

The Brackett News

Appraisal District directors adopt budget by a 3-2 vote
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15 year, No. 28

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

County proposes 12% tax-rate increase

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Kinney County officials are proposing an 11.94 tax-rate increase. Citizens will have a chance to address the issue during a Sept. 2 public hearing.

The Commissioners Court voted 4-1 last week to place the tax-rate increase proposal on the agenda for the Sept. 8 meeting for adoption.

County Judge Herb Senne

and Commissioners Pat Melancon, Joe Montalvo and Francie Wylie voted for the measure, while Commissioner Nat Terrazas opposed.

"The proposed rate for the general fund does not come up any this year," Senne said. "The proposed rate that you see an increase in is for road and bridge. That's about a nickle per \$100 valuation."

Terrazas asked if the county could find additional revenues

to avoid raising taxes.

"There are a lot of revenue items, Nat," the judge responded. "Every one of them has been looked at in detailed during the budget workshops. The biproduct of the workshops is obviously what you see in front of you. I wish you would have been here during budget workshops. You would have not asked these kind of questions today."

Terrazas said he had prior

commitments, adding: "I think you should ask a question any time you have something to ask."

"Yes, but you need to be here at the right time and ask questions in a timely fashion," Senne said. "The motion is for a tax increase. The motion is not specific to budget, and you're asking questions about the budget."

After approving four consecutive deficit budgets, officials are facing major budget cuts this year. Melancon said "the major

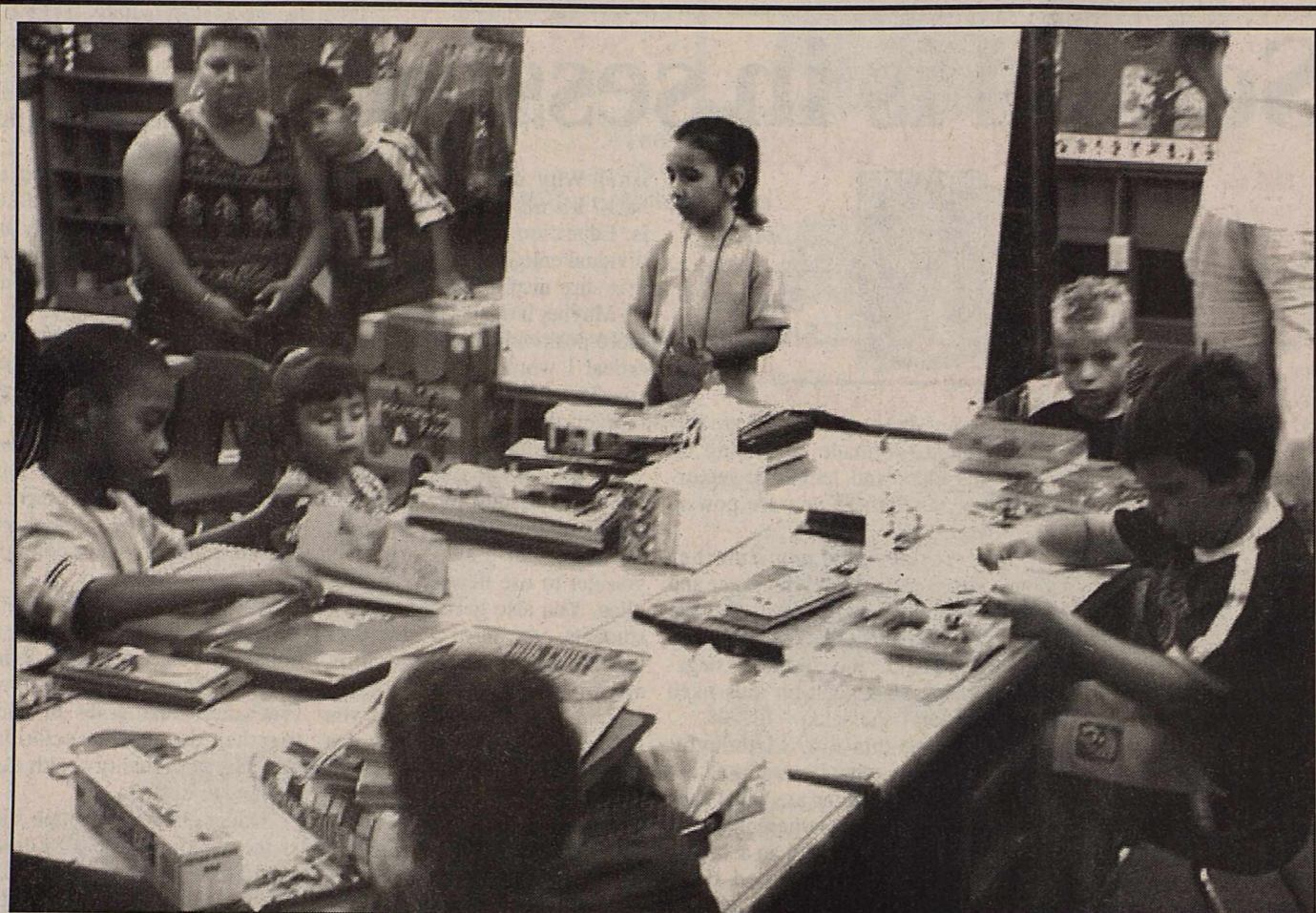
increase in the budget is 18 to 20 percent a year just in health insurance."

The commissioners pledged over \$300,000 in savings last year to balance the current budget. Officials are predicting a loss of \$196,000 at the end of this fiscal year.

"Last year, we did not balance with what we were spending," Melancon said. "We were taking what we had in savings. There's not as much in savings

this year to do the same this year."

"Where the budget is right now, we are still short \$147,000. Where do we get it? We can't go up on taxes. We have to get it somewhere. We have savings," he said. "We could balance that \$147,000, but we would be in the same boat next year with much less money," he said. "I would rather sit here and argue than be in the shape the city is in."



First day of school

Bonnie Brotherton's kindergarten students were accompanied by parents and family members on Monday as Brackett ISD held its first day of classes for the new school year.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Council to begin search for a new city secretary

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

The Brackettville City Council will soon begin searching for a city secretary. The position has been vacant since David Luna was fired in June.

The aldermen discussed filling the position Tuesday night as they had their final review of their proposed budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The council will hold a public hearing on the budget next Tuesday night at 6 at the City Annex.

The proposed budget includes a salary of \$22,500 for a city secretary. The new fiscal year doesn't begin until Oct. 1, but officials want to begin taking applications before then.

"We need a city secretary," council member Mary Flores said. "It's not so much the work here at City Hall, but we need

someone managing the employees."

The city is over \$100,000.00 in debt, and the council said they need someone to manage the city's finances.

"We're not in great shape, so they're going to have to be the one to take that load off," alderwoman Francisca "Chica" Garza said.

The council also discussed increasing the salary depending on the quality of the applicants.

"If we're going to have somebody with experience and an education, they're going to demand a bigger salary," Flores said.

Mayor Carmen Berlanga said the city's salary expenses have decreased with the reduction of employees from 15 to nine.

"We had \$409,000 in salaries, but we have bumped that down to about \$210,000," she said.

Mountain lions wreaking havoc on local livestock

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Wild game trappers have caught three mountain lions on the Moody ranch in southwest Kinney County since March and have their eyes on several more.

"There's another one that we're working on now that we've seen several times, but they just don't step in a trap right away," said Jim Voss, a trouble-shooter with the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Program. "It just doesn't happen that quick."

"I was lucky. I caught one the same night I set the trap back in March, but that's very rare. Most of the time it will take up to two months. They make a circle and it takes 30 days to make that circle."

"We're working on one in north Kinney County on the Herndon's place that's come out of Silver Lake. There have been several that have been caught out at Silver Lake."

Voss said the mountain lions, like the one he caught in March, leave their mark at local ranches.

"There were goat carcasses all over the place," he said. "People don't realize it, but the mountain lions are all over."

Voss said more and more mountains Lions are being seen each year.

"They've always been here, it's just that they seem to be getting more numerous," he said. "There are more and more sightings of them."

Coyotes and bobcats are also a problem for local ranchers.

"If we don't control them, they're not going to have any little fawn, little turkeys or little quail either," Voss said. "It's just one of those things. They're going to eat. If there are no sheep and goats to eat, they're going to eat little deer, quail and turkey."

At one time Kinney County had four full-time trappers, but that number has now been cut to two — Mark Bland and Manny Pena.

"We had four at one time. That was in the late 80s and early 90s," Voss said. "We had four trappers and then it went to three. Then it went to two, and now they're trying to go to one."

The county's predatory animal control program matches local funds with federal and state

moneys to employ the trappers.

Currently, Kinney County contributes \$25,000 to the program. But under the proposed budget, which has yet to be officially adopted, the commissioners are pledging only \$15,000.

"It's a tight budget and there are a lot of reasons for it," said County Judge Herb Senne.

The local portion of the funding for two trappers is \$43,200 annually, which includes salaries and all expenses. The county government has been contributing \$25,000 and the remainder has been paid by the Kinney County Wildlife Management Association. If the county cuts its contributions, the difference will have to be made up by the association in order to keep two

trappers.

"With any loss of funding, we're looking at a loss of personnel," said Mark Mapston, a district supervisor with the Texas Wildlife Damage Management Program. "Of course, when you do that, your services are going to have to change. One man certainly can't do the same job as two men."

Wes Robinson, a local businessman and former city council member, said the agriculture community felt the impact when the county went from three trappers to two.

"A lot of us that have been around here for a long time know how important the trapper program is to this county," Robinson said. "It's real obvious that the predators are get-

ting worse and worse."

Stan Conoly, a local rancher representing the wildlife management association, said the predators have already had an impact on the local agriculture industry.

"I know that ag is not where it once was, but part of that problem is the predators," he said. "It's really not a big problem until it's in your back yard. It's not a problem in Brackettville or Fort Clark yet, but it's not very far off. I've seen feral hogs in Fort Clark, and they multiply quite rapidly."

"If we lose one trapper, it affects the ranchers and people may leave the industry. That could also mean a loss of jobs for shearers and people who help gather."

INSIDE	
■ Tigerettes win	The Tigerettes opened their volleyball season Tuesday night with a 25-15, 25-16, 25-9 victory over LaPryor. Brackett served 89 percent. Community/Page 4
■ 4-H banquet	Tillman Davis and Hayley Harris were named the senior and junior 4-Hers of the year last Thursday at the annual Achievement Night. Community/Page 4
■ School safety	To increase safety in school zones along state highways, state officials have approved a measure expanding the hours of flashing school zone signs. Lifestyles/Page 5
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Water board to consider raising fees and tax rate today at public hearing

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Kinney County Groundwater District officials are considering raising user fees as they prepare to adopt a new budget.

The board will hold a public hearing on the district's budget, tax rate and fee schedule today at 4 at the Courthouse.

The directors voted to keep the same groundwater use fees during a special meeting Monday. The fees include \$1 per acre-foot of water per year for agriculture use and \$10 per acre-foot of water per year for all other uses.

The current permit application fees include \$200 for applications seeking 100 acre-feet of water per year or less and \$500 for more than 100 acre-feet.

Board member Darlene Shahan proposed that the district change the fees to the actual cost of processing the applications.

"It's my opinion that we need to go to a system that requires a person seeking a permit to reimburse the district for the actual expenses in processing that permit," Shahan said. "Our con-

sultant (Steve Walthour) went over the historic permit applications that are on file right now and projected the cost for the district to process those. That's what we're basing this on — the projected cost for the next year."

The district raised \$7,850 in revenues from applications through June, but the proposed budget has estimated revenues of \$45,583 for permits and fees.

"This is what this district needs to do," Shahan said. "We have the lowest tax base in the state. We set the highest tax rate that there is in the state because our tax base is so low. We don't have the tax base of Austin or San Antonio."

Wes Robinson, a local businessman, said the proposed increases for application fees is a result of the board's fiscal irresponsibility.

"The taxpayers and the users are not the ones that decided to spend more money than they had budgeted," Robinson told the directors Monday.

"We didn't make the decisions to spend \$150,000 in attorney fees. We didn't make the decision to spend \$16,000 to

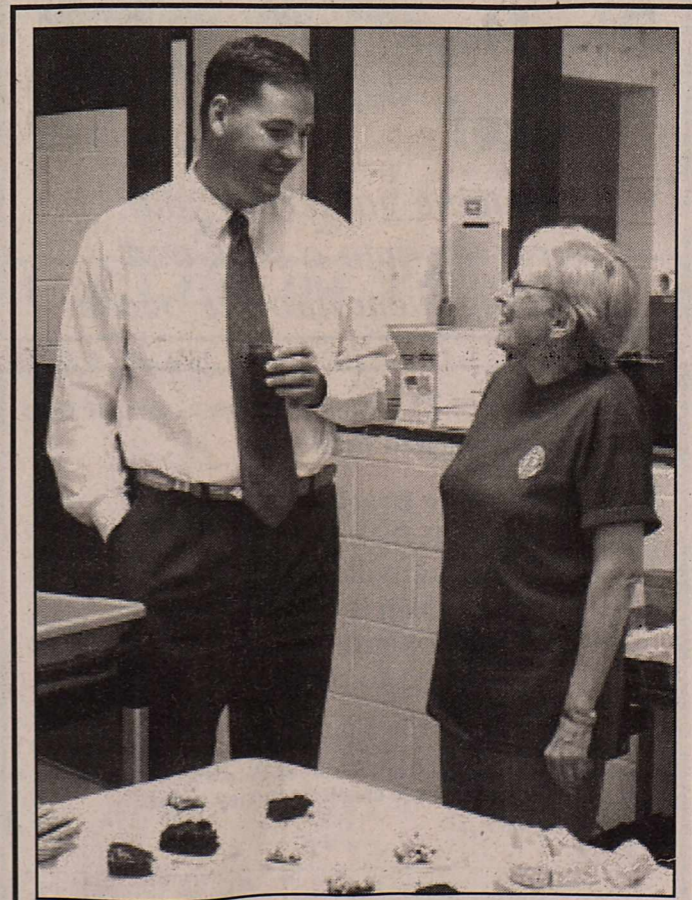
\$17,000 for a consultant when part of the services were offered for free. We didn't make the decision to turn down a \$250,000 groundwater survey. The board did that."

"The conversation probably shouldn't be about raising fees, it should be about cutting your expenses," he added.

The directors only budgeted \$9,000 for professional fees for the current fiscal year, but through the month of June has spent \$40,692.18, which includes \$33,060.33 for attorney Brian Sledge of the Austin law firm Lloyd, Gosslink, Blevins, Rochelle, Baldwin and Townsend, \$6,131.85 in consultant fees for Walthour and \$1,500 for the auditing firm of Coleman, Horton and Associates of Uvalde.

In addition, the district's Aug. 6 balance sheet shows liabilities of \$120,000 for legal fees and \$8,150 for consulting fees.

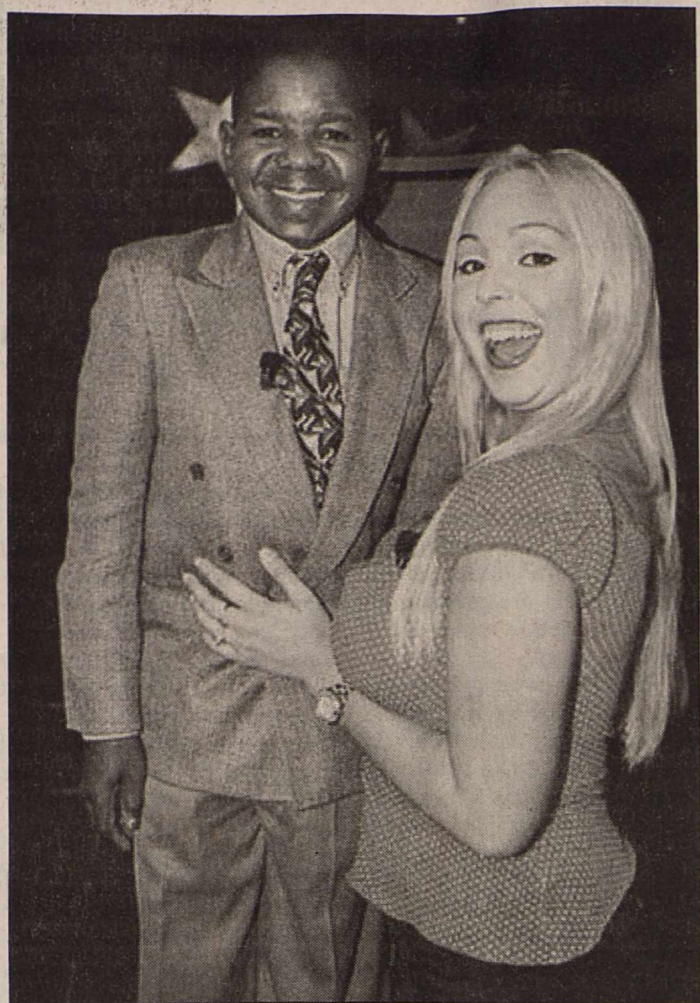
Shahan also suggested that the district charge \$35 for existing exempt well registration. Currently there is no charge to register an exempt well.



Lions host luncheon

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Brackett ISD superintendent Bobby Templeton (left) visits with Mary Dixon, president of the Lions Club. The local club hosted a luncheon Friday for the school district's faculty and staff.



The next governor? Photo Special to The Brackett News
Actor Gary Coleman and porn star Mary Carey, candidates running in the California recall election, appear during a press conference Friday to announce the Game Show Network's new show "Who Wants To Be Governor of California? The Debating Game," in Los Angeles. The show will air on Oct. 1.

Cali's recall election for governor draws unconventional candidates

Have you been keeping up with the election to recall California Gov. Gray Davis?

There are 135 challengers on California's recall ballot, and the state famous for eccentric residents is learning it may soon have some unconventional candidates for governor.

The most well-known candidate is Arnold Schwarzenegger. The actor may fall back on his action movie fame, but another California gubernatorial candidate is relying on movies of another sort.

Porn star Mary Carey, whose real name is Mary Cook, is one of the 135 certified candidates. Her platform isn't all about selling videos. Among her revenue-generating ideas to solve the state's \$38 billion deficit: a new levy on breast implants and tax-deductible lap dances.

"This will help grease the wheels of business in California and stimulate our economy," the star of "Double D Dolls 2" says on her campaign website.

Also representing the porn industry on the ballot will be Larry Flynt, publisher of Huster magazine.

"California is the most progressive state in the union, and I'm sure its citizens would welcome having a smut peddler who cares as their governor," Flynt said in a statement that will appear in brochures sent to every registered voter in California.

Other celebrities that are candidates in the Oct. 7 election include melon-smashing comedian Gallagher and former child star Gary Coleman.

The sun shone on my face, its rays covering all that surveyed. My mind was at ease, and my hopes felt free. I felt free. Birds chirped, butterflies flew, and the world was beautiful.

Lying casually in a blue, watery, abyss while conversing lazily with friends was paradise, and sleeping until satisfied was even greater. There lay no expectations or worries, just liberty from pain and frustration. Yes, the world was once beautiful.

I felt content in that bubble of peace, but sadly, in the end, it popped. The grey clouds rode in like dreadful horsemen, riding upon their black steeds. Rain fell and filled the paradise, where comfort was found in abundance. Comfort would be found no longer, nor would any freedom. They blew away with the winds brought by the carriers of death.

For those of you who have no clue of that which I am speaking of... school is in session.

So maybe I am exaggerating a bit, but one thing is for sure, school is here. I thought that I had outrun it for awhile, but before I knew it, it snuck right up and bit me in the bum.

School, the word itself is saddening. School, school, school — the more I say it, the more I want to cower in fear. It is the

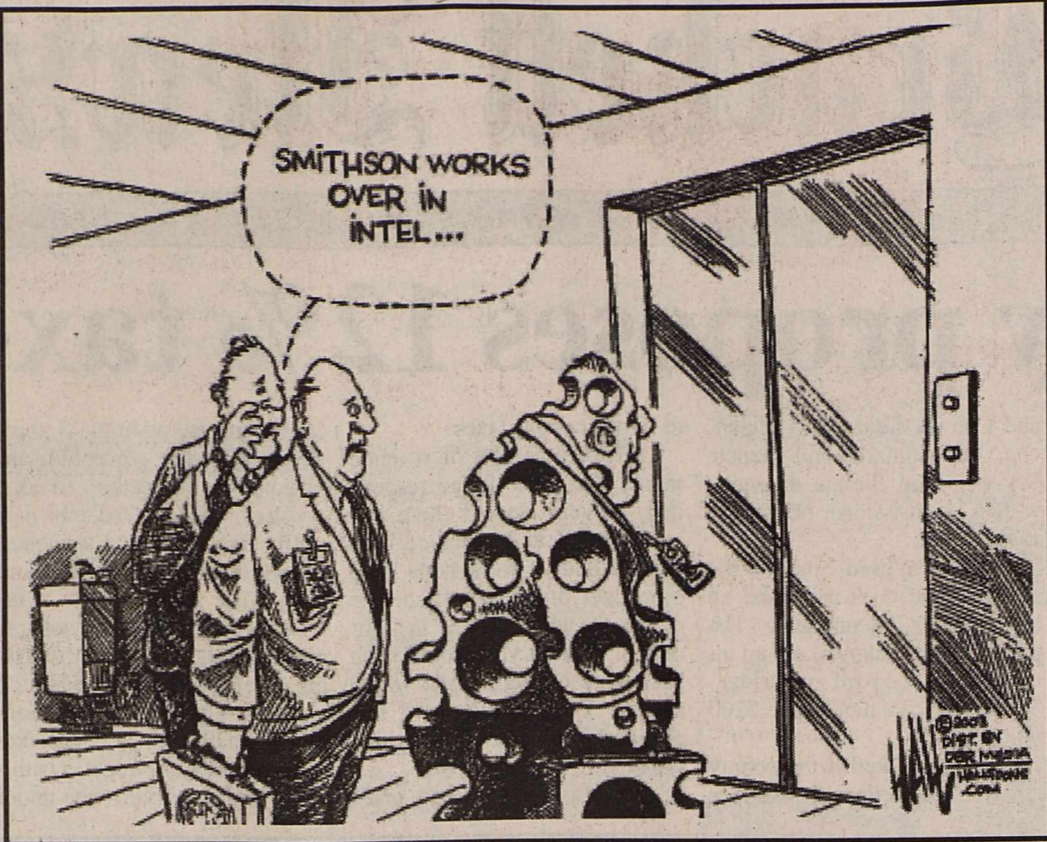
place where your dreams are forgotten, or made depending on the class and length of lecturing, and where you are powerless.

Today, my grandmother pleasantly asked if my sister and I were excited for school. We both groaned, remembering our nightmare, and answered negatively. "I thought all kids liked school," she said.

"Not this kid," I thought. The place where learning is expected and brains are filled each day. The place where hanging out in the pool is not an accepted activity and where bed times were required or brain death is guaranteed to occur.

The more I think about it, the more I think of ways to escape it. This is the exact same reaction I had last spring break.

I love breaks and all, but it seems that every time I am gifted with one, I want to take advantage of it and never return it. So I am stingy, the school system is an Indian giver. (Did I mention that I become a bit child-



School is in session

ish?) Why do we have to go back? It's not fair. OK, maybe it is. Education is there for our individual enlightenment, but man it is sure nice to have a break.

Maybe if I started thinking more positively about the whole ordeal I would feel better. My coaches always say that attitude is everything. What are some positive things about school?

In school, you learn things you don't already know, you see friends that you haven't seen all summer, you play sports, and you get to use new school supplies. You also get to meet new students, you have a new year to start over, and you get a really neat calculator to carry around. Most importantly, you get new and better lockers that were given to you and not, shall I say, hijacked.

Now that I think about it, school isn't really so bad. It is actually quite pleasant at times. I am excited to go back. Ready or not Brackett High School, watch out for Shanae M. Simmons, because here she comes.

As long as I think happy thoughts, everything will be OK. School is fun. School is nice. School makes you smart. School is... oh how I will miss that watery, blue, abyss and that paradise we call summer. School is in session.

When it comes time for the president to give the State of the Union address, the speaker of the house steps to the podium and asks the president about the state of the union. Traditionally, the president responds "Sir, the state of the union is sound." And with the greatest of respect, I would like to borrow that line.

To the residents of Brackett ISD, I report to you that the state of your school district is sound.

As of Monday, there are 618 students enrolled on four campuses. Those campuses are fully staffed and equipped.

The new cafeteria construction is underway and will be prepared for service on or about the first of the year.

As we speak, the roofs on all but a few of the districts buildings are being replaced due the

hail last year. This will complete the latest round of facility improvements which will make the BISD building complex comparable or better than any school in South Texas.

Athletic Director David Yeager reports a large number of students enrolled in athletics. Jim D'Camp, band director, said there are over 40 students actively participating in the band program.

Your children's teachers have been on the job for a week and



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

appear to be highly motivated. I have met with many of them personally and, trust me, the teaching staff at your school is outstanding.

Financially, the district is in much better shape than the vast majority of public schools. Your school will be able to weather the current state financial crisis with continuing superb service to your children.

Your board of trustees is sound. All members are currently receiving ongoing updates and team building training. All members have received their required state training. Meetings are positive and their focus is squarely on the students of Brackett ISD.

The state of the district is sound indeed. Thank you for your continued support.

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Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Addressing the rising cost of health insurance

When discussing the needs of small businesses with my colleagues in Washington, I often compare small business with the human body.

For small businesses to remain healthy and happy, they must be able to provide health care to their employees. Without this option, like the body, the small business weakens and grows ill.

The rising cost of health insurance is a major concern for the small businesses that I represent. Unfortunately, under the current system, many small businesses struggle to provide even basic health coverage to their employees. Hopefully, all that is about to change.

Congress recently voted on crucial legislation to bring down the surging costs of health care for America's 25 million small business owners and their employees.

This Congress is committed to helping small business men and women and is pursuing an aggressive agenda designed to foster and grow their companies. I believe the passage of the "Small Business Health Fairness Act" is a great step in the direction of achieving this commitment.

The "Small Business Health Fairness Act" would create national Association Health Plans (AHPs). These plans would allow small businesses to band together through associations and purchase quality health care at a lower cost.

Under the bill, groups such as the National Federal of Independent Business, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the National Restaurant Association could offer group health insurance to their member companies, allowing the small businesses to enjoy the same economies of scale as large corporations.

Of the 41 million Americans without health insurance, 60 percent work for small business employers who can't afford to provide them or their families with health care coverage. It is a crisis in this country that threatens to leave millions more Americans without health insurance.

By passing legislation expanding the use of AHPs, this Congress can go a long way towards providing health insurance to millions of uninsured Americans.

The fact is, with more than two-thirds of all Americans relying on their employer for health insurance, we can't afford to continue this disturbing trend. The result of all this isn't hard to predict.

Businesses can and clearly are dropping health benefits. Others struggle onward in providing coverage, but only at the cost of the growth of the business, or offering packages with higher premiums, or a combination of both.

Small business is the backbone of our communities, the brain of our nation's economy and the heart of American culture. I am committed to keeping small business healthy and strong for many years to come.

Big Mama Sez!



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Davis, Harris named outstanding 4-H members



Robert Elledge (from left) presents the Friend of 4-H award to Jimmy and Kathy Bader.

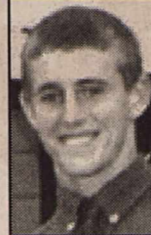
By EMILY PETROSKY
Special to The Brackett News

Tillman Davis and Hayley Harris were named the senior and junior 4-Hers of the year last Thursday as the Kinney County 4-H Club held its annual Achievement Night.

The theme for the banquet was "Reach for the Stars and Keep Your Feet on the Ground." It was a night of recognition and honor to all 4-Hers.

The officers for the 2003-04 year were inducted and the guest speakers this year were Philip Calk and Beau Watkins.

Calk spoke on the progress of the shooting range and pre-



Davis



Harris

fort helping 4-Hers with their various projects throughout the years.

Senior awards were presented to Summer Allen, Gold Award; Jared Hobbs, Silver Award; Bryan Calk, Emily Calk, Justin Calk, Sarah Davis, Abigail Gutierrez, Ramon Gutierrez, Hayley Harris, Natasha Smith, and Cheyenne Smith, Bronze Awards.

"We would like to thank everyone who contributed to making the evening a success," County Agent Robert Elledge said.

■ **Editor's note:** Emily Petrosky is the reporter for the Kinney County 4-H Club.

Easy to fix cake has sugar-free pie filling, brown sugar for diabetics

My sister took this super easy to fix cake to church potlucks often. She used sugar-free pie filling and brown sugar by Sweet 'n Low for the diabetics.

Cherry Upside Down Cake

Heat oven to 350 degrees.

TOPPING:

1/2 cup packed brown sugar
3 tablespoons margarine
21-ounce can of cherry pie filling.

CAKE:

1 18.5-ounce package of yellow cake mix
1 cup water
1/3 cup oil
3 large eggs

Melt the margarine in a 9-by-13-inch pan. Stir in the brown sugar and blend well.



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Spoon the pie filling evenly over all.

Mix the cake ingredients at high speed with a mixer for two minutes, and then pour the mixture evenly over pie filling. Bake 50 to 60 minutes. Test it with a tooth pick for doneness.

If desired, run knife around the edge immediately upon removing from the oven and quickly invert onto serving tray.

Tigerettes win season opener

The Tigerettes opened their volleyball season Tuesday night with a 25-15, 25-16, 25-9 victory over LaPryor.

"I was very pleased with the teamwork that was shown on the court," Tigerettes coach Rhonda Marquardt said. "We played well together considering it was our first game. I'm looking forward to seeing where we are at the end of this season."

Brackett served 89 percent in the contest, led by Valerie

Terrazas who had 14 service points.

Stephanie Bonner and Ashley Smith each had four kills, while Ashley Castillo tallied three. Bonner and Amanda Davis both had five assists.

Defensively, Castillo and Valerie Terrazas each had 10 successful passes for the Tigerettes, and Emily Petrosky finished with six. Castillo and Shanae Simmons had one block apiece.

Appraisal District directors adopt budget by a 3-2 vote

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Mike Holley, chairman of the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Directors, had to break a tie vote last Thursday to pass a \$179,345.89 budget for the upcoming fiscal year.

The budget for the 2004 fiscal year is 7.2 percent higher than the current \$167,272.59 budget.

"I was in favor of the budget from the beginning, so that's how I voted whenever it came to the final vote the other night," Holley said.

Directors Tom Ertle and Tim Ward voted in favor of the budget, while board members Wes Robinson and Richard Slubar were in opposition, forcing Holley to break the tie.

"The taxing entities have already seen it and passed it through their different board

meetings and everything else," Ertle said when he made the motion to approve the budget.

The major dispute in the budget was over salaries, which increased by 8.6 percent. The salary for the chief appraiser and tax assessor/collector increased from \$32,651.29 to \$35,460; the bookkeeper/auditor's salary increased from \$20,631.60 up to \$22,405; and the clerk/research analyst's salary was upped from \$19,284.83 to \$20,943.

The increases, proposed by Bill Haenn, chief appraiser, were based on 3.88 merit raises and 4.72 percent cost-of-living adjustments.

Haenn based the cost-of-living raises on the U.S. Office of Personnel Management's grade-and-scale program. But Robinson argued the adjustment should have been based on consumer price index, which was 2.1 percent over the past year.

"The board has been provided with the consumer price index information for this region, which is what COLA is typically based off of," Robinson said.

"I think all of the employees are doing a fine job. But if we're going to give a cost-of-living increase it should be based on the actual increase in the cost of living and not an average increase on a government pay scale," he added.

Holley said the directors did not have time to review all of the documents Robinson presented.

"There were some things that Wes had come up with, and I think I was the only one that had picked it up from his office to review it," he said. "Then there were some other things that he came up with that night that no one had a chance to look at. We couldn't really base anything on

that information since not everyone there had seen it."

Holley said the district is hoping to develop a grade and step program for employees.

"We've been trying to come up with an evaluation situation where we can do that prior to the time that the budget is coming out," he said. "Hopefully, that will be done this next tax year where those evaluations will be done beforehand and not at the last minute."

The biggest increase in the budget was a 93.5 percent jump in health insurance from \$6,900 to \$13,353.96. Haenn will receive health insurance this year for the first time during his tenure with the appraisal district.

"I haven't taken health insurance for the past four years," he said. "We satellite on the county's Blue Cross and Blue Shield. There was a 20 percent increase in that for next year."

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sunday, Aug. 10

9:10 p.m., Deputy Cody Shannon requested assistance from a Border Patrol agent in reference to a vehicle stop on Highway 90, east of Brackettville passed Southwest Service.

Monday, Aug. 11

6:25 a.m., A woman reported that her pickup had been vandalized at her residence in Unit 1 of Fort Clark Springs.

Tuesday, Aug. 12

7:12 p.m., A woman called 911 to report a family disturbance on E. First Street.

Thursday, Aug. 14

3:00 p.m., A Val Verde Correctional employee reported that

a lady was living at the rest area on Highway 277.

4:15 p.m., Nathan Michael Luna, 18, of Brackettville was arrested for possession of marijuana by DPS Trooper Tully Welch. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he was still being held at press-time.

4:30 p.m., Jacob Christopher Terry, 29, of Del Rio was arrested on a motion to revoke a probated sentence for driving while intoxicated by Deputy James Blankenship. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he was still being held at press-time.

Friday, Aug. 15

1:30 p.m., A man reported that numerous guns had been stolen from his ranch home while he was out of town.

11:06 p.m., A woman reported kids shooting pellet guns on E. First Street. The woman said she could hear the pellets hitting things in her yard.

Saturday, Aug. 16

5:56 a.m., The owner of the Crazy Chicken reported that someone had broken into his restaurant and then stole beer from the Stop -N- Shop.

10:43 a.m., A woman reported a computer monitor on the ground by Lopez Bakery.

12:15 p.m., Rock Bannon

Wilson, 42, of Del Rio was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for driving while intoxicated. He was released the following day after posting a \$1,500 bail bond.

Sunday, Aug. 17

7:23 p.m., A man reported that his camcorder and three pellet guns had been stolen from his residence.

8:33 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a car fire on Highway 90, close to Bubba's Beverage Barn. Deputy Shannon and the Fire Department were both dispatched to the scene. Shannon said the vehicle was smoking because it over-heated.

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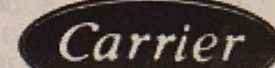
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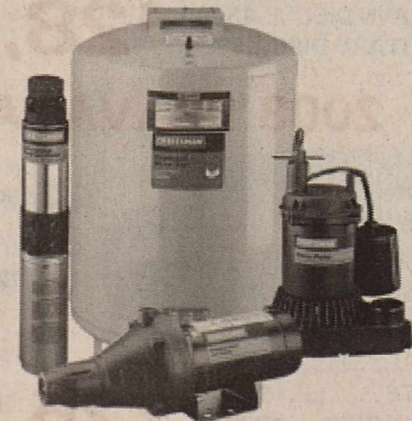
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Templeton: Teachers inspired career in education

By FRANCES McMASTER
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club met last Thursday expecting, once again, to meet and greet its exchange student for this year who was expected to have arrived from Germany. However, he had still not been cleared and was waiting impatiently to leave for America.

Bobby Templeton, Brackett ISD superintendent, filled in at program chairman Bill Heann's request with a discussion on classification.

A classification is a way of categorizing members by work or profession, and the talk is information shared about their work and often includes some personal information.

Templeton began by introducing his wife, Monica, and Clay, his 14-month-old son, who attended the meeting as guests.

He explained that his work and home are intertwined, saying his reason for being is for the children at school and for his child.

Templeton said that he, himself, had never been a farmer, but he was the son and grandson of farmers, and is proud of that. However, he laughingly said that his father told him he could be anything he wanted to be — except a farmer. Templeton chose to become a teacher, like his mother.

He remarked that he no longer teaches classes, but that

he considers himself a teacher because he serves as a model for students. He might not be teaching math or English, but he is teaching them how to be a good man — how to be a good person.

He is an avid reader and has been working for the last three years on a doctoral dissertation that will be finished very soon. When that is completed, he is hoping to write a book.

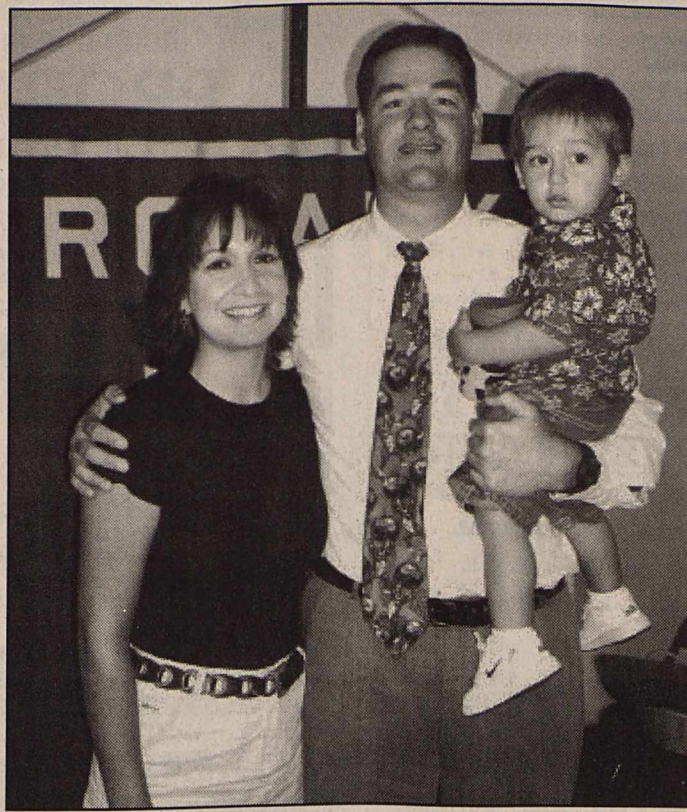
Templeton said teachers have impacted his lives. He came to realize how important good teachers are, and he realized how fortunate he was in having a supportive home environment and decided he wanted to help others not as fortunate as he was. This is why he chose the field of education.

Templeton shared some of his core beliefs, which he said are very important because they get filtered down from a leader to the people who work under him or her.

He believes teachers should work in a low-stress environment. This helps them do their work well.

However, students need a certain amount of stress, because the world is a tough place and some stress helps prepare them for what they are to face in life.

Templeton believes in very firm discipline administered from the standpoint of punishing the act rather than the child. Children need to know that they



A family affair
Accompanying Brackett ISD Superintendent Bobby Templeton to last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting were his wife, Monica, and their 14-month-old son, Clay.

Photo by Bill Haenn

are loved, but they also need a certain set of boundaries. He said this will serve them well in life.

Teamwork is the bedrock for organizations, he believes. Nothing happens on your own. It takes a concentrated team ef-

fort.

Templeton said that coming to Brackettville had taken courage because they were very happy where they were, but that the people here have welcomed them and they are excited about becoming part of the community.

BRIEFS

Cavalry Brigade set to meet Oct. 4

A dispatch from headquarters regarding the Cavalry Brigade's first Saturday clean-up detail reverses the previous order. A crisis was created, when delays contributed to extended "R&R" leaves, furloughs and traveling conditions on troopers' return to winter quarters at Fort Clark Springs. No disciplinary action will be taken. However, troopers are urged to voluntarily keep their mustering rendezvous on Oct. 4, at 9 a.m. on the steps of Shafter Hall.

The Cavalry Brigade acknowledges the fact that the Community Council headquarters has the authority to relinquish previous orders with new orders superseding all others. Change of orders happen. There will be no cleanup on Sept. 6.

When do we become 'senior citizens?'

How old do I look? No, wait. Don't answer that question. Let me tell you.

I guess I'll start at the beginning. I went to Eagle Pass last week. It's a nice place to visit. I have taken a vow never to go back.

While I was in that fair city, I had lunch. I like buffet-type restaurants. It's good to see food items actually on display. Menus can be tricky. Some things sound good but aren't appealing once on the plate.

My choice for the day was just such a place. I will not mention the name of the establishment for fear of a potential lawsuit. The surroundings were very clean. The staff was very helpful. The food was fine. The charge was wrong.

Only after I paid for the meal, did I look at the charge. It read: "I sen lun buff." It only took me a little less than three seconds to figure out exactly what that first word was. I had not asked for a senior citizen's discount, which came to a total of



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

63 cents, thank you very much!

The value of the insult was worth more than 63 cents. Why had the young lady assumed that I was over some magical age that allowed me to be put into the over-the-hill gang? And what is that age? When is that point in time? What ever it is, I have arrived.

Friends and family say I should not be upset. They say that I should be thankful that certain eating-places honor the more mature person in our society. I should be proud of my age. And I should accept the gesture with gratitude and humility. The young ones say that.

When their day comes, and it will, they won't be so gracious. But I could be wrong.

Texas Department of Transportation emphasizes safety for school children

AUSTIN — To increase safety in school zones along state highways, state transportation officials have approved a measure expanding the hours of operation for flashing school zone signs.

The Texas Transportation Commission approved the use of flashing school zone signs for school-related events occurring during non-traditional school hours at its July 31 meeting.

Commissioners said the change will improve safety for Texas school children. The National Highway Traffic Safety Administration advises motorists to help increase school zone safety by following these steps:

- When backing out of a driveway or leaving a garage, watch out for children walking or bicycling to school.
- When driving in neighborhoods with school zones, watch

out for young people who may be thinking about getting to school, but may not be thinking about getting there safely.

- Slow down. Watch for children walking in the street, especially if there are no sidewalks in a neighborhood.
- Slow down. Watch for children playing and congregating near bus stops.
- Be alert. Children arriving late for the bus may dart into

the street without looking for traffic.

- Learn and obey the school bus laws in your state. Learn the "flashing signal light system" that school bus drivers use to alert motorists of pending actions.

In Texas, motorists can be fined up to \$1,000 for passing a school bus while its alternately flashing red warning lights are activated.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

CROSS

1 Patient's need, for short	41 Traveling salesman	2 Be attracted to	34 Front porch items
1 Entree choice	43 Deface	3 First son	34 Dalai
7 Hint	44 Split grammatically	4 Accessory	35 Joseph P. Kennedy II, for one: abbr.
1 Solos	48 Ponders	5 Tennis pro	37 Edible tuber
3 Omen's location	47 Picnic	7 Universe	42 Part of the mouth
5 Mayberry resident	49 Looks	8 Dependent upon	45 Opposite of concern
8 Doing as well as one can with	51 McKinley & Whitney: abbr.	9 4 that sometimes follow A	48 Vacillate
9 Starter	52 H, in Greece	10 Officials, for short	50 Method: abbr.
0 Jumbo	5 Aslan	11 I lover: Lat.	53 Blaster's substance
1 Word with drum or mark	56 In ___; not present	12 Dagger	55 Word of disgust
3 Trees divided by tres	61 Literary device	14 Be plentiful	56 Generations
4 Baby's favorite seat	66 Outwits	17 Former student, for short	57 Waist item
7 Wicked one	68 ___ Fitzgerald	18 Type of eagle	58 French commune
0 Con artist's plot	69 River in Belgium	22 Take back as a worker	59 Suffix for sand or wind
4 Romeo	70 Pub order	24 Long Range Navigation, familiarly	60 Forts and Vigoda
6 Oliver, for one	71 Pack away	25 Turn away	62 Head of France
8 Genetic carrier	72 Poet's monogram	26 Favorite	63 Numbered club
9 Alpine crest	73 Suffix for differ or exist	28 Parsonage	64 Put to flight
0 Mich.'s	DOWN	29 Dictates	65 Salamander
	1 Catch	31 Toothpaste	67 Prior to
		32 Boleyn and Bancroft	

ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions - forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: **GIRLS' NAMES**

D	D	A	M	Y	E	L	E	H	C	I	M
S	S	Z	R	K	J	T	J	A	S	E	S
I	F	A	H	J	T	D	H	L	S	L	U
L	M	D	E	E	A	N	N	I	D	E	S
L	C	J	L	T	L	C	N	C	A	H	A
Y	X	U	S	M	T	E	C	E	C	C	N
H	A	J	D	N	D	O	N	D	I	A	X
P	X	A	C	A	R	O	L	J	R	R	C
S	B	C	S	K	A	S	E	R	E	H	T
D	R	K	N	I	R	E	D	S	A	S	N
H	T	I	D	E	L	D	P	C	X	H	B
Q	S	E	I	N	A	H	P	E	T	S	C

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

August 21.....Del Kendrick	August 25.....Maria Juarez
August 21.....Michael Young	August 25.....Joseph A. Luna
August 22.....Delbert Kendrick	August 25.....Gene Nixon
August 22.....Gracie Escamilla	August 25.....Clara Ricks
August 22.....Hubert McKelvy	August 26.....Terri Day
August 22.....Ben Terrazas Jr.	August 26.....Kay Gilbreth
August 22.....Kenneth Weaver	August 26.....Fredrico Martinez
August 24.....Nakai Breen	August 26.....Martha McDonald
August 24.....Janet Gieseke	August 26.....Justin Shamblin
August 24.....Maggie Lee Lipich	August 27.....Gus Garcia
August 25.....Lesley Jones	August 27.....Rose Mattingly
August 27.....Donna Saylor	

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Alice	11. Jackie
2. Amy	12. Lisa
3. Ann	13. Mary
4. Carol	14. Michele
5. Charlotte	15. Paulette
6. Denise	16. Phyllis
7. Edith	17. Rachel
8. Erica	18. Stephanie
9. Erin	19. Susan
10. Helen	20. Theresa

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
 This is a week of happy surprises. Whether personal or professional, you'll be pleased. Later in the week, remember to answer e-mails and other correspondence.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
 Your inquisitive mind leads you to take up a new hobby. This could easily become a profitable venture. Perfect your craft.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
 When you're tempted to lose your temper, take a deep breath. Meditation helps as well. Whatever you do, avoid a major blow-up with that certain annoying co-worker.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
 You tackle a new task with gusto. This enthusiasm takes you through the week. Over the weekend, a friendly sports competition is satisfying.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
 You make major career strides this week. This is followed by a temporary setback. Relax; this is overcome easily.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
 You concentrate this week on back-to-school shopping for the kiddies. You'll be pleased when you won't have to blow the budget. This weekend, a short trip pleases the entire family.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
 Don't give in to gloom and doom. Your mood is only temporary. You're pleased when things turn around by week's end.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
 Something that was worrying you proves trivial. Once you realize that, you're on a productive roll. Later in the week, you achieve a leadership position at work.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
 While domestic matters are still a priority, you still accomplish much at work. You get a welcome break midweek, though. Enjoy it; you deserve it!

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
 Take your time plotting a course of action on that work project. Be sure all the details are in place. Then you can proceed with confidence.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
 Sometimes, you feel as though you live out of a suitcase. Travel, though, is necessary for what you want to accomplish. Over the weekend, pay attention to a child's needs.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
 Feel free to celebrate. The news you receive is good and benefits the whole family. Later, it's back to the old grind.

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The ability to teach is truly a gift from God

Teachers are a gift from God. This is no news to parents who sent their children back to school this week and experienced a few blissful moments of quiet in their households.

But seriously, the Bible describes teaching specifically as a gift from God (Ephesians 4:11).

The very first place we hear about teaching in the Bible is when God offers to teach Moses what to say to free his enslaved people from the Egyptians (Exodus 4:12).

Moses immediately tries to duck the assignment, something that today's teachers are probably very familiar with. (God gave Moses a study partner, an arrangement that seemed to suit Moses' educational needs better.)

The first teacher's conference in the Bible took place on the mount of God when Moses received the Ten Commandments (Exodus 24:12).

Moses took a teaching assistant with him, Joshua, and left two students in charge, Aaron and Hur. When Moses got back,

things were in such disarray that he destroyed his lesson plans and had to go back for another copy.

The identified in the Bible as being called teachers were two vocational education teachers, Bezaleel and Aholiab. They knew how to do all sorts of different useful things and they weren't shy about helping out. (Exodus 35:30).

Bezaleel was not only a skilled metal worker, but was also described as filled with wisdom. Bezaleel's granddaddy was Hur, the fellow that was supposed to be assisting Aaron when that golden calf incident happened.

The Bible says God put teaching in their heart (Exodus 35:34), as good a way to say it as I've ever heard. Teachers have teaching deep in their heart.

I think the greatest teacher in the Bible was Jesus. He combined teaching with practical exercises. He taught forgiveness as he healed. He taught mercy as He washed his disciple's feet.



First United Methodist Church
Rev. Roger Baker

Some jealous teachers tried to catch him short during a teaching evaluation. (Matthew 22:16)

But Jesus saw through their evil intentions and asked the "evaluators" a few pointed questions of His own. In the end, Jesus sent out all Christians to teach the nations (Matthew 28:19-20).

There are few people in the world who touch lives the way our teachers do. We trust them with our most precious asset — our children — and our teachers pour out their lives and hearts to turn their students into scholars and responsible adults.

Their job doesn't have to be thankless. We can all say "thank you," but more of us need to do so.

Most importantly, I hope this week you'll pray for our teachers. They stand directly in the tradition of the earliest Bible accounts of the relationship between God and His creation. Without our teachers, we would have no future or hope in our community. Without the Great Teacher, we would have no hope at all.

Please keep our teachers in your prayers, especially this week as they experience the exhilaration and challenge of a new year of school.

Please pray often, and maybe even choose a specific teacher to pray for each day. Their ministry to us is limitless. Surely we can spare some time to minister to our teachers in prayer.

One group that is praying for teachers this week is at First United Methodist Church. This Sunday we'll review that familiar passage in Ephesians about "putting on the full armor of God."

Grab your "sword" and worship with us. We start at 10:45 a.m.

An unfaithful father brings suffering to his children

Marcella struggled with the pictures that raced for attention in her mind. Sometimes it was difficult to control her thoughts.

She squeezed the hot cup of coffee feeling the heat from the bitter liquid.

"Sometimes," she thought, "life takes some crazy turns." A tear dropped into the coffee. Releasing her eyes from their stare at the spot on the table, she looked up to see her daughter in front of her. She was unaware of Megan's presence until just this moment. Looking up, she feigned a smile.

"Mama, is Daddy seeing another woman?" Megan asked haltingly.

Taking Megan's hand, Marcella replied, "Why would you ask such a question?"

"Because sometimes Daddy doesn't come home and you seem very sad," Megan said.

Marcella thought for a moment. It was the question she never wanted to answer.

"It's not your problem, honey. Don't concern yourself with it," she said.

"How could he do this to us?" Megan cried. With churning emotions struggling for expression, she turned and screamed, "I hate him! I don't ever want to see him again!"

Marcella got up quickly, almost tripping over the chair



Empowering Families
Dr. Donald Smith

as she hurried after Megan. Grasping her daughter's arm, Marcella pulled her to her breast and held her tight.

Looking up through her tears, Marcella silently repeated the question to God. "How could he do this to us? It's not just me he's hurting, it's the children."

Long ago, a very wise man told his son to take no notice of a loose living woman. The lips of the adulteress drip with honey, but in the end she is bitter as wormwood and sharp as a two-edged sword. Her feet lead a man to death.

No decision of a father is a private matter. Even time cannot erase a foolish man's decisions. A good mother can bear many burdens, but an unfaithful father brings suffering to his children. The broken heart of a child is lasting and difficult to comfort. (Proverbs 5:3-23)

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

Jesus Christ is the 'Bread of Life'

When our children were growing up, I spent every Sunday afternoon baking. I would make cookies, pies or cakes, and always bread for the family for the week. To this day, my boys say something is missing while watching football on Sunday afternoon without the smell of baking bread.

Bread is considered the staple food of life. In every culture, there is some kind of bread. Many times it is unleavened bread to serve as an example of a nomadic way of life.

John's gospel recounts the miracle of Jesus feeding the multitudes with five loaves of bread and two fishes. Jesus refers to



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Lynn McNew

Himself as the Bread of Life. He says the bread of God will give life to the world. We can imagine ourselves being inspired by this saying and prompted to respond as Jesus' followers did: "Give us this bread always."

We are called as baptized Christians to feed the hungry. This means the physically hun-

gry. One of the church-sponsored programs to feed the hungry is called "Loaves and Fishes." Why wait until Christmas to give food to a family in need?

We are also called to feed the spiritually hungry. As school begins, the religious education classes in all our churches are starting a new year. What can we do to help? Maybe teach a class? Provide refreshments? Buy supplies? Make sure our children receive religious education, maybe by continuing our own education?

Dr. Don and Anita Smith head up a wonderful program in our elementary school that

works with first and second grade students and parents to improve their reading skills. Anyone can volunteer to help a struggling child and/or family and possibly make a new friend in the process. How bad is that?

Lord, let us always be ready to continue the miracle of the loaves and fishes by working to bring an end to hunger in whatever ways we are able.

Help us to remember Your promise that whoever comes to You will never hunger and will never thirst.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God bless you.

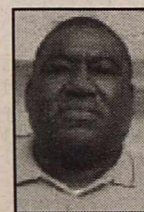
Place your trust in God

"They that trust in the Lord shall be as mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the Lord is round about his people from henceforth even forever."

"For the rod of the wicked shall not rest upon the lot of the righteous; lest the righteous put forth their hands unto iniquity."

"Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts."

"As for such as turn aside



St. John's Missionary Church
Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

unto their crooked ways, the Lord shall lead them forth with the workers of iniquity but peace shall be upon Israel." (Psalm 12:5) Amen.

Praise the Lord!

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Worship at 10:45 a.m.

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Minister: Ray Melton

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PUBLIC NOTICES

THE COUNTY OF KINNEY will accept sealed bids until 3:00 p.m. September 5, 2003 for an Emergency Medical Service Chassis Remount Unit. Bids will be opened and read aloud at the Kinney County Commissioners court Meeting on September 8, 2003 at 10:00 a.m. Detailed specs are available and may be obtained by contacting Steven Burch, Kinney County EMS, PO Box 1499 Brackettville, Texas 78832, or by contacting Carl Esser, Planner, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 216 W. Main St. Uvalde, Texas 78801. Total funding for this 2003 or 2004 Remount Conversion will be provided through the 2002 Texas Community Development Program Grant from the Office of Rural Community Affairs. Bids should be mailed or delivered to the Honorable Herb Senne, Kinney County Judge, Kinney County Courthouse, 501 Ann Street, PO Box 348 Brackettville, Texas 78832. Bids for proposals should be sealed and labeled on the outside of the envelope: KINNEY COUNTY EMS AMBULANCE REMOUNT BID. The County of Kinney reserves the right to reject any and all bids or proposals or any part of any bid or proposal. Bids should include delivery of this truck to the town of Brackettville.

READ THE CLASSIFIEDS!

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- Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.
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- 166 AIRPORT RD. 2br/2bt enclosed porch, patio, storage, fenced b/y 2 car carport all electric.

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle

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ARIAS	ASIA	OPIE
MAKING	THEBESTOF	
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