
George Haag donated \$500 to \$1000 for landscaping in memory of Geneva.

"In our paper, her husband George Haag wrote this letter to the editor," said Davis. "In spite of the fact that Geneva had not lived in Brackettville for nearly 40 years. A number of local people joined us at her funeral and it was truly remarkable, it was clear to us why Geneva always expressed the desire to be buried at home," Davis quoted from *The Brackett News*.

The covered play area at Jones Elementary was postponed. The need is in question as well as the size and cost of the area.

The board approved the order and date of the school board election. The election will be held May 6, 2000. The board also appointed election officials.

The March meeting will be held on March 20th, 2000, due to spring break.



Local student Susannah Davis, 16 won Reserve Grand Champion steer at this years 51st Annual San Antonio Stock Show and Rodeo. Davis is a member of Kinney County 4-H Club and exhibited a middle weight ABC steer that weighed 1,206 pounds.

## BISD Board unhappy with realignment

By Dottie Cruz  
Staff Writer

The BISD Board of Trustees adopted a Realignment Resolution calling on the University Interscholastic League (UIL) and the Texas Education Association (TEA) to study the impact of travel in redistricting each year.

Copies of the resolution are being sent to UIL, TEA and Congressman Henry Bonilla.

The board added a condition before approving. With competition being so far out of town and especially on school nights. The board approved hiring a charter

bus and driver.

"For safety concerns due to the length of travel and the late nights that we would be getting back. We might add to this. You know our coaches only drive the buses and now we have all these real long trips. I'd be in favor of the school chartering a bus with a professional driver," said Board President Lloyd Lee Davis.

The University Interscholastic League announced its tentative football and basketball district for 2000-2001 and 2001-2002 school years.

Brackett Independent School Districts new UIL schedule in-

cludes traveling as far away as Pettus, Texas 189 miles away.

"We will travel further because we lost some schools," said Coach David Yeager.

The new schedule includes Dilley and Natalia with new additions that are farther away. Poth, is 155 miles away and Three Rivers 189 miles one way.

"On February 23rd we are meeting again and divide a half-way point. Setting football and basketball schedules for next years," said Yeager. "We are going to try to come up with a solution for the Tuesday night basketball travel."

Dropped from the Brackett schedule were Jourdan that became 3-A. Brackett ISD is classified a 2-A school. Center Point and Comfort will be traveling more North to compete.

The distances for competition have increase significantly due to the new District 30 AA Conference Alignment. Brackett has a number of 188 that makes them 2-A. The cut off for 1-A is 170.

"169 you are 1-A, 170 you are 2-A," said Yeager.

"They don't want us because of our program. We don't have one of those schools that would even schedule us. Because we have finally gotten a program that we can compete and beat them," explained Stephenson.

## 52 Early Voters cast ballots first two days

Early Voting began last Monday and will continue through March 10th.

As of Tuesday February 29th there were 52 votes cast, all Democrat, that have gone and voted at the County Clerk's office. The count breaks down as: Precinct 1 with 21, Precinct 2 with 5, Precinct 3 with 14 and Precinct 4 with 12.

Voters can still request applications to vote by mail. Requests for applications must be post-marked by March 7th in order for

the clerks to mail their ballots. Completed ballots must be post-marked and received by 7:00 PM on March 14th election day, to be counted.

As of February 29th there had been 87 Democratic ballots mailed out and 13 had already been returned. That number breaks down to precincts as Precinct 1 with 2, Precinct 2 with 4 and Precinct 3 with 7.

The Republican Primary Ballots were not available when early voting began Monday.

## Briefs ...

### Commodity distribution

Commodities will be distributed at St. John's Missionary Church on Monday, March 6 at 9 a.m.

### Two school board positions up for May election

Two trustees will be elected to three-year terms at the May 6th Brackett school board election.

Incumbents Rose Mary Slubar, and Tim Ward have filed for reelection in the school board race.

The last day to file for a place on the ballot is March 22nd at 5:00 p.m. In order to run for the school board, candidates must be members of the district and also registered voters.

All applications to apply for a ballot by mail must be received by April 28th.

Early voting for the school board election is April 19-May 2nd.

The board of Trustees has the final authority to determine and interpret the policies that govern the school and subject to the mandate and limits imposed by the state and federal authorities, has complete and full control of the district.

### Fox to speak to Genealogy Society

Peggy Fox, Assistant Director of The Confederate Research Center at Hill College in Hillsboro, Texas, will be the speaker at the quarterly meeting of the Southwest Texas Genealogy Society. A native Texan, Ms. Fox is a specialist on Civil War Research and will offer information on locating war records of ancestors. The public is invited.

The meeting will be held at The Lunch Box Restaurant, 113 N. Getty Street, Uvalde. Saturday, March 4, 2000. 10:30 a.m. Registration is \$2.00. Lunch \$8.00.

### Historical Society fund raiser

Members of Aid Association for Lutherans (AAL) Branch 11061, Brackettville, will sponsor a Chicken Feed (1/2) chicken and more) from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Saturday, March 11, at Rendezvous Park, Ft. Clark Springs. Funds raised will benefit Ft. Clark Historical Society, Building Preservation Fund.

AAL money raised locally will be supplemented by AAL's home office in Appleton, Wisconsin, through the organization's benevolence program, "Helping Hands." Tickets for the chicken feed, which is opened to the public, are available through Historical Society Members, AAL members and the Ft. Clark Adult Center. The cost is \$5.00.

## Emil Slubar turns 96



Mr. Emil Gilbert Slubar celebrated his 96th birthday on February 24th. He is a native of Weimer, Texas and was born in 1904. Still active in gardening and playing dominoes, Slubar was a farmer and later a painter by trade. He has two sons, Dennis and Leroy Slubar who live in Brackettville.

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## We will truly miss him

Enclosed is a check for renewal of our subscription to The Brackett News.

So sorry to hear about "Brother Joe" Townsend's passing. We will truly miss him. For two years he never failed to call and take the time to let us know he cared and was praying for Paul and I.

I think his saying "You're a Winner" and trust in the Lord will always be part of our memories of Brother Joe.

He really cared about everyone. And he will always be a hero to us.

Sincerely,  
Paul and Linda Malone

## Would You Do Me a Favor?

I could be wrong!  
By Chuck Hall

Today in your travels, as you wander along life's road, I would ask you to do two simple things for me. First, pick up trash. Pick up just one small piece of garbage. Wherever you are, whatever you're doing, some time during this day, stop and pick up a stray piece of paper, a can, or whatever you see that doesn't belong there. If you can, pick up a whole bunch. Recycle it if you possibly can. Put it in a proper disposal site if not. Do all you can to help clean up our world. Even if you've never

thrown any rubbish down (which I seriously doubt) pick up some anyway. mmm

The second favor is even easier. Smile. Smile at everyone you meet. Even smile at those you don't like. Smile especially at those you don't like. And make it a genuine smile. A real one. From the heart. None of that phony stuff. Make the smile you offer to others at my request sincere. Don't do it to make everyone wonder what you're up to. Do it cause it makes you feel good. And it will make you feel good. But I could be wrong.

*Please Remember that we attempt to include something for everyone within the pages of our paper. We realize that some folks enjoy finding fault and for those readers we thoughtfully include a socially acceptable number of errors within our publication.*

Big Mama  
See!



*Literature and butterflies are the two sweetest passions known to man.*

## The Brackett News

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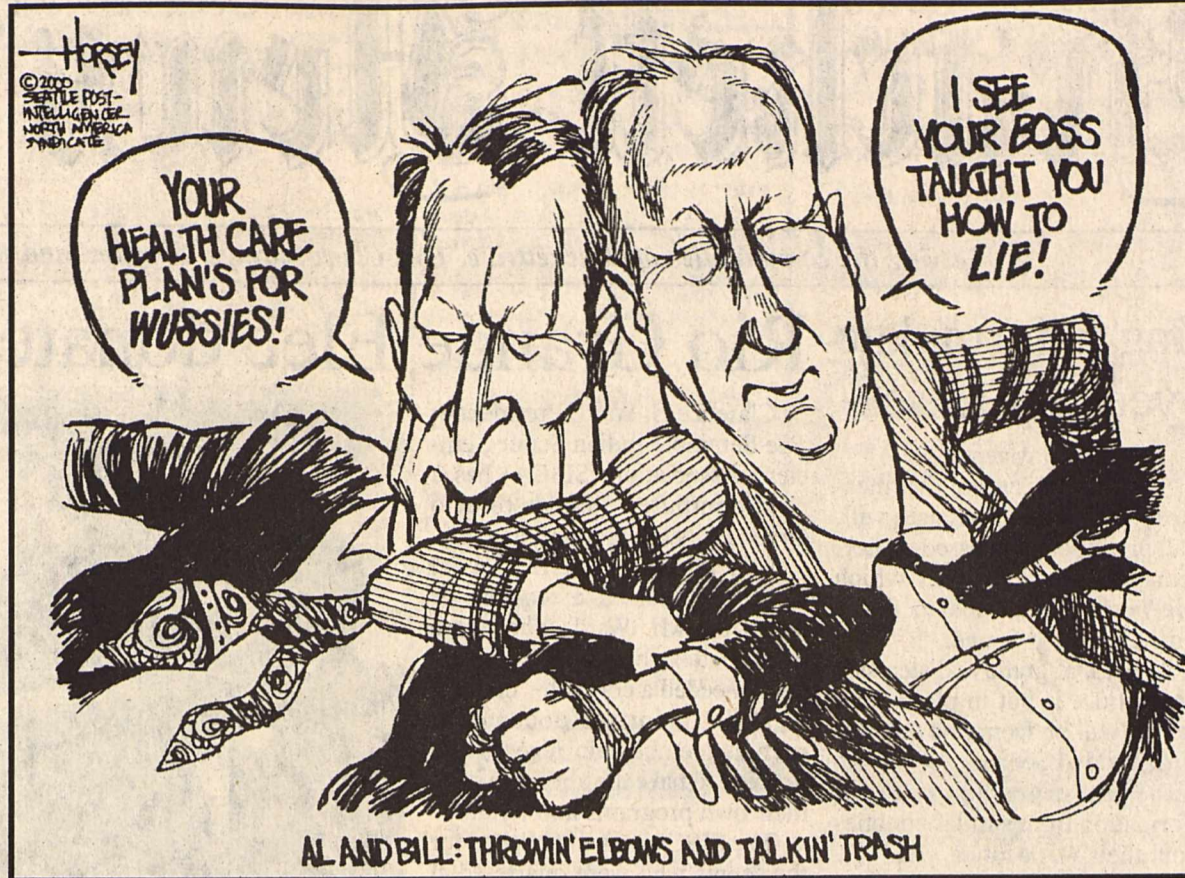
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AL AND BILL: THROWN ELBOWS AND TALKIN' TRASH

## Are you sure you're a democrat?

The Way I See It  
By Steven R. LaMascus

Well it must be an election year. All the politicians have crawled out from under their rocks and are again telling us all what they think we want to hear. And again it seems that they don't let integrity get in the way of truth, as they perceive it that is. Or do you believe Al Gore really did invent the internet?

I was talking to one of my friends the other day and he made a statement that set me to thinking. He said that to get elected in local politics you had to run as a Democrat. And you know, he has a point. Some of my best friends are Democrats. In fact some of my favorite relatives are Democrats. Most of them have been Democrats for many years. They have always voted Democratic, run for office under the colors of the Democratic Party. I have an uncle who would rather eat ground glass than vote for a Republican. But why?

Today the Democratic party is not what it was during the depression years, or the years just after WWII, or even when John Kennedy was president. In those days, as my uncle says, "the Democrats were the party of the working man." They were the party of the patriot, the soldier, the Average Joe who wanted to make a living and support his family and someday retire to live in a little house that he owned. The Democrats broke the depression, won the war, brought about racial equality, affirmative action, ERA, and generally made this a better country to live in. What about today?

## Tackling tough issues

Submitted by  
U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

In recent weeks, I have asked Texans to fill out surveys on important domestic and foreign policy issues. Your answers help me better represent you.

Next year, Congress is likely to examine three important and difficult issues. They include gun sales, taxing Internet sales and international trade. These are the issues, as with so many, that offer no clear-cut solutions.

How these issues will be dealt with in Washington will affect Texans. My aim is that all Texans are affected for the better and that Texas values are protected.

To do that, it helps to know what you think. And so I am pleased that this newspaper has cooperated by printing the following survey. And I thank you for taking the time to let me know where you stand on some of the tough issues.

1. The United States is a member of the World Trade Organization, which is trying to lower barriers to free trade. Supporters of free trade believe that it will help the United States sell its goods and services overseas, thereby creating American jobs and boosting the world economy. It is supposed to provide remedies when other countries subsidize products in

violation of trade agreements, especially in the agricultural market. Opponents are concerned that it places more highly skilled, highly paid workers at a disadvantage.

What is your view?  
WTO isn't perfect, but it is worth trying to make it work.

The U.S. is at too big a disadvantage and should go it alone, fighting each problem separately.

2. Today, items sold over the Internet are not subject to sales tax. That gives the Internet an advantage over regular 'brick and mortar' stores. Some think the playing field should be made more even because states depend on tax revenue from store-bought items. If the Internet takes business away from stores, it will shrink state tax revenue. This is a problem for states like Texas that have no state income tax.

Others believe that subjecting internet sales to a retail tax should not be allowed.

What do you think should be done?  
Internet retail sales untaxed.  
Tax Internet sales.

3. Congress passed legislation this year that will further block criminals from buying at weekend gun shows. It is also considering legislation that would require a background check, that may take longer than 24 hours to process,

your voter registration card says, you are a Republican.

I'm sorry if I have made any of you angry. That was not my intention. But you have to realize that the Democratic party, no matter what it was fifty years ago, is now, as a party, attacking all those Judeo-Christian morals and ethics that you believe in so strongly.

I know most of you realize that. Most of you read the newspapers and watch the news on television. You see the two liberal candidates prostituting themselves to the left wing political organizations like NOW and Greenpeace and countless others, as well as the unions, special interest groups, even foreign governments. Both of the Democratic candidates are hardcore, hard-line liberals and want nothing more than to empower themselves and their party.

Both the Republican candidates are more conservative, while one may be a closet liberal. Did you know that McCain won the last primary, but that George W. Bush received 68 percent of the Republican vote? Ask yourself why that many Democrats would vote for McCain?

It is your duty as an American to vote for the man or woman you think will do whatever is best for the United States of America. It is not your duty to vote for the man who runs in the name of your political party. So if you really are a God-fearing conservative American, please, think long and hard before you cast your next ballot.

Don't vote for a particular party just because your father did. The parties have changed. Look at the facts and vote your heart!

For people purchasing guns at local shows. Sometimes, the background check won't be finished by the time the show closes. I support instant background checks to allow law-abiding citizens to continue purchases of guns at weekend shows.

What do you think should be done?  
Multi-Day background checks.  
Instant background check.  
Ban gun show sales.  
No background check.  
Other.

Thank-you for taking the time to fill out this survey. Your answers will help me make sure that I am properly representing Texans. That is always my top goal.

Please send your responses to me at 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510. I look forward to your response.

Well, those of you who are died-in-the-wool Democrats, answer these questions for me.

Do you believe that all privately owned guns should be confiscated?

Do you believe in abortion?

Do you believe in unlimited welfare?

Do you believe that homosexuality is a good thing, and simply an alternate life style?

Do you believe that you should pay higher taxes?

Do you believe that the United States should be held accountable for its debts, but that the United States should forgive the debts of all the other countries that owe us money?

Do you believe that pornography should be available to children?

Do you believe that criminals should have more rights than police officers?

Do you believe in legalization of dangerous drugs?

Do you believe that government should not be held accountable to the public?

Do you believe that government officials should not be held accountable to a higher set of standards than you are?

Do you believe that government knows how to better spend your money than you do?

Do you believe that the solution to all our problems is a new government program?

Do you consider yourself a true Liberal?

Do you believe in God?

If you answered "yes" to all those questions but the last, then you are a true Democrat. If you answered "no" to all those questions but the last, no matter what

## Getting what's due

Submitted by  
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Anna is a 65 year old widow. After her husband died of a heart attack 10 years ago, she turned to the little shop they had opened together for comfort. Anna loved being a part of her customers' lives; lovingly making the corsages for Mothers' Day, and arranging hundreds of roses which made their way around town on Valentine's Day. But this year, Anna had to close her shop. Though it broke her heart, her mind told her that, financially, it was the sensible thing to do. You see, Anna had begun drawing Social Security checks. The benefits were being cut by \$5000 a year because she was still working. The government intentionally set up the system to encourage people like Anna to get out of the workforce.

It started during the Great Depression, when unemployment was in the double digits. The government was desperate to create jobs, and they did it in part by replacing older workers with new ones. Today, our economy doesn't need the government to say who can and cannot work.

Seniors between the ages of 65 and 69 currently lose \$1 for every \$3 in earnings over \$17,000. So, in order to keep their benefits, many seniors are either forced to quit working or take less pay to stay within the earnings limit. The Social Security Commissioner estimates that 800,000 seniors lose part or all of their Social Security benefits because of the outdated earnings limit.

Working Americans spend their entire lives paying into a government-backed retirement system on the promise that they will receive their just return when they reach the specified age. It's no less than a contract, and therefore should be treated as one. Government rules should never stand in the way of a law-abiding citizen trying to earn an honest living and, when the time comes, collecting what's due her after years of hard work. Last year, some of us tried unsuccessfully to pass a bill that would have allowed senior citizens to make more money without having their benefits slashed. The measure never made it out of the Senate.

This week, Congress is voting on The Senior Citizens' Freedom to Work Act of 2000. The bill is expected to be approved by both the House and Senate, and then be signed by the President. It comes not a moment too soon, and a moment too late for people like Anna. When a government makes cumbersome rules that hurt citizens, it can take years to repair the damage. It is Congress's duty to move quickly to target these injustices, and put a stop to them before they affect the life of even one more American.

### Your Representatives

U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Phil Gramm  
370 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

U.S. Senator  
The Honorable  
Kay Bailey Hutchison  
283 Russell Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

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110 E. Broadway  
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The Honorable George W. Bush  
Box 12428  
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State Senator District 19  
The Honorable Frank Madla  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station  
Austin, Texas 78711  
1-512-463-0121

State Representative District 74  
The Honorable Pete P. Gallego  
1110 W. 10th Street  
Del Rio, Texas 78840  
1-830-774-0800

### Thank You

The family of Richard (Dick) Wolters would like to Thank everyone for their help and support in taking care of our Dad. Your friendship and help at his passing will always mean a lot to us. Our folks lived in a wonderful and loving community.

# DRT honors Agnes Vondy



Agnes Vondy (left) pictured with Pat McKelvy was honored as the oldest member of the Caddel - Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas on her 91st birthday.

The Caddel-Smith Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, honored their "oldest and bestest" member, Agnes Vondy of Brackettville, on the occasion of her 91st birthday. The monthly meeting of the group was hosted by Billie Jean Davis at her home in Uvalde.

Essay chairman Otela Patterson announced the winners: 4th grade: Madison Crier from the Divide School at Mountain Home and 7th grade: Lindsey Garret Camp from Utopia Middle School at Utopia. No entries were received from the Brackettville schools.

Registrar Pat McKelvy presented three prospective members, including Charlotte Corey of Brackettville, and two members wishing to transfer into the chapter.

Priscilla Montgomery presented the program on her ancestor William Smothers. The title was "He Aimed Deadly and Blazed New Trails".

Membership in the Daughters of the Republic of Texas is open to any woman who can prove her lineal ancestor resided here between 1836-1845.

# Locals attend Secondary Sponsor School



Course graduates from Kinney County (l to r) Martha Pena-Hooten (County Assessor/Collector), Liz Luna (Appraisal District Collector), Gene Slate (Appraisal District Collector), and Cordy Barlow (County Auditor).

By Bill Haenn  
Contributing Writer

The Kinney County Appraisal District conducted a Secondary Sponsor School at Fort Clark Springs for area assessor/collectors the week of February 14-18, 2000. The Texas Association of

Appraisal Districts sponsored the course for the Texas Board of Tax Professional Examiners. Students attended from Kinney, Val Verde, Uvalde and Sutton counties. Mr.

Mick Mikulka instructed the 36-hour course, "An Introduction to the Texas Property Tax System." Completion of this course qualifies students for registration as Class II Tax Collectors, Appraisers, or Assessors. Students are working toward certification as Registered Professional Appraisers, Registered Professional Assessors, or Registered Professional Collectors. Secondary Sponsor Courses offer significant costs savings to counties and appraisal districts over attendance at primary courses conducted in Austin. The overwhelming success of this course, made possible through the cooperation of Fort Clark Springs for use of their facilities, promotes the scheduling of future courses.

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# Coburn lectures on Colonel Mackenzie

By Frank Cheaney  
Contributing Writer

A near capacity crowd of sixty members and guests of the Fort Clark Historical Society met on Saturday morning in Fort Clark's Palisado Building to hear Society member and historian Phil Coburn lecture about the legendary life and times of Indian Fighter Colonel Ranald Slidell Mackenzie. Colonel Mackenzie, a West Point graduate, Civil War veteran, and longtime commander of the Fourth

Cavalry Regiment, was one of the best known and most effective of the young army colonels of his day. He is credited with a large part of the responsibility for the defeat of the Plains Indians and for opening the West to white settlement. He is especially remembered by residents of our area for his association with Fort Clark and his daring raid in May, 1873, across the Rio Grande into Mexico, destroying an Indian Village at El Remolino and taking many cap-

tives. The result of that raid was that this area of the border was pacified for some time. Mackenzie was eventually rewarded for his exploits by being promoted to Brigadier General. Soon thereafter, however, he suffered a mental breakdown, and his health declined rapidly until his death in 1889.

There will be no regular meeting of the Society in March, since its regular meeting date coincides with the annual meeting of mem-

bers of Fort Clark Springs Association. Instead, all Society members and other friends of Fort Clark are urged to attend the "Chicken Feed" being sponsored on March 11 at Rendezvous Park by the Aid Association for Lutherans. All proceeds of this event, including matching funds from the Aid Association, will be donated to the Historical Society's Building Fund, to be used for renovating historic buildings on Fort Clark. The event will last from 11:30 to 2:00 on that Saturday, and tickets, either in advance or at the park, are \$5. Tickets are available from members of the Historical Society. Plans are also being made for a field trip by Society members on April 22 to the Garner Museum in Uvalde.

# Nuts, bolts, and Carnations

By Lynn McNew  
Contributing Writer

The Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts will present a play titled "Nuts, Bolts, and Carnations", a comedy by Don Rausch. There will be two performances on Friday, March 10 and Saturday, March 11, 2000. The play

will be presented at the Post Theatre on Fort Clark Springs at 7:30 p.m.

Included in the cast are some familiar faces, some new faces and some faces we haven't seen in a long time. Hoagie Nelson plays the part of Cliff. Hoagie appeared several years ago in the OQS production of "The Odd Couple." His

wife, Esther, is played by Jewel Robinson, who has appeared in many OQS productions. Playing Margaret is Darlene Sandwick. Darlene appeared on our stage in the Variety Show of 1997. Georgia is played by Fern Amo. You will remember Fern as the heroine in our melodrama from last

Continued on Page 5

# Kinney County Sheriff's Report .....

**Saturday, February 19**  
4:00 p.m., Federico Martinez, 73 of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff Burgess for disorderly conduct. Martinez was released February 25th for time served.

**Monday, February 21**  
12:30 p.m., Central office of the Brackett Independent School District requested a deputy to come and check out a possible counterfeit \$100 bill. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter went to investigate.

6:10 p.m., Fort Clark Security reported a fire at the back of Las Moras Restaurant. Chief Deputy Fritter found a mop head and a few leaves had caught on fire. There was no damage.

6:43 p.m., A local woman reported children fighting on Beaumont street. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter went to break it up.

**Wednesday, February 23**  
3:45 p.m., Southwestern Bell Telephone employee reported being threatened by a Rottweiler Dog at the location where he was working. Chief Deputy Fritter spoke with the owner. She agreed to make sure the dog was confined when he was in the area.

11:00 p.m., Francisco Olvera Tula, 40 from Mexico was arrested by Deputy Bobby Guidry for probation violation from Harris County. As of Monday morning he was still being held in the Kinney County Jail.

**Thursday, February 24**  
12:55 a.m., Rene S. Sanchez, 21 from Calisco, Pueblo, Mexico was arrested by Deputy Guidry for a warrant out of Bexar County. Sanchez was picked up by Bexar County on February 27th.

4:50 p.m., A local woman reported her license plate number TKS747 was stolen.

6:13 p.m., A local woman reported a major water line broke

on East Thorn Street. City employee David Martinez was informed of the situation.

8:26 p.m., Deputies Guidry and Robinson along with K-9 units from Border Patrol assisted Trooper Slubar in searching a white pickup for transporting drugs. No evidence was found and subject was released.

10:19 p.m., Deputy Guidry found the front and back doors open on a house he knew to be unoccupied. He spoke with a local man who had been working on the house. The man locked the doors.

**Friday, February 25**  
4:28 p.m., Local woman reported her was almost hit by a local man. Police Chief Ron Ring located the subject and along with Trooper Wylie administered the alcohol breathlizer test. Subject failed and was arrested.

5:15 p.m., Jesus Rumaldo Martinez, 47 from Brackettville was arrested by Chief Ring for DWI 3rd offense. As of Monday morning Martinez was still being held in the Kinney County Jail.

**Saturday, February 26**  
7:55 a.m., A cellular caller reported a stranded motorist approximately 4 miles West of the Dust Bowl Arena on Highway 90. Deputy Guidry spoke with the motorist.

9:50 a.m., A local woman requested assistance with obtaining her truck and house keys from her ex-live. Police Chief Ring located him and got the keys and explained where his things were.

10:45 a.m., A man called and reported a fire at a ranch on Tularosa Road. The fire was out of control. Brackett fire department was notified.

2:20 p.m., Border Patrol reported a stranded motorist on Highway 90 West. Deputy Guidry

spoke with the owner and stated she was going to be there for awhile.

2:50 p.m., A local business reported someone stole beer from his establishment. Police Chief Ring went to investigate. Chief Ring located the subjects.

8:28 p.m., Val Verde Sheriff's Department reported someone had been hit by a car on Hwy 277 South. Dispatcher notified Deputy Karl Chism and Trooper Richard Slubar and went to the scene. Slubar requested Justice of the Peace John Ford be notified because there had been a fatality.

11:40 p.m., Pico employee reported a suspicious truck setting in the parking lot. Deputy Chism was notified of the situation.

**Sunday February 27**  
12:31 p.m., Unidentified caller reported loud music on James Street. Chief Ron Ring was notified of the situation.

12:53 p.m., A man reported he needed a deputy to check his trailer. It had been vandalized.

6:53 p.m., A local rancher requested the fire department be sent to his ranch. A controlled burn had gotten out of control.

10:15 p.m., A local man reported a truck driving recklessly East bound. Deputy Chism was advised of the situation.

10:42 p.m., Local man reported a suspicious vehicle outside his Ranch gate. Chief Deputy Fritter checked it out.

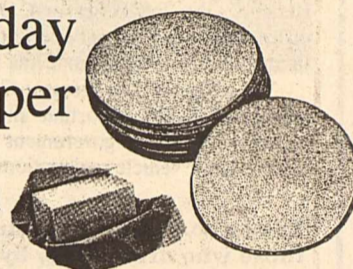
11:45 p.m., Pico employee reported someone left without paying for gasoline. Deputy Chism located the vehicle and suspects. Escorted them back to Picos and let them pay for the fuel.

**Monday, February 28**  
12:20 a.m., Deputy Chism reported a grass fire on Highway 90 West around Shorty's. Fire Department was dispatched.

St. Andrew's  
Episcopal Church  
Fort and Henderson Streets

Shrove Tuesday  
Pancake Supper

March 7th  
from  
5:00 p.m. to 7:30 p.m.



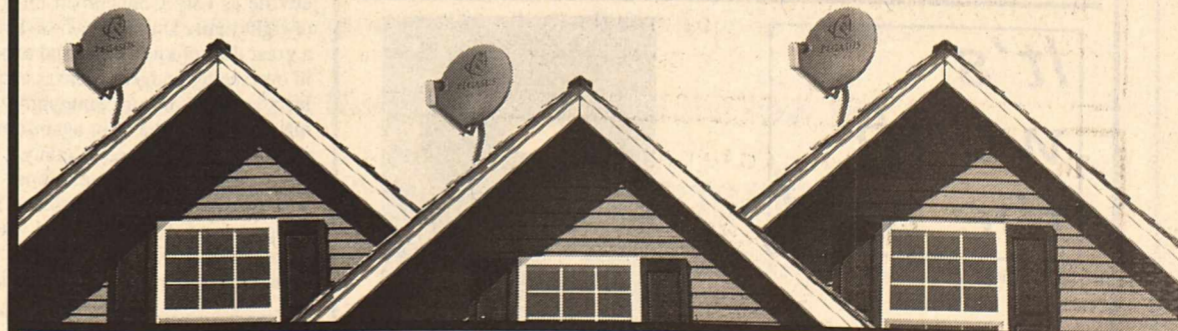
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12 years and under

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### Kinney County Sheriff

I, L.K. Burgess am running for the upcoming election for Sheriff of Kinney County. During my last four years in office we have upgraded the department with better salaries and training for all Sheriff's Department employees.

We have developed good working relationships with the Federal, State and surrounding local governments.

We have improved the jail and operates full capacity and generates federal money by holding federal prisoners which in turn offsets the costs to operate the jail and sheriff's department.

The county jail earned high grades and remarks from the Texas Jail Commission

for being successful in preparing and passing the annual inspection. Credit is due to each and every employee in the department for their hard work and dedication.

We are now able to have deputies on 20 hour patrol for nightly checks on businesses and on residences while owners are on vacation or away. The rate of burglaries and crime have cut down since our deputies are out on patrol all hours of the night.

I have enjoyed serving as Sheriff for the past four years and look forward to serving another four.

L.K. Burgess

### Tax Assessor/Collector



Martha Pena Hooten has announced that she is a Democratic candidate for reelection to the office of Tax-Assessor-Collector of Kinney County in the March 14, 2000 Democratic Primary Election.

Martha is a life-long resident of Kinney County. She has over 16 years experience in the Tax Assessor-Collector's office, beginning her service to the public in that office in 1983 as Chief Deputy.

The office of Tax-Assessor-Collector performs several important and major functions of county government that includes motor vehicle registrations and ti-

ling, issuance and renewals of beer/wine and mixed beverage permits, boat registration renewals and titling, voter registration and jury wheel processing.

"Because of my 16 years of training, education and experience in the duties and responsibilities of the Tax Assessor-Collector's office I am familiar with all the processes, paperwork and reports required of the numerous and important functions of the office, including personal communications with officials of the various state agencies we must work with on an almost daily basis."

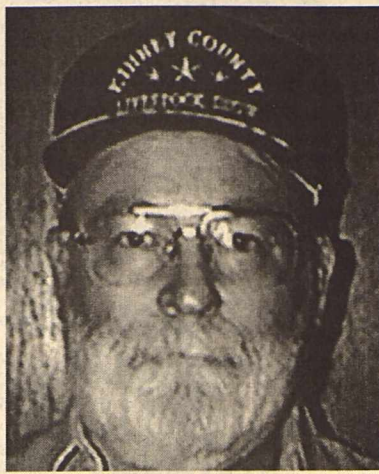
"Since the county contracted with the Kinney County Appraisal Office in 1981 to assess and collect property taxes, I am not required to be certified with the Board of Tax Professional Examiners. However, as my own self-improvement program I have taken the initiative to educate myself by enrolling and completing Course No. 1 of "The Property Tax System". "Each county official is his or her own best judge of the amount of knowledge they need to do their jobs well."

"Thank you all for supporting me and allowing me to serve you as your Tax Assessor-Collector for the past 16 years, I've thoroughly enjoyed it and once again I respectfully ask for your vote and support in the upcoming Democratic Primary Election, it will be sincerely appreciated."

\*\*\* They who dream by day are cognizant of many things which escape those who dream only by night.

—Edgar Allan Poe

### Commissioner Pct. 1



I am, W.W. (Woody) Massingill running for County Commissioner, Pct. 1. I have lived in Kinney County for approximately 20 years. I have been involved with and held leadership positions in County & Civic Organizations throughout this time. I have owned and operated several

successful businesses. If elected, this would be my first time in politics. I am interested in seeing how the County operates.

I travel the County on a daily basis and am in contact with people who live in the City, County, Spofford and Fort Clark Springs. This makes me very accessible to anyone that has concerns they would like to see addressed. This exposure would give me a good feel for what the people of the County would want from their commissioner. I feel like these experiences along with some common sense would qualify me for County Commissioner.

I would like to see the County grow by bringing in suitable businesses, which would keep our taxes low and offer more opportunities for local government.

My wife and I own property in the County and are members of Fort Clark Springs. We have two children that go to school in Brackettville. Therefore, I have a genuine interest in our County becoming the best that it can be.

Dear Kinney County,

My name is Francie Wylie. I am currently running for Kinney County Commissioner Precinct 1. I can not win without your vote. Early voting started Monday, February 28th and will continue through Friday, March 10th. All early voting is located at the Kinney County Courthouse between the hours of 9 am & 5 pm.

Our County is blessed with an abundance of unique natural resources and has a remarkable historic value. It is our job as citizens and community servants to protect, manage and develop this county for ourselves and children. We must be able to attract the kind of growth that will benefit the entire community.

Due to our county's location and recent trade agreements with Mexico, Kinney County is and will be growing at an increasing rate.

We will be presented with many opportunities in the next four years. It will take good management, diligence, and tough decisions to shape our future into the thriving attractive community we want.

I am a graduate of South West Texas State University with a Bachelors degree in Industrial Arts and a teaching certificate. Industrial Arts includes education in Design, Architectural Drafting, Engineering, Planning and Resourcing to name a few.

I taught school for two years. I have 20 years experience in restoration of historic properties and new construction. I



am a successful wildlife artist. Last but not least, I am a mother of 4 children, 3 of which are currently attending school in Brackettville.

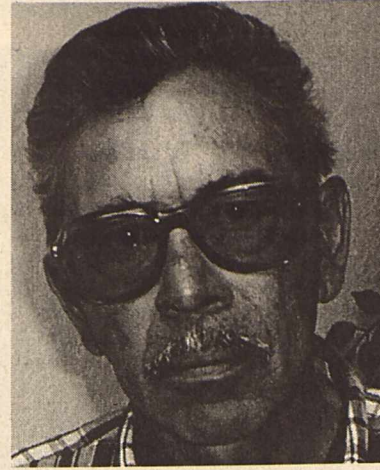
Since moving to Brackettville in 1997, I have worked around the community doing restoration and remodeling for others. My family and I have recently built a new home on Fort Clark, which provided employment for local students during the summer. We have also started restoration of a historic home located on James Street.

My goal is to be an asset to this community. I believe I will be an asset as your County Commissioner.

Thank you for your vote! Respectfully,

Francie Wylie

### Commissioner Pct. 1



My name is Ruben C. Martinez. I have filed as a candidate for County Commissioner of Precinct one. I was born in Brackettville and I'm a graduate of Brackettville High Class of 1958.

I have been a member of Fort Clark Springs since 1976 and a resident since 1992, when I returned to Kinney County and built our retirement home.

I have 29 years of experience in supervisory and management positions in the construction trades. I retired as a General Superintendent from a large construction firm that grossed an average of 40 million a year. My responsibilities included job budget control, estimating, job schedul-

ing, and working with representatives from Federal, State, County, City Governments and Private Developers.

Since returning to Kinney County I have been involved in community activities. I am a past two term President of the Lions Club, a current member of the Board of Directors of the Kinney County Library, past President of Fort Clarks Mens Golf Club and an active member of the Las Moras Hispanic Organization. The past 4 years I have held a Community Benefit Golf Tournament that has raised over 5,000 dollars for the Lions and the Las Moras Hispanic Org. for their Christmas basket program.

I am and advocate for a clean environment. The clean air and our drinking water should never be allowed to be polluted. If elected I will work to keep it safe for future generations.

I believe in control growth. The County, City and Ft. Clark have made some progress when the waste disposal plant was expanded. In order to attract any industry to the County we also need more affordable rental or places to build. We need the County and the City to encourage developer to open up new subdivisions for housing by offering some incentive and tax breaks.

If elected I will consider it a full time job, and will work endlessly for betterment of Kinney County and its citizens.

Ruben Martinez.

### Commissioner Pct. 3

It's time to vote for the person that will represent Precinct 3 in Commissioners Court. I'm hoping that person will be me, Dottie Cruz.

For the last 4 years I have attended commissioners court as a citizen, deputy clerk and now as a reporter.

I've watched, studied and learned. I believe, I can do a good job for the people.

I will listen to you. Get your opinion on issues that concern you, especially when spending your tax dollars. I will work hard, as your commissioner, to solve problems no matter how small or large.

In my opinion, one commissioner can make a big difference.

I feel, a commissioner should vote on every issue. Unless it would be ethically wrong for them to participate in voting.

When I vote for or against an issue, I will tell you why.

I don't own a business, I'm not a member of any board or club, and my job doesn't take me out of town. This will allow me to vote without outside influences or affiliations and enable me to attend meetings on a regular basis. How else can I vote, but for the people?

Budgeting will be important. Having too much left over means some service(s) wasn't funded properly. I'd remind the court the need to serve the people, fulfill promises of prior commitments and bring commerce to this county.

I believe jobs opportunities are important for anyone who wishes to work. Es-



pecially, jobs that won't require people commute out of the county to find work and make a living.

I must state this, I would never approve an industry that would harm our environment or leave a debt for our children.

These things will take time to accomplish. Time I'm willing to devote, to get the job done and accomplish the goals we set for the people we serve as commissioners.

If I'm unable to reach you in person before the primary, I want you to know, a vote for me will not be in vain. I will do my best for you and this county.

Your vote will be appreciated.

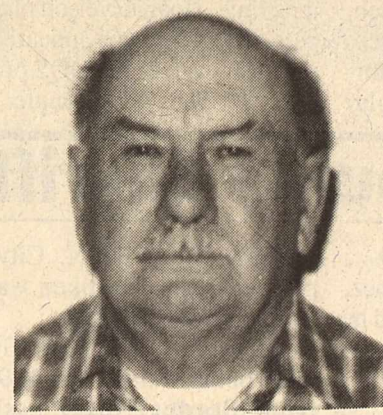
Robert "Bob" Yastic For Commissioner Precinct 3

I am a retired auto and diesel mechanic and military veteran. I have worked as a mechanic for several trucking companies in Houston and San Antonio before moving to Brackettville in 1989 with my wife Virginia.

We opened Southwest Service Company an auto and diesel repair shop and parts store. We built that business on trust and fairness to everyone.

If I am elected your commissioner, I will see that this tradition is carried on.

I am a conservative and I will be your voice for the next term.



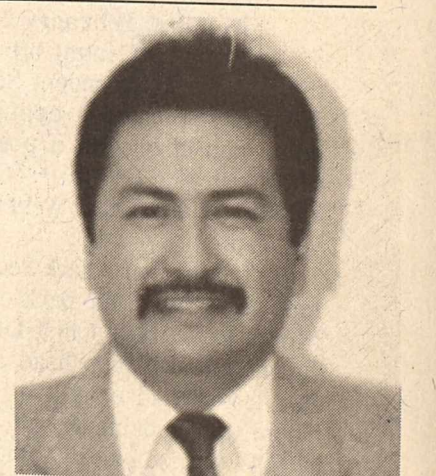
Arnold A. Pinales has announced his candidacy for County Commissioner Precinct No. 3 in the March 14 Democratic Primary. He is the son of Mr. Fidencio and Mrs. Eva Pinales.

Arnold Pinales is 40 years old was raised on the Clifton C. Belcher ranch. He graduated from Brackett High School in 1980 and earned an associate degree in Applied Science from Southwest Texas Junior College in Uvalde, TX.

He is also a certified Minister with the General Council of the Assemblies of God from Springfield, MO. He is also the Pastor of Templo Elim Assembly of God Church here in Brackettville.

He is also the President of the Honor Bound Men's Ministries of Del Rio, Eagle Pass, Crystal City, Carrizo Springs, Uvalde and LaPryor.

Arnold A. Pinales and his wife Rocio have five sons, Arnold Jr., Ivan, Adam,



Jonathan and Jairo. "Your vote and support will be appreciated. May God Bless You."

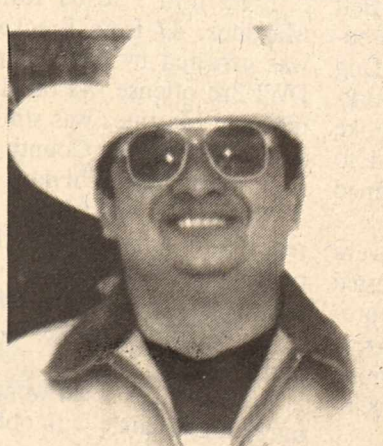
And again I believe that we should hire local people to help with most of these projects.

When Mr. Joe Garza and Mr. G.C. Talamantez were commissioners they would hire five people from low income families that were in their precincts one or two weeks before school started to help with clothes and school supplies and again before Christmas so that they could buy gifts for their children. I would like to bring this back to the community. I was told by a commissioner that this was not in the budget. (Commissioners make the budget).

We also have to do something about the drug problem in our community. There are many good kids in our community, sadly there is not much work here, so kids turn to drugs as a way of making money.

We have to create more jobs and give them to the people of this community.

I don't believe that the county should charge any nonprofit organization or anyone who is in any way trying to help the community with the use of the Civic Center as long as they clean up and pay for the use of the water and electricity. (The meters can be read before and after use). If we work together we can help this community. Your vote will be greatly appreciated. Nat Terrazas.



I have lived in Brackettville all my life, during the last twenty four years I have been in construction. And I now work as construction foreman for Mr. Bill Moody. I am experienced in building and maintaining roads which include building dams, culvert, and low water crossings. I can assist the county in any low water crossing that they would normally hire a contractor for. We will not need these contractors we can hire people in our community. I have built homes, offices and other buildings. I can help oversee any building that may take place in the county.

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<b>BRACKETTVILLE</b> County Public Library 510 Ellen Street Wednesday 6:00 PM	<b>DEL RIO</b> Ramada Inn 2101 Avenue F Tuesday 5:45 PM
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My name is Linda Jaso. I previously moved to Kinney County in 1997, from Presidio, TX with my husband Mario Jaso and our 3 children. I have attended SWITC from 1974-1975 and Sul Ross State University.

I am announcing my candidacy for County Commissioner Pct. 1. I have extensive knowledge and experience with working with Victims of

Dear Kinney County Voters: Pct. 1

I, Ralph Gonzales would appreciate your vote for Commissioner Pct. 1 in the upcoming March 14, primary election. I am a native of Brackettville. I have lived in Kinney County for a total of 21 years. I am a family man with a wife of 24 years, I have 6 children and 1 Grandson that I am raising.

Experience: I was duly elected Kinney County Constable Pct. 1 which I served from 1976 thru 1978. City policeman for the city of Brackettville for a period of 1985 thru 1986. I also worked for Smith Security for a period of 3 years at Ft. Clark Springs TX. I am presently employed by Kinney County Sheriff Department.

I have served the citizens of Brackettville as City Councilman for a period of eight years. During this time I acquired a great deal of knowledge and experience in overseeing budget expenses and knowing the needs of our community. Including to continue the fight against any hazardous waste in Kinney County.

If elected as a commissioner of Pct. 1, I plan to use my experience in handling your tax dollars. When I vote on an issue my vote will be based on facts. I have a mind of my own, my vote is for or

Crime, Case Manager. Worked with budgets and can work with the people of this county and especially Pct. 1.

I have worked with different programs in Val Verde County and will be able to work with programs and grants in Kinney County.

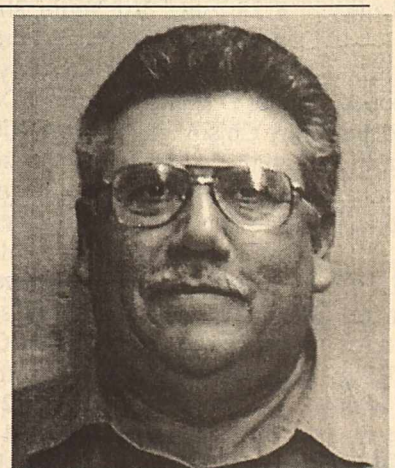
I would fight to expand Kinney County by bringing more jobs and opportunities for parents working out of town. Along with this, keeping taxes down. I will work with the County Judge and other commissioners in order to achieve these goals for the betterment of the county.

As a commissioner, I see many changes are needed. People of Pct. 1 need a commissioner to represent them equally and fairly. I will be willing to do everything necessary to see that things get done.

As County Commissioner I would welcome the ideas and concerns of the people of Pct. 1, after all, it is about the people.

If elected by the people of Pct. 1 I will work hard for the progress and growth of our community. Your vote is greatly appreciated.

Thank you, Linda Jaso



against. I do not ride the fence, sometimes others agree with me and others do not.

I ask that you vote for me based on my experience.

Your vote for me will be greatly appreciated in the Early Voting on Feb. 28 and on March Primary Elections March 14, 2000.

Your support will be deeply appreciated.

Yours Truly Ralph Gonzales

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# Spring Break is right around the corner

Making a Difference  
By Taylor Stephenson

Tim Ward and Rose Mary Slubar, incumbents on the school board, have both signed a declaration of candidacy for another three year term. The election will be held Tuesday, May 6.

Our town has prayed for little Julie Simek, Susan Davis' baby niece. Little Julie had several open heart operations and finally was able to pass peacefully from our world. Our hearts are extended to the Simek and Davis families in their loss.

How about those golf teams, coached by Kim and Dave Wilkins? The boys placed first in the Brackettville Invitational. Medalist was Jarrett Harrison with a score of 73. The Girls team won third place. Medalist for the girls division was Laura Lee Ballew with a 95, 10 strokes better than her last outing. There were nine

teams playing in this tournament. Way to Go!

Baseball and softball have begun to play preseason games. We're winning enough to know that we will be competitive in both sports. Baseball coach is Ricky Creel while Gregg Nowlin coaches the softball team. The track team had its first meet this past weekend. I heard David Yeager talk about positive comments on the Brackettville athletes.

San Antonio Cole prevailed this past week over the BHS Tigers. This is the best BHS boys team that I have seen in Brackettville in years. This year, we played as a team that represented the school and community well at each of its outings.

I'm happy that the TAAS writing for grades 4, 8 and 10 is over. I'm also happy to have the EXIT level test over at the high school level in Reading and Math. I hope that our new commissioner of the

Texas Education Agency will address the stress that educators and children are forced to endure on TAAS testing dates.

Spring Break is right around the corner. We're out of school the week of March 13. Many of you have trips planned that week. It will be a great week to get away from the pressures of school for students, staff and parents.

Huisache trees and Mountain

Laurels are in full bloom. Red Bud trees and many fruit trees have already put on a beautiful Spring coat. I have already done my first mowing of the year, 2000. What a beautiful time to live right here in Kinney County, Texas! Our California daughter and grandson, Bradley, seven months old, will be here most of this week. We're very excited and will have a great week. I hope you have a great one too!

## Brackett Invitational Golf Tournament

By Dave Wilkins  
Contributing Writer

Monday the Tigers and Tigerettes put on The Brackett Invitational Golf Tournament. There were 12 boys teams and 11 girls teams. The tournament started at 9:00 am and was over by 2:30. We would like to thank the volunteers from the Mens Group, teachers and the Fort for their great help.

The Tigers finished 1st overall with a team score of 340. Team members were Jarrett Harrison (73), Chase Neuman (87), Jeff Luna (88), Sammy Flores (92), and Carl Dalton (100). Second place team was Junction with a score of 348, and third went to Leakey with a score of 359. Individual honors went to Jarrett

Harrison with a score of 73-1st place, 2nd was Trevor Hykes (78) from Del Rio, and 3rd was Reagan Roth (78) from D'Hanis.

The Tigerettes placed third overall with a score of 430; their team consisted of Laura Lee Ballew (95), Tiffany Eckenrod (118), Debra Cortes (103), Leslia Meyer (114), and Susannah Davis (120). First Place went to Junction with a score of 427, and 2nd went to Sabinal with a score of 429. Individual honors were as follows: 1st was Kami Bennett (94) from Uvalde, 2nd was Laura Lee Ballew (95) from Brackett, and third was Kathryn McGinney (97) from Junction.

Erica Meyer and Elliot Stone played as individuals, and did a great job! The kids really did well!

## Tigerettes at 4-4

The Brackett Tigerette Softball Team went to the Uvalde Tournament this past weekend. They won one game and lost two. Their record now stands at 4 wins and 4 losses. They go to Comfort on Tuesday the 29th, to play their last non-district game. Next Tuesday they open up district play at home at 6:30 versus the Dilley Lady Wolves.

In game one of the Uvalde tournament, the Tigerettes lost to the Carrizo Springs Lady Wildcats 10 to 9 in a very exciting game that wasn't decided until the final out. Leading the way at the plate was Erika Garcia with 2 hits, 2 RBIs, and 1 run scored, Vanessa Castillo with 2 hits, 2 runs, and 2 RBIs, also Mayra Aguirre with 2 hits, 2 runs, and 2 RBIs. Erika Garcia handled the pitching duties.

On Friday, they lost to the Hondo Lady Owls, 8 to 4, in a very well played contest, that Hondo pulled out in the very end of the game. Leading the way at the plate, was Michelle Melancon with 2 hits, 1 run scored, and 2 RBIs, Erika Garcia with 1 hit, 1 run scored and 1 RBI. Erika Garcia was called upon again to pitch for the Tigerettes.

On Saturday the Tigerettes traveled back to Uvalde for the third game of the tournament. This time the Tigerettes would be victorious against the Crystal City Javalinas 25 to 24, in a very high scoring game. The game was played back and forth, until the bottom of the 7th inning when the Tigerettes came from behind to win the game. In the last half inning, Vanessa Castillo hit a 3 run infield homerun to ignite the girls for their come from behind win. Leading the way for the Tigerettes offense was Erika Garcia with 5

hits, 4 runs, and 3 RBIs, Michelle Melancon with 4 hits, 5 runs, and 2 RBIs, and Tiffany Eckenrod with 2 triples, 6 RBIs, and scoring 2 runs. Handling the pitching chores were B'Ann Gomez and relieved in the top of the 4th inning by Freshman pitcher Celina Cano who picked up the victory, in her very first varsity game. "Celina came in and did a wonderful job, she struck out 3 batters, and was very composed in her very first varsity game. I am looking forward to some great things out of her," said Coach Gregg Nowlin.

## JV Softball opener

By Gregg Nowlin  
Contributing Writer

The Junior Varsity Tigerette Softball team opened their 2000 Softball season Monday night in Eagle Pass. The Junior Varsity Tigerettes played a great game, but came up short 16 to 12.

Leading the way at the plate for the Tigerettes was Nicole Mata with 3 hits, 3 runs, 2 RBIs, and 1 infield homerun. Christina Flores with 2 hits, 2 runs scored, 2 RBIs,

also Celia Deleon with 2 hits, 2 runs, 2 RBIs, and 1 infield homerun. Celina Cano handled the pitching duties for the Tigerettes.

"Celina is doing a fine job pitching, once she gets her arm in shape, she will improve," said Coach Nowlin.

The next game for the JV Tigerettes is on Monday, March 6th. Please come out and support the Tigerettes.

great cast. Plan now to attend "Nuts, Bolts, and Carnations" at 7:30 p.m. on Friday, March 10, or Saturday, March 11 at Post Theater. Tickets are \$3.00 and available at the Adult Center, from Old Quarry members or by calling 563-9229.

## Old Quarry Society presents "Nuts, bolts, and Carnations"

Continued from Page 3

fall. Rick Bacon will be seen in the part of Al. He has also been involved in many OQS productions, both on the stage and as technical support. The play is directed by Lynn McNew.

This is a funny show, with a

## Outdoors

# TPW to use license denial in restitution collection efforts

A little on the Wildlife side  
By Henry Lutz

AUSTIN, Texas — If you are one of the 10,478 persons owing Texas part of the \$3,227,267 in outstanding civil restitution for loss or damage to a wildlife resource, you may be denied participation in any activities licensed or permitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife (TPW).

Senate Bill 1302, passed by the 76th Texas Legislature, gives TPW the authority to refuse to issue an original or renewal license, permit or tag if a person has been convicted of a violation of the Parks and Wildlife Code or a proclamation issued under the authority of the Code and has failed to pay a civil restitution assessment.

Persons owing civil restitution for violations since Sept. 1, 1999 who have failed to respond to demands for payment will soon be notified that license, permit, and

tag privileges have been denied. TPW gives game law violators three written notices to make arrangements to pay civil restitution. The agency offers to accept 80 percent of the restitution assessment as payment in full if remitted in response to the first letter notifying the violator of a civil restitution assessment. A final demand for payment is issued before licenses and permits will be denied.

Because some of the owed assessments are substantial, the legislature granted a two-year grace period to any person owing civil restitution for violations before Sept. 1, 1999. If those violators have not arranged for payment by Sept. 1, 2001, they will be subject to denial of original or renewal license, permit or tag privileges.

"Wildlife and fishery resources belong to the people of Texas, and the department is serious about

collecting the civil restitution penalties when someone illegally takes or possesses a resource," said Jim Robertson, TPW director of law enforcement. "The Legislature gave the department a great tool in Senate Bill 1302 to aid in collecting recovery value for the state's loss in resources."

TPW officials have noted a marked increase in the number of cases resolved since the law took effect last September. "We have historically recovered about 30 percent of the restitution assessments as a result of voluntary payment prior to the new law, and since then the rate has increased to 68 percent," said Jack King, TPW law enforcement director of policy and planning. "We want this to be a deterrent against committing the violation to begin with. But, it should also serve as motivation for paying restitution if you break the law."

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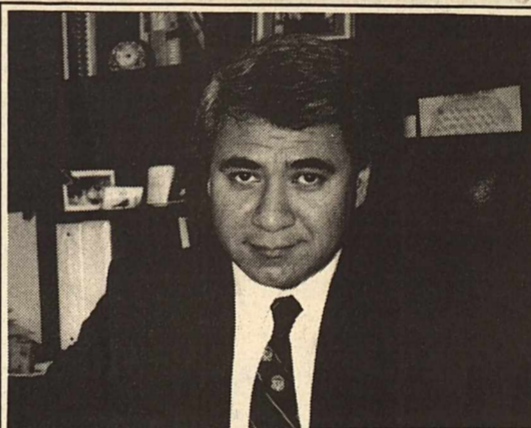


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B.B.A.-Finance, International Business

\*University of Texas School of Law-Doctorate of Jurisprudence

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Texas Legislature

\*Served as Assistant Attorney General, Child Support Division

\*Served as Assistant District Attorney in Del Rio since 1995

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**ACROSS**

- Grassy place
- Ralph Lauren's line
- "Spicy" musical style
- Estrada of CHIPS
- Twist
- Grace (Atwood novel)
- Eye maliciously
- Cinematographers' swings
- Golf ball's launching pad
- "Little Miss Muffet" (3 wds.)
- Pointers
- Golden, for one
- Actress Joey Lauren
- Deteriorates
- Sparkling
- Fracas
- Sty denizen
- Like \_\_\_ out of hell (2 wds.)
- Spanish melodies
- Laos's locale
- First name in Wolfmen
- Award funds
- Sample bottles
- Candidate's promise
- Magdalene and Poppins

**DOWN**

- Speech impediment
- "Diana" singer Paul (2 wds.)
- Drab looking songbird
- Jennings's report
- Allegories
- "I cannot tell \_\_\_"
- Org. that is Juliette Low's legacy
- Attacked with stones
- Sandwich cookie brand
- Property attachment

11. Gumbo ingredient  
13. Gluts  
14. Guarantees  
22. African plant  
24. Diamond judge  
25. Rent again  
26. Trellis  
27. Newswoman Sawyer  
29. Bar exam component  
30. Stains  
31. Baseball's Ripken  
32. Little Havana's locale  
33. Sea Eagle  
35. "There \_\_\_ an old woman..."  
37. Systemized  
38. 1980 disaster-film spoof  
40. Midas's obsession  
41. Kilmer of The Saint  
43. Imperfect  
44. Mongrels  
46. Overcharged  
47. Semiconductor  
48. Peacock, for NBC  
49. Supreme Court Justice Roberts  
50. Folk singer Seeger  
52. Mimicker  
53. Horus's mother  
54. Cattle call prize  
57. \_\_\_-au-vent

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**HOROSCOPES**

**Aries March 21- April 20**  
Don't get involved in the stories and gossip going around work. Things are not always as they appear. You've been there before. Check into a potential investment carefully. It's not something to take at face value. Check with an expert.

**Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
Communication is in very short supply. The worst part is that no one around you seems to be worried about that. Be patient. By the end of the week, you should have a little more control over a touchy situation on the homefront.

**Taurus April 21-May 21**  
Look for a friend to need your shoulder this week. Don't become too involved, or he/she might end up getting a little too demanding. Listen to the advice of an authority figure at work. It may save you problems in the long run.

**Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
Be open-minded when dealing with a young relative. That may mean you have to bite your tongue for now. A new sport will get you out to meet new people. Meeting new people will help give you a better outlook on life.

**Gemini May 22-June 21**  
Your budget worries may be close to being over. Start thinking down a different track. Come up with a new approach. A faithful friend or close family member needs your unwavering support. Be there and don't ask questions.

**Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21**  
Someone close to you will let you down, but don't feel crushed. You've done your best, and now it's time to move on. A Virgo's advice may seem sound to you, but this is may not be the time to listen to it. Listen to you and only you.

**Cancer June 22-July 22**  
You probably shouldn't look for a romantic week with your partner feeling neglected. Maybe it's a good time to plan something really special just for the two of you. How about a nice weekend getaway? Don't forget a promise you made.

**Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
A weekend family get-together could go a long way toward changing your mood. Make sure the whole family gets involved. It's time you faced changes head-on. Don't keep straddling the fence. It will end up causing problems.

**Leo July 23-August 23**  
Creativity is at a peak this week. Take advantage of the opportunity to start on something new and exciting. Letting your work problems take precedence over your family and/or partner in the coming weeks is not a good idea.

**Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
Your energy levels are returning to normal. You'll soon be feeling better emotionally. Crass words may hurt you and a special friend. Shrug them off. Have you been neglecting your finances? It's time to get them in order.

**Virgo August 24-Sept. 22**  
Stay levelheaded for any business or financial transactions. Be the anchor for your partner. You may have to settle on a different destination for your much needed weekend getaway. Something new and different may be the answer.

**Pisces Feb. 19-March 20**  
Be careful who you open up to at work this week. A certain person is more interested in your job than in your ideas or problems. Don't make weekend plans until you check the family schedule. You don't want to miss a special occasion.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

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