

The Brackett News

Tigerettes claim win at cross country meet
See story, Page 6

15 year, No. 33

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Cruz appointed to City Council

New alderman hopes to cut debt

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Camilo Cruz Jr. was appointed to the Brackettville City Council during a special meeting Monday night.

Cruz is filling the seat vacated by Bonnie Wardlaw, who resigned last week to apply for the city secretary's position.

Cruz said his main concern as an alderman is to help the council reduce the city's debt, which is over \$100,000.

"It's going to take me a couple of months to just listen and learn before I start executing some work," he said after the meeting. "I will work with the other councilmen and I will work for the citizens."

Cruz was unanimously appointed by council members Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez Jr. and Johnny Samaniego.

"I think Camilo will do a good job on the council," Garza said. "I think his main concern, like all of us, is the citizens. We're dealing with their money, so every decision should be for the citizens."

Cruz ran for the council in May, but lost by eight votes to Gomez, an incumbent. Gomez received 154 votes and Cruz had 146.

Cruz will fill Wardlaw's term, which expires in May 2005. She was elected to her first term on the council last May.

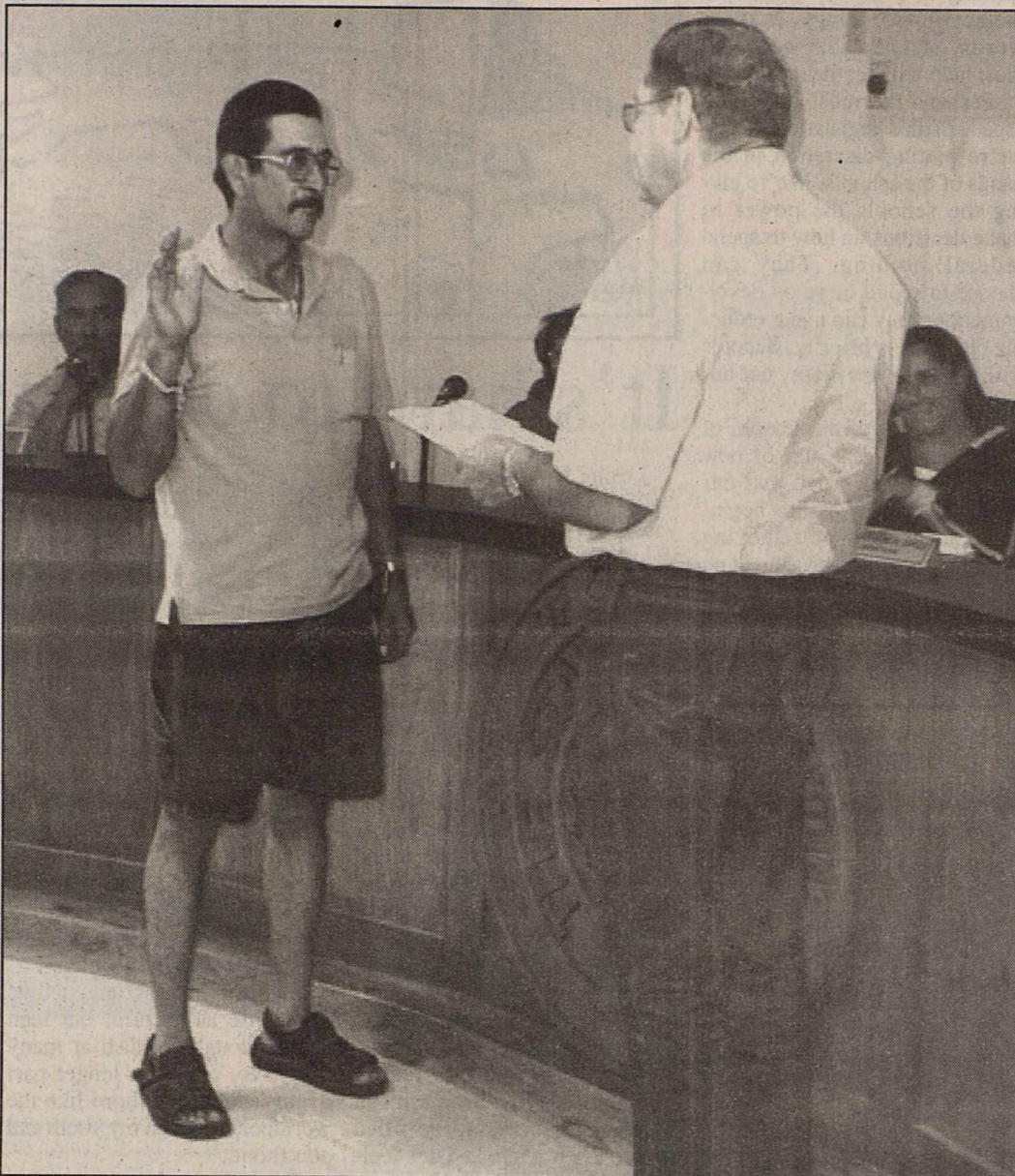


Photo by J.J. Guidry

Taking the oath of office
Camilo Cruz Jr. (left) is sworn in by County Judge Herb Senne Monday as Brackettville's newest City Council member. He replaces Bonnie Wardlaw, who resigned last week to apply for the city secretary's position.

Officials set to name four finalists for city secretary next week

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Spikes, Leigh Volcsko and Linda Woodson.

The Brackettville City Council will name four finalists to fill the vacant city secretary's position next week.

The aldermen interviewed 10 applicants during a special meeting Tuesday night, and will host the second round of interviews for the finalists next Tuesday.

"We had a lot of good applicants," Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca "Chica" Garza said. "A lot of them have real good qualifications. We want to check references and do a little more extensive work."

Among the 10 applicants that interviewed Tuesday are two former city council members — Wes Robinson and Bonnie Wardlaw.

Robinson was an alderman from 1997-99 and currently is a member of the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

Wardlaw was elected to her first term on the council in May and resigned last week to apply for the position.

Other applicants that interviewed Tuesday are Roland Boysen, Ella Chambers, Maxine Havis of San Antonio, Gil Raymer, Neil Simmons, Cynthia

Following over three hours of interviews on Tuesday, the council voted to table the hiring of a new city secretary.

"We're not really rushing," council member Mary Flores said. "We want to make sure we hire the right person. We have a lot of good applicants."

The city received 13 applicants for the position, but only 10 attended the interview session. Of the 13 applicants, three were from out of town.

"I thought there would be more applicants," Garza said. "We gave out a lot more applications than were turned in."

The city also has a vacancy for a clerk, but officials said the position would not be filled until the city secretary was hired.

Last week the council members adopted a revised personnel plan which mandates that all hirings and firings must be approved by a majority of the aldermen.

The aldermen also approved a six-month contract with Randy Castilla to help the city meet state water mandates.

Castilla, a former city employee now with Fort Clark Municipal Utility District, is being paid \$250 per week.

Water board increases fees

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

With little discussion, it took the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors only five minutes to adopt a new fee schedule.

The directors approved the new schedule last Thursday during a brief public hearing at the Courthouse. A handful of citizens attended the hearing, but none chose to address the board.

Directors Chuck Hall, Don Hood, Chris Ring, Darlene Shahan, Cecil Smith, Hadley Wardlaw and Bob Young all voted for the new schedule.

The most drastic change to the schedule is for permit application fees. Current fees are \$200 for applications seeking 100 acre-feet of water per year or less and \$500 for more than 100 acre-feet.

Under the new schedule, ap-

"This is what this district needs to do. 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."

Director Darlene Shahan

plicants will pay for the actual cost of reviewing and processing an application. The proposed change was made by Shahan.

"Our consultant (Steve Walthour) went over the historic permit applications that are on file right now and projected the cost for the district to process those," Shahan said during a meeting last month. "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."

General Manager Don

Ralston said Walthour is hoping to have a workshop to let groundwater users know what is needed to complete a permit application in order to reduce costs.

The district will now charge \$35 for registering existing exempt wells. Previously there was no fee.

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

"Those are the ones not turned in by the due date," Shahan said during the hearing.

The cost for a permit renewal application with no changes is now \$35. The fee for renewals requiring research or legal opinion will be the actual cost of processing the renewal.

Fees for new well registration are now \$50 and a well log deposit is \$100.

WATER DISTRICT'S FEE SCHEDULE

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District's Fee Schedule adopted by the Board of Directors last Thursday:

■ Groundwater use fee: Agricultural use, \$1 per acre-foot per year; all other uses, \$10 per acre-foot per year.

■ Groundwater transport fee: .0569 cents per 1,000 gallons per year.

■ Permit application fees fee: \$200 deposit for applications seeking a total of \$100 acre-feet of water per year or less, and \$500 for applications seeking more than \$100 acre-feet of water per year. Final application fee will be the actual cost of reviewing and processing the permit application.

■ Permit renewal application: \$35 for well permit annual renewal with no changes. The fee for renewals requiring research or legal opinion will be the actual cost of processing the renewal.

■ Existing exempt well registration: \$35.

■ New well registration: \$50.

■ Well Log Deposit: \$100.

■ Returned check fee: \$35.

INSIDE

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- Chuck Hall
Since last week's ramblings, I discovered an interesting item in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The Earth really is getting bigger. *Lifestyles/Page 7*

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SWTJC sets all-time enrollment record

UVALDE — Southwest Texas Junior College has officially set a new all-time enrollment record, officials announced this week.

Registration figures at the end of the 12th class day, the official reporting day, show 4,741 students enrolled in classes for the fall 2003 semester.

"We are excited about setting a new record," said Joe Barker, dean of admissions at the junior college. "More importantly, we feel our fall registration establishes a definite upward trend and we feel better about being able to maintain these high numbers."

Fall 2003 enrollment represents a 380 student increase over the previous all-time record of 4,361 students set last spring and a 407 increase over fall 2002 enrollment.

"Our enrollment increased so dramatically last year that there was some concern it might just be a short-term spike," Barker said. "This fall's numbers have put those concerns to rest."

Barker said the college's

three largest facilities in Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Uvalde all showed enrollment increases over last spring.

Uvalde, with 1,728 students enrolled this fall, showed the greatest jump in enrollment, up 226 students over last spring.

Enrollment in Eagle Pass and Del Rio also rose more than 100 students each to 1,217 and 1,105, respectively.

Other top enrollment sites this fall are: Hondo Torres Unit, 148; Crystal City, 133; Dilley Briscoe Unit, 71; Hondo, 71; and Pearsall, 64.

At other sites around the college's 11-county service area, fall enrollment shows: Dilley, 34; Carrizo Springs, 28; Cotulla, 25; Brackettville, 24; D'Hanis, 21; Sabinal, 17; Nueces Canyon, 14; Natalia, 12; Leakey, 10; Utopia, 6; La Pryor, 6; and Rocksprings, 2.

The junior college's enrollment has increased by 1,028 students since the fall of 2000, a gain of 27.5 percent. It collected almost \$1 million more in tuition and fees than expected last year.

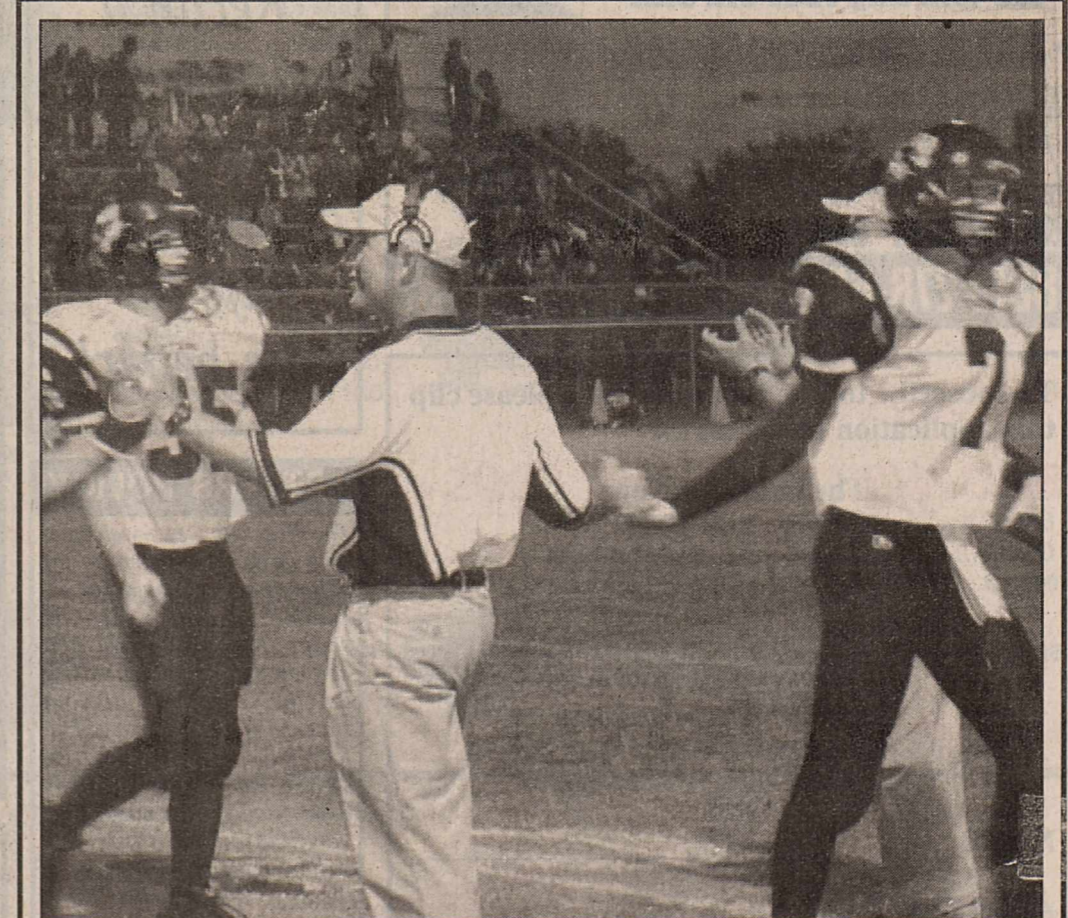


Photo by Danielle Moore

A time to celebrate
Brackett head football coach David Yeager (center) and his Tigers have had a lot to celebrate about lately. The Class 2A Tigers are 4-0 with wins over three 3A schools and longtime rival Sabinal. See related story, Page 6.

School systems see improvement with the No Child Left Behind Act

Well, it's that time of year again — our kids are heading back to school. It's a time for new beginnings, a new school year, new grade levels, new teachers and new classrooms.



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

Fresh from the long summer break, students all over Texas are trotting off to school once again to begin a new year of homework, studying and tests.

As we buy new school clothes, notepads and pens for our children, we are also pondering the quality of education our kids are getting.

It used to be that all you needed for school was a Big Chief tablet and a No. 2 pencil. Today computers are the norm.

The way children are educated has changed drastically over the past few decades. But with help from President Bush, our children's education is looking better every day.

I'm proud to have helped the Congress pass the president's education plan. We're already seeing improvements in the school system.

The No Child Left Behind Act is changing the education of our children. By cutting the bureaucratic red tape, we're put-

ting our nation's education system in the hands of educators, not political leaders in Washington, D.C.

Our new approach cuts down on federal requirements and gives schools more of the flexibility they need and deserve.

First thing's first, we're making it possible for schools to reduce class size by hiring more teachers. This is simple math. The smaller the classroom, the more attention students receive and the better they do in school.

And we're not just hiring more teachers, we're also giving schools the freedom to provide more training for teachers. The more knowledge our teachers possess, the more our children will receive.

The No Child Left Behind Act promotes early reading skills and increases the focus on math and science education. Funds are

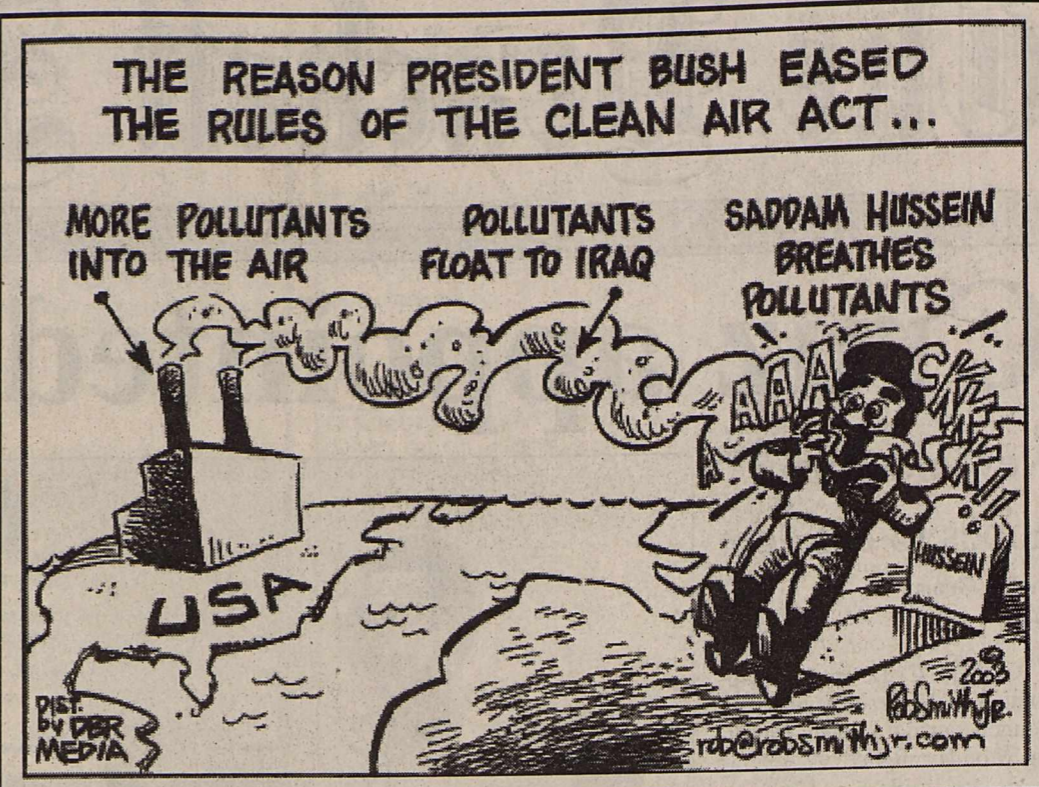
allocated for better math and science programs.

We're also encouraging schools to make their programs more rigorous to help children reach higher education goals.

The new plan includes a performance-based grant program. This program supplies more funding to schools to increase literacy in technology. In other words, schools that need the most help will get the most help.

Perhaps the most important aspect of this legislation is that we're putting discretion in the hands of the schools. We're giving the schools the power to make decisions on how to spend federal funding. They can choose to spend more on development or they can make reducing class size a priority. Schools will make the decisions, not bureaucrats.

In the spirit of the season, of a new school year and of new beginnings, I'm proud that our education initiatives are beginning the process of removing Washington from the education equation. Local control of education will provide our students with the best education possible. Class dismissed.



It's hard to deal with a loss

Losing isn't much fun, especially when it is something that you never realized would hurt if lost. What hurts most about these seemingly insignificant, but truly important lost items are that they take a piece of you with them on their voyage to the unknown.



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

When I say lost, I don't mean necessarily a game or some spare change, but greater things. The loss of a loved one, the break-up of a serious relationship, or permanently letting a dear friend go. Sadly enough, the symptoms that occur as a result of these losses are the most painful.

When losing something that was once a part of you, then suddenly no longer attached, it hurts both physically and mentally.

Physically, you suffer an emptiness in your stomach, an aching as if never to be filled again. Then a choked up feeling can be found in your throat, like you want to cry, but nothing will escape. Finally, the inability to breathe — even though numerous gasps have been taken, your lungs never seem to fill.

Mentally, a sadness seems to float over your head like a gray cloud, patiently waiting for the chance to empty itself on your shoulders.

If this is not your first time to read my column, you prob-

ably already know my philosophy about life, how I have always wanted to stay as young as I could for as long as I could.

These days, my thoughts seem to have shifted to the contrary. Now that I think about it, getting past these years filled with teen angst and trivial troubles would be pleasant.

Don't get me wrong, I love living life as a child, but teen years, though childish at many times, are really no longer part of my childhood, more like the wormhole between my youth and adulthood.

Recently, I found myself at quarrel with a close friend. We were once very close, and I loved her like a sister, but I made a mistake. Mind you, this mistake was one that I would do again for my own morale, but it placed irreparable damages at my feet. Our friendship now lay in pieces.

The sad thing is, no matter how hard I tried, I couldn't fix the damage done. I apologized time and time again, but it

wouldn't work. I couldn't accept the loss, the emptiness in the pit of my stomach, the dry choke of my throat or the little cloud over my head. I just wanted the old days to be back, but life doesn't work that way.

Our friendship now stands demolished after a personally-upsetting conversation. How long she has been trying to let me go, but I had to hold on. Sometimes it is just the right time to move on, and I felt like I couldn't. It was finally ended with the phrase "have a nice life, Shanae."

Not hateful, not venomous, not evil, just simple. A simple adieu to years of friendship, apparently lost.

Of course, it seems that once you lose something, it never is really gone. It is like a missing limb, though it is lost, the ghost still haunts you. The only thing stopping its true disappearance is your own mind standing between past and reality.

If only we can let go and lose the lost with ease, life would be so much simpler. But then again, it is easier said than done. Everyone is capable of recovering from a loss, even me. It's OK to lose some things, it's just dealing with it.

With that all said, all I can think to do is say: "Have a nice life, old friend."

The Brackett News



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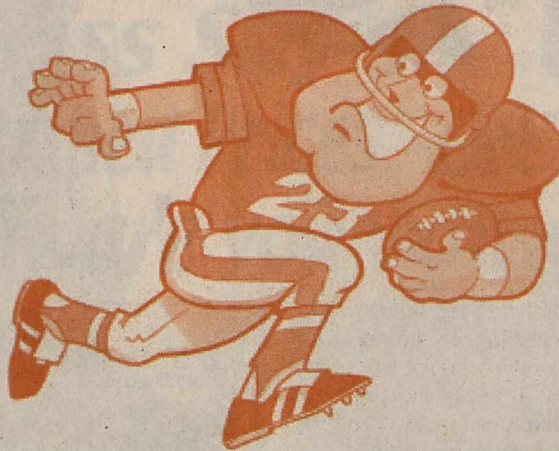
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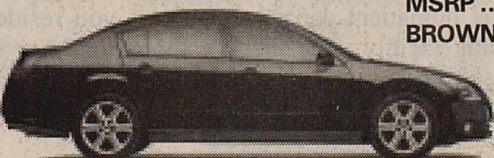
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BRIEFS

Border Patrol agents apprehend 3,700 illegal aliens during August

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Brackettville Station apprehended 371 illegal aliens in the month of August.

Agents from the Del Rio Sector apprehended a total of 3,700 illegal aliens, including 1,102 in Eagle Pass, 710 in Carrizo Springs, 368 in Del Rio, 339 in Abilene, 290 in Uvalde, 201 in Llano, 147 in San Angelo, 134 in Comstock and 38 in Rocksprings.

Border Patrol officials also seized 3,388.21 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$2,710,564 during the month of August.

Cancer Support Group set to meet

The Cancer Support Group will meet next Thursday, Oct. 2, at 6:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church.

The group includes those who are currently receiving cancer treatment, those in remission or who are cured, as well as caregivers of cancer patients.

The guest speaker for the meeting will be Jaime Ortiz. There will also be a pot luck supper.

Plans being made for BHS bon-fire

Brackett High School officials are making plans for the school's annual bon-fire during Homecoming Week, Oct. 13-17.

Brush and lumber only can be taken to bon fire site at the track stadium between 3 and 5 p.m., Monday through Friday, until the day before the bon-fire.

BISD schools close early Wednesday

Brackett ISD schools will be out early on Wednesday with dismissal slated at 1:15 p.m., district officials announced.

**Golden Trowel Award**

Chuck Hall (left) presents the Golden Trowel Award to Wes Robinson last Thursday during a ceremony at the Las Moras Masonic Lodge. Freemasons present the Golden Trowel Award to members of individual lodges in recognition of outstanding service to the craft.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, Sept. 15
4:30 p.m., Manuel Reyes, 22, of San Antonio was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch on a motion to revoke community supervision. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

4:30 p.m., A Brackett man reported that his daughter was missing and that her father might have taken her to Del Rio without his permission. At 7:14 p.m., the child's step-mother said the girl's mother threatened her over the telephone. She said she could not bring the child back because her vehicle was broken down.

7:10 p.m., A man reported that he had found a white substance in a bag at a residence on Veltman Street. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene. He took the substance back to the Sheriff's Office. The case is still under investigation.

9:35 p.m., Deputy Cody Shannon reported a stray dog at

the library. A city employee was notified, but was unable to apprehend the animal. Shannon was able to catch the dog and a Brackettville man at the scene said he would take the dog.

11:46 p.m., A woman reported that someone was knocking on her front door on E. First Street.

Tuesday, Sept. 16
7:36 a.m., A woman reported a gray horse in her yard at her residence on Fourth Street. City officials were notified.

11:53 p.m., An official from the Val Verde Sheriff's Office received a 911 call from a local ranch. The owner stated that the ranch houses were all vacant. Deputy Shannon and Border Patrol agents were dispatched to the scene, but found no tracks or evidence of a break-in.

Wednesday, Sept. 17
7:28 p.m., A woman called 911 to report that her husband had been harassing her at her residence in Unit 15 of Fort Clark Springs.

Thursday, Sept. 18
10 a.m., A county employee said he was putting trash into a county truck when a man hit the truck while trying to park his vehicle. The truck was struck on the bumper, but was not damaged. The other vehicle had a broken headlight.

1:15 p.m., A Kinney County EMS employee reported a small fire on the railroad tracks close to the A.J. Foyt Ranch on Highway 90, west of Brackettville. DPS Trooper Tony Ashley put out the fire and railroad officials were notified of the situation.

2:25 p.m., Antonio Castellano Ramirez, 47, of New Braunfels was arrested by Trooper Ashley on warrants out of Comal County for failure to appear and driving while intoxicated.

4:58 p.m., A woman reported that an individual was speeding on Beaumont Street.

6:30 p.m., Oscar Chairez, Garcia, 49, of Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Welch for

driving with a suspended license. He was released the next day after posting a \$1,000 bail bond.

Friday, Sept. 19
1:44 p.m., An Alert Alarms employee reported an alarm sounding at the S.B. Ranch, located on Highway 90, about 12 miles east of Brackettville. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the ranch. He found that the residence was secure.

4:11 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a green Ford Mustang speeding on Highway 90, travelling west near the Cline checkpoint.

6:15 p.m., A woman reported a dead cat in front of her residence in Unit 14 of Fort Clark Springs. She was told to notify Fort Clark officials.

Saturday, Sept. 20
1:40 a.m., A woman requested assistance regarding a family matter at her residence on Fulton and Gove Street.

2 a.m., Deputy Manny Pena reported that a train was block-

ing the railroad crossing on Highway 131. Railroad officials were notified.

10 a.m., A man reported that a yacht had a blowout and was blocking one lane of traffic on Highway 90, about 7 miles east of Brackettville.

1:50 p.m., Kinney County Game Warden Henry Lutz reported an abandoned vehicle on Highway 277.

7:32 p.m., A Sentry Security employee reported a panic button going off at Pico. Deputy Ring was dispatched to the store and said everything was fine.

8:16 p.m., A woman reported missing window screens on her windows at her residence in Unit 7 at Fort Clark Springs.

8:43 p.m., A Fort Clark woman reported that her ex-husband was driving up and down the street.

10:16 p.m., A woman reported that there were some kids at the Jones Elementary playground. Deputy Shannon was dispatched to the scene, but was

unable to locate anyone.

Sunday, Sept. 21
3:15 a.m., Humberto Garza, 18, and Luis Albert Salas, 22, both of Del Rio, were arrested by Deputy Shannon. Garza was charged with driving while intoxicated, first offense. Salas was arrested on a warrant out of Denton County for public intoxication. Both men were booked into the Kinney County Jail, where they were still being held at press-time.

10:20 a.m., A man reported that a water line was busted on Second and Fort Street. A city employee was notified, but he said he was unable to locate a damaged water line.

Monday, Sept. 22
12:45 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee called to report that an individual at the gate needed EMS attention. The man had reportedly been assaulted near Pinto Creek on Highway 90. The man was transported to Val Verde Memorial Hospital in Del Rio.

Medicare Limits on therapy Services

Starting on September 1, 2003, Medicare limits how much it covers for outpatient

- Physical Therapy (PT),
- Speech-Language Pathology (SLP), and
- Occupational Therapy (OT)

The limits are:

- \$1,590 per year for PT and SLP combined, and
- \$1,590 per year for OT

After you pay your \$100 yearly Medicare Part B deductible, Medicare pays its share (80%) and you pay your share (20%) of the cost. In 2003, the limits only apply to therapy services you get between September 1 and December 31, 2003. This means that you can get the full amount of the annual limits for this four-month period.

The limits generally don't apply to the therapy services you get at hospital outpatient departments. Medicare should continue to pay for therapy services if you get them in a hospital outpatient department unless you reside in a Medicare-certified bed in a skilled nursing facility. The therapy limits apply to outpatient therapy you get.

From:

- Doctors,
- Physical therapists,
- Occupational therapists,
- Speech-language pathologists,
- Nurse practitioners,
- Clinical nurse specialists, and
- Physician assistants.

At:

- Private practices of therapists, physicians and non-physician practitioners,
- Out patient rehabilitation facilities/rehabilitation Agencies,
- Comprehensive outpatient rehabilitation facilities
- Skilled nursing facilities (SNF) for outpatient or residents who aren't in Medicare-covered stays, and
- Home, from home health agencies for outpatients who aren't getting Medicare-covered home health care.

Any outpatient PT, SLP, or OT received before September 1, 2003 doesn't count toward the outpatient therapy limit for 2003. In 2004, the limits will apply to therapy services for the whole calendar year.

REMEMBER: In most cases, the therapy limits don't apply to outpatient therapy you get at hospital outpatient departments. However, the \$1,590 limits do apply if you get therapy services at the hospital outpatient department if you are in the Medicare-certified part of the skilled nursing facility.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, LOOK AT www.medicare.gov on the web or call 1-800-224-4262.

Middle Rio Grande Development Council - AREA AGENCY ON AGING

**Rio Grande Electric Co-op ANNUAL MEETING**

Saturday, October 11
Pecos County Civic Center
1674 Airport Drive (Pecos Hwy.)
Fort Stockton, TX

8:00 A.M. - ??? P.M.
Arts & Crafts Fair - Open To The Public
Food Booths - Open To The Public
Displays - Open To The Public
Free Waffle Breakfast - 8:00 -10:00 A.M.
Health Fair - 8:00 -10:00 A.M.

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 Noon
RGEC Business Meeting
Free Barbecue Lunch
Door Prizes

Grand Prize Drawing:
"Retired" RGEC Pick Up Truck

Arts/Crafts/Displays/Food Booths are Open to the General Public. All other events are "RGEC Members Only".

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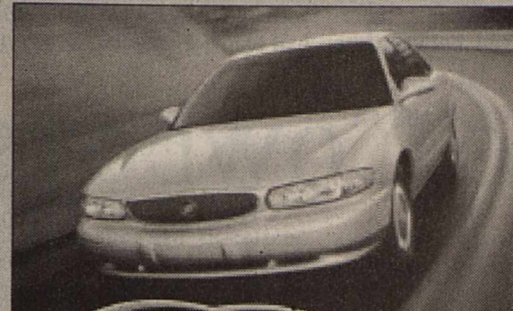
2003 Chevrolet Cavalier 4 Door

SALE PRICE \$11,685
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SAVE \$5,300

MSRP...16,985
 Regency Disc...1,300
 GM Rebate...4,000
 SN 11993

- Automatic
- Tilt Steering
- Cruise Control
- 4 Cyl. Engine
- AM/FM/CD
- Power Locks & Windows
- Remote Keyless Entry



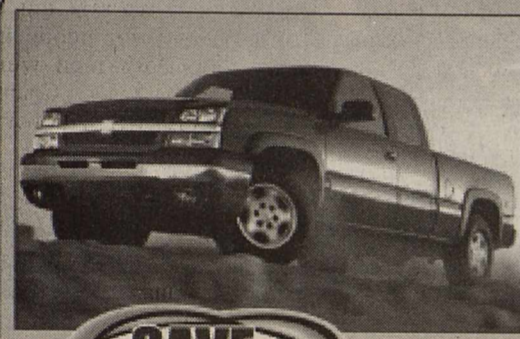
2003 Buick Century Sedan

SALE PRICE \$16,975
Plus TT&L

SAVE \$6,100

MSRP...23,075
 Regency Disc...2,100
 GM Rebate...4,000
 SN 50253

- Automatic
- V-6 Engine
- AM/FM/Cass/CD
- Power Driver Seat
- Power Locks & Windows
- Cruise Tilt



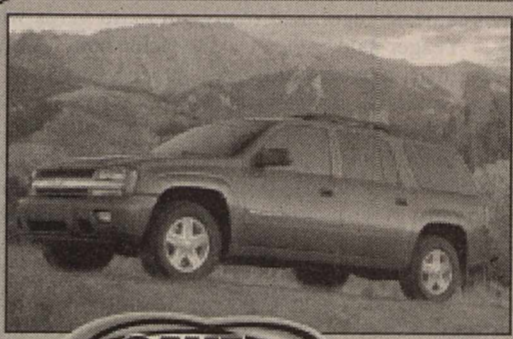
2003 Chevrolet Silverado 1500 Ext. Cab

SALE PRICE \$22,222
Plus TT&L

SAVE \$6,900

MSRP...29,122
 Regency Disc...2,900
 GM Rebate...3,000
 Bonus Cash...1,000
 SN 32103

- Automatic
- Power Drivers Seat
- V-8 Engine
- Alum. Wheels
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2003 Chevrolet Trail Blazer Ext LT

SALE PRICE \$25,295
Plus TT&L

SAVE \$6,900

MSRP...32,195
 Regency Disc...2,400
 GM Rebate...3,500
 Bonus Cash...1,000
 SN 32343

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SALE PRICE \$27,020
Plus TT&L

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- Overhead Console
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- Power Driver Seat
- Power Heated Mirrors
- AM/FM/CD

MSRP...31,520
 Regency Disc...2,000
 GM Rebate...2,500
 SN 70034

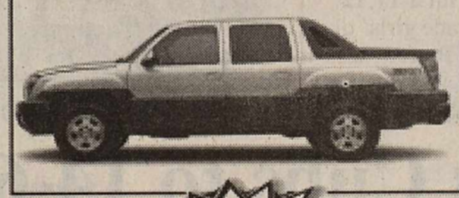


2004 Chevrolet Tahoe

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- Rear seat audio controls
- Tilt and Cruise
- Power Locks & Windows
- XM Satellite Radio

MSRP...41,550
 GM Rebate...1,500
 Regency Disc...3,000
 SN 30174

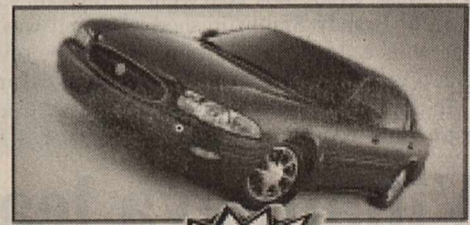


2004 Chevrolet Avalanche

SALE PRICE \$28,975
Plus TT&L

- Automatic
- V-8 Engine
- Power Adjustable Pedals
- Steering Wheel Mounted Controls
- Alum Wheels
- Heated Mirrors
- All Power
- Cruise and Tilt

MSRP...34,375
 GM Rebate...2,000
 Regency Disc...2,900
 Bonus Cash...500
 SN 31064



2004 Buick La Sabre Custom

SALE PRICE \$24,699
Plus TT&L

- Automatic
- V-6 Engine
- Tinted Glass
- AM/FM/Cass/CD
- Alum. Wheels
- Alarm System
- Cruise and Tilt
- Power Locks & Windows
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MSRP...28,170
 GM Rebate...2,000
 Regency Disc...1,471
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| 2003 Pontiac Grand Am | 28,576 miles | SN 5078 | 2002 GMC Sierra Crew Cab | 16,701 miles | SN5085 |
| 2003 Pontiac Grand Prix | 19,074 miles | SN 5079 | 2001 Dodge Ram 2500 Quad Cab | 49,961 miles | SN70024A |
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| 2002 GMC Yukon | 34,911 miles | SN 5075 | 2000 Dodge Durango | 44,565 miles | SN 5076 |
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| 2002 Chevrolet Silverado | 26,232 miles | SN 5062 | 2000 Chevrolet Prizm | 34,762 miles | SN 5067 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer | 44,917 miles | SN 5054 | 2000 Buick Park Avenue | 54,289 miles | SN5069A |
| 2002 Pontiac Bonneville | 25,643 miles | SN 4941 | 2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab | 33,780 miles | SN 5014 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab | 6,716 miles | SN 4963 | 2000 Buick LaSabre | 35,210 miles | SN 4985 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab | 37,317 miles | SN 5028 | 2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 | 28,734 miles | SN 5023 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe | 31,021 miles | SN31783A | 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 Pickup | 33,243 miles | SN 5052 |
| 2002 Chevy Avalanche | 28,120 miles | SN 4937 | 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 Pickup | 34,178 miles | SN 5056 |



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Tigers host Broncos Friday night

By J.J. GUDRY
Sports Editor

The Brackett Tigers would love nothing more than to go into District 30-2A play with a perfect 5-0 record.

They will get the chance to make that happen Friday night at 7:30 when they close their non-conference slate with a home game against the Sonora Broncos.

The Tigers have been rolling since the opening kickoff the season, out-scoring their opponents 162-50 en route that a 4-0 record that includes wins over

three larger 3A schools and longtime rival Sabinal.

"We are getting better each week and that is what the staff looks at," Brackett head coach David Yeager said. "The kicking game is improving each week and it came up big on Friday night. Going 4-for-4 on extra points was nice, as well as punt and kick-off coverage.

"We are improving in all phases. Offensively, we take what the defense gives us. Last week, Cotulla played seven in the box to respect our passing game and sweep attack... therefore, we attacked between the

tackles. Some defenses load the box with nine and then we attack the perimeter.

"Defensively, we are swarming the ball and bringing the wood with our hits. The kids like the scheme and are having fun playing it," he added.

The Broncos are entering tomorrow's contest with a 1-3 record. They picked up their first win of the season last week against Forsan.

"Sonora is a young team and they are improving each week," Yeager said. "They have lost to some good 3A West Texas football teams — Alpine, Brady and

Ingram. I know they will be ready to play Friday night."

Brackett's defense is currently ranked third in South Texas in rushing defense, allowing only 52.8 yards on the ground per game. The Tigers' opponents are averaging 166.8 total offensive yards an outing.

Against Forsan, Sonora's offense racked up 21 first downs and 466 yards, including 186 yards rushing and 280 passing.

"Fortunately for us, Sonora runs the same shotgun scheme that we have seen the past three weeks," Yeager said. "So defensively, we are ready for this type

of attack. They have a good running quarterback and a good throwing quarterback. Their offensive line is big and they have fast skill kids who can turn average plays into big ones."

Sonora's defense gave up only 6 yards rushing last week, but allowed 221 passing.

Yeager said the Tigers' offensive attack will depend on the Broncos' scheme.

"We will have to wait and see how Sonora lines up to our slot-T offense. Then we will take what they give us," he said.

"We like to establish the running game and then pass off of

play action. However, if you are averaging 6 to 7 yards a carry, you obviously want to keep on running the ball. We like for the run to set up the pass," Yeager added.

Brackett's offense is averaging 309 yards per game, including 263 yards on the ground.

Quarterback Kody Yeager is 10-of-17 passing for 185 yards with five touchdowns and no interceptions. Fullback Glenn Morgan has rushed for 397 yards and five TDs on 57 attempts, while tailback Tony Rosetti has tallied 303 yards and three touchdowns on 41 carries.

Tigers lasso Cowboys

Brackett's offense ran at will Friday night as the Tigers cruised to a 28-13 win over the Cotulla Cowboys at Tiger Stadium.

The Tigers (4-0) only had one fourth down in the entire game. Brackett racked up 258 offensive yards in the contest.

"I'm very pleased with the way our line opened up the holes and the way the backs and quarterback ran the ball," Tigers coach David Yeager said. "We converted 8 of 11 third-down attempts, which is very crucial in controlling the clock and moving the chains."

While the Tigers were able to move the ball at will, they did have trouble holding on to it, turning the ball over four times inside the Cowboys' 30-yard line and twice within the 10.

"Anytime you turn the ball over four times, that is reason enough to be concerned," Yeager said. "A couple were a result of our backs trying to do too much and Cotulla stripping the ball, and a couple were ex-

change problems. We will work on this extremely hard this week."

Defensive back Tillman Davis helped the Tigers gain control early. On the second play of the game, he intercepted a Carlos Miranda pass to give Brackett possession at the Cowboys' 41.

The Tigers moved the ball all the way to the Cotulla 1-yard line before turning it over. Two plays later, Davis recovered a fumble in the end zone for a touchdown 4:40 into the contest.

"Tillman Davis came up huge for us this week," Yeager said.

"Tillman is a very smart player who always does what he is coached to do. He had a fumble recovery for a TD and two picks. He is a good leader in our secondary. He is really playing solid for us each week."

Mark Kesteloot scored on a 1-yard plunge with 1:29 left in the opening stanza as the Tigers jumped ahead 14-0.

The Cowboys pulled within one touchdown in the second

quarter as Miranda connected with Chuck Perez on an 18-yard scoring strike, but Brackett's Noe Talamantes returned a fumble 73 yards for a score, giving the Tigers a 21-7 lead at halftime.

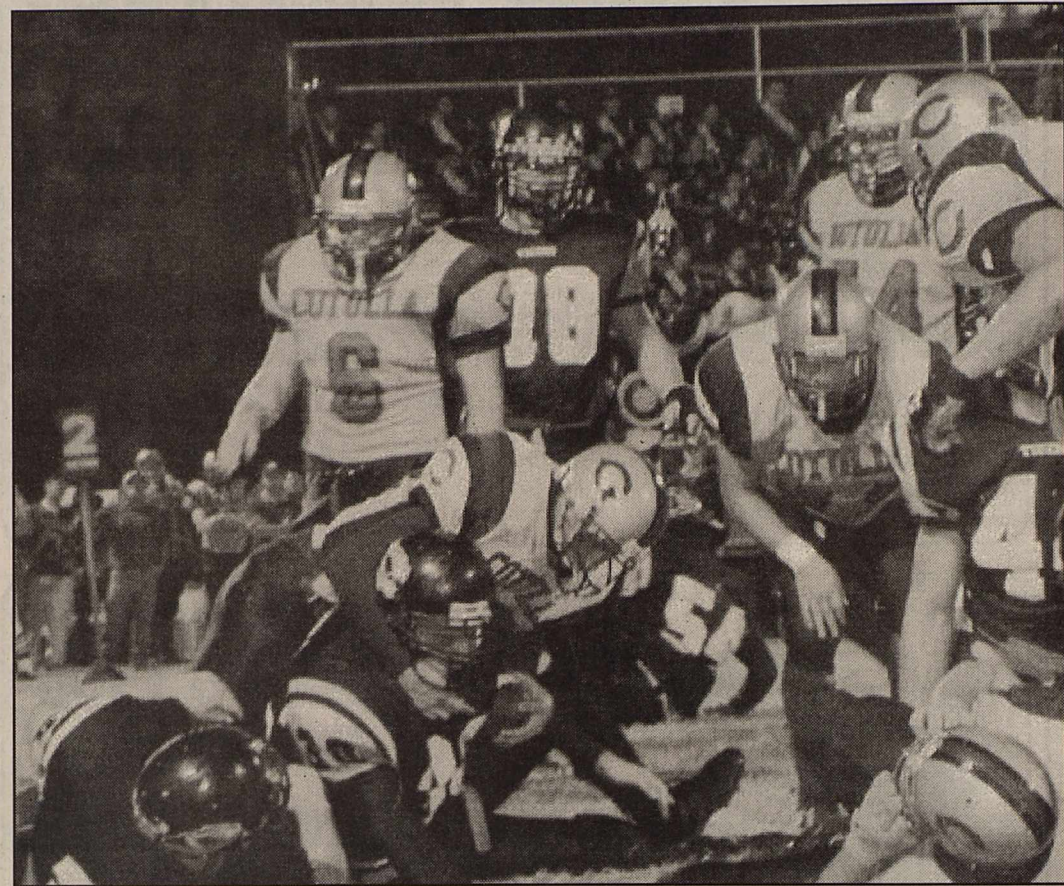
Brackett took a commanding 28-7 lead at the 9:19 mark in the third quarter when running back Glenn Morgan crossed the goal line from 6 yards out.

Morgan finished the contest with a season-high 149 yards rushing on 20 attempts.

"Glenn ran extremely hard and really got extra yards when they tried to tackle him," Yeager said. "A sign of a great back is to make yards after contact and he does this really well. Plus, he and Mark are our most explosive kids in the weight room and it shows when they run the ball."

Miranda tossed a 21-yard TD pass to Eliazar Gonzalez on the first play of the fourth period for Cotulla's last score.

Miranda was 5-of-17 passing for 104 yards with two touchdowns and three interceptions.



Extra yardage

Brackett's Glenn Morgan fights for extra yards against Cotulla Friday. The fullback rushed for 149 yards in the Tigers' 28-13 win over the Cowboys.

Photo by Danielle Moore

Tigerette runners win gold

PEARSALL — Juliann Ashabranner and Ashley Smith led the Brackett Tigerettes to a first-place finish Saturday at the Pearsall cross country meet.

Individually, Ashabranner and Smith finished first and second for Brackett with times of 13:02 and 13:30, respectively.

Ashley Castillo turned in an eighth-place finish with a time of 13:52, Rachel Swinson was 16th after being clocked at 14:20, Jessi Crane took 26th with a 15:24, Brandy Smith finished 31st with a 15:38 and Divina Pena was 40th with a 16:37.

In the varsity boys' division, Justin Calk finished 37th over-

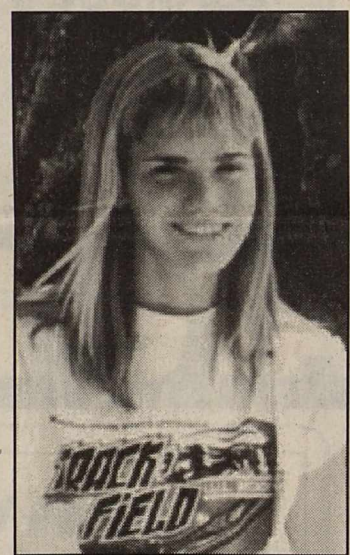
all with a time of 20:06.

Lola Cano and Stephanie Bonner were 14th and 17th in the junior varsity girls' division with times of 15:59 and 16:15, respectively.

In the eighth grade boys' competition, Travis Bonner was 26th with a 14:02 and K.J. Bonner finished 45th with a 16:14.

Elva Garcia was 13th in the eighth grade girls' division with a time of 15:36, while Heather Baggett was 31st with a 17:12.

In the seventh grade girls' division, Harmony Pettett was 16th with a 16:11 and Jessica Garza was 50th with an 18:37.



Juliann Ashabranner

Volleyball team falls

The Brackett Tigerettes came up short Friday, falling to the Cotulla Cowgirls 25-17, 18-25, 25-16, 25-7 in high school volleyball action.

"We have to become consistent in the good things," Tigerettes coach Rhonda Marquardt said. "We have glimpses of great things. We just can't seem to keep them going for a long period of time."

Ashley Castillo led Brackett's offense with seven kills. Beth Ballew and Shanae Simmons each finished with five, Courtney Frerich had four, and Stephanie

Bonner, Stacey Castilla and Ashley Smith all had one apiece.

Smith served three aces in the contest, Ballew had two and Bonner pitched in one.

Amanda Davis chipped in 11 assists, Brapdy Smith had seven and Castillo had two.

Defensively, Bonner, Davis and Valerie Terrazas all had six digs. Emily Petrosky finished with four and Smith had three.

Simmons had three blocks in the match, and Castillo and Ashley Smith both had one.

In the junior varsity match, Brackett picked up a 25-20, 25-

6 victory over Cotulla.

The Tigerettes served 94 percent in the contest. Emily Valenzuela led the J.V. with six kills and five aces.

The junior varsity and varsity teams played LaPryor on the road Tuesday, but results were not available at press-time.

The varsity will host the Comstock Lady Panthers tomorrow evening at 5.

On Tuesday, the freshmen, junior varsity and varsity teams all open district play with home matches against Dilley. Action starts at 5.

Villanueva leads Cubs to 14-6 gridiron victory over Cowboys

Fermin Villanueva scored a pair of touchdowns and a conversion to lead the Brackett Cubs to a 14-6 road win over Cotulla last Thursday in junior high football action.

With the win, the Cubs improve to 0-1-1 overall.

Villanueva finished with 170 yards rushing on 18 carries. Travis Bonner added 31 yards on two attempts for Brackett.

Defensively, BJH's Moises Gonzalez recovered a fumble to set up the Cub's first score.

"I thought our kids did a great job on defense this week against Cotulla," Brackett coach Ricky Creel said.

Brackett returns to action today with a road game against Sonora. Kick-off is at 5 p.m.

Eighth Grade Volleyball
The Cubettes took first place in the Eagle Pass junior high tournament on Saturday.

Brackett opened the tournament with a 25-12, 19-25, 15-9 win over Carrizo Springs, serving a season-high 95 percent.

Bailee Allen, Capri Creech, Meghann Davis, Anita DeLeon, Daphne Hunt and Erica Rodriguez all served 100 percent in the contest.

Rodriguez scored 19 points in the first game to bring the Cubettes from behind.

Allen and Julie Castillo each had one kill.

Brackett defeated Eagle Pass Junior High 25-16, 18-25, 15-11 in the semifinals. Jolisa Wright had one kill in the match.

In the championship, BJH posted a 25-17, 25-21 victory over Comstock.

Whitney Gum served 100 percent. Castillo finished with four kills, Allen pitched in three and Amber Castilla had two.

The Cubettes went up against Comstock again on Monday, but lost 25-16, 25-18. They resume action next Monday with a road game in Eagle Pass.

ROUNDUP

Seventh Grade Volleyball
The seventh-graders finished fourth Saturday in the Eagle Pass tournament.

The Cubettes opened the tournament with a 25-15, 25-22 win over Carrizo Springs before falling to Eagle Pass Junior High 25-12, 25-17.

In the third-place finale, BJH lost to Del Rio Sacred Heart in 3 games.

Brackett's Natalie Aguirre served 100 percent for the entire tournament. Esna Herrera served 89 percent in the tournament.

Becca Mann finished the day with five aces, while Bianca Terrazas had one.

On Monday night, the Cubettes came up short in a double-header against Sacred Heart, 25-17, 25-23, and Comstock, 25-18, 20-25, 25-8.

Aguirre, Herrera, Mann, Summer Allen, Valerie Davis, Bianca Martinez and Maribel Rivas all served 100 percent against Sacred Heart. Herrera also passed for 88 percent.

Against Comstock, Samantha Moore served 70 percent, including two aces, while Laura Adams had one ace.

"Brooke Bowlin and Jessica

Garza also served well," Brackett coach Michelle Frerich said. "Passing well against Comstock were Brooke Bowlin, Jessi Jones, Laura Swinson, Cristi Gomez and Serenity Gammill.

"The girls who played Comstock were fired up and excited to be on the court. They communicated well with each other and let go of their mistakes. They did an excellent job," she added.

The seventh-grade team plays Eagle Pass Junior High on the road Monday. Their next home game is Oct. 13 against Eagle Pass Memorial.

OUTDOORS

Local hunter education course begins on Monday

A local hunter education training course will begin on Monday. The course will continue on Tuesday, Sept. 30, Monday, Oct. 6, and conclude on Tuesday, Oct. 7.

Registration for the four-evening class will be Monday night at 6:30, followed by class until 9:30 each night. Classes will be held at the Brackett High School Annex, Room 5 (the science room) in Brackettville. The entrance is off of Fulton Street, across from the new high school building.

The cost is only \$10.00 per person. The class is a 12-hour course needed for certification. Everyone must attend all 12 hours to successfully complete the course and be certified.

Every hunter born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, must success-

fully complete a hunter education training course. Hunters of all ages are welcome to attend. A parent or other relative is encouraged to attend with their child. The minimum age of certification is 12 years old. In other words, you must be 12 at the start of the course.

If you are a hunter and you are 17 or older and born after Sept. 2, 1971, you must have this course to hunt. You will receive a citation if you hunt and have not completed the course.

This course is good for life. It has to be completed only one time.

Other states may require that a hunter complete a hunter safety or education course before hunting there. This course meets the requirements necessary for hunting out of state.



A Little on the Wildlife Side

Henry Lutz

Additional information regarding to hunter education:

If you were born on or after Sept. 2, 1971, and you are:

■ Age 17 and over, you must successfully complete a hunter education course to hunt.

■ Age 12 through 16, you must successfully complete a hunter education course or be accompanied by a licensed hunter 17 years of age or older when hunting.

■ Under 12 years of age, you must be accompanied by a li-

censed hunter 17 years of age or older when hunting. You are not old enough to take the course and be certified.

Hunters, regardless of age, need to purchase a hunting license and any stamps (if needed) and must carry them with him or her at all times while hunting.

Upon completion of the hunter education course, you will receive proof that you have completed the course. This proof of certification is required to be on your person, along with your hunting license, while hunting. It is not required to purchase a license.

If you need more information or have questions about the hunter education class, please call me at 563-2507 or 563-5083.

The Brackett News

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Sugar-free pies are sinfully rich

Next to chocolate, my favorite desert is pie — most any kind. The good and the bad is that it's Bill's favorite, too.

I was given two recipes for pies from the diabetic cookbook (you can use regular sugar if desired) that we love.

Although they are sugar-free, they are sinfully rich in cholesterol and taste. Try them — I am sure you will like them!

Buttermilk Pie

- 1 3/4 - 2 cups sugar substitute (I prefer Sweeta)
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/4 teaspoon salt (if desired)
- 3 large eggs
- 1/2 cup buttermilk
- 1/2 cup (1 stick) butter
- 1 teaspoon vanilla
- 1/8 teaspoon cinnamon

Mix dry ingredients together, and then add melted butter and vanilla.

Mix the beaten eggs with buttermilk. Combine the ingredients, stirring lightly.

Pour in an unbaked 9-inch pie shell.

Bake at 350 degrees for 60 to 65 minutes, or until brown. Store in refrigerator.

Texas Pie



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

- 1 1/2 - 2 cups sugar substitute
- 2 tablespoons flour
- 1/3 cup butter
- 2 large eggs
- * 1 cup coconut (I use unsweetened coconut and use the full 2 cups of sugar for my diabetic)
- 3/4 cup milk
- 1 teaspoon vanilla.

Mix flour and sugar together, and then add milk and eggs, mixing until smooth. Add remaining ingredients.

Pour into an unbaked 9-inch pie shell.

Bake at 375 degrees for approximately 45 minutes, or until gold in color.

The time may vary due to the oven and the pie dish that you use.

Check for doneness with knife.



Laughing it up

Brackett's mascot, "Rajah" (Shanae Simmons), hams it up with the Cotulla mascot on the sidelines during Friday night's football game. The Tigers got the last laugh, picking up a 28-13 win over the Cowboys.

Photo by Danielle Moore



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Reese man: Prepare for emergencies

By ROGER BAKER
Contributing Writer

James Reese man illustrated specific challenges a disaster might pose to the citizens of Kinney County and described ways to reduce each family's risk at last week's Brackettville Rotary Club.

Reese man is the acting director of the Kinney County Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC). The Wisconsin native spent a long career in Army intelligence prior to retiring here.

According to Reese man, the county disaster plan recognizes three levels of emergency situations: incidents, emergencies and disasters.

An incident involves only a few people and local agencies. Emergencies may require community-wide notification and has the potential to effect a larger area. A disaster involves the occurrence or threat of significant casualties and is beyond the capability of the local government to handle with its own resources.

"A disaster, like beauty, lies in the eyes of the beholder," says Reese man.

Reese man showed a copy of the Kinney County disaster plan, an enormous volume enacted by the Commissioners' Court in October of last year. He then identified some interesting points made in the plan.

"Did you know that Brackettville was scheduled to become the evacuation center for over 6,000 people in San Antonio had they ever been evacuated due to nuclear war?" asked Reese man.

The plan called for over 100 people to occupy the Burger & Shake restaurant and more than

400 to occupy the Adult Center at Fort Clark Springs.

"If that doesn't qualify as a disaster, nothing does!" he quipped.

Reese man identifies the biggest potential threat to Kinney County as electricity loss. This would create other problems, such as a loss of water pressure and the resulting problems with sanitation.

Without electricity or a backup generator, water cannot be pumped into the supply towers that provide most local municipal water. The county jail and medical clinic have backup generators, but the high school and Civic Center do not. Since both the high school and the Civic Center are identified as shelter areas in the event of a disaster, there is a potential problem.

The LEPC director recommended that local citizens take a few simple steps to mitigate their personal risk in the event of a power loss.

For those with essential electrical needs (such as a medically-prescribed ventilator), a back-up generator and a supply of fuel are essential.

He said all Kinney County citizens should attempt to keep at least a half-tank of gas in our cars since, in the event of a power loss, the gas stations won't be able to pump fuel.

Reese man recommends storing water at the rate of three gallons per day per person, with a three to five day supply. To flush toilets when the water supply fails, Reese man advises you will need an additional one and a half to three gallons of water per flush.

Alternately, a large garbage



Preparing for the worst

Rotarian Roger Baker (left) welcomes James Reese man to last week's Rotary Club meeting.

Photo by Bill Haenn

bag can be placed inside the commode for waste reception. Such bags should be sealed and stored far away from water supplies outdoors.

The Army veteran also recommended an alternative plan for cooking when the power fails. Perishable food should be consumed first. Items like fresh vegetables do not need to be cooked. Other items can be cooked on either a camp stove or even a small pit fire. A supply of food that does not require preparation is an ideal emergency resource.

Reese man's list included granola bars, canned meats such as tuna, dry cereal and canned fruits and vegetables. Some additional items to consider include candles, flashlights, oil lamps, and even a hand-cranked radio.

Most importantly, Reese man advised county residents to be-

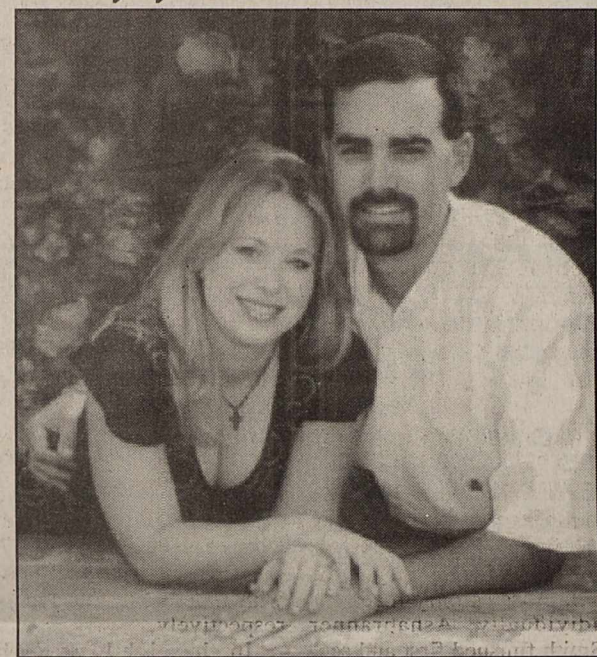
come concerned with disaster planning.

Some simple steps anyone can take include checking to see if their home lies in the flood plain (despite the dry weather, Kinney County does in fact experience floods). Other steps include preparing for the larger community response, including receiving Red Cross training or actively supporting the LEPC through volunteering time, money or materials.

Those who prepare now will be in position to assist others, including those for whom the disaster hits hardest. Immediate needs of the LEPC include funding and basic office equipment. Manpower needs include clerical assistance to maintain files and report membership changes.

"Most of all, we need you to preach 'preparedness' to your family members and friends," says Reese man.

Engagement Announcement



Cherrise Ward & J. J. Ducharme

Tim and Debbie Ward of Brackettville are pleased to announce the engagement of their daughter, Cherrise Ward, to J. J. Ducharme, son of Jean and Billie Ducharme of Del Rio. The bride-elect is a 1998 graduate of Brackett High School, and is currently attending the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor. The prospective groom is a 1996 graduate of Del Rio High School and he is currently employed as a conductor for the Union Pacific Railroad. The couple plans to wed at the First Baptist Church in Brackettville on October 25, 2003.

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Is the world getting bigger or smaller?

Since last week's ramblings, I discovered an interesting item in the *Saturday Evening Post*. The Earth really is getting bigger.

According to that magazine, there is an increase of dust from outer space that settles onto our world at a rate of about 40 tons per year. Is this something we should concern ourselves with?

Let's do the math. The surface area of a sphere is four times pi times the radius squared. I'll confess that I had to look that one up in the CRC handbook of mathematical tables.

Mother Earth isn't a true sphere, but it's close enough for our purposes. The diameter of

the globe is somewhere around 7,900 miles. Yes, I had to look that one up too.

Let's see, 4 times 3.14 times 7,900 divided by 2 times 7,900 divided by 2 equals... where's my calculator? The final product, depending on how accurate your pi value is, comes up to around 196,066,800 square miles. Multiply by 144 and we have 28,233,619,299 square feet. Hold that thought.

Now, how big is a ton of dirt? How much does a cubic foot of dust actually weigh? I looked it up. Couldn't find it. Let's see.

Cement weighs 97 pounds per cubic foot. In case you didn't know, that's why cement comes



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

in 97-pound bags. A cubic foot of water, 7.48 gallons, weighs about 59.84 pounds. I suspect that both are heavier than ordinary dust. I'll estimate (sounds better than guess) that dirt weighs 40 pounds. Which works out nicely with the 40 ton business.

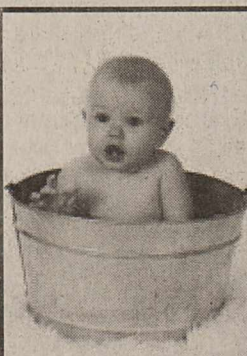
Now that makes around 2,000 cubic feet per year added to terra firma. Divide that by

28,233,619,200 and we find a layer of new dust .00000007 feet thick. Multiply by 12 and we have close to 8 ten-millionth of an inch deep. Not too impressive. It would take 80 million years to measure a full inch.

Yep, the Earth is getting a little bigger, but not that much. But wait, I forgot to account for all of the space trash we've shot up above our realm over the last 30 something years. Now I'm confused again.

Take that away from our size and I'm going to conclude that the world is getting smaller. I certainly don't have as much room as I used to.

But I could be wrong.



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- ACROSS 1 Space 44 Punished 3 Rose 4 Suffix for child or boor 5 Spice 6 Stratagem 7 Easiest to handle 8 Parisian priest 9 Fisherman's need 10 Slate 11 Presidential nickname 12 Distressful 14 Cautions 17 Jets, familiarly 18 Western Indian 22 Pale one or andante 25 Oak dropping 28 Still 28 Curved 29 Was dependent upon 31 Speeder's nemesis 1 "It's a ___!" 2 Withered 32 Obvious 33 Shorebird 34 True 35 ___ room 37 Gift for a child 42 "Gloria in excelsis ___!" 45 Puts down 48 Classes 50 Make music without an instrument 53 Episc. or Cath 55 Score for Orr 56 V x V x V x V x II 57 Nautical greeting 58 Checkers 59 Small land mass 60 With 67 Down, 1st couple 62 Night: Fr. 63 Get away 64 Marsh growth 65 Letter 67 See 60 Down

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-73.

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.

Today's Category: FOUR-LETTER ANIMALS

Grid for Roaring Twenties puzzle with letters U X K K U J J I R A E B and a list of 20 four-letter animals.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- Sept 25..... Johnny Castro Sept 26..... Kathy Bader Sept 26..... Martin DeHoyos Sept 26..... Amanda Frerich Sept 26..... Cora Palmer Sept 26..... Adriana Valderos Sept 27..... Yolanda Flores Sept 27..... Jewel Robinson Sept 27..... Virginia Williams Sept 28..... Cecilia Lumbreras Sept 28..... Vidalia Sanchez Sept 29..... Candace Bader Sept 29..... Brenda Clarke Sept 29..... Linda Goodloe Sept 29..... Joe Hernandez Sept 29..... Sally Robe Sept 30..... Georgia M. Shields Sept 30..... Joe Galvan Sept 30..... Jessica Terrazas Oct 1..... Maria Cervantes Oct 1..... David Seargeant Sr. Oct 1..... Grace Thornton

Roaring Twenties Solution: 1. Bear 2. Boar 3. Bull 4. Call 5. Colt 6. Deer 7. Fawn 8. Frog 9. Goat 10. Hare 11. Ibis 12. Lamb 13. Lion 14. Lynx 15. Mare 16. Mule 17. Puma 18. Seal 19. Toad 20. Wolf

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're not always as understanding as you can be. This week, tap into your compassionate side. Someone needs your help. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Work is center stage this week. You don't have to go it alone, though. Co-workers are willing to extend themselves to the max. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your sense of accomplishment is complete. However, there are still details to tend to at work. By week's end, the loose ends are all tied up to your satisfaction. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid a tendency to dig your heels in this week. Believe it or not, you're not always right. Try listening to other viewpoints before reaching a conclusion. LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're feeling better and more energetic this week. Make the most of this. You have some catching up to do at work. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) If you're honest, you'll admit to yourself that someone close to you is just making excuses. Don't allow this person to get away with it. If you do, you'll find yourself taken advantage of. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Progress this week will be made in baby steps. Curb your impatience. You'll be where you want to be by the end of the year, both personally and professionally. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Try not to take on a project which isn't suited to your talents. Instead, apply yourself where you're best able to make a difference. This weekend, your mate has a surprising but happy revelation. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Guard your possessions carefully this week. If not, you could misplace something of importance. The end of the week sees you busy making social plans. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You're right to be suspicious of a friend's motives. This person is not being on the level with you. Clearing the air can be painful, but it's necessary for the sake of the relationship. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Avoid a tendency to be a bit sanctimonious this week. While you form your opinions thoughtfully, you're not always right. Over the weekend, a bit of solitude helps you put things in perspective. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You need to keep a handle on that temper this week. While you're a bit edgy, it won't do to simply blow up. If you do, you'll find yourself working overtime to make amends.

Try to understand the right way to use the gifts God has given us

A recent column in *The Brackett News* opined that it is time to limit immigration to the U.S.

The column pointed out that over half of Mexico's citizens live below the poverty line, implying that the motivation for illegal immigration is economic. Understanding Mexican immigration in economic terms does not tell the whole story.

I suspect that the real problem is not financial, but spiritual. And the spiritual problem is ours.

The Mexican people aren't starving — they just want a better life. As a nation, we in the U.S. have bought into the idea that consumer debt is acceptable, that new cars are a necessity of life, that everyone needs a cell phone and a computer, and that individual liberty is more important than communal stability.

We tend to worship the human body through fashion, or prurient appetites, or consumption of goods and services little known even in this country two decades ago.

Searching for love or approval or validation, we spend

money on objects and experiences rather than meeting the simple physical needs of our neighbors. And we've shared this "consumer gospel" with our neighbors to the south.

Of course, money cannot fix everything. In fact, the Bible generally regards wealth as more of a burden to the Christian than help (Luke 18:25).

The "coyotes" that prey on the unsuspecting would-be Mexican immigrants are just one link of a chain that promotes money as a cure-all for any problem.

The church that assisted the Mexican government to suppress educational opportunities for years was another link in this chain.

Drug dealers who exploit these innocent young men are another part of the puzzle.

But I don't think we can ignore the images we see on TV and hear in music as part of the problem, too.

When we tell people to "buy, buy, buy" and they have no money, they will seek a way to make money. The Bible tells us we should have been urging



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

them to "sell, sell, sell." (Matthew 19:21)

From a Christian perspective, the most important part of the solution is love. We cannot solve illegal immigration until we learn to love those who would seek a better life in the U.S. (1 Corinthians 13:3).

This isn't about political correctness. It's about basic Christian values. Christians value each person as a creation of God whom we are to give the good news of freedom from want, freedom from the law and freedom from condemnation (Matthew 16:15).

Christians are less concerned about food and clothing because they know that God will provide. (Matthew 6:25)

If we have scores of people trying to come to the U.S. to live the "good life," maybe we've

failed to share the real message of Jesus Christ.

If we as "Americans" are alighted from a "melting pot," then surely the people of Mexico have been forged through hammer blows and shaped over hot coals.

Oppressed for three centuries variously by state, church and neighbors, the common people of Mexico have had little opportunity for success on their own terms.

As the wealthy neighbor next door, the U.S. has historically regarded Mexico a little more than a labor pool and natural resource. Missionary efforts to Mexico often focus on material goods rather than the "good news" of new hope in Christ.

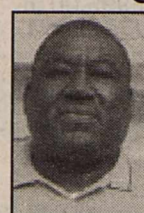
When Christians buy into the modern consumer culture, we're not sharing the gospel of Jesus Christ — something to think about before that next trip to WalMart.

At First United Methodist, we're trying to understand the right way to use the gifts God has given us. Join us for worship at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday and please bring a Bible.

Church to dedicate new pantry and classroom building Sunday

Everyone is welcome to a "Praise the Lord" feeding and teaching dedication service Sunday at 3 p.m. for St. John's pantry and classroom building.

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church is located at 116 W. Crockett St. in Brackettville.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

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"I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies. I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments. The bands of the wicked have robbed me; but I have not forgotten thy law.

"At midnight I will arise to give thanks unto thee because of thy righteous judgments. I am a companion of all them that fear thee, and of them that keep thy precepts.

"The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy, teach me thy statutes." (Psalm 119:49-64)

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A book can be judged by its cover

"Da-ad, why can't I wear what I want?" Jeffery whined.

"For one thing, the school has a dress code that some of your choices would violate," Dave answered.

"But why have a dress code?" Jeffery persisted.

"Listen, son," Dave said. "There are a lot of teenagers who believe that the Osbornes are an acceptable fashion statement. What would it be like at school if all the kids had their hair colored all kinds of weird colors and wore jewelry in holes they made in their bodies? And what if all the girls wore clothes that periodically slipped off



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

their hips and the boys wore baggy pants and sleeveless shirts?"

Jeffery laughed: "Well, it sure would upset the teachers and principal. They'd be out of their minds."

"Is that the objective of dressing in such weird ways? To make others feel uncomfortable and to

challenge the sensibilities of adults?" Dave asked.

"But why do they have to judge me on what I wear? Why can't they judge me on my character and the real me that's inside? Not on what I wear. You can't judge a book by its cover, Dad," Jeffery exclaimed.

"That's a good point, son," Dave said. "If you had written a book with examples of moral behavior and responsible decision making in it, what kind of cover would you design so that people would know it was a fine book and worth reading?"

"So the point is," Jeffery quipped, "that the way we look

on the outside should reflect what we are on the inside."

"You're right again son. A very wise man once said that people can tell what a man is by his appearance. What he wears, the way he walks and what comes out of his mouth will proclaim him for what he is. (Sirach 19:25-26). Sometimes people will never know the person you really are on the inside because they can't get passed what you wear."

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

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FOR SALE. MOBILE home with roof built over it. Master bedroom, master bath, living room, breezeway with washer, dryer and storage. Separate bedroom with bath. All under one roof on 2 lots. 10x12 insulated storage building/workshop. 8x12 storage building. \$16,000. 830-743-0625.

MARY KAY COSMETICS, Alana Flurry, 563-9435. Evenings/Weekends, Complimentary facials, products, etc. www.marykay.com/afurry

GENERATOR, GENERAC 45KW, propane, low hours and good condition. Sacrifice at \$10,500 - bring offers. Call Mike (281) 235-7645.

TEXAS LONGHORNS - OWN a "Texas Legend"! They are Colorful, Gentle and have L-O-N-G horns! Ropers \$400+, heifers, cows and bulls \$500+. Call (281) 236-4251.

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FREE 3-ROOM DIRECTV System including installation! 4 months FREE programming with "NFL" subscription. Access 225+ TV channels. Digital quality picture, sound. Limited offer. 1-800-264-3458.

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2 story - 3 bed, 2 1/2 baths, den, overlooking Las Moras Creek. Beautiful, peaceful location.

3 bed, 1 bath townhouse, newly painted, new tile on 1st floor. \$25,000.

In great condition - 3 bed, 2 baths, rock exterior, fireplace, Large garage for RV storage. \$120,000.

Owner will finance with small downpayment - 2 bed, 1 bath house behind Pico's.

Great buys on commercial lots in Brackettville.

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DOUBLE-WIDE 4 BR 2 bath only \$19,850.00. Call 1-800-448-7076

NEW FLEETWOODS SOME selling at cost. 1-800-448-7076.

16 X 76 SHINGLE ROOF - Hardboard very fancy call 1-800-448-7076.

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Ken Barnett Real Estate

P.O. Box 1035
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Brackettville, TX 78832
830-563-2446

- Townhouse lot 116, unit 1 furnished.
- Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.
- Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.
- 166 AIRPORT RD. 2br/2bt enclosed porch, patio, storage, fenced b/y 2 car carport all electric.

Have Buyers - Need Listings!
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View Listings: www.realestatetxkinneycounty.com

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Historical Homes For Sale on Colony Row in FCS.

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- * 3/2 Near school, fenced yard, huge lot, like new!
- * 2/2 with carport-great home for small family or couple, Excellent Condition.
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Hunting Ranches Available!
www.Tejas-Properties.com

PUBLIC NOTICES

REQUEST FOR SPACE. The Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board (MRGWB) is accepting bids for office space in Brackettville to provide services to area residents. The bid must include space containing a minimum of 750 square feet. Bid quotations must include adequate parking within or adjacent to the property. The space must have adequate bathrooms, air conditioning and heating and be negotiable for construction of individual offices. MRGWB will consider bidders that are willing to enter into a lease with the MRGWB having the option of renewing the lease. The office space must meet handicapped access pursuant to the Americans Disability Act and 504 requirements or to accommodate for these requirements within a 12-month period. Bids should be mailed to the attention of Ricky McNeil, Executive Director, Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board, P.O. Box 760, Uvalde, Texas 78802. All bids must be received by 4:00 p.m. Thursday, October 16, 2003. The MRGWB reserves the right to reject any or all bids received and/or negotiate with individual bidders regarding specific requirements. The MRGWB is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For more information please contact our office through our VOICE or TDD telephone (830) 591-0141.

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OLD COYOTE AND mountain lion traps. If you have any coyote, mountain lion, or even bear traps lying around we might be interested. Especially interested in steel traps and trap parts made by Newhouse. Call 830-563-2656, or e-mail uplander@me dianec.com.

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3BR, 2B HOME, CH/A on 2 acres - 830-774-3001 or 830-734-6076.

I'M MAD...AT banks who don't give house loans because of bad credit, problems or new employment. I do, call L.D. Kirk, Homeland Mortgages, (254) 947-4475.

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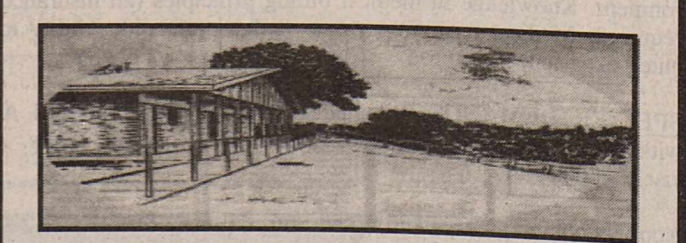
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