

The Brackett News

Thursday, April 12, 2007

Volume 19, No. 10

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



Monumental News

Justin Hidalgo reads *The Brackett News* in the shadow of the Washington Monument in Washington, D.C. See photo contest details in the Briefs.

Photo submitted by Pat Hidalgo

Ward hired as water district GM

Diana K. Ward was hired as the new general manager for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (KCGCD) at a special meeting on April 4.

Ward most recently served as the district's administrative assistant and replaces former general manager Darlene Shahan, who resigned in November, 2006.

Ward and former county commissioner Francie Wylie were the only two people to submit applications to the board.

The agenda called for the discussions regarding the employment of a general manager to occur in executive session and this was readily objected to by Director Don Hood.

"Under 551.027, I am taking this straight from the law. This section permits the executive session deliberations concerning an individual officer or an employee. My attorney claims that her name, the names have to be on here. The names have to be on the agendas. So, I am sorry y'all, but I can not make the executive session again. I will be violating the law."

Hood did not enter into executive session.

Upon the board's return to open session, Wylie was recognized and said, "In light of the previous objection in open court to the agenda item on the general manager's position, I declined to be interviewed in ex-

ecutive session and as an applicant, I would like to request to either be interviewed in open court or that the item objection be resolved and reset on a future agenda. Thank you."

"The board feels that we've done things in accordance with the law and with the way we posted the agenda and therefore we are going to proceed," said Director Lloyd Lee Davis.

A motion was then made by Beth Ann Smith and seconded by Christopher Ring to hire Ward as the general manager with an annual salary of \$20,000.

Smith, Ring, Davis and Tony Frerich voted in favor of the motion; Hood abstained.

Gloria Benacci, Director for the City of Brackettville At Large was absent from the meeting.

The resignation of Duke Meek, Director Fort Clark Springs At Large was unanimously accepted.

In Meek's resignation letter, he recommended geologist and Fort Clark resident John Boxell be appointed to replace him.

Board members then took action and recommended with a 4-1, vote to recommend Boxell to the County Commissioners Court, as all appointments to the water district are made by the commissioners.

Hood voted against the measure stating, "...If a vacancy occurs on the board, the commissioners court may appoint a di-

rector to serve the remainder of the term. I discussed this with some friends of mine and it is really this is really none of our business. This is 100 percent commissioners. This has nothing to do with this board and I think we should leave it like that. ...We have never solicited anybody's name. I would like to leave it just like it is."

Davis was elected as the board's new president with Smith, Ring, Davis and Frerich voting in favor of the motion; Hood again abstained.

Frerich was unanimously elected to replace Davis as vice president of board.

Ring will continue to serve as the board's secretary.

Geologist Joe Goebel presented an update on the dye tracer study being conducted by the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

Goebel stated the independent contractors from George Veni and Associates were following protocol and were "doing a professional job."

Ray Smith, representing Grass Valley Water, stated his company is currently split sampling in the Authority's study and had not detected any dye in their collection packets located in the Las Moras Springs or Pinto Creek.

R. Smith did express disappointment in the fact his company's first collection

Continued on Page 2

City employees get health insurance

Brackettville City Council members approved a motion to provide health insurance to its employees at a regular meeting on April 10.

According to City Hall, this will be the first time city employees have had access to health insurance in the last five years.

The cost for insuring ten employees is expected to be \$18,000 for six months, or \$36,000 per year.

Thirty thousand dollars was budgeted for employee health insurance in the 2006-2007, budget that was approved by council in late in the year 2006.

The vote was unanimous, but councilwoman Lydia Tipps wanted the public to know the City still owed the Texas Municipal League (TML) \$21,000, for unpaid health insurance premiums. Alderwoman Mary Flores was absent from the meeting.

The unpaid debt stems from the city's near-bankruptcy experience in 2003, while under the leadership of former city

manager David Luna.

City Secretary Bonnie Mayes then stated the city is currently making monthly payments to TML and the city employees were not responsible for the debt and deserved to have health insurance.

Mayes, in the same discussion, stated that since she was hired nearly three years ago, the city has paid off approximately \$260,000 of its debt and the TML balance is the only bill left over from that time period.

Attorney Robert Adams was unanimously voted in to serve as the city's Prosecuting Attorney. Adams, a former deputy district attorney in Eagle Pass and a resident of Fort Clark Springs, recently opened a private practice in Brackettville. Adams will assist the city in prosecuting residents that fail to comply with the city's ordinances.

New Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department Chief Leo Luna introduced himself to the council and was surprised with two rounds of applause from the audience.

Luna reported the other officers elected at the BVFD meeting on April 9, were Joe Boy Williams, Assistant Fire Chief; Joe Luna, Captain; Demetrius Williams, Lieutenant; Wes Robinson, Secretary/Treasurer.



Leo Luna



Advancing On Education

Head Start Director Julia Terrazas displays her recent state certification for advanced child care training.

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

News BRIEFS

Vacation Bible School

First Baptist Church of Brackettville has scheduled Vacation Bible School for July 16-20, 2007. The theme is SonForce Kids, A Spy Adventure.

Weekend WEATHER

Friday	Partly Cloudy High: 69 Low: 56
Saturday	T- Storms High: 64 Low: 46
Sunday	Sunny High: 58 Low: 45

Wine and Cheese Party

The Old Quarry Society will hold the annual Wine and Cheese Party on Sunday, April 15th, 4:00-6:00 p.m. at Member Services. The Wine and Cheese Party is held each spring in appreciation for all our patrons during the year and to install officers for the next year. If you have ever attended an Old Quarry production, you are a member of the organization and are cordially invited to attend.

Meet Your Candidates

The public is invited to attend a candidate forum with the nine school board candidates on Friday, April 20, at 6:30p.m. Candidates will be able to introduce themselves to the public and answer questions from the public. Questions for the candidates must be submitted in advance and will be accepted until April 18. 563-2852 or

tbnews@sbcglobal.net.

Rabies Clinic

The City of Brackettville will be hosting a Rabies Vaccination Drive at City Hall, April 21, from 9 a.m. until 12 noon.

School Calendar

Friday 04/13: Softball District vs. LaPryor @ HOME 6pm, Baseball vs. Junction @ HOME 6pm, **Monday 4/16:** Board Meeting **Monday 04/16-04/20:** National Library, National Student Leadership, and Public School Volunteer Week. **Friday 04/20:** Political Candidate Forum @ Auditorium 6-8 pm. Baseball District @ Sabinal 4pm

Win \$1,000!

Would you like to win \$1,000? It's possible. The Adult

Chapter of FCA will hold a Golf Ball Drop fund-raiser and one lucky winner will win \$1,000. The Golf Ball Drop is set for May 2. Adult Chapter members are selling chances for \$10 each. For every \$10, you will have a golf ball in your name. Then, on May 2, a trashcan full of golf balls will be dropped from 50 feet into the air. The ball that lands at the bottom of a funnel or closest to the funnel wins the \$1,000.

Window Dedication

The Brackettville First United Methodist Church will be hosting a Window Dedication Ceremony on April 22 at 6 p.m. The public is invited to celebrate the completion of the eighteen-month project to replace the sanctuary windows with stained glass pictorials of Jesus. Light refreshments will follow the ceremony.

Photo Contest

Get your newspapers and cameras ready for the 2nd Annual TBN Photo Contest! Contest Rules: Individual(s) or (things) in photo must be holding The Brackett News and the banner (title) must be clearly displayed. Prizes will be awarded to the winners of the most original photo, most comical photo, for the photo taken the greatest distance from Brackettville and new category for this year...Famous person holding TBN. All submissions will be printed in TBN as space will allow. Photos submitted are subject to unlimited use by TBN. Staff members (and/or their immediate family members) can submit photos, but are not eligible to win. The deadline for submission will be September 28, 2007. Prizes and winners will be announced in the October 25, 2007, edition of TBN. Name, Address and Phone number must be included on each submission. Submit your electronic photos to: tbnews@sbcglobal.net, Subject line:

PHOTO CONTEST. No limit per person on submissions.

Cancer Survivors Dinner

All cancer survivors are invited to attend the Relay for Life Cancer Survivor Recognition Dinner on April 19, at 6pm at the Fort Clark Service Club. A spaghetti dinner will be provided. All survivors may bring one guest. Alison Carroll will be the speaker and Nathan LaFrenz will provide the entertainment. Any questions, please call Pat Sitzes at 563-5528.

2007 Volunteer Recognition

American Red Cross San Antonio Area Chapter's 2007 Volunteer Recognition "An Afternoon at the Ocarettes and American Red Cross Idol" Sunday, May 20, 2007. Rio Cibolo Ranch 3:00-6:30 pm. IH 10 East towards Houston Exit 595 and follow the Red Cross signs. For more information please call 210-582-1967 before May 10.

Letter to the EDITOR

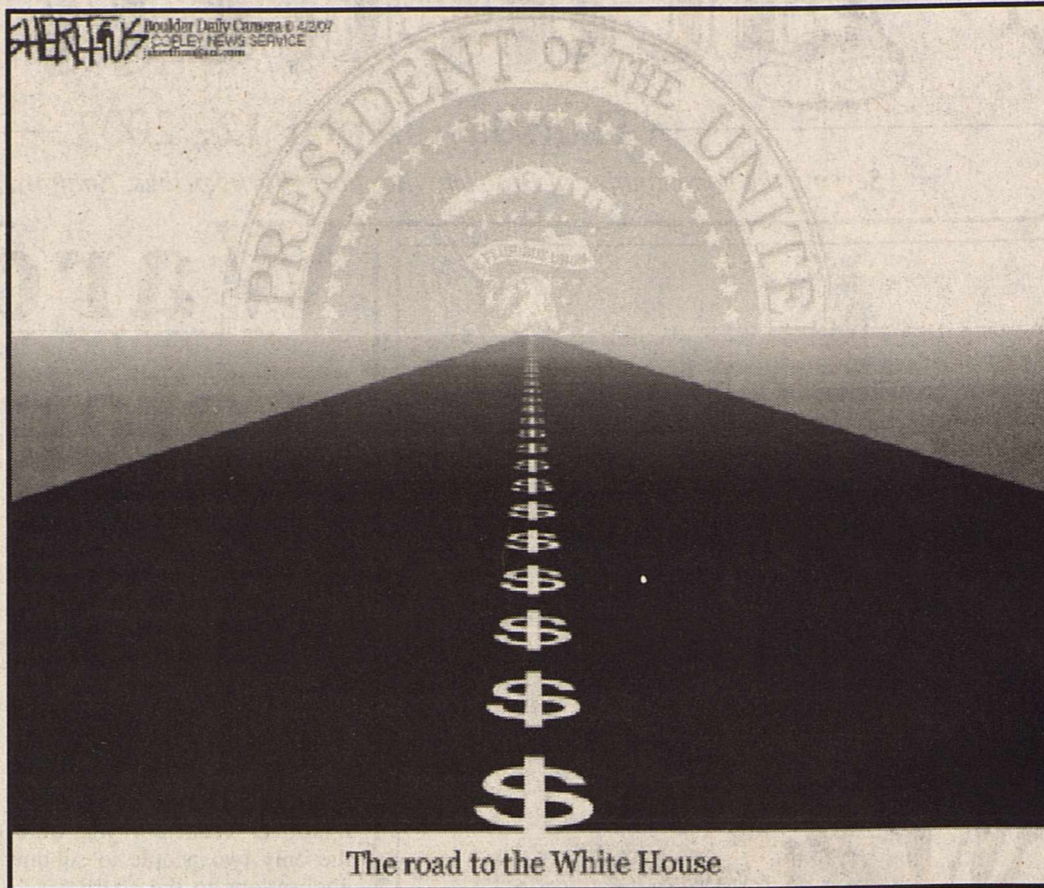
Dear Kinney County Residents,
I am very disappointed and concerned with the treatment I received at the KCGCD special meeting held April 4th, 2007. I had submitted an application for employment for the position of General Manager and been contacted to be present at the meeting. I was in attendance at the meeting with the exception that I would be interviewed for the position.

Due to some confusion and objections surrounding the executive session agenda item, I requested to be interviewed in the open meeting. I had hoped that interviewing in the open would make whatever issues and concerns regarding the agenda irrelevant. Two times I made the request to be interviewed in the open meeting. My request was completely ignored. I was not allowed to interview for the position. I firmly believe I made a legal, substantive request, per section 551.074 of the Government Code, relating to the personnel matters and closed meetings.

Immediately following my request the board proceeded on with the meeting as if I had made no request at all. They immediately took a motion to hire Diana Ward as General Manager, received a second and called for a vote. Directors Lloyd Davis, Chris Ring, Beth Smith and Tony Frerich all voted in favor of the motion, Director Don Hood abstained. The motion passed.

The action of the board could not have been the best one or right one to take if their collective purpose is to represent the taxpayers and citizens of this country. Their actions were arbitrary and completely inequitable. It might have been illegal. What would it have hurt to ask me a few questions? How could that have selected the best applicant when that did not even interview all of them?

Francie Wylie



The road to the White House

Hood questions legality of board's actions

Continued from Page 1

packet had been sabotaged and rendered useless.

Texas Government Code, 551.074 reads as follows: § 551.074. PERSONNEL MATTERS; CLOSED MEETING. (a) This chapter does not require a governmental body to conduct an open meeting: (1) to deliberate the appointment, employment, evaluation, reassignment, duties, discipline, or dismissal of a public officer or employee; or (2) to hear a complaint or charge against an officer or employee. (b) Subsection (a) does not apply if the officer or em-

ployee who is the subject of the deliberation or hearing requests a public hearing.

In a pamphlet titled, "Texas Open Meetings Act Made Easy," page 18, reads *Does the entity have to post the name of the individual employees who are to be discussed in executive session? A local entity is not required to post the name of the specific individual to be discussed in an executive session. However, the more important the position being discussed, the more specific the posted agenda will need to be in describing that position. Thus, the phrase "possible dismissal of a police of-*

ficer" would probably be a sufficient posting for a city to consider firing a police officer of low rank. On the other hand, if a city is considering the dismissal of the police chief, the posting arguably should indicate "possible personnel action regarding police chief" so that the public is clearly informed as to which high-level position is under discussion.

The Texas Government Code Chapter 551, Texas Water Code, Chapter 36 and the Texas Open Meetings Act are all available by visiting www.thebrackettnews.com.

Financial tips for new parents



Emily Cooper

If you've just had a child, you are no doubt excited and happy, though you could probably use a little more sleep. And if you're like most new parents, you have big dreams for your little one. But if you're going to help make those dreams come true, you're going to need to make the right financial moves. And the best time to start is now.

To begin with, you'll want to evaluate your life insurance. When you first started out in the working world and you were only looking after yourself, you probably didn't need a whole lot of insurance. After you're married, though, you'll want enough insurance to at least help your spouse pay off your mortgage. And once you have children, you'll add a new dimension to your life insurance needs, because you'll want to have enough coverage to educate your kids, and perhaps set them up in adult life.

How much insurance does that take? There's no one "right" answer for everyone. You will have to consider a variety of variables, such as your spouse's income, how many children you have, what type of college - public or private - you'd like them to attend and how much you'd like to give them to begin their working lives.

Beyond obtaining enough insurance, what other financial moves should you make upon the addition of a child? Consider setting up a college fund. As you may know, college has become quite expensive in recent years. In fact, for the 2006-2007 school year, it costs, on average, \$16,357 for students attending four-year public colleges and universities, according to the College Board. If college costs were to rise five percent every year, today's newborns can expect to pay about \$162,000 for four years at a public school. In short, you've got quite an incentive to save for college - early and often.

In building a college fund, the earlier you start saving, the better. Fortunately, you have some attractive savings vehicles available, such as a Section 529 plan or a Coverdell Education Savings Account, both of which can offer tax-advantaged ways to save for college. To determine if these plans are suitable for your needs, consult with your financial and tax advisors.

In addition to a college fund, you may want to open a separate investment account for your new child. You can set up a custodial account as established by either the Uniform Gift to Minors Act (UGMA) or the Uniform Transfers to Minors Act (UTMA). In an UGMA or UTMA account, the first \$850 of annual investment income is tax-free to a child under 14, and the next \$850 is taxed at the child's rate. Any amount over \$1,700 will be taxed at your rate. Keep in mind, though, that once you make a gift to your child, it is "irrevocable" - which means you no longer have any legal access to, or authority over, the funds. Before proceeding with an UGMA or UTMA account, make sure to consult with your tax advisor.

When you have new children, you have a lot to think about. Just make sure one of the things you're thinking about is their financial security.

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Letter To Editor POLICY
The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and be on subjects of interest. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. Letters found or believed to be written by a person other than that of the signed author will be refused. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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Public Notice
The City of Brackettville will be enforcing all City Ordinances including the following:
Animal Control Ordinance 2001-09-01-AC
Vaccination Requirements Sec. 1996-2.9000-All livestock (cattle, horses, sheep, goats, mules, burros) will need a permit fee of \$4.00 per animal. Fowl will have a permit fee of \$4.00 per pen. All livestock shall be maintained at least fifty (50) feet from any permanent residence or any building occupied by human beings.
Water supply available within the enclosure (pen) shall be a piped water supply to maintain air gap between water supply and any vessel or trough. A check valve shall be placed between the end of the pipe and a faucet.
Exclusion: Students who are members of the Kinney County 4-H or Brackett ISD Livestock Projects.
All dogs and cats shall have a rabies vaccination once per year.
Ordinance 260 Sec. 3 - unlawful for any person owning or renting whether vacant or improved within the city limits to permit weeds, high grass, brush, old logs, decaying vegetable matter, trash or trash piles, junk, scrap, open garbage, filth or debris whatsoever and hereby declared to be a public nuisance, hazard and menace to public health, and fire hazards.
This means clean your lots of all debris and maintain whether vacant or occupied.
Ordinance 255A - Remove abandoned or junk vehicles and other personal property left in city streets, alley and other right of way. Abandoned or junk vehicles on your property shall also be removed.

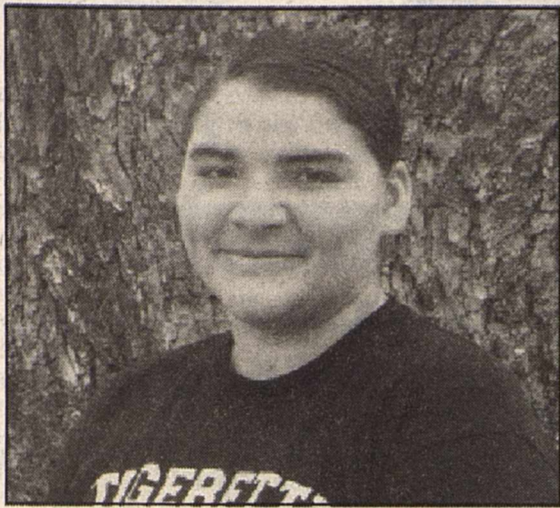
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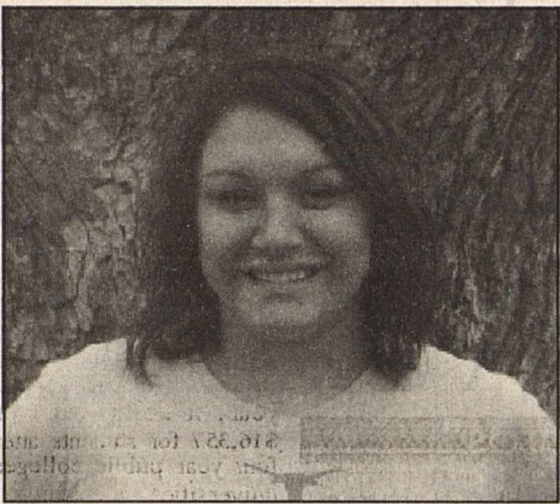
BHS SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

Class of 2007



Allison Del Bosque

Name: Allison Del Bosque
 Mother: Norma Del Bosque
 Father: Joel Del Bosque
 Siblings: Austin Del Bosque, Amanda Del Bosque and Celia De Leon
 What Are Your Plans After Graduation?: I plan on attending the University of Texas at San Antonio and major in Sports Kinesiology. I want to eventually open my own practice of physical therapy.
 What Teacher Influenced You The Most? Mrs. Ballew has inspired me because she pushes me past my limits. She makes me feel like I can succeed with anything I do in life.
 What do you think you will miss the most after you graduate? I will miss spending time with my classmates because we have developed great friendships. I am going to miss all the crazy times I have had with my classmates.



Lisa Morgan

Name: Lisa Morgan
 Mother: Roselia Morgan
 Father: Glen R. Morgan
 Siblings: Glenn Morgan, Patricia Barigan, Veronica Estrada, Juan Dominguez
 What Are Your Plans After Graduation?: I plan to move to Houston and attend HCC which I have been accepted to. I will be studying Computer Science.
 What Teacher Influenced You The Most? Mrs. Curry, she had pushed me to do my best.
 What do you think you will miss the most after you graduate? I will miss seeing all my friends together and hearing their jokes and how they used to make me laugh. I love you Seniors!



Natasha Smith

Name: Natasha Smith
 Mother: Debbie Smith
 Father: Jesse Smith
 Siblings: Cheyenne and Haley
 What Are Your Plans After Graduation?: I plan on attending Angelo State University and get a degree in Accounting. I will get my CPA.
 What Teacher Influenced You The Most? Mrs. Curry, because she has helped me the most with my writing. She has had the patience to help me with my grammar and essays.
 What do you think you will miss the most after you graduate? I will miss my family and friends.

Brackett Burger & Shake

Weekly Night Specials:

Monday • Wednesday • Thursday 5pm - 8pm

- * Thurs. - Loaded Baked Potato w/20 oz. drink
 Choose from Ham and Cheese, Chili and Cheese or Traditional
 - * Mon. - Chicken Strip Basket Combo 4.99
 - * Wed. - Catfish Strip Basket Combo 4.99
- All Specials include 20 oz. drink
This Sunday Special: Baked Chicken

TIGERETTE SOFTBALL UPDATE

Submitted by Coach Shatona Hicks

Lead Hitter: Julie Castillo - 3 for 4, 2R
 Lead Score: Castillo-2R, Aguirre-2R
 RBI: Lola Cano-2, Castillo, Nena Molinar, & Martinez-1
 Lead SB: Aguirre-4, Valenza & Terrazas-2
Brackett vs. Sabinal April 5
 Score: 14-1 W
 WP: Lola Cano, 5 SO
 Lead Hitter: Lila Molinar 3 for 3, 2R; Julie Castillo 2 for 3, 2R & in the park grand slam, Alli Del Bosque 2 for 2, 2R
 Lead RBI: Julie Castillo-3, Molinar-2
 Brackett Tigerette Record: 3-1 district play; 5-8 total
Brackett vs. Charlotte April 10
 Score: 11-2 W
 WP: Julie Castillo, 4 SO
 Team Stats:
 Team effort from everyone
 District Record: 4-1

Submitted by Coach Steven Hutcherson

ing players in the first half; Ofense- Travis Bonner, KJ Bonner, Marc Rodriguez, Ivan Pinales; Defense- Joey Castillo, Sergio Calvillo, Jeff Sitgreaves, Robert Davis; Pitching- Travis Bonner, Joe Anthony Sanchez.
 The next home game for Brackett is on Friday, April 13th vs. Junction (a non-district game).

TIGER BASEBALL UPDATE

Submitted by Coach Erik Henson

The Brackett Tigerette Golf Team finished 2nd at the Brackett Invitational on Monday April 9th. Ashley Stephenson lead the way with a round 95 and a 3rd place finish. Other members of the team included Whitney Gum 104, Laura Meyer 116, Meghann Davis 123, and Laura Swinson 128.

The Brackett Tiger golf team claimed their second straight team title at The Brackett Invitational. The boys team was paced Lane Nowlin's round of 73, with which to took the individual title. Justin Calk finished 3rd with a round of 81. Other members of the team included

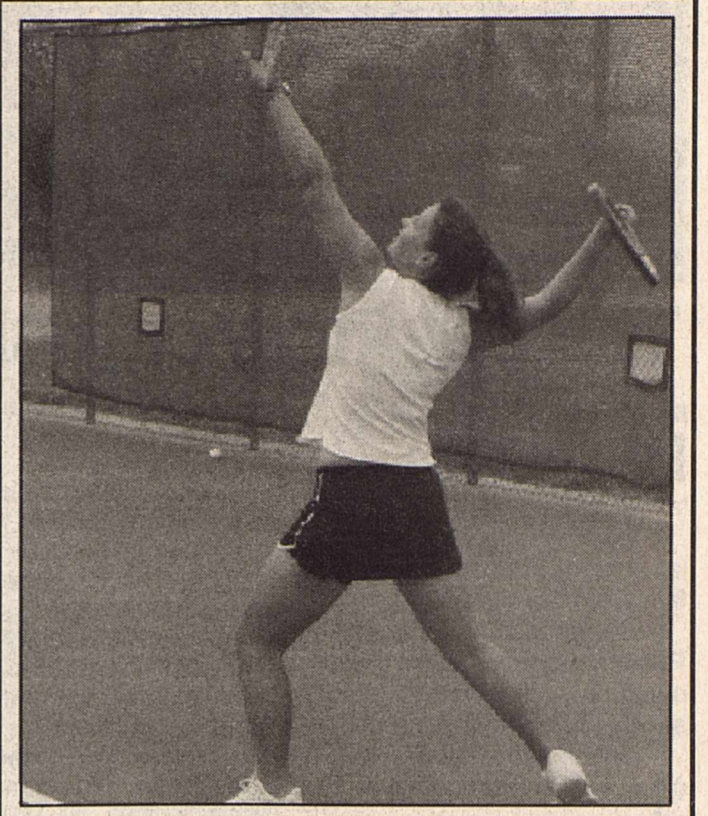
J.H. TRACK UPDATE

Submitted by Coach Dusty Brotherton

The Brackett Junior High Girls had their District track meet in LaPryor, March 28 and returned home the District Champs. The relay teams performed sensationally beginning with the 400m relay team: Karley Harris, Rachel Nash, Sarah Davis and Cheyenne Smith 1st (55.4). 800m relay team: Haley Hale, Icela Rueda, Davis, and Erica Villanueva 3rd (2:07.2). 1600m relay team: Smith, Susu Seargeant, Kelsey Bruce and Nash 1st (4:46.6)

Individual results -2400m run: Bruce 1st (9:38.9) Courtney Kirkland 2nd (10:23.5) and Olivia Woodes 4th (13:06.7). 1600m run: Kirkland 1st (6:26.5) Sahara Rodriguez (6:56.8). 800m run: Bruce 1st (2:43.8) Seargeant 3rd (2:51.6) and Rodriguez 5th (2:56.1). 400m run: Nash 1st (67.1) Amanda Herrera 3rd (69.4) and Villanueva 6th (77.7). 200m sprint: Herrera 2nd (30.2) and Davis 4th (30.9). 100m sprint: Herrera 2nd (13.80) and Smith 3rd (13.84). High Hurdles: Harris 2nd (17.7) Brittany Hale 5th (19.9) and Marison Aguirre 6th (20.0). Int. Hurdles: Harris 2nd (55.06) B.Hale 5th (59.6) and Aguirre 6th (65.3) Shot: Paige Nowlin 2nd (25'9") Discus: Nowlin 5th (63'5"). Long Jump: Smith 3rd (13'5). Triple Jump: Harris 2nd (30'10") Davis 3rd (28'11") and Bruce 5th (25'3"). High Jump: Rueda 5th (4'2")

The Junior High B Team Individual Results: 100m sprint: Brenda Pacheco 1st (15.6) and Janine Rex 6th (16.1) 400m run: Pacheco 1st (78.1) Rex 2nd (78.3) and Nayellie Rojas 3rd (81.6). 200m sprint: Pacheco 3rd (34.09). Shot: Abby Gutierrez 5th (16'8"). Discus: Gutierrez 6th (39'8")



Meyer Set for Tennis Regionals Photo by Leigh Volcsko

Submitted by Coach Bonnie Brotherton

Senior Laura Meyer will represent Brackett at the Regional Tennis Meet in girls singles at College Station, TX. Meyer will be making her second and final appearance at the regional meet on April 25 and 26. She defeated

teammate Whitney Gum in split sets to qualify. Gum won the bronze medal and is the District 30A girls singles first alternate. Both young ladies are also talented golfers and are on the regional bound girls golf team headed to Brenham to compete on April 23 and 24.

RETIREMENT MAY BE FAR OFF, BUT THE APRIL 17 DEADLINE FOR IRA CONTRIBUTIONS ISN'T.

If you haven't done so already, there's still time to maximize your 2006 IRA contribution. To learn more about the benefits of an Edward Jones IRA, call or visit today.



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Notice of Election

To the Registered Voters of Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas:
 Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, on May 12, 2007, for voting in a school board election, to elect 3 three-year term trustees.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE
 Brackett Independent School District, High School Auditorium, 400 Ann Street

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at 400 Ann Street, High School Auditorium between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, beginning on April 30, 2007 and ending on May 8, 2007.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to:
 Susan Esparza, Early Voting Clerk
 PO Box 586
 Brackettville, Texas 78832
 Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on May 4, 2007. Issued this the 12th day of April, 2007.

Henry Lutz
 Signature of Presiding Officer.

Aviso De Eleccion

A los votantes registrados en Brackettville, Condado de Kinney, Texas:
 Se notifica, por la presente, que las casillas electorales situadas abajo se abriran desde las 7:00 AM hasta las 7:00 PM el 12 de mayo, de 2007 para votar en la Eleccion para elegir 3 directores por 3 años.

La UBICACION DE EL CENTRO ELECTORAL
 Brackett el Distrito Independiente de la Escuela, 400 Calle Ann, el auditorio de la escuela secundaria

La votacion en adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en el auditorio de la escuela secundaria entre las 8:00 de la mañana y 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 30, de abril, 2007 y terminando el 8, de mayo 2007.

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:
 Susan Esparza, Early Voting Clerk
 PO Box 586
 Brackettville, TX 78832
 Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 4 de mayo, 2007.
 Emitida este dia 12 de abril, 2007

Henry Lutz
 Firma del Oficial Que Preside

al tips parents



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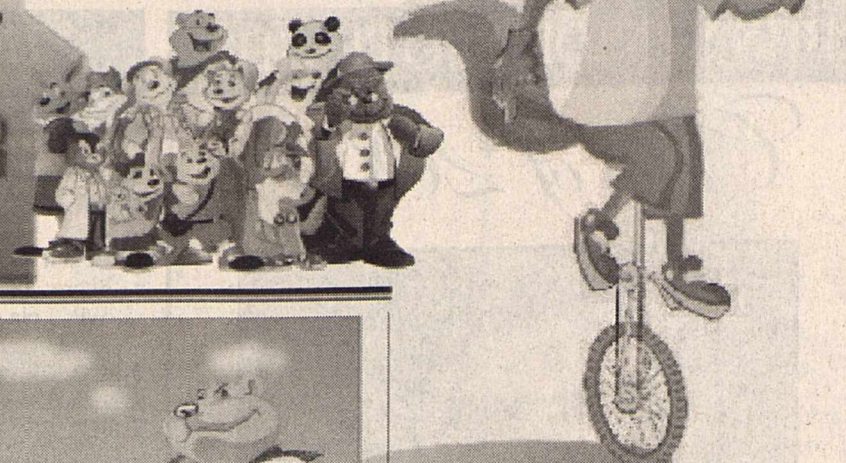
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 Starting FRIDAY
 TICKET SALES
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GOING ON ONE WHEEL!

By Tracer
You know me — I'll try anything once. Right?
A friend showed up at my house recently to show off his new wheels— make that wheel, singular. He had this sporty new unicycle that he wanted me to try out.

Sure, no problem. Then I jumped on it — and BIG problem. I fell on my face and on my back about 13 times before I could even balance for a second or two on the machine.

After planning to meet the next day to continue our training, I looked up the unicycle's history in the World Book at home.

Almost 200 years ago the bicycle was invented in Europe. Before it was called a bicycle, it was called a celerifere (sah-ler-ah-fear), a draisiene (drah-say-yahn), and a velocipede (vah-los-ah-peed). In 1866 a strange bicycle called the Penny Farthing was invented. It had a hu-uuge front wheel and a tiny back wheel.

Sometimes, when a rider would lean forward, the back wheel would come off the ground. It became a game to see how long riders could go forward balanced on the front wheel alone.

At first, because it was so hard to learn to ride the unicycle — it could take hours of practice even to make a short run — most unicycle riders became entertainers. Now, unicycle riding has spread around the world and recently has gained popularity as a sport.

X-treme unicycling is becoming the rage for folks like me, who like a little adventure with their exercise.

Mr. Gridley shook his head. "There isn't an aspirin to be found anywhere." He sounded thoroughly exasperated. "First of all, the night clerk was sound asleep on a couch in the lobby. I had a dinkens of a time waking him up and when I finally did manage to, he couldn't find any aspirin anywhere."

"Oh, no!" exclaimed the mother. "Oh, no!" echoed Ralph's thoughts. "What about that little gift shop off the lobby?" asked Mrs. Gridley. "It must sell aspirin."

"Locked up tight and the clerk went home with the key," answered Mr. Gridley. "Oh, dear!"

"The night clerk was really very nice about it," said the father. "He even came up and looked in the housekeeper's office."

"How far is the nearest drugstore?" "Twenty-five miles back on the main highway," answered the father. "And it closed at ten o'clock and doesn't open until nine in the morning."

The mother held her watch under the lamp. "And it is almost one o'clock. It is hours until morning." She crossed the room to wring out the washcloth again. "What will we do?"

"What can we do?" asked the father helplessly. "I even telephoned the doctor, but there has been a bad accident back on the highway and he can't come. The night clerk said he would telephone the milkman before he starts his route at six and ask him if he can bring some aspirin, but he won't get here until seven or later. All we can do is wait."

Keith tossed under the cold washcloth. "Mom, I think I'd like to go to sleep now," he muttered thickly. "I guess that is all you can do," said his mother, and bent over to kiss his hot forehead before she turned out the light.

Ralph did not even wait for the boy's parents to leave the room. As soon as the light was out he leaped silently to the carpet, and by the time they had gone through the doorway into Room 216 he had hidden his little crash helmet behind the curtain and was halfway through the knothole. Somewhere, someplace in that hotel there must be an aspirin tablet and Ralph was going to find it. He only wished he had the motorcycle so he could travel faster.

THE TRUE STORY OF ENGLAND'S BIG BEN

By Bossco
Big Ben is one of London's best-known landmarks.
It looks most spectacular at night when its clock faces are illuminated.
You even can know when Parliament is in session, because a light shines above the clock face.
The four dials of the clock are 23 feet square.

The minute hand is 14 feet long and the figures are each 2 feet high.
Minutely regulated by a stack of coins placed on its huge pendulum, its clock is an excellent timekeeper, and has rarely stopped.
The name "Big Ben" doesn't really refer to the clock tower itself, but to the 13-ton bell that hangs inside it. The bell was named after the first commissioner

of works, Sir Benjamin Hall.
During World War II in 1941, an incendiary bomb destroyed the Commons chamber of the Houses of Parliament, but the clock tower remained intact.
Big Ben continued to keep time and strike away the hours. Its unique sound was broadcast to the nation and around the world, a welcome reassurance to all who heard it.



Hey, Bud! How Do We Taste?

By Professor Forest
Ever wonder how come you can taste?
A lot of it is in your mind.
Picture holding a fresh piece of lemon. Now, in your mind, squeeze some lemon juice into your mouth. Did you get a bitter, reaction without actually doing it?

Get a mirror and look at the top of your tongue. Notice how it's rough and bumpy — not like the underside, which is very smooth.
That's because the top of your tongue is covered with a layer of bumps called papillae (say: puh-pih-luh). Papillae help grip food and move it around while you chew.

And they contain your taste buds, so you can taste everything from apples to zucchini!
People are born with about 10,000 taste buds each. But as a person ages, some of his or her taste buds die. An old person may only have 5,000 taste buds.

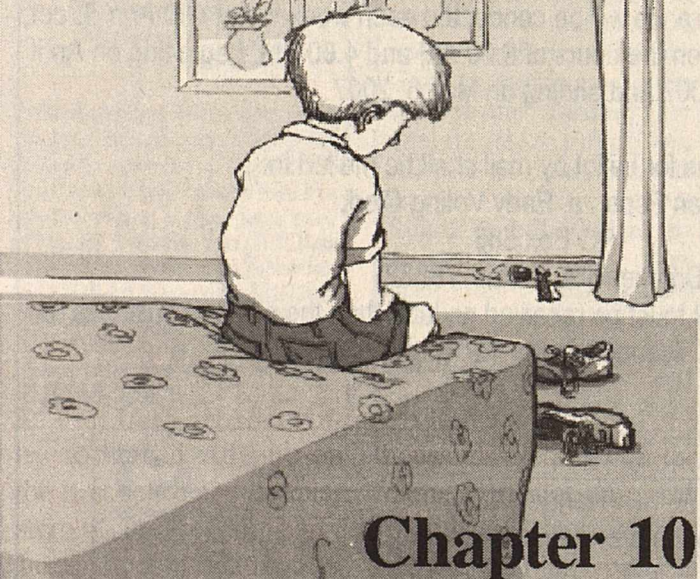


FIND THE ALPHABET! SEE IF YOU CAN FIND ALL THE HANGING LETTERS OF THE ALPHABET!

Alphabet grid with missing letters and a picture of a kite. Write in the letters you find: Aa Bb Cc Dd Ee Ff Gg Hh Ii Jj Kk Ll Mm Nn Oo Pp Qq Rr Ss Tt Uu Vv Ww Xx Yy Zz

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The Mouse and the Motorcycle By Beverly Cleary



Chapter 10

NIE - Newspapers in Education! Join us as we enjoy this young reader classic, The Mouse and the Motorcycle by Beverly Cleary.
With special permission, each week, one chapter of this book will be printed in The Brackett News. Did you miss the first nine chapters? Visit www.thebrackettnews.com. Click on "NIE."
An Anxious Night
At first Ralph's scheme worked. Keith delivered the promised bacon, toast, and jelly; the mice ate sparingly and laid aside the leftovers against the day Keith must leave the hotel. Ralph's mother continued to worry about tipping room service. "I want to do the right thing," she insisted. "There must be some way we could manage a tip."

Gridley. "Hurry along now." When his parents had gone into Room 216, Ralph noticed that Keith seemed to drag himself off the bed. He walked to the washbasin, turned on the cold water, moistened his fingers, and wiped them over his face. Then he turned off the water and gave the middle of his face a swipe with a towel, which he returned to the towel rack in such a way that it immediately fell to the floor. Keith did not pick it up, but there was nothing unusual about this. Boys rarely picked up towels. What was unusual was that Keith returned to the bed, where he sat down and stared at the wall. He did not play with his cars, nor did he eat the rest of his peanuts. He just sat there.
Ralph stuck his head out of the knothole. "Anything wrong?" he asked. "Oh, hi," answered Keith listlessly. "I feel sort of awful."

thing blows over."
A smile flickered across Keith's face. "Don't worry. I won't let you down. I saved you some peanuts. I thought they might be handy for storing."
"Gee, thanks," said Ralph.
Keith got slowly off the bed and poked the peanuts, one by one, through the knothole. When he had finished Ralph popped out again and said, "Thanks a lot."
Keith smiled feebly and flopped down on the bed once more. Ralph went to work moving the peanuts away from the knothole to make room for whatever dinner Keith brought. He felt it would be fun to be surprised by the menu this time.
It was something of a shock to find that dinner, which was stuffed through the knothole much earlier than Ralph expected, consisted of a couple of broken soda crackers. Ralph poked his head out to see if more was coming, but Keith was getting into his pajamas.
"Aren't you going to bed pretty early?" asked Ralph, realizing he had not heard Keith's parents come in. "I felt so awful I couldn't eat so they told me I had better come up and go to bed." Keith tossed his shirt on the foot of the bed and pulled on his pajama top. When his head emerged, he said, "I'm sorry about your dinner. It was the best I could do. All I had was a little soup."

parents were coming. He drew back inside the knothole where he could observe without being seen. Mrs. Gridley paused by her son's bed and laid her hand on his forehead. "He does feel a little warm," she remarked.
"Probably he's all right in the morning," said Mr. Gridley. "He just hiked too far in the sun this afternoon."
"I hope so." The boy's mother sounded less certain.
Mr. Gridley filled a glass at the washbasin and brought it to Keith. "Here, Son, drink this." When Keith had drunk the water he fell back on the pillow and closed his eyes. His parents went quietly into Room 216.
When it was good and dark Ralph ventured through the knothole. He could hear Keith breathing deeply and he knew that he was asleep. Since he had no one to talk to, he found his little crash helmet where he had hidden it behind the curtain and, after he had adjusted the rubber band under his chin, he climbed up to the window sill to look out into the world beyond the hotel and to dream about the lost motorcycle.
From his perch on the window sill Ralph saw that the parking lot held more cars than usual. This meant that the motels back on the highway were full and travelers had followed the sign pointing to the Mountain View Inn. He could hear the holiday weekend activity in the halls, too—people walking up and down, luggage being set with a thump on the floor, keys rattling in locks. Gradually, as the night wore on, the hotel grew silent, more silent than usual for now even the second-floor mice were quiet. There was no scurrying, scuffling, or squeaking inside the walls.
In the silence Keith tossed in his sleep and mumbled something that sounded like "motorcycle." In a moment his mother slipped through the doorway, pulling her robe on over her nightgown. Ralph hid behind the curtain, peeping out just enough to see what was going to happen. She laid her hand on her son's forehead and murmured, "Oh, dear."

Almost at once she was joined by Keith's father, who was tying the belt to his bathrobe. "What's the trouble?" he asked.
"Keith has a fever," answered the mother. "He's burning up."
Ralph was shocked. The boy really was sick. It was not too many peanuts or too much hiking. The boy was really and truly sick.
The father turned on the lamp on the bedside table and he too laid his hand on the boy's forehead. Keith opened his eyes. "I'm so hot," he mumbled. "I want a drink."
His mother pulled back a blanket while the father brought a glass of water and held up his son's head so he could drink part of it.
Ralph watched anxiously, but this time he was not selfishly concerned about room service. He was concerned about Keith, the boy who

had saved him from a terrible fate in the wastebasket and who had trusted him with his motorcycle, the boy who had forgiven him when he had lost that motorcycle and who had brought food, not only for Ralph, but for his whole family.
"We had better give him an aspirin to bring down his temperature," said Mrs. Gridley.
Mr. Gridley started toward Room 216, stopped, and snapped his fingers as if he had just remembered something. "I took the last one back in Rock Springs, Wyoming," he said. "I had a headache from driving toward the sun all afternoon. I meant to buy some more when we stopped, but I didn't think of it again until now."

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Pallbearers: C.C.
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OBITUARIES

Genobeba Gutierrez

January 13, 1912 - April 7, 2007

Genobeba Gutierrez, age 95 entered into rest April 7, 2007 in Spofford, Texas. She was born January 3, 1912 in Spofford, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband Ramon Gutierrez and parents Santos and Juanita Bill. Brothers Andres Bill, Fermin Bill and Eduardo Bill. Sisters; Trinidad Leal, Belen Hernandez, Julia Reyna and Juanita Bill.

Left to cherish her memory are her Sons: Roberto and wife Susana Gutierrez, Carlos and wife Zulema Gutierrez, Ramon and wife Lorenza Gutierrez, Luis and wife Elia Gutierrez. Daughters: Oralia and husband Raul Villarreal, Esther and husband Jose Jesus Cruz Sr., Beatrice Solis and numerous nieces, nephews and cousins.

Also left to cherish her are 16 grandchildren and 25 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Monday April 9, 2007 from 5-9 p.m. at Brackettville Sunset Funeral Home with recitation of the Holy Rosary at 7:00PM. Mass of Christian Burial was held Tuesday April 10, 2007, 2:30 PM at St. Blasé Catholic Church in Spofford, Texas.

Pallbearers: Ramon Gutierrez Jr., Jose Jesus Cruz Jr., David Cruz, Ralph Gutierrez, Chris Gutierrez and Andrew Solis.

In lieu of flowers, family suggests donations be made to Hospice.

Interment followed at Spofford Cemetery.

Please visit our website at www.sunsetfuneralhomes.com and sign our online guest book.

Funeral arrangements were entrusted to Brackettville Sunset Funeral Home, 114 North St. Brackettville Texas 78832 (830)563-9600, www.sunsetfuneralhomes.com

Vonna Hooten Magness

April 2, 2007

Vonna Hooten Magness, 68, passed away on April 7, 2007. She was a selfless loving wife, mother and grandmother and a friend to many people. She retired as owner of Derrick Party Sales where she was the regional distributor for Tupperware. She is survived by her husband Ed Magness, Jr., children, Norman Glenn Hooten and wife Bonnie, Shannon Hooten Lacey and husband, Fred, Stacey Hooten Radke and husband, Michael, 5 step children, 20 grandchildren, 4 brothers and 2 sisters. A memorial service was held on Monday, April 9, 2007 at 3 p.m. at Woodlawn Funeral Home in Houston, Texas. Vonna was a former resident and employed at Brackett ISD as a secretary in the early 70's and was a member of the First Baptist Church.

Miguel Talamantez

May 8, 1923 - April 8, 2007

Miguel Talamantez, age 83, entered into rest April 8, 2007 in Del Rio, Texas. He was born May 8, 1923 in Brackettville, Texas to Gavino and Adela Talamantez. He was preceded in death by his daughter Alicia Sanchez and son-in-law Henry Gomez.

Left to Cherish his memory is his wife of 62 years, Consuelo G. Talamantez. Daughters: Rosemary and husband Abel Garcia, Frances Gomez, Charlotte and Joe Henry Castro, Carrie and husband Agapito "Pete" Villanueva, and son-in-law Frank Sanchez.

Also left to cherish him are 16 grandchildren, 50 great-grandchildren and 11 great-great grandchildren.

The gentlemen left with the honors of pallbearers: Nat Terrazas III, Abel Garcia Jr., Johnny Rodriguez, Dalton Woodson, Joe Anthony Sanchez, and Richard Salazar. Honorary Pallbearer Nat Terrazas V.

Visitation was held Monday April 9, 2007 from 3:00PM - 9:00PM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, Del Rio, Texas. Visitation continued Tuesday, April 10, 2007 from 3:00PM - 9:00PM at Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home in Brackettville, Texas, 114 North St.

Mass of Christian Burial was held Wednesday, April 11, 2007 10:00AM at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Brackettville, Texas.

Interment followed in County Cemetery, Brackettville, Texas.

Please visit our website at www.sunsetfuneralhomes.com and sign our online guest book.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas 78840 (830) 778-2020, www.sunsetfuneralhomes.com

Margaret York Ward

June 30, 1925 - April 9, 2007



Margaret York Ward, 81, went to be with the Lord on April 9, 2007 at Regent Care Center in San Antonio, Texas after a lengthy illness. She was born on June 30, 1925 in Spofford, Texas.

The daughter of Joe and Nell York. She graduated from Brackett High School and attended the University of Texas. She was married to Charles W. Ward in 1944.

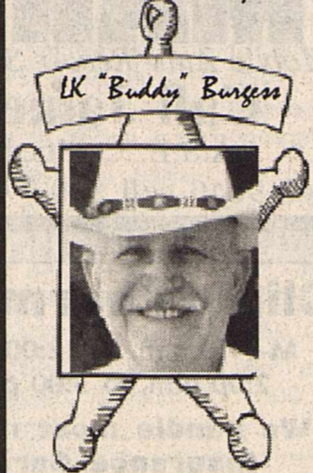
She was a member of the First Baptist Church of Uvalde. She was preceded in death by her parents.

She is survived by her daughter Sherry Blocker and husband Gary of San Antonio; son Tim Ward and his wife Debbie of Brackettville. Three grandchildren Cherrie Ducharme and husband J.J., Chase Ward, and Blake Ward all of Brackettville. Sister Wynell Coates and brother Joe York, Jr. both of Brackettville. Many nieces and nephews and a host of wonderful friends and relatives.

Funeral Services will be held today at 2 p.m. First Baptist Church, Uvalde. Pallbearers: C.C. Veltmann, Chase Ward, Blake Ward, Gary Blocker, J.J. Ducharme and Pierce Kellogg.

Arrangements by Rushing, Estes, and Knowles Mortuary Inc.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Tuesday, March 27

9:32 AM A local woman reported that someone hit her car at the post office.

Wednesday, March 28

4:15 PM A 911 caller reported an SUV driving recklessly and running stop signs. A deputy was informed of the situation.

7:15 PM A local woman requested a deputy, stating that her neighbor was spitting on her. A deputy was notified.

Friday, March 30

8:27 AM The Sheriff's office received a report of an alarm sounding at a local ranch.

Monday, April 2

7:12 PM A local woman requested deputy assistance to check on her daughter. A deputy was notified and enroute.

Tuesday, April 3

7:56 AM A vehicle rollover was reported one mile east on Hwy 90. EMS, Hwy Department and Fire Department were on the scene.

3:17 PM A city employee called to report a local man causing problems at City Hall. A deputy was notified and dispatched.

Wednesday, April 4

10:35 PM A local business owner reported someone had called her saying that they left something in front of her store and they spoke unpleasantly. A deputy was notified and went to check on the situation.

Thursday, April 5

9:23 AM The Sheriff's office received a call reporting that an 18 wheeler was driving recklessly and causing cars to go off the road. Del Rio DPS was notified.

2:35 PM The Sheriff's office received numerous calls reporting a vehicle rollover on Hwy 277. The callers stated that there was a woman still in the vehicle. Deputies and EMS were notified and enroute.

7:20 PM A local resident called the Sheriff's office to report their trash had not been picked up.

Friday, April 6

1:45 AM The Sheriff's office received a call stating that a person, possibly intoxicated was walking down Beaumont St. A deputy was notified of the situation.

Sunday, April 8

10:13 PM The Sheriff's office received a call stating that their parents had been beaten up earlier that day. A deputy was notified and checked up on the situation.

Monday, April 9

9:52 PM A local woman called the Sheriff's office stating that a young man was fighting with her parents and was intoxicated. Deputy was advised and dispatched.

Tuesday, April 10

2:15 PM The Sheriff's office received a call requesting a deputy and EMS to check out an individual at the first crossing at Tularosa Rd. Deputies and EMS were enroute to the scene.

10:02 PM The Sheriff's office received a phone call, with a child laughing on the other end. The Sheriff's office called back several times and continued to get a child. The Sheriff's office then received a call from the same number, with the caller asking why they were calling so much, the respondent (Sheriff's office) advised them of who they were and asked to speak to an adult. The adult took care of the situation.

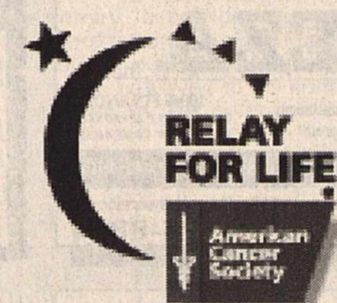


Smith's Chosen for Yard of the Month

Courtesy Photo

Charlie and Wanda Smith of Unit 14, FCS were chosen as the Mountain Laurel Garden Club's Yard of the Month for April.

ACS Relay for Life A cancer survivor story



Submitted by Pat Sitzes

This week's cancer survivor is Rosa Herrera. Rosa was diagnosed with breast cancer in February 2002, and she has reached her five year survivor goal.

Rosa found the lump in her breast by doing breast self ex-

amination, and the diagnosis of breast cancer was verified by a biopsy. Rosa had a mastectomy and she did chemotherapy for her treatment.

She reported that when she heard the diagnosis that she was scared that she was going to die from breast cancer.

Rosa shed many tears over this fear. However, God, her family, and friends sustained her through this journey of treatment and recovery.

She would be depressed when she was home by herself during the day, and she would talk to her next door neighbor, Sylvia Garcia. Sylvia would tell her to go take a shower and a nap.

Rosa would do as Sylvia said,

and she would overcome the sad feelings she was having.

Another person that influenced and helped Rosa was Lela Cervantes. Rosa would talk to her when at the same time Lela was dealing with breast cancer.

Rosa attends Our Cancer Support Group here in Brackettville, and she has been an inspiration to others in the group.

Rosa's advice to other women is to get those yearly checkups and mammograms. Rosa says "If you find a lump in your breast, to get to the doctor as soon as possible." She believes in the motto Early Detection is the Best Protection.

Rosa is participating in the Relay for Life on April 28-April 29.

The Langford Family and the Staff at Regency extend their best Easter wishes to your Family.



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Thursday, April 12, 2007 The Brackett News 6

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St. Mary Magdalene
Spring Festival
Come join us for
food, fun and fellowship!
Saturday
April 21, 2007
11:30 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
Noon brisket meal including rice, beans,
potato salad and trimmings.
ALSO
Silent Auction, Games, Raffle, Loteria,
Cake Walk, Castle Bounce, Jail House,
Live Entertainment, Music,
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NEWS PHOTOS WEATHER
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OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH
EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA
Corner of Fort & Henderson
Sunday: Worship 9:00 a.m.
Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m. (October - April)
Lutheran Church Women 11 a.m. Parrish Hall
(Second Monday of Month)
Email: www.ourredeemerlutheran.org
PASTOR NATHAN LAFRENZ 563-9607

First Baptist Church (SBC)
Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245
Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study
Pastor Jeff Janca

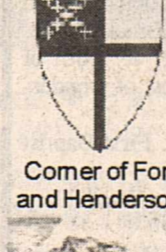
First United Methodist Church
109 James Street, next to the clinic
Sunday School 9:30 * Worship 10:45
Staffed Nursery Every Sunday
*Hear the Bible, Feel the Spirit,
Find a Welcome!*
open hearts, open minds, open doors



Welcome!
Church of Christ
808 N. Ann 563-2616
Sunday AM, 9:30 Classes
& 10:30 Worship
Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

Come to the Frontier
A Bible Based New Testament Church
9:45 am Bible Study/Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies or Bible study.
7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service
Nursery Provided
Pastor: Ned Sitzes (830) 563-5529
Frontier Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann & El Paso

St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church
"Welcomes You"
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(October - April)
Reverend Nathan Lafrenz 563-9607



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set w/ vintage head
board \$100, and s
tv stand \$20

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Sat. April 14, 8 a.m.
FCS Unit 31 Pompey/
Clothing, linens, dec
misc.

Sat. April 14, 8 a.m.
Fulton st. misc items.

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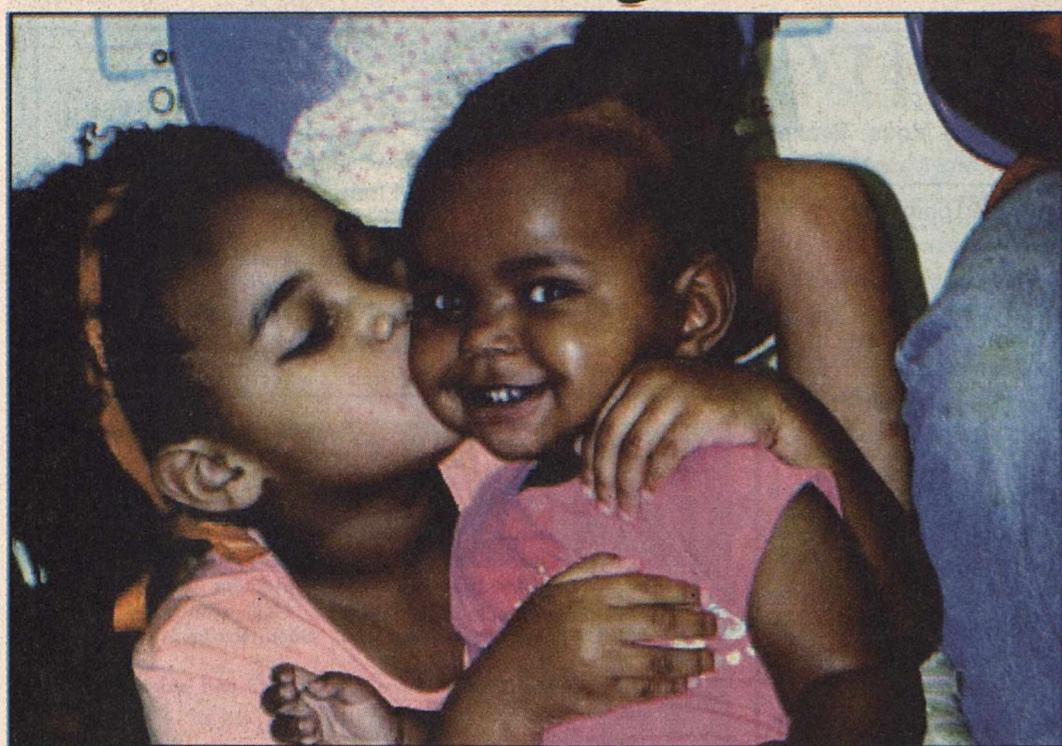
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Victor H
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ACROSS
1 Timber tree
4 Muffler
9 AMPAS award
14 Asian language
15 Scottish musician
16 Japanese city
17 Select group
20 Complete in a
stadium
21 French coin
22 Narrow street
23 Kingston Trio song
28 Legendary bird
29 Capote, on
Broadway
30 French possessive
31 Latin verb
32 Approves
35 Singer Brightman
40 Beatles movie
44 Eponymous
legislator
45 Jodie Foster, e.g.
46 Final passage:
music
47 Rural ending
50 Burro
52 Sound from an angry
dog
53 Have a really wild
time

Photos of the Week

Thursday, April 12, 2007 The Brackett News **8**



COMING SOON!

Ashley furniture HomeStore, the fastest growing furniture retailer in America is coming to Del Rio, Texas! We ask you to wait; do not buy furniture today. The best time to buy is coming soon!!!



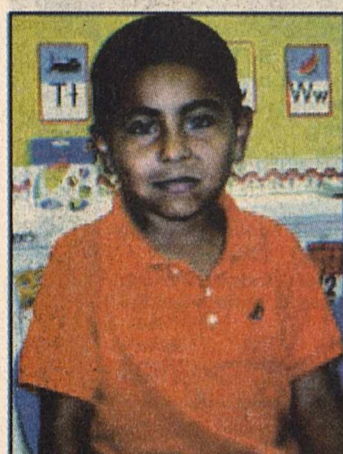
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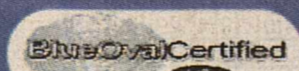
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