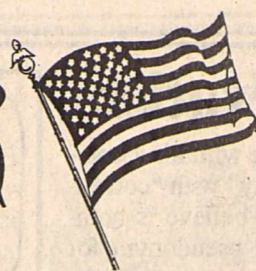


# The Brackett News



**Athletic and Academic Awards**  
See Page 5

12th year, No. 15

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## Briefs ...

### Public meeting Monday

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council plans a public meeting Monday, May 22 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Kinney County Courthouse.

Purpose of the meeting is to hear the concerns of Kinney County citizens and to use this information to develop a Regional Strategic plan for the entire Middle Rio Grande area.

Topics will include economic development, community development, transportation, water, solid waste management, workforce, elderly services, criminal justice and 9-1-1.

### Graduation Day May 26

Members of the Brackett High School Class of 2000 will receive their diplomas Friday, May 26 during ceremonies that will begin at 8 p.m. at Tiger Stadium. The public is invited.

### Juneteenth celebration

The Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association is making plans for this year's Juneteenth celebration June 17-18. "The Seminoles are asking the community to come together and make this a bigger and better year," said Clarence G. Ward.

If you are interested in being a part of the parade, please contact Augusta Pines at 563-9979 or Beverly Wright at 563-9181. If you would like to rent a booth for \$20, call Clarence Ward at 563-9394 or Beverly Wright at 563-9181.

### 1,807 caught here in April

Border Patrol agents made 1,807 apprehensions in the Brackettville area during April. Overall, the Del Rio Sector Border Patrol made 18,145 apprehensions, including 427 other than Mexicans.

Apprehensions included: 70, Abilene; 2,821, Carrizo Springs; 157, Comstock; 2,749, Del Rio; 9,556 Eagle Pass; 89, Llano; 165, Rocksprings; 99, San Angelo; and 632, Uvalde.

In addition, \$2,422,834 worth of marijuana was seized by agents last month.

### Bridge Club winners

Fort Clark Springs Duplicate Bridge Club met April 25 with 5 1/2 tables present.

Winners were:  
N/S 1. Sara Richhart and Ella Chambers. 2. Molly Schroeder and Carol Benfield. 3 James and Flo Stafford.

E/W 1. Ann Legg and Evelyn Whiteley. 2. Betty Schlatterer and Bob Barnett. 3. Mona Miller and Dena Scott.

## INSIDE

### The way I see it!

I must assume that the Bill of Rights, defined as the first ten amendments to the constitution, were penned in the order that the representatives thought were most important to the security and welfare of the country.

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### Sunday Hymnfest

Most rabies occurs in skunks and bats, but the number of cases in dogs and cats rose from 23 in 1998 to 34 last year

Religion/Page 3

### Making a Difference

Our seniors will take their traditional senior trip this Friday and Saturday. This Class of 2000 has only one more week at BHS.

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**Eighth Grade District Track Champions are top row, from left, Sarah Meyer, Ashley Smith, Courtney Frerich, Stephanie Bonner, Celeste Hill, Beth Ballew and Coach Julie Bruce. Second row from left: Caitlin Wylie, Amanda Davis, Allison LaMascus, Juliann Ashabranner, Stacey Castilla, Stephanie Coronado, Clarissa Aguirre, Divina Pena. Bottom row, from left: Sabrina Silver, Whitney Hobbs, Valerie Terrazas, Monica Gonzalez.**

## Eighth grade girls win district title

With only 10 girls, the Eighth Grade girls captured the District Track Championship in their division.

They beat out Comfort, Jourdanon, Dilley, Center Point and Natalia. Girls competing were:

Juliann Ashabranner, first in 1600m, third in 3200m; Beth Ballew, fifth in 400 Relay; Stacey Castillo, fourth in High Jump, third in 400m. third in 300 Hurdles and second in 800 Relay;

Stephanie Coronado, first in 400 and second in 1600 Relay; Amanda Davis, second in 1600 Relay, second in 800 Relay and fifth in 400 Relay; Celeste Hill, first in 100 Hurdles, first in 200m Dash, second in High Jump, second in 800m Relay; Allison LaMascus, fifth in 400 Relay and second in 800 Relay; Sara Meyer, second in 800 Relay, second in 1600 Relay, and sixth in 100 Hurdles; Sabrina Silver, second in 3200m and second in 1600m;

and Ashley Smith, second in Triple Jump, second in 1600 Relay, first in 300 Hurdles and third in 100 Hurdles.

Seventh grade girls who competed were:

Clarissa Aguirre, 200, 400, 1600 Relay Long Jump; Stephanie Bonner, 100, 200, 1600 Relay, Triple Jump, High Jump; Whitney Hobbs, 100, 200, 1600 Relay Triple Jump; and Divina Pena, 100, 200, 1600 Relay, Long Jump.

## Local Masons present Lamar Medals



**From left: Lamar medal recipients James Burks and Jamie Bader. Photo by Ray Kurtz**

Las Moras Masonic Lodge #444 in an open house lodge meeting, presented Lamar Medals to

Jamie Bader and James Burks on May 13.

The Lamar Medals are given

by the Masonic Lodge to outstanding graduates each year in memory of Mirabeau Lamar, the second president of the Republic of Texas. He fought in many battles, including the Battle of San Jacinto. He was appointed Secretary of War, elected vice president, and was elected second vice president of the Republic of Texas. He was the sponsor and founder of the first public schools in Texas. In his memory, the Masonic Lodge gives these medals and a scholarship to these students. At the open house, the Lodge also presented a Golden Trowel Award to Jack Taunt. This is a Grand Lodge Award given a member of the Lodge for service in Masonry.

## Local businesses contribute material, 'know-how' for Carver School project

"Two 'oldies' still helping one another, a 125 year old business assisting an 150 year old organization, which is after all, the 'Brackettville Way.'"

Davis Hardware donated electrical merchandise to the Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association (SISCA) Thursday, May 11 for the final completion of the Association's major electrical project at the Carver school grounds. Dennis Dodson, manager of Davis Hardware, commented, "This hardware store has stood on this corner and has shared an interesting history in Brackettville, right along with the Seminoles for over 100 years."

Clarence Ward, SISCA president, has a June 3 projected date for the completion of the project. SISCA knows that with devoted



**From left: Clarence Ward, David Meyer, Dennis Dotson and Clyde Hepline, Jr.**

and helpful friends such as Dennis Dodson and David Meyer, supervisor of Rio Grande Electric, that they should have no problem meeting the deadline.

Also, advice and help from the Rio Grande Electric crew has given SISCA the essential "know-how" in this undertaking, said Ward.

## Rotarians cycling across United States pay Brackettville a quick visit

By Diana Gonzales  
Brackett News Editor

Yes, according to the map, they were a long way from home, but it weren't for the scorching heat, they said, they never would have noticed.

That statement is, of course, an exaggeration, but Ray Burman, Dave Pike and Dave Brunning

were trying to make a point: though their visit to Brackettville was brief, the residents they met while here were so friendly, they made the trio feel right at home.

The three are a long way from home - Chelmsford, Essex, England, to be exact. When they stopped off here, they were on their way to Del Rio. Their final destination: California. Their

mode of transportation: two were riding Italian bikes and another was driving a car.

Intrigued? The following information should clear things up:

The three visitors are Rotarians - Burman is president, Pike is junior vice president and Brunning is a member of the Chelmer Bridge Rotary Club in Chelmsford. Burman and Pike are

## Brackettville resident charged with murder

A Brackettville man, Samuel Hale Blackwood Jr., age 74, was arrested and charged with murder Sunday after he told investigators he shot a man he had ordered off of his property earlier.

The victim, believed to be a Mexican national, was shot in the leg and later bled to death.

According to Blackwood, he had seen two people on his property Sunday afternoon who told

him they wanted some water. He told them to go away.

Later, he heard his dog barking and went to look for the dog and spotted the two people he had told to leave. When the two started to run away, he shot one of them in the leg.

Blackwood was arrested at 1:30 p.m. Sunday and was later released from custody after posting bond.

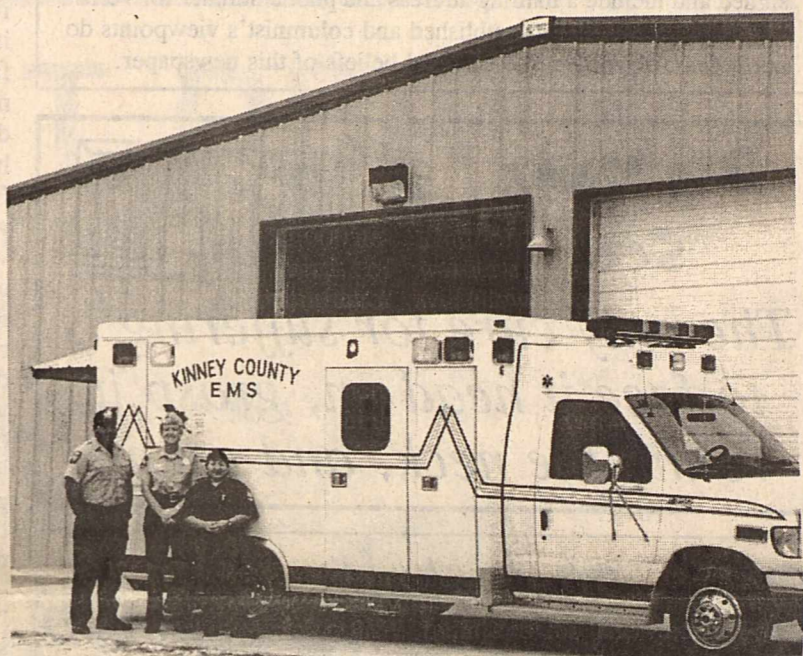
## Open house set June 1 at new EMS building

By Diana Gonzales  
Brackett News Editor

Kinney County's EMS facility should be ready by June 1 when an open house is planned.

The facility, behind the Nutrition Center on Ellen Street, was

Though the facility will be open June 1, Rutherford said plans are for the community to "get used to the facility and to us being here." So, instead of celebrating EMS Week which is actually this week, Brackettville EMS will celebrate



**Standing in front of the new EMS building are from left, Jim Ortiz, part-time employee from Del Rio, Carolyn Rutherford, EMS director, and Michelle Rust.**

not due to open until August. "It will be ready two months ahead of schedule, and (EMS) is so grateful," added Carolyn Rutherford, EMS director.

Plans for the new EMS building - total cost: \$281,000 - date back at least four years.

Bids on the construction were opened at a Sept. 2, 1999 Kinney County Commissioners' Court meeting. The low bid was from Hill Construction Co. in Del Rio. Hill later adjusted the bid with a change order in the amount of \$52,880. That move brought down the original bid from \$333,850 to \$281,000.

Groundbreaking was Feb. 14.

Funding for the EMS building came from a Texas Community Development block grant totalling \$240,995, explained Cordelia P. Barlow, county auditor. When there were not enough funds to cover the cost, the county applied for and was later awarded a Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs grant totalling \$113,611.

In addition, at the May 8 Commissioners' Court meeting, County Judge Herb Senne informed the Court of a \$2,000 donation from the city of Brackettville and subcontractor O.V. Casey of Uvalde for the new EMS facility to pay for a water line to the meter (labor, trenching, pipes) from El Paso Street to the northwest corner of the EMS building.

EMS Week next month - the week of June 12. That week, numerous activities are planned at the facility, including CPR classes and a bike rodeo. "We'll have something going on every day or every evening," she said.

At the June 1 open house, visitors will be taken on a tour of the facility.

The new building includes: "three bay areas with extra room behind us so we can actually pull out the stretchers, and we have drain areas so that in bad weather we can actually hose down the units.

"There's also a disinfectant area. We deal with blood, vomit and urine and other bad stuff that can make other people sick. So, because of that, federal law requires that we have a way of disposing of it safely. We'll collect (in the disinfectant area), we'll disinfect our tools and our other reusable here.

"If we have an employee who has been exposed, maybe gotten some blood on him or something, and needs to shower, he or she can use the shower here. That way, this is designated for just that kind of waste. We'll have a washer and dryer in the area that will allow us to clean blankets and other things. Also, over the disinfectant area, there will be extra supplies and there will be handrails installed so we can get to the supplies."

Continued on Page 8

also members of the Essex police force.

The trio is involved in a sponsored cycle ride across the United States to raise funds and to further the Rotary objective of improving international relationships and awareness. Funds from the project will go toward improving the quality of life for the people in Rotary District 3000, Southern

India and for The Rotary Foundation.

Burman and Pike were the cyclists; Brunning followed them in a vehicle, for safety reasons. They are paying for all their personal expenses and disbursements.

They started the trip May 1 in Florida, where "we dipped the bicycle wheels in the Atlantic

Continued on Page 8

Christianity or conservatism

Let it be known! Mr. Steven R. LaMascus is not the voice of Christianity. I thought it might be meaningful for some to know that there are Christians in Brackettville who believe that speaking for God is a calling which calls for fear and trembling not arrogance. When I step in the pulpit on Sunday mornings and bring the word of God to folks, it is always done with a prayer that God use my scriptural study, my words and my presentation to His best use. I know I can't presume that every time I speak it is the only "truth" for I am human. I don't always hear God's voice in a crisp, clear way and I know that the Bible I use for my resource, in its many translations, is the very best of scholarly attempts to approximate the meaning of Hebrew, Greek and Aramaic words whose absolute meanings were lost long ago. I am prepared to be God's instrument of truth.

I always disagree with his associating "Christianity" with "conservatism" which I believe is nothing more than a pseudonym for his political agenda.

Mr. LaMascus' rhetoric is quite often filled with judgmental and arrogant claims like those he wrote with dripping sarcasm on April 6th. The words enlightened and liberal are interchangeable with Christian and responsible. If you are a Christian you are... For the record, I have no argument with his claim that television fare is not appropriate for viewing by children because of too much violence and sex. And, I am quite confident that Mr. LaMascus is a Christian who is passionate about his beliefs. However, I find it Pharisaic that he believes he can speak for God in such absolute terms as he separates "Christians" from "liberals." As I understand Matthew 25:31-46, it is Jesus who will sit in judgment, separating the sheep from the goats, not Steven R. LaMascus.

Interestingly, I sometimes find myself in agreement with Mr. LaMascus. Most of the time I admire his passion for his faith. But,

Rev. Ken F. Sellers Jr.  
First United Methodist Church



The First Amendments

The Way I See It  
By Steven R. LaMascus

I must assume that the Bill of Rights, defined as the first ten amendments to the constitution, were penned in the order that the representatives thought were most important to the security and welfare of the country. We must remember that at the time this wonderful document was written we had just won our freedom from England in a bloody and painful war. We had only a few years previously been forced to bow to the edicts of an unreasonable ruler and the constitutional convention representatives were striving to produce a document that would prevent recurrences of such abuses of power forever. They were trying to guarantee our freedoms and give us the tools to protect those freedoms against all enemies, both foreign and domestic.

The first amendment says: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for redress of grievances."

Now, tell me; where in that beautiful, poignant statement does it say that there must be a separation of church and state?

Can't find it, huh? Well, neither could I. In fact, what it really says is that the government shall make no laws, that means none - not any, prohibiting the free exercise of my religion. That means folks, that when the government says we can't have a prayer before a football game, or any other cotton-picking place we want to have a prayer, they and not we are violating the Constitution. It's illegal! They can't prohibit it! The only thing that amendment says is that the government cannot establish a specific national religion. It does not say, and does not mean, intend, or imply, that the government shall make no such laws unless our prayers offend someone. In fact, our forefathers did not care one whit if their prayers offended anyone. They guaranteed the right to worship - anyplace, anytime.

The second amendment to the Constitution says: "A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed."

Now where in that statement do you find that the government has the right to ban so-called assault weapons, or any other kind of weapon? Yeah, it's not there, is it? The truth is that the Constitution guarantees the right to own exactly those kinds of weapons. The fathers of this nation did not

put that in the Bill of Rights so we could shoot cans and hunt deer. Neither does it say that the right of any militia to keep and bear arms shall not be infringed. It says, quite clearly, "the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed." That means not legislated in any way! A synonym for infringe is encroach. Encroach means "to enter by gradual steps or by stealth into the possessions or rights of others." That is exactly what is happening now, and it is undeniably illegal.

How then can the courts continue to allow such bald faced violations of the Constitution on the grounds of constitutionality?

There are two documents that I hold inviolable; the Holy Bible and the United States Constitution, and both are being eroded by idiots who claim to be upholding them.

The First and Second Amendments to the Constitution were placed first and second because those were the rights that our founding fathers felt were the most basic, the most necessary to the wellbeing of the United States. They were right then, and they are still right. If we allow any further erosion of either of those basic rights we are giving away our right to control our own destinies. Join a church of your choice, and join the NRA.

Missile Defense

Submitted by  
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Thirty eight years ago this year, 12 year old Tami Gold remembers standing in her school bathroom, putting on makeup, when an announcement was made over the loudspeaker. Students were told that there was an emergency, and that they had to get back to their home rooms right away. There, trembling teachers told them that the Soviet Union had put missiles in Cuba pointed at the United States. Years later, Tami described the fear she and her young classmates felt, "It was chilling, it was scary, it was really nauseating...Some people cried, that there was this kind of state of alarm in the country that was pretty staggering."

Millions of Americans like Tami have memories that are equally vivid. Memories that include bomb shelters in their basements, and kindergartners crouched under their desks, in drills held to teach them what to do if there was a nuclear attack.

Today, our children do not have to grow up with the burden of those memories. The Soviet Union has collapsed, and all they hear of Cuba on the nightly news is connected with a child custody battle. However, the threat of nuclear attack is still very real. Nearly four decades after the Cuban Missile Crisis, the United States still has no way of stopping a nuclear attack.

It is because of this threat that the United States needs a national missile defense system. With the support of both Congress and the president, we are in the process of developing such a system right now. This technology would allow us to blow up a missile or knock it off course before it hit the United States. A national missile defense system would provide protection against nuclear attacks launched by rogue states such as Iran or North Korea. These two countries are considered among the most likely to launch such an attack. Right now, we hope to deploy this system by 2005, and strengthen it in the years after.

Will it be easy? No. Will it be expensive? Yes. But there is no other credible option. As a country, we cannot afford to ignore the threats that still exist in our world. We cannot afford to endanger the future of our children, or our nation.

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. Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

**Big Mama Sez!**

The only cure for suffering is to face it head on, grasp it round the neck, and use it.

The Brackett News

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Capitol Comment  
By Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

The ability to find and hire good teachers is a key ingredient for success in any school system. But in Texas and other rapidly growing states, this is a real problem. And it is particularly vexing for small and medium-sized school districts without the deep talent pool of teachers from which to draw that larger metropolitan areas enjoy.

The Senate recently passed my proposal to address this shortage.

A few years ago a textbook case of this situation arose in Greenville, a town with a population of about 35,000 northeast of Dallas. A friend of mine moved to Greenville with her husband. She majored in French in college and had taught French at a private school before her marriage. Once settled in Greenville, she was eager to go back to the classroom and teach French. Greenville High School, which could not offer French to its students because it did not have a qualified teacher, was eager to have her. But she could not return to the work she loved because she did not have a teaching certification.

My friend had to commute 30 miles to the nearest college for two years to become certified to teach in Greenville. While she was commuting back and forth, Greenville students were denied an educational option routinely available to those in larger cities.

This type of situation is being repeated all over the country. We

should be smoothing the way for skilled professionals who want to become teachers, not putting obstacles across their path to the classroom. This is another one of those instances of applying common-sense solutions that, when explained, enjoy overwhelming support.

So when the Senate adopted an education tax relief bill in March, it included an amendment which I added that aims to reverse the critical shortage of teachers with special skills.

The program, called "Careers to Classrooms," addresses this shortage by knocking down barriers that for too long have kept some of our most talented professionals away from classrooms. It encourages states to grant an alternative, expedited teaching certification to professionals who have a demonstrated competence in the appropriate subjects.

This frees the professionals who might want to teach from the lengthy and traditional licensing requirements that have discouraged so many. The subject areas outlined in the legislation include science, mathematics, computers and languages - the very subjects our students need to master in order for the United States to continue to be successful in increasingly competitive world markets. In addition, if they desire, states can deem other subject areas critical and pave the way for easier teacher entry into the classroom to meet their individual school systems' needs.

Careers to Classrooms actually expands on a successful Defense

Department program, called "Troops to Teachers," that encourages retired military and other defense professionals with substantial career experience to enter the classroom and teach. This program already has placed more than 500 new teachers in Texas, and more than 3,000 nationwide. The same pool of talent and skills that fuels our world class economy and military can do the same for schools across the country. We want to build on that positive example.

The Senate has taken an important step toward providing parents and school districts with more options - and greater access to the best minds the nation has to offer. We have people who retire at

the age of 55 (or even 35) from high-tech companies, or home-makers who decided not to continue their careers when they had children but who are experts in French or Spanish or computer technology, whose talents are badly needed in our schools. Their presence can mean the difference between mediocrity and excellence in America's schools.

There is no more important issue facing our country than ensuring that our public schools prepare our children for the challenges of the next century. The more first-rate education options we can offer them, the better chance all children in America will have to reach their full potential.

Your Representatives

U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Phil Gramm, 370 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510, 1-202-224-3121

U.S. Senator  
The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison, 283 Russell Building Washington, D.C. 20510, 1-202-224-5922

Congressman 23rd District  
The Honorable Henry Bonilla, 110 E. Broadway, Del Rio, Texas 78840 1-830-774-6547

Governor  
The Honorable George W. Bush, Box 12428, Austin, Texas 78711,m., 1-800-252-9600, 1-512-463-2000, Fax: 1-512-463-7397

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

# City political life begins anew Work continues on new pharmacy

**Mayor's Report**  
By Carmen M. Berlanga

On May 12 City political life begins anew with the 2000-2002 sworn council.

No action items were presented at the May 9 meeting. The votes were canvassed. The annual audit is again delayed due to retirement of the former auditor, sale of his business, and transition period. April 11 minutes, the Rain Enhancement Program presented, with facts and figures, a proposal to form their own local program and concentrate cloud seeding in Kinney County only. Suggestion was made that the trappers' predators money be transferred to the Rain Enhancement Program. No comments made by the council. No official action taken to date.

**UPDATES:**

KC medical Clinic, the foundation for the addition of a pharmacy started the week of May 8. Local people will be hired for the construction. Pico has offered any and all salvageable material from the to be demolished B&S building. The Memorial Clinic Committee's goal is to provide a pharmacy for our people especially for those who do not have the ways and means of transportation to procure their medication from out of town.

Nutrition Center, to close or not to close is the question. As usual, money is the problem. A little history is required to understand this situation as it stands as of April 26. June and July 1999, Texas Department of Aging and Texas Department of Human Services informed and instructed each individual nutrition center directors of the USDA consolidated unit rate for reimbursement of the number of meals provided. To be complied with by Oct. 1, 1999. October and November finalization and explicit letters from

TDoA, bottom line, no contract, no reimbursement. Two out of nine counties complied, Uvalde and Kinney.

December and March, 3 and 6 months into the fiscal year, the non-compliance counties' clamor was "Where is our money?" TDoA responded, "What money? No contract, no reimbursement."

The six months of non-reimbursement resulted and instigated the most irate Maverick County Judge to threaten many other future benefits throughout the 9 county region including our "Gentlemen's Agreement" on grants. Should Maverick County prevail, and upset the base nutritional financial support, all the other 8 counties will be severely affected to the extent of closure. Judges from our respective counties met with Maverick's county judge, May 3, to request leaving the pro-rata methodology as is. Results of this meeting will be provided as soon as I have something official.

Speaking of grants, this year the city of Brackettville is due the Community Development Block Grant under the MRGDC Gentlemen's Agreement to be implemented 2001. Update as soon as possible.

The local Emergency Planning Committee is in full force. Bylaws approved and standing committees established. As per May 1 meeting, one of the priorities is to install the county road 911 addressing signs with the assistance of the highway department.

KC Extension Service, April 12, the attempt is to encourage more Hispanic youth participation into this program, not necessarily agriculture, but other activities. Suggestions and ideas to encourage participation were presented, discussed, and certainly, more are welcomed. Progress on the Youth Center Building, land provided,

financing pending.

KC Workforce Career Center, April 5, Texas Workforce Commission, emphasis is now on "School to Career" year round programs. Due to the fact that JTPA has been phasing out since 1996, last minute decision to have the program is based on funding availability. As of May 11, the word is yes, there will be a summer youth program this year, thanks to the efforts of the MRGDC Workforce Board.

Adobe's landfill application for permit remains an active entanglement among Federal, State and Local Government Codes and Statutes. The latest, April 14, TNRC Legal Division to TNRC Commissioners: "The Executive Director maintain his position that the Administrative Law Judge should continue to abate these proceedings because Adobe does not currently comply with 30 Texas Administrative Code (TAC) 305.5(2). The Executive Director recommends that ALJ in this matter continue to abate these proceedings until Adobe and the County resolve the issue whether the filing of local permits by Adobe triggers the provision in 245.002, Local Government Code and affects the ability of the County to enforce its ordinance."

Work continues on the Kinney County Memorial Clinic's new pharmacy at the United Medical Center, reports Alfred Pena, Clinic Committee president.

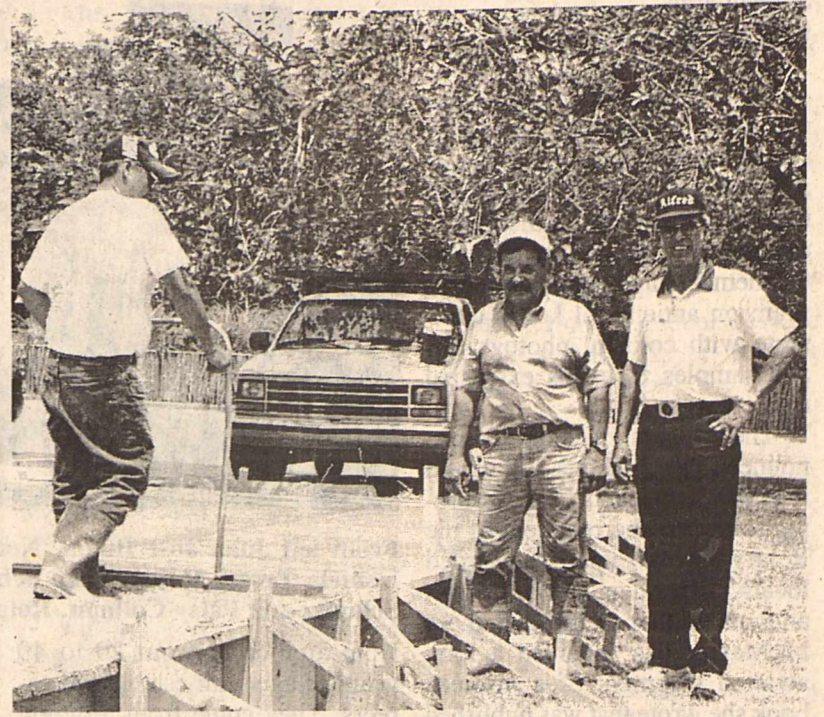
Pablo Segura is the contractor responsible for the walls and foundation, Russell Williams is in charge of the electricity, plumbing and the inside ceiling and Peter Perez is working on the roofing.

"Thanks also to Henry Fuentes for drawing up the floor plans. I also want to thank the city officials for all the things they have done for the United Medical Clinic Committee," said Pena.

In March, Tom McNew represented the Clinic Committee at a Kinney County Commissioners' Court meeting.

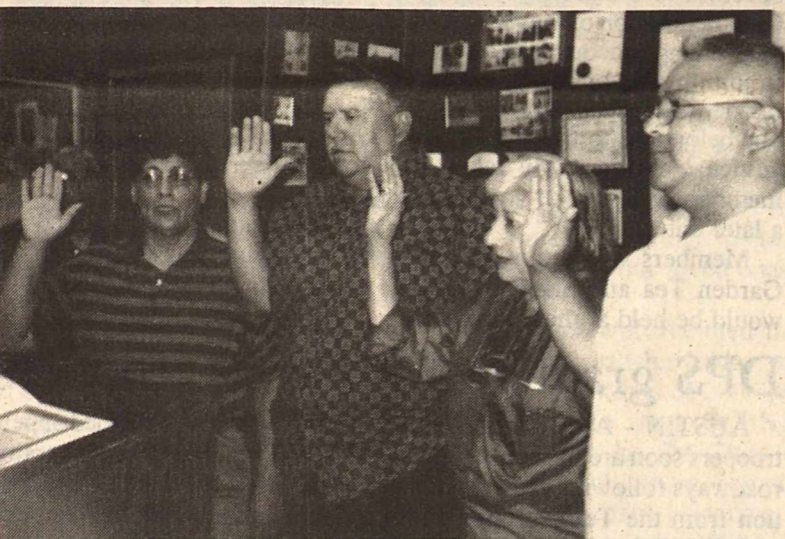
McNew informed the Court that the Committee had voted to expand the Clinic, specifically to house the clinic pharmacy owned and operated by B.E. Sweet.

McNew said Sweet would rent the space - 640 square feet - from



From left: Bruno Flores, Pablo Segura and Alfred Pena. Photo by Jewel Robinson

the Committee for the pharmacy. The Kinney County Memorial Clinic Committee is comprised of members appointed by local government entities, local organizations and churches.



Taking the oath of office recently were from left, Alderwoman Tencha Pena, Alderman Ralph Gonzalez, Mayor Carmen Berlanga, and John Samaniego.

## Kinney County Sheriff's Report ...

**Tuesday, May 9**  
A deputy noticed that there was some broken glass in front of the tax office building on Ann Street. A city employee was informed and later picked up the glass and cleaned the area.

**Wednesday, May 10**  
11:10 a.m., Toms, Barron Xavier, age 20 of Brackettville, was arrested based on a Department of Safety warrant that originated in Uvalde. Later, he was picked up by DPS troopers from Uvalde.

1:12 p.m., Roel Rodriguez, age 45, of Cleveland, Texas was arrested for driving while intoxicated, third offense, for having no car liability insurance and for failure to identify. He remains in custody.

7:25 p.m., Department of Public Safety troopers reported that three motorists in three different vehicles had just gone past the checkpoint east of Brackettville travelling at a high rate of speed. DPS troopers from Brackettville kept an eye out for the speeding motorists and stopped two of the vehicles.

10:21 p.m., A local resident reported that a motorist was speeding on First Street and that there were juvenile pedestrians in the area. A deputy went to the scene but found nothing.

**Thursday, May 11**  
5:56 a.m., A Val Verde Sheriff's Office worker reported that she had received a 911 call about a truck hitting a tree about

25 miles out of Del Rio on Highway 277. EMS responded to the scene.

11:15 a.m., A local man said that something, probably a dog, had killed 8 Angora kids on his property and three lambs in the next pasture. Damage was estimated at \$315.

**Friday, May 12**  
A local woman asked deputies to go to her house and see whether it was safe to enter. She said that when she arrived at her residence, she noticed that a light was on at her house and that no one was supposed to be at that residence.

**Saturday, May 13**  
10:15 p.m., Two cows were spotted across from a ranch off of Highway 90. The owner of the livestock was informed and he said he would go take care of the cows.

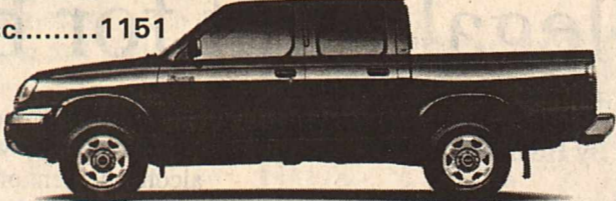
12:44 p.m., A local man asked deputies to help him get electricity back on in his hunting camp. He said if electricity was not restored soon, he would lose all the meat products in his freezer.

12:44 p.m., A stranded motorist was seen approximately one mile west of Elm Creek on Highway 90. Deputies went to investigate.

**Sunday, May 14**  
12:10 p.m., A local resident reported that he has a baby fox and does not know what to do with it. Deputies left a message on the game warden's voice mail and went to the man's residence to check on the situation.

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| <p><b>2000 MAXIMA GXE</b></p> <p>MSRP.....21569<br/>Brown Disc.....1574<br/>#8410</p>  <p>Now <b>\$19,995*</b></p>  | <p><b>2000 PATHFINDER XE</b></p> <p>MSRP.....26919<br/>Brown Disc.....3924<br/>#8584</p>  <p>Now <b>\$22,995*</b></p>   |

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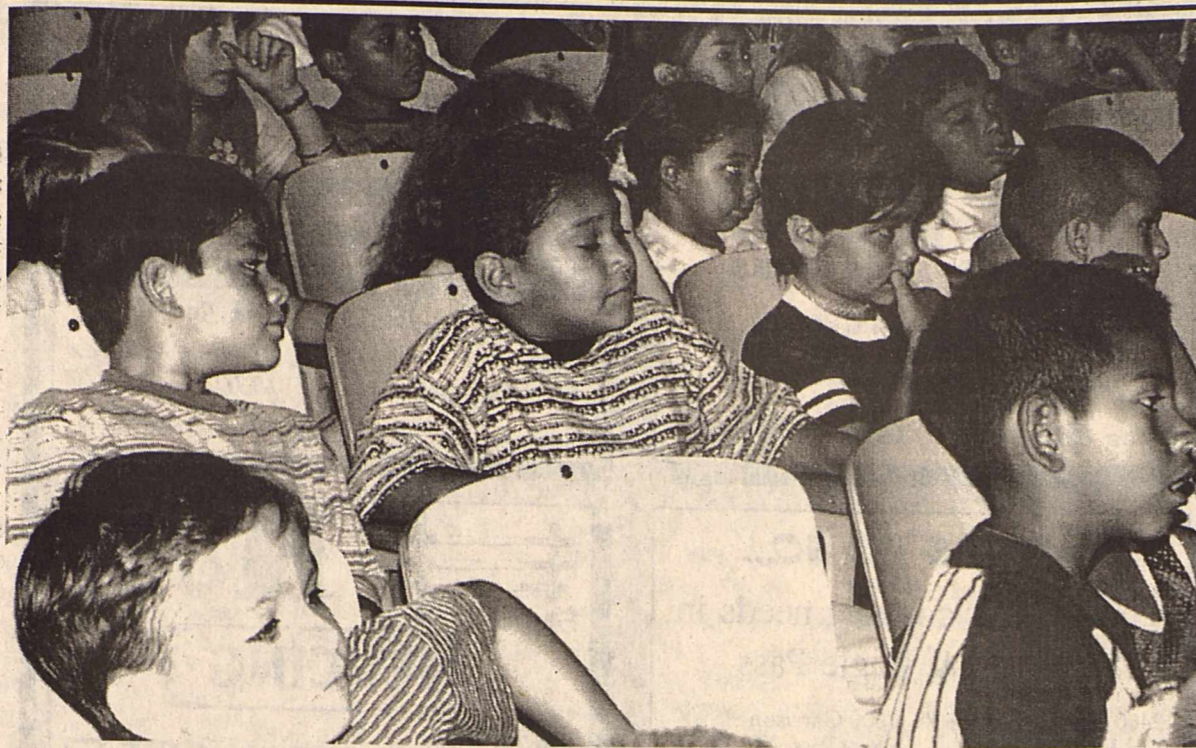
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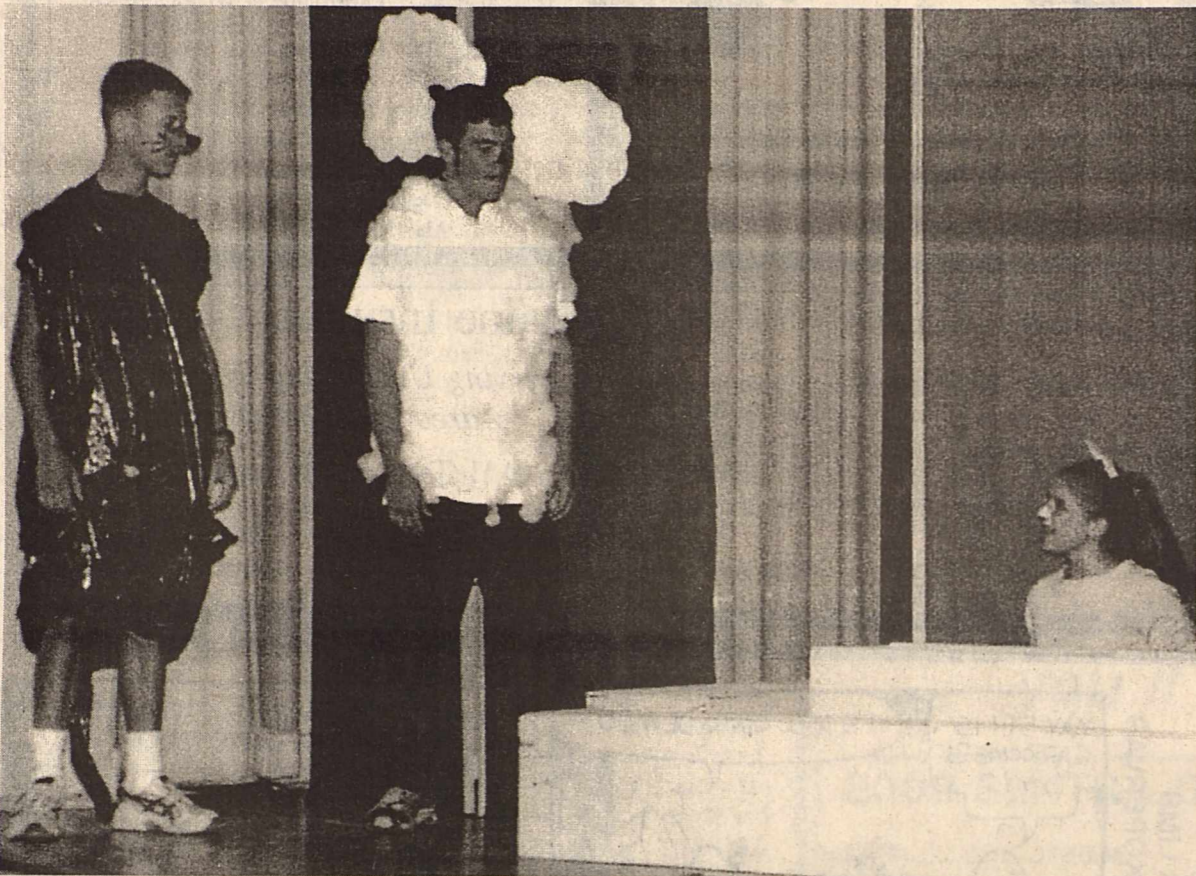
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Jones Elementary School students, above photo, were treated to a presentation of "Charlotte's Web," last Friday performed by Brackett High School Theater Arts students (photo below). Performers were Michelle Bizzell, Lee Davis, Tara Eckenrod, Duquesa Hunt, Cindy Jennings, Tina Luna, Jamie Montalvo, Seth Moore, Ariel Paloma, Dustin Slubar, Damian Toms and John Wylie. The play was directed by Kaylia Thomas, Theater Arts teacher. (Photos by Diana Gonzales)



## Last day of school is Friday, May 26!

**Making a Difference**  
By Taylor Stephenson

Bring on the last week of school! As the weather gets warmer and those folks who have been here since August begin to dream of vacation time, I am echoing their sentiments of bring it on! It has been a fine year filled with achievement and fun. Our last day of school is Friday, May 26.

### Positive role models

One of the neat events of the year was a presentation of "Charlotte's Web" by Kaylia Thomas' Theatre Arts Class. The high school class presented a fun version of this classic to elementary students and staff. Thanks Mrs. Thomas and high school for a job well done. So much can be learned by having high school students be positive role models for the little ones. We have great kids in Brackettville. I hope to see more of this type of activity.

### Memorial benches

The memorial benches have all arrived in Brackettville. They have been spread around the campuses and students use them on a daily basis. The landscape committee is trying to determine where we can place more of these

benches if more are donated. It's this type of donation or one for trees or flowers that helps beautify our campus. Don't forget the school library also is a great place to memorialize your loved ones.

### Senior trip

Our seniors will take their traditional senior trip this Friday and Saturday. This Class of 2000 has only one more week at BHS. They'll always be the Class of 2000. We all wish them well and thank them for their leadership.

### Principal, librarian retiring

Don Sims will be leaving his job in Brackettville about June 1. Pauline Hilliard, school librarian, also will retire at the end of this school year. These are two very nice folks. The entire community wishes them well as they make changes in their lives.

### State testing continues

We're still testing for the state. All week long, we're giving end of high school course tests in our basic subjects of English, Algebra, Science and History. When testing goes on in Texas, it's a different day than we normally experience. The state requires oaths of all test administrators regarding the procedures and security of the tests. As a result of that requirement, there are hall monitors

and classroom administrators and folks checking out tests to the folks who give them.

Wow! Do you ever wonder how we learned without all of this testing and security? Maybe it was because teachers were allowed to teach in those "olden days." In Texas on test days, more than half of the school teachers give tests on those days when their campuses get chosen to give tests!

Don't misunderstand. Our students do extremely well on the state tests. I think we could better prepare kids for life if we didn't have to give so many days to prove that we are teaching the state curriculum. As a teacher, I wanted to teach. Any change that took my students away irritated me profusely. Today, we don't have a choice. Test for TEA, the legislature, the governor??? Maybe the next generation can figure out this dilemma. That's about it. I don't really feel negative about the tests. We teach our curriculum, test and smile when the test results come home. I do think that students would be much better prepared if teachers were allowed to teach more days. Every day, come to class. We can teach you. Enough! Have a great week!

## Top high school athletes honored

Students who excelled in various sports during the school year were honored recently at an Athletic Awards ceremony at Brackett High School.

Award winners included: Steven Hagler, All-Around Athlete, Most Valuable Football Player, Most Valuable Player (Special Teams), Most Valuable Player (Basketball); and Most Valuable Player (Track).

Coty Williams and Steven Hagler, Most Valuable Players (Linemen); Jesse Hidalgo, Most Valuable Player (Running Back); Sam Hunt, Most Valuable Player (Receiver).

Jaime Ortiz, Most Valuable Player (Linebacker); Zach Davis, Most Valuable Player (Defensive Back); Damien Toms and Jared Hobbs, Most Improved Players (Basketball); Jacob Hughes, Fight-

ing Heart Award (Basketball).

Tommy Sandoval, Zach Davis, Most Valuable Players (Baseball); John Wylie and Daniel Hernandez, Most Improved Players; Alex DeLeon, Baseball Hustle; Thomas Crow, Most Improved Player (Track).

James Burks, Most Valuable Player (Cross Country); Isaac Gutierrez, Most Improved Cross Country; Jarrett Harrison, Most Valuable Player (Golf); Chase Neuman, Most Consistent Golfer.

Schiller Hill and Chris Petrosky, Most Valuable Players (Tennis); Levi Duncan, Most Improved Player (Tennis). James Burks, Scholar Athlete.

Tigerettes Sports Awards were presented to:

Duquesa Hunt, All Around Athlete; Queta Garza, Tigerette (Ronnie Armbruster); Laura Lee

Ballew, Scholar Athlete; Volleyball: Laura Lee Ballew, Most Improved; Erika Garcia, Michelle Melancon, Most Valuable Players.

Cross Country: Brittany Shewbart, Most Improved; Duquesa Hunt, Most Valuable Player; Basketball: Queta Garza, Most Improved; Duquesa Hunt, Most Valuable Player.

Track: Tammy Smith, Most Improved Player; Duquesa Hunt, Melinda Villarreal, Most Valuable Players; Softball: Queta Garza, Most Improved, Erika Garcia, Most Valuable Player; Tennis: Tara Eckenrod, Most Improved, Brittany Shewbart, Most Valuable Player; Golf: Tiffany Eckenrod, Most Consistent Player, Laura Lee Ballew, Most Valuable Player.

## Students recognized for academic excellence

Outstanding students at Brackett Secondary School were recognized last week during a Spring Awards Program.

Honorees were:

**Border Patrol Award:** Jeffrey Luna and Laura Lee Ballew,  
**Veterans of Foreign Wars Voice of America Award:** Laura Lee Ballew,  
**Scholar Athletes:** Laura Lee Ballew, Zack Davis.

**Perfect Attendance Awards:** David Campos, Levi Duncan, Sarah Gammill, Monica Hernandez, Duquesa Hunt, Jerritt Meeks, John Mulvaine

**All A Honor Roll students:** 9th Grade: Maria Martinez; 10th Grade: Duquesa Hunt and T.D. Smith; 11th Grade: Schiller Hill; 12th Grade: Jamie Bader, Laura Lee Ballew, James Burks and Jerritt Meeks.

**A and B Honor Roll students:** 9th Grade: Jared Hobbs, Megan McWilliams, Coshena Meyer, Elizabeth Threadgill, Tammy Smith; 10th Grade: Michelle Bizzell, Lee Davis, Susannah Davis, Levi Duncan, Sarah Gammill, Erica Gloria, Stephanie Gomez, Migdalia Gonzalez, Candace Ingram, Erica Meyer, Rodolfo Ramirez, Isela Ramon, Juan Rivas, Amanda Ward, Brandi Wilson, Asa York; 11th Grade: April Crumley, Leslie Meyer, Manuel Morin, Chris Petrosky, Brittany Shewbart; 12th Grade: Steven Hagler, Daniel Hernandez, Jacob Hughes, Sunni Jones, Barkley Simmons, Tiffany Eckenrod, Zach Davis and Seth Moore.

**Presidential Fitness Awards - 3.5 grade point average (GPA) or better:** Laura Lee Ballew, James Burks, Zack Davis, Jamie Bader, Jerritt Meeks, Tiffany Eckenrod, Jacob Hughes, Sunni Jones, Steven Hagler, Daniel Hernandez, Latoya Wright, Seth Moore, Donald Page.

**University Interscholastic League Awards:** Laura Lee Ballew, James Burks, Zach Davis, Jamie Bader.

**Honor Medallions: (4.0 grade point average or better):** Jacob Hughes, Tiffany Eckenrod, Jerritt Meeks, Jamie Bader, Laura Lee Ballew, 4.6522 GPA; James Burks, 4.5834 GPA.

**National Honor Society:** Jamie Bader, Laura Lee Ballew, James Burks, Zack Davis, Tara Eckenrod, Steven Hagler, Daniel Hernandez, Jacob Hughes, Sunni Jones, Jerritt Meeks, Latoya Wright. Mrs. Brandt's students: Accounting - Barkley Simmons; Accounting II - Eric Allen; Banking and Financial Systems: Michelle Bizzell; BCIS I - Elizabeth Threadgill, Isela Ramon, Erica Meyer; BCIS II - B'Ann Gomez, Brandi Wilson; Introduction to Business - Michelle Bizzell; Word Processing - Brandi Wilson.

**Academic Awards:**  
Mrs. Crumley's students: Integrated Physics and Chemistry - Maria Martinez; AP Chemistry - James Burks; Chemistry I - Duquesa Hunt; AP Biology - Brittany Shewbart; Physics - Carrissa De Los Santos.

Mrs. Wilkins' students: Algebra I - Doug Sanchez; Algebra II - Brittany Shewbart and Erica Meyer; Pre-Calculus - Zach Davis; Calculus - Schiller Hill.

Mrs. Ballew's students: Geometry - Brittany Moore Tammy Smith, Maria Martinez; Algebra I - Megan McWilliams; Math Review - David Campos; Certificate: Juan Hildalgo.

Mr. Yeager's student: Algebra I - Terrell Freeman.

Mr. Brotherton's students: English I - Megan McWilliams, Elizabeth Threadgill, Maria Martinez.

Mrs. Curry's students: English II - Michelle Bizzell, T.D. Smith, Duquesa Hunt; Creative Writing - La Toya Wright; Research and Technical Writing - Steven Hagler; English IV - Steven Hagler, Seth Moore, Coty Williams.

Mrs. Thomas' students: Yearbook - Tiffany Eckenrod; Theater Arts - Duquesa Hunt; English III - Queta Garza, Laura Martinez, Lee Davis; Reading Improvement - David Campos.

Mr. Thomas' students: Health - Tara Eckenrod, Lee Davis.

Mrs. Bader's students: U.S. History - Amanda Cruz, Tammy Smith, Carrissa De Los Santos; Art History: Erica Meyer, Heather Martin.

Mrs. Harris' students: Food Science and Nutrition - Carl Dalton, Kakine Breen; Preparation Parenting - Sunnie Jones; Apparel - Queta Garza; Personal Family Development - Monica Morin; Textile Design - Candace Ingram; Food Science and Technology - Theresa Ryan, Stephanie Samaniego; Child Development - Michelle Clements.

Mr. Ramon's students: World Geology - Erica Meyer, Barkley Simmons; Advanced Social Sciences - Eric Allen; World History - Ariel Palomo, Rudy Ramirez.

Mr. Wilkins' students: Vocational Adjustment - Dianalee Carrizales, Joseph Luna; Horticulture - Sammy Flores; Home Maintenance - Tommy Sandoval, Santos Buitron.

Mr. Frerich's students: Biology - Amanda Ward, Megan McWilliams, Maria Martinez; Environmental Systems - Laura Martinez, Elizabeth Threadgill; Agriculture 333 - Josh Mulvaine; Agriculture 332 - Daniel Hernandez.

Mr. Nowlin's students: Spanish I - Erica Gloria and Duquesa Hunt; Spanish II - Maria Martinez, Anna Talamantez.

### Thank You!

For all the cards, calls, flowers and food we received during the loss of our loved one.

The Family of Antonio Pena



**BISD**  
Activity Calendar



May 18-24

Thursday, May 18  
Jones Elementary Field Day

Friday, May 19  
2:30 p.m., Junior High Awards Assembly, Cafeteria  
Jones Elementary Field Day

Senior Trip, San Antonio  
Saturday, May 20  
7:30 p.m.-10 p.m., End of Year Dance for Junior High, Cafeteria

Monday, May 22  
7 p.m., High School Spring Band Concert, TBA  
Wednesday, May 24  
8 a.m. to 11 a.m., Pre-kindergarten graduation

Safety Tip of the Week:

Watch where you step! Sidewalks can be slick when wet.

## MAIN EVENT SALE!!!

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 AH DON'T THINK SO, WILLY RAY... AH DON'T THINK SO.  
 PORKUPINE

**OUT ON A LIMB by GARY KOPERVAS**  
 MAY 5TH IS CARTOONISTS DAY!  
 IT'S ALSO CINCO DE MAYO!  
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| 65 |    |    |    |    |    |    |   | 66 |    |    |    | 67 |    |

**ACROSS**  
 1. Gossip Barrett  
 5. Clumsy person  
 9. English counts  
 14. Squeezes by  
 15. Opposed; prefix  
 16. Belonging to them  
 17. Partiality  
 18. Run Silent Run  
 19. Lucy's hair secret  
 20. Rooftop items  
 22. Joined (up)  
 24. Wind dir.  
 25. Bereft, poetically  
 26. Boxes of model airplanes, e.g.  
 28. Brood  
 29. Pro  
 33. Part of BMOG  
 34. Scientific suffix  
 36. Kind of bureau  
 38. Saracen  
 40. City burned in 1864  
 41. Review boards  
 42. Poet's inspiration  
 43. Long time  
 44. Correction canceler  
 45. Drain problem  
 47. Mystery writer John Dickson  
 49. Like a 19th-century beauty  
 50. Polo Grounds hero

**DOWN**  
 1. Country's McEntire  
 2. Dust Bowl migrant  
 3. At hand  
 4. Hockey stat  
 5. Scoop soup  
 6. Washington bills  
 7. Four-wheel-drive vehicle, for short  
 8. A-one  
 9. Hawke of Before Sunrise  
 10. Throat sound  
 11. Russo of Get Shorty  
 12. Barnum employee  
 13. Mrs., in Madrid  
 21. Attack violently  
 23. Constructs  
 25. \_\_\_ Altos  
 26. Gold measurement  
 27. Vapid  
 28. 60 secs.  
 29. Genetic component; abbr.  
 30. He played Lou Grant  
 31. Dr. Pangloss's job  
 32. Wise \_\_\_ owl (2 wds.)  
 33. Glove compartment items  
 35. Reprobate  
 37. Opts  
 39. Speculate  
 40. Summer mo.  
 42. Bartender on The Simpsons  
 46. Camels' cousins  
 48. Welcome command  
 49. Displays, as test scores  
 50. Take to the dais  
 51. What "Open sesame" opened  
 52. Applies  
 53. Chipper  
 54. Med. school course  
 55. Void's partner  
 56. Molecule component  
 57. Throws  
 58. "Alley \_\_\_"  
 60. Geisha's wear

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**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

|                             |                             |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| May 18...Jania Finkenbinder | May 22...Bo Hagler          |
| May 19...Nelda Archer       | May 22...Ruben Talamantez   |
| May 19...Reyes Diaz         | May 22...Demitreus Williams |
| May 19...Sam Hunt           | May 23...Mike Bizzell       |
| May 19...Maria A. Martinez  | May 24...Bernie Allemeir    |
| May 19...William Patenaude  | May 24...Willie Allemeir    |
| May 20...Billie Story       | May 24...Lorenza Guajardo   |
| May 21...Francel Nelson     | May 24...Esteban M. Pena    |

**HOROSCOPES**

**Aries March 21- April 20**  
 Stay away from the gossip mill at work. It will only end up hurting you if you let yourself be drawn in. Be confident in your ideas and beliefs. They'll take you far. A family member has some good advice for you. Don't shrug it off.

**Taurus April 21-May 21**  
 Someone at work may not be the ally he/she is trying to make themselves out to be. Watch your back and keep original ideas to yourself for the time being. Keep in mind the old adage, "You get what you pay for."

**Cancer June 22-July 22**  
 Don't let some unrealistic romantic expectations end up making you lonely and disappointed. As you have been told before, you are different, but your unique ideas are a refreshing change. Don't hide your one-of-a-kind qualities.

**Leo July 23-August 23**  
 You have a desire to please others. Don't get taken advantage of. You don't need everyone's approval. Stand up for your own ideas. Some re-decorating should be on the agenda. It would be the perfect outlet for your creativity.

**Virgo August 24-Sept. 22**  
 Trust an old friend to be a true ally. You can really count on his/her support. Your shiny outlook on life seems to be fading. What is the problem? Work through it before you get too down on yourself.

**Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23**  
 Look in the mirror. Is this the source of your problems? It's very important that you start being honest with yourself. You're not doing yourself any favors by hiding the facts. Silence is golden when it comes to a disagreement.

**Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22**  
 Work problems weigh heavily on you all week. Count on your partner for support and ideas to deal with the situation. Help is on the way for a family problem. Keep your ears open, and hope for the best.

**Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21**  
 An idea you are unveiling at work will be supported by an unlikely source. Don't be surprised if it comes with obligations, though. You cannot continue to shrug off your money problems. They will get the best of you.

**Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20**  
 Make a point to carry your share of the load. You've been making extra work for your partner, and it has put a strain on your relationship. Retro looks bring back good memories and are the perfect excuse to see old friends.

**Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18**  
 You did not make a good first impression, but you can redeem yourself with a great idea. What may sound like a great opportunity may not be what it seems. Check out the possibilities from every angle before you make a move.

**Pisces Feb. 19-March 20**  
 Be careful not to send the wrong signals at work. Some money-making ideas will be evident by midweek. Use your creative ideas to brighten a life. You have the potential to make someone feel so much better.

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