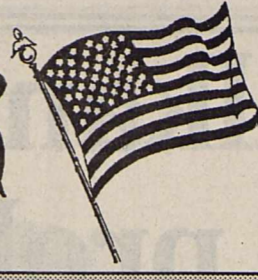


The Brackett News



Brotherton signs with Schreiner
See story, Page 5

11th year, No. 10

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

1 Section, 8 Pages



Sheriff Buddy Burgess (from left) presents a certificate of appreciation to Reserve Deputy Warren Outlaw during a going away party for Outlaw this past week at the Sheriff's Department. Outlaw has 13 years of service with the department. He has served as bailiff, jailer, dispatcher and prisoner hauler during his time at the department. Outlaw is moving to Tomball, a suburb of Houston. Brackett News Photo by Tanya Kay McClure

Commissioners OK new billing charges for EMS

TANYA KAY McCLURE
STAFF WRITER

The Kinney County Commissioners Court met Monday morning in regular session.

The highlight of this week's meeting was the review and approval of the new billing charges for EMS, as suggested by Alexander Billing & Consulting, Inc.

At the current time the EMS is running under a basic life support (BLS) system, and will be upgraded to an advanced life support (ALS) system in the near future.

With this new system many new services can be rendered to patients, including IV's and disbursement of medication.

Currently, EMS is not charging for all supplies used during ambulance calls, thus each year losing money.

Alexander Billing & Consulting Company has proposed a list of new charges that insurance companies will pay for. The court voted all in favor of the new billing charges.

Bob Wilson of Office Communications Systems presented a proposal to the court for a new digital copy machine that would cost the county less per copy than any of their conventional copiers.

Wilson stated that the school district was currently using their new machines and loved

it. The new copier would eliminate the need for outside, costly printing presses for their stationary needs. The commissioners voted all in favor of signing up for the new plan.

This plan would only cost the county \$80 dollars for installation, and with all materials furnished, except for paper, only about a half-cent per copy made. The machine turns out about 120 copies per minute.

No action was taken on the hiring of a part-time employee to supervise individuals sentenced to community supervision, as presented by Justice of the Peace John Ford.

The court appointed Ford as the new emergency management coordinator, replacing Warren Outlaw.

No action was taken on Ford's request to establish fees for vehicle storage behind the Justice of the Peace's Office.

Julie Fuentes, Nutrition Center director, came before the Commissioners Court seeking an answer from them on whether or not to rent out the Nutrition Center. It was voted all in favor to not rent out the Nutrition Center to any entity now or in the future.

The court voted all in favor toward authorizing the county judge to sign a contract between Kinney County Public Library and Calumet Computers to install wiring and computers in the library.

The commissioners approved to authorize the installation of additional phone lines for fax machines in the Tax Assessor Collector's Office, but voted to hold off on the installation of a new line in the County Clerk's Office until the budget for that office could be looked over.

A resolution was passed opposing passage of Senate Bill 143 dealing with inter basin water transfers.

A short briefing was held concerning FEMA and TCDP contracts on road reconstruction and advertisement for bids. No action was taken at this time.

Discussion was held on the matter of the road paving materials donated to the county by the Texas Department of Transportation. At this time the county did not know where to store these materials.

The court voted in favor of selling several lots here in Kinney County that had been turned over to the Appraisal District due to non-payment of taxes.

The court voted in favor of hiring several cement finishers, paying no more than \$15 per hour for the completion of the Pinto Creek project.

The Commissioners Court will be having a special called meeting on Tuesday, April 20, for discussion of other matters.

Early voting underway for elections

Early voting for the Brackett ISD School Board of Trustees election and the Brackettville City Council election began Wednesday, and will continue through Tuesday, April 27.

In the School Board election, early voting will be conducted at

the Brackett ISD Central Office, located at 400 N. Ann Street, between 8 a.m. and 4 p.m.

Early voting for the City Council election will be conducted at Brackettville City Hall, located on W. Spring Street, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Fort Clark Springs names four employees of the year

By TANYA KAY McCLURE
STAFF WRITER

Fort Clark Springs Association recently honored four of its employees, dubbing them as employees of the year.

These employees were Nancy Frerich, Jan Nelson, David Villarreal and Dan Villarreal.

Frerich is an administrative assistant and has almost 16 years of service with Fort Clark Springs.

She is responsible for insuring that all real estate records are kept up to date and maintains an inventory listing, which accounts for all lots, whether they are owned by a member or the association.

Frerich is the secretary for the Planning Committee and is election judge appointed by the Board of Directors. She also provides assistance to the general manager.

"She has done an outstanding job through the years in coordinating the Annual Meeting barbecue. When you get right down to it, there's not much Nancy hasn't done for Fort Clark Springs," said Jim Heath, general manager of Fort Clark Springs.

Nelson is the manager of member services and has been with Fort Clark Springs for almost 10 years.

She answers a multitude of questions, oral and written, from members pertaining to selection of a lot, acquiring a building permit, and CC&R related matters.

"When we lost our building inspector last year, Jan assumed any number of those duties, in addition to her own," said Heath.

In addition, Nelson is the secretary for the Architectural Committee and fills in for Frerich in her absence.

David Villarreal is the maintenance supervisor at the golf course and has been with Fort Clark for eight and a half years.

Dan Villarreal, who is also a maintenance supervisor at the golf course, has been with the association for six years.

Both of these men are working supervisors and insure the golf course not only looks good, but plays good. Heath said both men can handle any aspect of the golf course operation, from moving and trimming to over-seeding and watering, not to mention maintenance and upkeep of the equipment.

"Because of their efforts we've received continual high compliments from numerous players and visitors on the condition of the course, particularly the greens," Heath said.



Dan Villarreal (from left), Nancy Frerich, Jan Nelson and David Villarreal were recently named Fort Clark Springs' employees of the year. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry



Fort Clark Shrine Club members Ray Robison, Bruce Clements and Tom Ertle are pictured at Saturday's benefit for Shrine hospitals. "The Fort Clark Shrine club wishes to thank all citizens of Kinney County for their generous contributions during our Shrine hospital benefit drive," Clements said. "Through your gifts, it enables the Hospital for Children and the Galveston Burn Center to continue their operations. Neither the hospital or the burn center receives money from the government, nor would it be accepted if it was offered. This way the Shrine hospitals can treat children without government restrictions. All treatment to crippled or burned children is free." Photo Special to The Brackett News

Sellout crowd packs dome for festival

By J.J. GUIDRY
NEWS EDITOR

SAN ANTONIO - A sellout crowd of an estimated 40,000 packed the Alamodome Sunday for the Seventh Annual George Strait Country Music Festival.

It was Strait's first performance in his hometown in more than 18 months. Sunday's show was the sixth stop on this year's 18-city tour schedule.

The Country Music Festival featured what Strait calls the "cream of the crop."

Joining Strait on the tour are Tim McGraw, Dixie Chicks, Kenny Chesney, Jo Dee Messina, Mark Wills and Asleep at the Wheel.

"I go after the best and I'm honored this year because there's no doubt but that they're the best," Strait said. "It's the cream of the crop."

The lineup featured the singers of four of the top 10 songs (and six of the top 20) on Billboard's latest country singles chart. Chesney tops the charts with "How Forever Feels," followed by the Dixie Chicks' "You



George Strait brought his annual Country Music Festival to the Alamodome Sunday. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Were Mine (No. 4), Wills' "Wish You Were Here" (No. 6), and Strait's "Meanwhile" (No. 7), the first single from his new "Always Never the Same" album. McGraw, whose latest CD,

"Everywhere," is triple platinum and already has produced four No. 1 hits, tops the country singles sales chart with "Please Remember Me," while Messina's "Stand Beside Me" hit No. 1.

INSIDE

- Joe Townsend
It's high time the American people wake up and do something. The constant bombardment of Serbia is a shame and disgrace. Opinion/Page 2
- Mendez gives speech
Art Mendez was last week's speaker for the Rotary Club. He is a counselor for Baptist Children's Home Ministries. Lifestyles/Page 4
- Netters win title
Seven netters qualified for regionals and the Tigerettes won the conference title Monday at the District 30-2A tennis tournament. Sports/Page 5

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The Word of God is always victorious

St. John's Missionary Church. Rev. William Adams

Keep a humble heart, walk in the love of God to defeat Satan

Readings from Pslams

"Fret not thyself because of evildoers, neither be thou envious against the workers of iniquity." ... "The wicked borroweth, and payeth not again; but the righteous showeth mercy, and giveth."

Fear of being "found out" can trigger a haughty spirit.

Most people with a haughty attitude are putting on a show, building a wall between themselves and places they might be if it weren't for the grace of God (Mark 7:21-23).

Insecurity and fear of just being themselves allows false pride to rear its ugly head.

Usually this happens to people who are gifted by God in quite a few areas of their lives, but still feel inadequate and protective of their feelings.

Other times, it happens when they actually judge people less fortunate than themselves and even ban together with others with the same haughty spirit (Luke 1:51-53).

Before you judge these people, consider the times you, yourself, have "lorded it over" another person. You may not have realized it at the time and hurt someone.

Satan has given everyone an opportunity to listen to his lies. He is no respecter of persons. The only way to defeat him is to keep a humble heart and walk in the

Gateway Ministries. Pastor Charolette Corey

love of God (James 4:5-17). Everyone gets tired on occasion and gets mad on other occasions. By putting the situation and the other persons character in the hands of God, it is easy to let go and let the love of God shine through it (1 Peter 5:5-11).

Remember, but for the grace of God, you may be walking in that other persons shoes. You might even try doing that in your mind sometime and receive more compassion for others.

The human race is not a hopeless case because Jesus is alive! When we let him reign in our hearts, no matter what our differences with others, the truth will set us free and enable us to stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Frontier Baptist Church. Rev. Joe Townsend

Sunday the folks at Frontier Baptist had a special treat when Frank Eckenroth presented the work of the Gideons.

After a special blessing when Georgiana, "G.G.," sang, Frank very ably and effectively told of the work of this great organization.

In telling of the distribution of the Bible it was patently recognized the tremendous importance of the Bible around the world.

The Bible does not contain the word of God, it is the word of God. It stands alone as being inspired from start to finish by God.

Any attempt by human hands to embellish it by false claims of inspiration otherwise simply cries out the fallacious claims.

It tells what sin is. It tells the price and penalty for sin. It tells of the virgin birth of Jesus Christ as the son of God. It tells how he died to pay the penalty for sin for

Bible is inerrant from start to finish.

It is absolute truth and not open to successful question or denial. If the Bible says it, that's all.

The word of God is eternal. It's truth abides forever. Yesterday, today, tomorrow - truth never changes.

What was true in the Garden of Eden will still be true when Jesus comes again.

The word of God is and always will be victorious. Attempts have been made to change, to deny, to destroy it, but it comes out victorious.

It is the most printed and best selling book around the world every single year. Even those who would supplant it or denigrate it to second class in the end turn to it as the word of God.

There will be another message from the Bible Sunday at Frontier Baptist Church. Come and see.

HEALTH

Diabetes, high blood pressure can lead to kidney failure

The monitors showing the patient's life signs beep rhythmically as the anesthesiologists carefully keeps vigil. The surgeon quickly and efficiently slips the fist-sized organ into the 9-year-old boy's body.

Everything is looking good as little Arthur Silvestri receives a healthy kidney donated by his father. Arthur's new kidney is expected to take over the work that his old kidneys could not perform any longer, and he will no longer need to use dialysis, a mechanical means of cleansing toxins from the blood. His surgeon has high hopes that things will continue to go well for Arthur.

"The kidney pinked up just fine and started producing urine. It really went well," said Kris Gugliuzza, M.D., director of the Abdominal Transplant Program at the University of Texas Medical Branch in Galveston and a member of the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) Kidney Health Care Advisory Committee.

Most people don't give much thought to their kidneys, yet life depends on them. According to the National Kidney Foundation, more than 20 million Americans have some form of kidney disease, and millions are at risk. More than 50,000 new patients each year will require kidney dialysis or organ transplants to live.

Linda Selman is one of those thousands waiting for a kidney transplant. While she waits - and it could be years - Linda's day is

marked by her dialysis treatment that does the work her kidneys would normally do.

The shutdown of Linda's kidneys was caused by diabetes, the most common cause of kidney disease.

Diabetes is a disease in which the pancreas does not produce enough insulin or cannot use the insulin that is produced. Insulin regulates the amount of glucose (sugar) in the blood, and with out it, the body is unable to convert glucose to energy, leaving large amounts of sugar in the blood. Eventually, small blood vessels in the kidneys become damaged. Scar-like material builds up on the capillary walls where filtering takes place, which impairs kidney function.

Hypertension, or high blood pressure, is the second most common cause of kidney failure. The constriction of blood vessels cuts off blood supply to the kidneys, starving them of oxygen and nutrients. Over time, the kidneys are damaged and eventually become incapable of performing their essential functions.

TDH's Bureau of Kidney Health Care has seen a steady increase in the number of program applicants with diabetes as the primary cause of their kidney failure.

In 1998, 54 percent - or 2,369 - of the program applicants had a primary diagnosis of diabetes, and 24 percent - or 1,055 - had a primary diagnosis of hypertension.

Injuries, congenital defects, and other dis-

eases also can render the kidneys incapable of performing their life-sustaining function of cleaning waste from the bloodstream.

Kidney disease usually progresses silently for years before symptoms are noticed. The problem is that these symptoms are seen usually in the late stages of the disease when kidney function has diminished to less than 25 percent of normal. At 10 percent of normal, dialysis or a kidney transplant is needed for life to continue.

The warning signs of kidney disease are burning or difficulty during urination, more frequent urination, swelling in the feet and hands, bloody urine, puffiness around the eyes, pain in the small of the back just below the ribs that is not aggravated by movement, and high blood pressure.

"End stage kidney disease is one of the most traumatic events that can happen to a person in the course of their life," said Byron Welch, M.D., a kidney disease specialist. "Their family relations, their finances, their job, all their travel, and other factors involved in their quality of life may be traumatically involved. While we have treatments that prolong life, they all involve some compromises in quality of life whether it's dialysis or transplantation. So the best treatment for kidney disease is prevention."

Kidney problems range from minor urinary tract infections to progressive kidney failure.

Good News. St. Mary Magdalene Church

Christ gives you strength to be confidence, content

Contentment is taking your present situation, whatever obstacle you are facing, whatever limitation you are living with, whatever chronic condition wears you down, whatever has smashed your dreams, whatever factors and circumstances of life tend to push you under and admitting you don't like it but never saying, "I can't cope with it."

You may feel distress, but you may never feel despair. You may feel pressed down, but you may never feel defeated.

Paul says there are unlimited resources, and as soon as you say "I can't cope," you are failing to draw on these resources that Christ has readily, by his loving-kindness, made available to you. Contentment, therefore, is being confident

that you measure up to any test you face because Christ has made his strength available within you.

Christians can truly say, "I can walk through this life with confidence and contentment, Christ Jesus, because you are my strength."

You are invited to worship with us at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Welcome! Church of Christ. 808 N. Ann. 563-2616. Sunday A.M., 9:30 Classes - 10:30 Worship. Sunday P.M. 1:30. Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes. Minister: Ray Melton

Eugenio Bricio, M.D. Board Certified in Cardiology Board Certified in Internal Medicine. 612 Bedell Ave. Suite E. Del Rio, Texas 78840. Tel. (830) 768-0267

LAS MORAS MASONIC LODGE. meets the 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m. School of Instruction meets every Monday at 7:00 p.m. Visiting Brothers are Welcome

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Texas Department of Transportation Notice of Public Workshop. TOPIC: Discussion of rules and requirements for submitting project nominations for the Statewide Transportation Enhancement Program. WHEN: Thursday, April 22, 1999 in Eagle Pass. Friday, April 23, 1999 in Laredo. WHERE: Eagle Pass: Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce 400 Garrison Street. Laredo: Texas Department of Transportation-District Office 1817 Bob Bullock Loop. TIMES: Meeting begins at 1:30 p.m. in Eagle Pass. Meeting begins at 9:30 a.m. in Laredo.

First Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann and Veltman. Sunday Schedule: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - nursery provided 11 a.m. Youth Choir grades 6-12, 4:45 p.m. Discipleship Training 6 p.m. Evening Service 7 p.m. Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study/Prayer Meeting Mission Kids grade K-5 Youth grades 6-12. Bus and Church information call church office at 563-2245. Pastor: R. D. Holloway

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