

The Brackett News



Girls softball @ Pearsall tournament, TBA, Friday 22

14th year, No. 3

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Call in advance of controlled burns

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Controlled, or prescribed, burns are frequently planned for January, February and March. Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department is often called out by someone who sees the smoke. According to Joe Williams, Fire Chief, there have been four false alarm calls so far this year for control burns.

Williams stated whenever possible a call is made to see whether the alarm is for a control burn. However, when a contact is not available the fire trucks roll.

Volunteer firemen are just that: volunteers. When a false alarm is called in it costs them at least one hour time off from work, often without pay to make that fire call.

Anyone planning a burn should call the Sheriff's office at 563-2788 prior to starting the fire and advise them of the location, date and time of the burn.

Sheriff Buddy Burgess said that people often call in a fire because they can see smoke a long distance away and don't know that it is a control burn. Then the Fire Department must respond. In addition to time off

from work for volunteers, unnecessary runs add to wear and tear on the fire equipment, Burgess added.

"They're already working on a shoestring," he said.

The Texas Agricultural Extension Service has bulletins to assist ranchers planning a burn, including "Planning a Prescribed Burn" and "Prescribed Range Burning in Texas". These are available from the West Nueces-Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation District or the County Extension Service. Both offices are located in the Kinney County Courthouse.

The bulletin "Planning a Prescribed Burn" includes information on Planning for Adequate Fuel (dry grass), Planning for Controls and Communications. Communications involves notifying local authorities of your intentions and arranging for communications during the day of the burn to avoid false alarms.

A checklist is included which includes Preburn construction and patrols, including construction of firelanes, removal of remnant livestock, facilities protection and weather information.

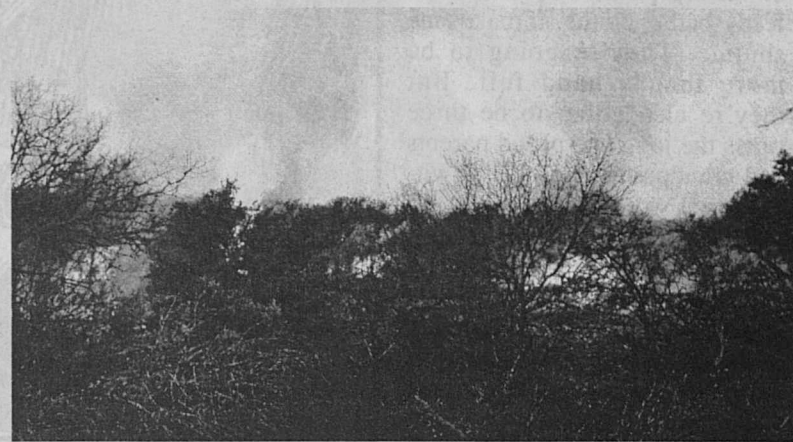
Just before the burn, calls to National Weather Service, Sher-

iff, Fire department, Highway patrol and check with spouse are recommended. Lists of equipment and supplies, and crew support, are included. After the burn activities are also outlined.

R. Q. Landers, Jr., Extension Range Specialist and author of "Planning a Prescribed Burn" states in the bulletin, "Because burning is most effectively used in conjunction with other management techniques such as chaining, bulldozing, spraying, goating, etc. it is wise to plan ahead for such a combination effort."

The Soil and Water Conservation Service will assist with planning prescribed burns, and will do the burn when requested. There is no charge for that service. Contact the Soil and Water Conservation office at 563-2414, or the Kinney County Extension Office at 563-2442.

At the present time, Kinney County is not under ordinance prohibiting burning, though County Commissioners did



A controlled burn on FM 674 that resulted in a false alarm. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department drove over 20 miles north of town to find a rancher lighting brush piles.

adopt an order in September of 1999 which restricted outdoor burning, other than prescribed burns, for a period of 60 days from that date. This was due to extremely dry conditions at that time. According to Judge Herb Senne, the U.S. Forest Service contacted him and suggested that the commissioners issue an order restricting outdoor burning. After checking conditions

in Kinney County the commissioners concurred and adopted the order.

In April of 2001 County Commissioners, believing that prescribed burns are vital to Kinney County, signed a Resolution requesting members of 77th Legislature to fund the Brush Control Projects in the State of Texas to the maximum extent possible.

Briefs ...

Paz fined \$500

Edward Rodriguez Paz of Dardanelle, Arkansas was arrested in Brackettville January 23, 2001. He was charged with possession of cocaine and methamphetamine. On January 28, 2002 Paz was sentenced to two years probation and a \$500 fine.

Early voting

Early voting for the March 12th county Primary Elections will be conducted each weekday at the Kinney County Clerk's Office, Kinney County Courthouse, 501 S. Ann St., Brackettville, Texas between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 12:00 p.m. and between 1:00 p.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on Monday, February 25th and ending on Friday, March 8th.

Early voting is also scheduled for Saturday, March 2nd from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. County and District Clerk Dora Sandoval said she is complying with requests in writing by fifteen voters to hold Saturday voting. Early voting is by personal appearance and will require identification, as will voting on Election Day. Sandoval said that under 63,010 of Texas Election Law, a voter must have a Voter's Registration Certificate or any other form of identification.

Varmints killed

The Animal Management Control Club sponsored a Calling Contest over the weekend. Nine teams of 3 each entered, and netted a total of 44 varmints. Winner of the contest was George Wardlaw with 1 bobcat, 11 fox, 2 ringtails and 1 coon. Shane Hern of Uvalde came in second with 2 bobcat and 1 coyote; Tully Shahan was third with 5 fox, 2 ringtails and 3 coons.

Six coyotes, 4 bobcat, 18 fox, 11 raccoon and 5 ringtail cats were killed by the nine teams. All contestants were required to comply with State Game Laws in addition to contest rules. The club plans to sponsor another event next month.

Cowboy Poetry and Western Music

Fort Clark Historical Society will present Cowboy Poetry and Western Music: "The Cowboy Sunset Serenade" at its meeting on February 23. The group features Frank Roberts, Linda Kirkpatrick and Joe Wells. Visitors are welcome to join the group at 9:30 a.m. for the social period and refreshment prior to the 10:00 meeting at the Padisado Building on Fort Clark.

Construction to begin on Unit 38 at Fort Clark

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

General Manager Maggie Kerr announced at the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors meeting Saturday that construction on Unit 38 should begin about the 25th of February.

According to Kerr, dust will be flying for a while and residents are asked to be patient during this phase of construction.

Traffic will have to be rerouted for two days at some point while contractors install a large pipe across Scales Road.

The contractor has 150 days to finish the project, with completion approximately the end of July.

Kerr said that it will be easy to get on the list to opt for one of the Unit 38 lots.

A condensed version of the Financial Statement for FCS, December 2001 and Year To

Date was available for each member attending the meeting.

This shows a Year to Date Loss of \$59,076. Carol Miller, Treasurer, pointed out that Delinquent Member Assessments, YTD was \$52,782 and Delinquent Residential Assessments \$7,277.

The total amount of delinquent assessments was \$60,059, more than enough to cover the deficit, had they been paid.

Kerr said that she would be glad to work with anyone having problems paying their assessments. "Please, just call me and we'll work something out."

The Health Department has issued a separate certificate for the Snack Bar at the Golf Club. It will be illegal for food or alcohol to be brought into the building under Federal Law.

However, members can still bring their own food and drink if they use the patio.

BY Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Stephen Horton of Coleman, Horton & Company, Ltd., Certified Public Accountants, presented the annual audit to the Kinney County Appraisal Board February 5th.

The financial statements show a year end fund balance deficit of \$8,119, which included a beginning fund balance deficit of \$1,056. Total expenditures were \$6,735 over revenues.

Bill Haenn, Chief Appraiser, explained this was due in part to non-budgeted unemployment benefits of \$4,654. As a Reimbursing Employer, the Appraisal District was required to reimburse the Texas Workforce Commission Fund, in lieu of taxes, for benefits paid to its former Chief Appraiser, Joyce Fuentes.

Automation expenses were also over budget by \$4,952 and medical insurance premiums were increased.

The Appraisal District has been plagued by computer problems since its decision to go to automated information equip-

ment last year. Last July the district finished paying for a 1997 lease purchase of computer equipment. New equipment and software were purchased for \$24,846 from PTAX. Though the district has been able to use this hardware, the software never worked properly and support for the system was never available.

Cancellation of the district contract with PTAX was approved at the meeting.

On the advice of auditors, the district has purchased new automation software which is functioning well.

The audit shows an increase in Delinquent taxes receivable of \$42,308 from October 1, 2000.

Bill Haenn stated that judgments are being sought in District Court on some of these accounts in order to file a lien on the property involved and ultimately a Sheriff's sale.

There are two things that trigger a judgment, according to Haenn, one is a long-term delinquency, the other a high dollar tax amount which can get out of control quickly. These triggers were not previously in

place, he added, and the district is better able to track delinquent accounts with the new automation system.

Haenn said that often an estate will accrue small amounts of tax over several years and heirs are difficult to trace. Once a property is delinquent, the Appraisal District is "out of the loop" according to Haenn. Tax attorneys then send out delinquent notices, seek judgments, and send accounts to a Sheriff's sale.

Haenn pointed out that property owners may pay taxes at any point, even after property has been sold, for a period of time. "The bulk of owners or heirs will come in and pay their taxes," he said.

The board also swore in Mike Holley, who is returning to the board, and new member Richard Slubar. Members were admonished to attend all board meetings whenever possible, since the board typically only meets quarterly.

The next Appraisal Board meeting was set for Tuesday, April 16.

Kinney County Appraisal Board Audit shows over-expenditures

Sofaly explains the history of Fort Clark Springs MUD

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club met on February 14 with Vice President Dave Alexander presiding. Rick Alvarado, program chairman for February, presented the Manager of Fort Clark Springs Municipal Utility District (MUD), Larry Sofaly, who gave members an overview of MUD.

Sofaly explained that the Fort Clark Springs Association started MUD in 1972. At that time, there were 54 residents on the Fort who were eligible to vote, and 53 of them voted to pay taxes in order to pay for a sewer system and a water system. One person voted against it.

The Association had tried to get the facilities to be a taxing entity, the State law says developers can not be owners. Residents voted in a tax in order to raise money to buy the facilities from Fort Clark Springs Association.

Seven million dollars were raised through grants and bonds issued and 1.2 million was spent in 1977 with 5.8 million ap-

proved, but permission would have to be obtained from TNRCC if we asked for that.

At that time there were no meters and a flat rate of \$6.00 was charged per month for water and \$3.75 for sewage. The present rate is \$5.75 for water and \$8.75 for sewage.

MUD provides drinking water and processes wastewater through treatment ponds. The water comes from two wells. One was drilled in 1964 and one in 1973. They are 950 feet deep and reach into the Edwards aquifer. However, when San Antonio is on water rationing, the wells here are still flowing. Some kind of natural dam exists somewhere around Uvalde that keeps water in this area from going that direction.

MUD's primary well has a 40 horse power motor and pumps 450 gallons a minute; it uses less electricity than the secondary well that uses a 100 horse power motor and is used as a back-up. In the summer, 950 to 1,000 gallons a minute are needed.

The water from the wells is pumped through a pipe into the two-story building adjoining the office. This is where the chlo-

rine required by the State is added. Then, the water is pumped to an elevated tower, erected by the Army in 1937, which holds 150,000 gallons and from there it goes out into the district. One hundred fifty gallons are used a day, and 450,000 gallons are held in reserve.

Four employees operate MUD. This is the same number used when it began. Each of them is certified wastewater operators with Katherine Letsinger as assistant manager.

Voters on the Fort elect the Board of Directors of MUD, and the five members who serve are elected for 4-year terms. Elections are held every 2 years; three are elected one year and two at the next election.

The sewage plant was cut back from the original plan when it was judged to be too large for this area. The plant is allowed to use 750,000 gallons a day. It consists of 4 ponds, and each is about 350 feet across and about 950 feet long. The waste is dumped in the first pond and for around the first 250 feet of it, it is about 12 feet deep,

after that it is about 5 or 6 feet deep. The waste drops out and the water flows on down the stabilization ponds.

Water is pumped from the fourth pond to water the golf course. Sofaly said that there is no odor to detect around the sewage plant itself, but when that water is used for watering, and the air gets to it, an odor occurs. People have complained about this, and the Manager and Board of the Fort are considering the possibility of putting in a fiberglass holding tank in the area behind the driving range where the water would be re-chlorinated. This might take care of the odor.

No problems have arisen with the sewage plant, and what water is not used on the golf course is dumped into the creek. When the retention time is more than 21 days, re-chlorinating must be done, and when water is used on the course it is always re-chlorinated. The retention time of the water is about 6 months, and it is tested on a regular basis.

In the summer, 130,000 gallons evaporate off the ponds and

not enough is left to water the golf course adequately, so it is augmented with fresh water provided by MUD at a reduced charge. This is the only way the golf course can be maintained. The first summer after the new sewage plant was put in, in less than a year, 45 million gallons were pumped to the golf course. About 21 million gallons evaporated and 24 million gallons were left.

Nothing should have to be done to the plant for 30 years, and then it will be time to clean out sludge. It is very efficient, Sofaly says. Everything is "run by nature" except what is pumped to the golf course. The wells are flowing presently at 144,000 gallons a day.

The State requires three samples a month, and every three years, a major chemical analysis is done. If water is dumped into the creek, it is tested once a week. Sofaly says that a short time ago, the State ran a test to find out how old the water is. He is curious about this and Rotary offered to ask him to return when he got the answer.

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Three for one

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

One of the best friends I have in this world sent me an e-mail recently. John Woolf lives many miles away, but his heart is still near. He comes to visit as often as he can. He has a fine family. He told me one of his daughters is expecting.

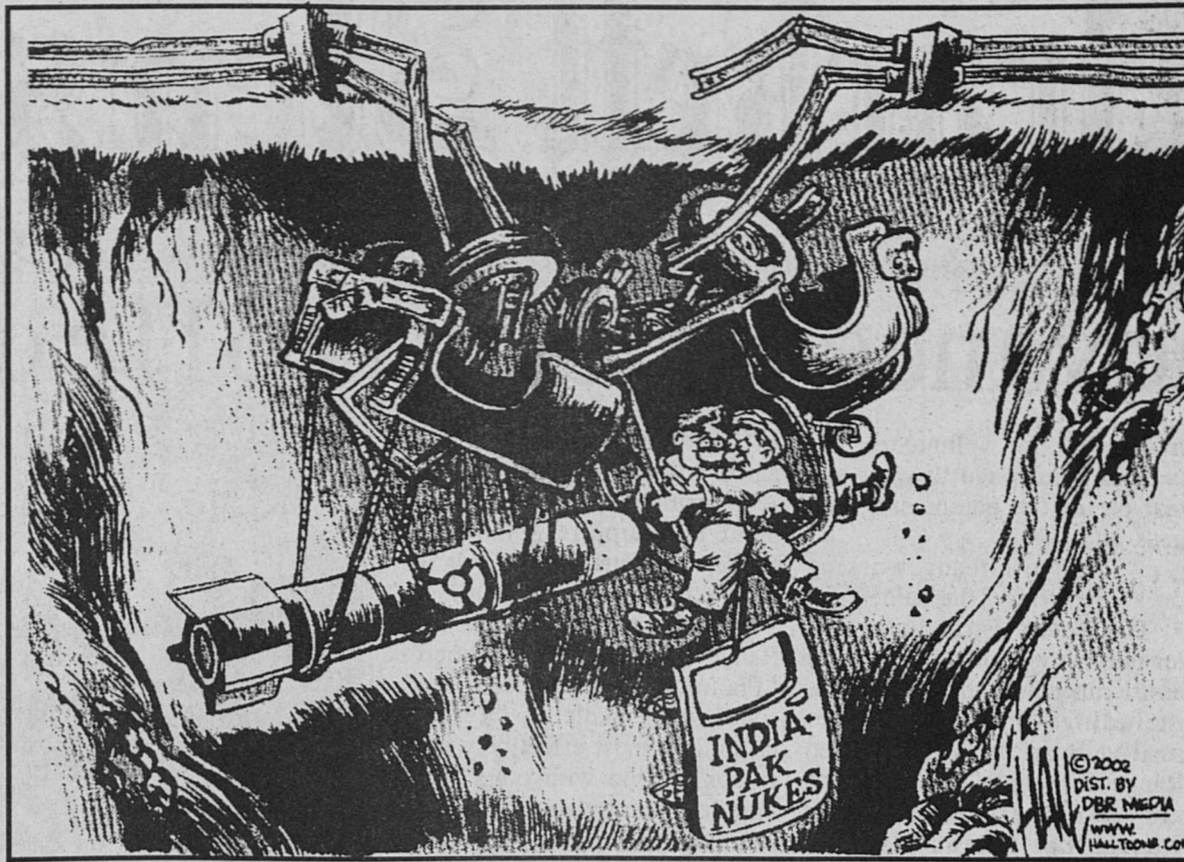
The due date is in July. I am expecting my third grandchild in July so I know how excited he is.

But his expectations are somewhat different than mine. At the current time he has no grandchildren. But I am awaiting my third and so is he. That's right, his daughter is having triplets! He's going to catch up

with me in one swoop. He's going to get into the grandfather business in a hurry.

I can't imagine having three kids at once. I think I would have told Connie to pick out the one she wanted cause we were going to have to leave the other two at the hospital. Three kids to feed, bathe, clothe. It makes me shutter. They're going to be more than a hand full. But they're also going to be three times the joy. The proud parents and grandparents will get to witness first words, and beginning steps in triple.

There will be many happy moments. I wish them all the best. Maybe even, if you run out of ideas, they could name one after me! But I could be wrong.



Lynch Mob

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

Have you ever wondered why anybody goes into any type of public service job; why anyone ever volunteers to work for community service organizations like the 4-H or Little League; why any sane person would want to be in charge of anything?

Let's take Little League for an example. It is almost impossible to get enough people to volunteer to help. They need coaches, umpires, grounds keepers, announcers, and a board of directors. Every one of those positions is subject to daily quagmires of criticism. If it is you in the hot seat it doesn't matter what you do, or how righteous your motivations are, someone is going to take exception to what you do. Somebody has got to make a decision, so you make it, with the best possible reasons and motives.

Suddenly there is a lynch mob howling at your heels. The mob is usually made up primarily of people who have never been to a meeting, who drop their kids off at the game or practice and then leave to sit and watch TV while you take care of Johnny for the next couple of hours. They have never been to a meeting and wouldn't volunteer to help if it meant the end of the universe. But they feel they have a right to take you to task for every decision you make.

They never consider but one side of the argument. They don't care if the decision was a tough one that wouldn't let you sleep for three days as you weighed the pros and cons; that you would have rather had to eat ground glass than to do whatever it was; that it tore your guts

out to have to make that decision; and that your reasons were honest and pure and in the best interest of their children. They want blood and don't confuse them with insignificant facts.

Suddenly it is something personal. You were "playing politics." You had something personal to gain. It was just because you didn't like someone in particular and saw a way to get even.

They listen to the wounded party, who talks vociferously about how he/she was wounded by your evil machinations, but because you won't talk about the shortcomings of the other person affected, which is what you based your decision on (which, by the way, you can't do, legally, because of liability and libel possibilities), you are instantly being evasive and lying to them. You're guilty, you yeller skunk - get the rope!

I have been down that road so many times I have lost count. You think you would eventually become accustomed to the criticism, but you don't. Every time it happens you look out at the people accusing you of some heinous wrong and wonder what gives them the right to question your motives. What have they done to deserve that right? You work fifty hours a week, then spend another ten with their kids because "somebody's gotta do it" and the thanks you get is an angry mob screaming at you.

Most of us spend our lives trying to avoid confrontation. The people who serve us in public positions, whether it be elected officials like the school Board of Trustees, or the Little League Board of Directors, or appointed positions like City Manager, or High School Principal, are there because, for the

most part, they think they can do something for the community. They are there because they care. Just like the rest of us, they would rather avoid controversy. They don't want to make decisions that effect lives of others. They get ulcers and high blood pressure and heart disease because of the stress that their elevated position imposes on them. Many do the job without any compensation; most do it without a word of thanks from anyone. They take the criticism as part of the job and then move on. But each controversy, each confrontation, erodes their souls and hardens their hearts a little more. So the next time somebody makes a decision that you disagree with, before you grab that rope and head for the nearest sycamore, consider your own motivation before you begin to malign his. It is just possible that he made that decision and took that action because he believed in his heart that it was in the best interest of the majority. When you are put in that situation it is best to think with your mind as well as with your heart. Nobody always makes good decisions, and it is your duty to keep an eye on all your public representatives, but lynch mob mentality has caused many innocent people to be hung for the sins of others.

Think about it. Luke 6:43-45 - "No good tree bears bad fruit, nor does a bad tree bear good fruit. Each tree is recognized by its own fruit. People do not pick figs from thornbushes, or grapes from briars. The good man brings good things out of the good stored up in his heart, and the evil man brings evil things out of the evil stored up in his heart. For out of the overflow of his heart his mouth speaks." NIV

Middle Rio Grande Empowerment Zone

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd Dist.

Washington D.C. - Representative Henry Bonilla announced the designation of an empowerment zone in the 23rd district of Texas. The Middle Rio Grande FUTURO (Families United to Utilize Regional Opportunities) Communities has been selected as the latest rural Empowerment Zone. Only two communities, out of 55 applicants, were selected for this year's designation.

"The future for residents of the Middle Rio Grande, just got brighter," said Mr. Bonilla.

Mr. Bonilla is chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which recently appropriated \$14.967 for rural Empowerment Zones and Enterprise Community grants. Chairman Bonilla played a significant role in securing the Middle Rio Grande FUTURO Communities as a new Empowerment Zone.

"I was proud that my subcommittee could play a role in securing a better living environment for the people in these communities. I've always said that the Agriculture Subcommittee touches lives on a daily basis. This is living proof that what we do makes a difference," said Chairman Bonilla.

Communities designated as an Empowerment Zone receive a variety of federal tax benefits along with technical assistance provided through USDA Rural Development. An initial \$100,000 grant is provided to each designated community for start-up costs.

In order to be eligible for the empowerment program, communities must have high levels of poverty or significant population loss. Eligible communities must also prepare a long-term community driven strategic plan for community development.

The Middle Rio Grande FUTURO Communities is a non-profit 501 (c)(3).

It was created to implement a ten-year regional community and economic development strategic plan that encompasses five rural counties in Southwest Texas. The counties include Maverick, Zavala, Uvalde, Dimmit and LaSalle. Four of the five counties are among the 20 poorest counties in the United States. Portions of all five counties suffer from a 20% unemployment rate along with a 46.5 percent poverty rate.

The new Empowerment Zone will build upon the communities' existing strategic plan. It will also set out new goals to bring greater educational and economic opportunities to the region.

Co-chair of the Border Caucus, Mr. Bonilla has actively worked with his colleagues to solve many of the issues concerning the U.S./Mexico border.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama
Sez!



In giving until it hurts,
some people are extremely
sensitive to pain.

The Brackett News

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Capitol Comment

By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

The recent financial collapse of Texas-based Enron has unleashed a flood of concerns over pension and retirement plans. Many Americans have invested their hard-earned dollars in their own 401(k) year after year, slowly building a nest egg for the future. That is exactly what thousands of Enron employees did, and now their futures are uncertain at best. One former Enron employee wrote to me, "I have been left in financial ruin by the fall of Enron. My life's savings is gone and I have been laid off with a paltry severance worth less than my unused vacation time." We must ensure that this does not happen again. Hard-working people across our state and nation should not have to watch helplessly as their life's savings disappear.

Texas has suffered greatly from the collapse of Enron. Not only did many of our fellow Texans lose their jobs and retirement funds, but state pension funds were affected as well. There were \$36 million in losses to the Teacher Retirement System of Texas and \$24 million in losses to the Employee Retirement System of Texas. Hundreds of other plans across the state and nation also lost millions of dollars.

Enron employees were left vulnerable because they lacked access to important information about their pension investments. Congress should act to protect American workers. I introduced the Pension Plan Protection Act in the Senate in early February. My legislation addresses some key concerns regarding our nation's pension systems and incorporates most of President Bush's recommendations regarding reform. It focuses on empowering employees with alternatives and information, improving accounting standards, and insisting on corporate accountability.

The bill will require employers to provide detailed, quarterly statements about the employee's account, as well as notification to plan participants when any one investment totals more than 25 percent of the employee's portfolio. This will empower workers by giving them the information they need to make decisions about their investment diversification. Another provision will encourage employers to provide third-party investment advice to employees regarding their portfolios.

The bill will also prohibit accounting firms from providing consulting services to their audit clients, and it will preclude company executives from sell-

ing stock during periods when workers are unable to do the same. Although Enron investigations are ongoing, we clearly need to move forward now to help prevent this kind of catastrophe from happening to other American workers. But as we move swiftly to ensure that these safeguards are enacted, we must also act with thoughtfulness and precision to avoid unintended consequences. More than 42 million Americans, representing \$1.8 trillion in assets, currently participate in employer-provided plans and we do not want to erode the system that has successfully provided a secure future for so many. These issues have become a high priority for Congress this year. The Pension Plan Protection Act endeavors to protect the retirement savings of hard-working Americans by reforming and strengthening our pension system.

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Candidates for city council may file applications

David Luna, Brackettville City Manager, announced at the City Council meeting last Tuesday an election will be held on May 4, 2002 to elect a Mayor and three Aldermen to serve on the City Council. The first day that candidates are permitted to file their application for a place on the ballot is February 19, 2002. The last day for candidates to file an application is March 20, 2002.

It is the responsibility of the candidate to have all paper work completed, notarized and in the City Hall office before the office closes at 5:00 P.M. on March 20th. Drawing for a place on the ballot, which determines the order in which candidates names are printed on the ballot, will be held March 21, 2002. The drawing will be held at 3:00 P.M. at City Hall, 119 West Spring Street, Brackett-

ville, Texas.

David G. Luna, City Manager, was appointed Clerk for Early Voting. Ana Belia Talamantes, Lisa Garcia, Linda Ramirez, Faustino R. Sandoval, Jr. and Ginger Dodson were appointed Deputy Clerks for Early Voting.

The Presiding Judge and Alternate Presiding Judge for the election will be appointed at the

OA location changed

Overeaters Anonymous will be holding its weekly meeting in the Kinney County Library instead of the library's annex room on Thursday, February 21.

The only requirement for membership to Overeaters Anonymous is the desire to stop compulsive overeating. If you feel that food is a problem for you, please join us Thursday nights at 6:30.

March 12, 2002 City Council meeting.

Notice of Election

An election is hereby ordered to be held on May 4, 2002 for the purpose of Board of Trustees Election. Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at Central Office-Brackett Independent School District between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:00 p.m. beginning on April 17, 2002 and ending on April 30, 2002.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: Susan Esparza, PO Box 586, Brackettville, Texas 78832.

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 26, 2002. Issued this the 12th day of February, 2002.



We are hoping our readers can identify one or more of the young men in this vintage 1900-1910 photograph of the Brackett High School baseball team, taken in front of the old school grounds. Please contact the Brackett News at 563-2852 or Bill Haenn at 563-2323 if you recognize any of these boys.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report ...

Tuesday, February 12

2:30 p.m., Chris Campbell, 22, from Oklahoma, was arrested for criminal trespass by Sheriff Buddy Burgess.

2:57 p.m., A DPS Del Rio employee reported loose cattle 1/2 a mile from rest area on Hwy 277.

7:47 p.m., A man reported that his car had broke down on Hwy 90 east by check point. Deputy Manuel Pena Sr. responded.

Wednesday, February 13

5:48 p.m., Deputy Manuel Pena Jr., responded to dogs in goat pin.

8:05 p.m., A woman reported a raccoon on the garbage of a local restaurant. A city em-

ployee was notified.

Thursday, February 14

8:38 p.m., A 911 call was received. A small brush fire across from the Catholic Church was reported. Deputy Pena was advised.

1:22 a.m., Santiago Armando Calderon, 24, from Austin, was arrested for driving while intoxicated 1st by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley. Calderon was released the next day after posting bond.

Friday, February 15

7:33 p.m., A woman made a 911 call to report that she had hit a deer on Hwy 90 west of the check point and requested assistance from a deputy. Deputy Karl Chism responded.

Saturday, February 16

4:11 p.m., Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo responded to a minor accident by a local video store.

5:48 p.m., The Del Rio Police Department reported a reckless driver on Hwy 90 east.

6:21 p.m., Chief of Police Alonzo and Deputy Chism responded to a bomb threat.

7:16 p.m., A man reported a loose cow on the road.

9:10 p.m., Trooper Ashley reported a sign was hit and knocked down. An employee from the Texas Highway Department was advised.

Sunday, February 17

12:45 p.m., A woman reported a man intoxicated and

was causing disturbance. Trooper Ashley was advised.

1:21 a.m., Martin Garcia Jr., 18, from Brackettville, was arrested for public intoxication minor consumption by Trooper Ashley. Garcia was released the same day and has to go see Justice of the Peace.

9:55 a.m., Loose cows were reported on Hwy 674.

1:26 p.m., A border patrol reported loose cattle north of Tularosa Road on Hwy 674.

4:00 p.m., Rogelio Ramirez Jr., 23, from Dallas, was arrested by Trooper Ashley for DPS warrants, speeding, and no registration. Ramirez was released for paid fine.

Lions Stride For Sight Fundraiser

The Lions Stride For Sight 2002: "Tenth anniversary for Stride For Sight - help us to continue to light the path." The month of March is considered to be the period for all Lions Clubs in the District to hold fundraisers to obtain funds for sight projects. This years project, a "Radio Reading Service" is for people physically impaired by accident or stroke, or other disability as well as people who have literacy impairments. This Project is in concert with the Districts Low Vision Center. The Lions Sight

Research Foundation has already advanced funds to get the Radio Reading Service off the ground; however, additional funds are required to complete the Project. Each Lions Club participating will determine the type of activity and date to be held. It is hoped that each community will join the Lions and help make this Stride For Sight a huge success. We thank you for your past participation. Donations are acceptable and are Tax deductible to the extent allowed by law.

Cecil's Aught-2

2002 New Year Revolution

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Per Month
\$373 per month for 72 months at 6.6% APR (Annual Percentage Rate) with approved credit. \$2,500 down.



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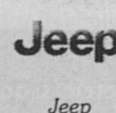
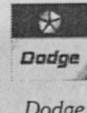
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Stock# 20523
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The man of Marge Geeze Betas Celebrate railing speech Host Sorority Valentine's Day

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

Joel could tell that his dad wasn't in a good mood. As the two sat down to take a break, Joel decided that his dad needed to talk. "Is something wrong Dad? You seem upset by something and you're using that shovel like a weapon."

Lonnie turned to his son with a scowl on his face. "Your mother is sometimes more than I can take. I hate it when she nags me about things."

If it isn't one thing it's another. "Pick up your socks, put your dirty clothes in the laundry basket." Yak, yak, yak. On and on it goes.

This morning it pushed me over the edge and I'm mad. I wish somebody would tell her to lay off."

Joel was uncomfortable with this kind of talk about his mother. It wasn't the first time he had heard his dad blow off about his mom.

Trying to remain unemotional Joel mustered the courage to respond. He decided that this time he wasn't going to let it go with-

out saying something. "Look Dad, I get real uncomfortable when you talk about Mom like that. I'm not going to be the one to tell her to lay off. You and Mom need to talk about this. Right now you need time to think. I'm going to the back yard and rake leaves."

Lonnie watched his son walk away. Suddenly his anger seemed unimportant as he thought about what he had just done. He sat down and looked intently at the end of the shovel he was digging with.

Looking to his left, he saw his wife coming out the door with two glasses of iced tea.

"Where's Joel?" she asked. At that moment Lonnie knew what he had to do.

A very wise man long ago said, "Feared in the city is the man of railing speech, and he who talks rashly is hated."

The best way to alienate your son is to talk badly about his mother.

This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working in Brackettville to strengthen families, faith and education.

By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met on Monday, Feb. 18, 2002, at the home of Marge Geeze. A light supper of tea sandwiches, stuffed tomatoes, veggies, and strawberry shortcake was served from a beautifully appointed table. A short business meeting was held with President Arlys Simpson presiding. Members were invited to enter recipes for the latest Beta Sigma Phi Cookbook.

Several of our members have been published in previous years, and in fact, have won prizes for their recipes.

A Ritual of Affirmation was read by President Simpson and all sisters present for one year members, Louise Plughoeft and Katie Brown. Heidi Busch, guest of

Mountain Laurel Garden Club

By Joyce Bergey
Contributing Writer

The February 14th meeting of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club was called to order by President

Louise Plughoeft from Germany, spoke briefly about her country and her hometown.

For the program a game of charades was played. Sisters were divided into three teams and each team member took a turn at acting out either a thing, a saying or a TV show. Team Two, which included Lou Green, Jean Somers, Marge Geeze and Louise Plughoeft, won with six points and each received an appropriate prize.

Members present were Katie Brown, Jan Chism, Marge Geeze, Luella Gilliland, Lou Green, Shirley Hadsell, Hawkins Huey, Pat McKelvy, Lynn McNew, Louise Plughoeft, Molly Schroeder, Arlys Simpson, Jean Somers, and Mylo Unruh. The next meeting will be Monday, March 4, 2002, at 5:30 p.m., at the home of Doraline Kellar.

Ruby Cheaney. Our guests were Elaine LeDeaux and Lavina Clark. Everyone celebrated Valentines day with treats provided by hostesses Lynn McNew and Patsy Callnan.

Patsy Callnan introduced author and clinical psychologist Francis McMaster as our guest speaker. McMaster spoke on the many changes over the years in lifestyles, marriages, relationships and the loss of human values. She stated that there is hope in that people are giving more thought to what is needed in society and that there is more help for everyone.

Two memorial red oak trees were planted last month at the Service Club; one for Harry Jones and the other for Don Packer. Ann Barron deserves much credit for accomplishing this project.

Charlene Simmons is promoting the Garden Club's annual Flower Show to be held at the Service Club on April 6th. The theme of the show this year is "Movie Titles", which should make for fun and interesting presentations. We will also be selling various plants and bedding plants, including herbs. Start planning your Spring gardens now and join us at the Flower Show in April to purchase your plants and enjoy the displays. Our next meeting will be held at Barbara's Table on March 14th at 9:30.



By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

Sondra Meil from Beta Epsilon Omicron and Arlys Simpson of Preceptor Theta Sigma were crowned as Valentine Sweethearts at a Sweetheart Banquet, Monday, Feb. 11, 2002, at Barbara's Table Restaurant. Hosted by Beta Epsilon Omicron, a delightful evening of good food and friendship was

enjoyed by members and spouses. Guests were welcomed by Pam Melancon and an invocation was given by Jan Peck. Following a delicious dinner, Mylo Unruh read a beautiful poem, a tribute to friendship and the sweethearts were crowned.

Preceptor President Arlys Simpson thanked Beta Epsilon Omicron for the opportunity to celebrate together.

Daughters of the Republic

By Charollette Corey
Contributing Writer

The Caddell-Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas honored both the activities of the DRT to preserve Texas history and took time out to honor one of their own chapter member's 93rd birthday and Valentine's Day celebration. Brackettville attendees were Agnes Vondy, Pat McKelvy, and Louise Stone.

The chapter met at the Holiday Inn of Uvalde for their monthly meeting on February 14, 2002 where Chapter President Billie Jean Davis introduced Kathleen M. Carter, Alamo Committee Chairman, as speaker. She is the DRT's "On-Site Representative" who is almost daily active on the Alamo grounds.

Kathleen spoke of the many various duties which The Daughters of the Republic of Texas (DRT) are active in helping to preserve the Alamo as its "Caretakers". One of the most recent activities is the raising of funds to build an Education Arbor/Amphitheater on site in back of the Alamo. Not limited to just the Alamo grounds, they are also active in helping to preserve and restore other historical sites such as the Gallagher building located

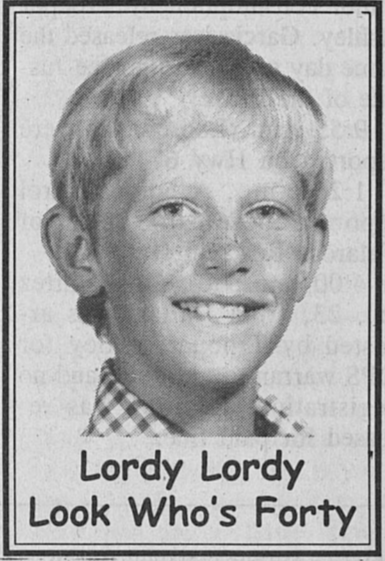
across the street in back of the Alamo.

Among the many "Caretaker" activities is the hiring of employees who make sure that the hundreds of thousands of people who come to Texas to visit the Alamo, leave the grounds with a taste of true Texas hospitality and enjoy the prizewinning grounds of the compound. One such "spur-of-the-moment" visitor a few weeks ago was John Ashcroft. He and many others of public fame have enjoyed the beauty and atmosphere found at the Alamo.

Anyone wishing to place a name on a brick may purchase one for \$100.00, lettering limited to 3 lines with 12 spaces each line, or may purchase a name to be placed on one of the nine columns of the "Pillars of Texas" on the Gallagher Building.

One must specify whether the brick being purchased is for the Gallagher Building or for the Education Arbor/Amphitheater. Please make checks payable to: The Alamo, PO Box 2599, San Antonio, Texas 78299.

Our own chapter member, Agnes Vondy was given a valentine-shaped cake for her 93rd birthday and Valentine's Day. The ladies sang Happy Birthday to her as they honored her for being such a model of endurance.



Lordy Lordy
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Affordable Rural Power - Endangered Species?

Electric deregulation is supposed to benefit Texas consumers - all consumers, urban and rural. But the legislature recently allowed the Panhandle five extra years to deregulate. Why? Because deregulation could backfire for that region's farms and ranches. What does that foretell for farms and ranches elsewhere? Sixty years ago rural electric cooperatives were formed because private power companies found rural dwellers "unprofitable." Will they again? Will they want to compete for your business? Portions of East Texas are seeking exemption from deregulation because nobody has signed up to compete for their business. At Rio Grande Electric Co-op, we intend to wait and see if this industry experiment will work. That's the smart choice. For more information on deregulation, visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice Cooperative. www.smartchoicecoops.com

SmartChoice
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Comanche Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Concho Valley Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Karnes Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Medina Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Southwest Texas Electric Cooperative, Inc. • Swisher Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Sons Of The American Revolution Have Met

By Pat McKelvy
Contributing Writer

Uvalde Chapter #53, Sons of the American Revolution, met at the Holiday Inn on Saturday, February 10, 2002.

President Charles McFarland opened the meeting with prayer. Reed Dillion led the pledge to the flag of the United States of America, followed by the pledge to the SAR flag.

District 3 Vice-president John Wilmeth and his wife, Goldie, were welcomed.

Secretary Tom Casey read the minutes of the last meeting and gave the treasurer's report. There was discussion about presenting flag certificates and three locations in Brackettville were approved. These certificates will be presented in appreciation for the patriotism shown by businesses or other organizations who fly the flag regularly and in the correct manner. Registrar Clemmy McKelvy reported there were no SAR applications pending. Members were encouraged to search out prospective members.

Following a Dutch treat luncheon, Vice-president Wilmeth presented a program entitled "What Price Freedom." This was about a fort that is across the river from the old historical Fort Ticonderoga, at the time it was in the hands of American forces,

during the time of the American Revolution. This fort, located near the village of Orwell in Vermont, has a unique place in our Revolutionary history as it is the largest battleground of the Revolutionary War.

At this particular time the American forces under Benedict Arnold and General Richard Montgomery had invaded Canada and captured Montreal. As a result of battle casualties, an outbreak of smallpox, lack of supplies and the wounding of Arnold and the death of Montgomery, during the battle of Quebec, their number was reduced by about 5,000 men, causing the army to withdraw from Canada.

The remnants of this army were sent to the area of Ft. Ticonderoga, but across the river from it, to build a fort where they could recover and also defend the colonies against being divided into two parts by the British. This location had been recommended by Ben Franklin, Samuel Chase and Charles Carroll to the Continental Congress and General George Washington. Their report stated, "The sight known as Rattlesnake Hill is so remarkably strong as to require little labor to make it tenable against a vast superiority of force, and fully to answer the purpose of preventing the enemy from penetrating into the country south of it." Thus construction began,

with huts, buildings and defensive positions being constructed by these sick men beginning in April, 1776.

By July 1776 the Americans were celebrating the signing of the Declaration of Independence and the christening of this new 300 acre Ft. Mount Independence. Meanwhile the British under General Carleton were preparing to invade the colonies.

When the winter of 1776 came, the troops had begun to run short of supplies, since none had been sent by Congress. Thus, a most horrendous winter began for the recovering wounded and sick. Of the 12,000-13,000 men stationed there, no more than 900 had shoes. The sick had no medicine or even beds of straw to lie on and no covering to keep them warm. They died from exposure and disease more than from battle wounds.

But, as we know, the war for independence was won. Now over 200 years later Mount Independence is coming back to life. The hospital and a few other building foundations have been found and uncovered but hundreds remain to be located. However there is a mystery: where are the 1000 or more men who died that winter buried? No one knows-the soil is too shallow for graves. So, like the dead of Masada, in another time, no one knows where they are buried.

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Boys basketball Softball Tournament Petrosky stars in play enters playoffs

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

TAAS testing began this week! Three days of testing included - writing at grades 4, 8 and exit (HS); exit level math and exit level reading. The exit level TAAS is first given at the 10th grade. Students who don't pass the test are given make up sessions in the 11th and 12th grade. A passing grade is required for a high school diploma in Texas schools. These are criterion-based tests that test the student's knowledge of the curriculum. Our teachers have done a grand job in recent years getting students ready for TAAS.

Frank Taylor called a meeting of the district's technology committee this past week. The committee includes business and community representatives, students, teachers and administrators. Our accomplishments in technology far surpass most school districts in Texas regardless of size. We have approximately 500 computers district wide. Students begin their instruction in technology at the PK and kindergarten grade levels. Our students are able to do much of what the business and academic world requires because of the knowledge that they receive at BISD. Frank Taylor has written most of the grants for funding for technology. Our district makes a major commitment to the funding of technology with local and state

Competition has begun in track, tennis, softball and baseball. Golf competition began a couple of weeks ago. This year, we are making a major commitment to academic competition. Boys Basketball enters the playoffs this week. Our students are busy at BISD. We completed the fourth six weeks (out of 6) this past Friday.

A big thank you goes out to elementary teachers, Olivia Robinette and Louisa Stone who asked to carry an additional teaching load in the 5th grade. When Mrs. Hooker resigned, these two ladies persuaded school administrators that there would be less turmoil if they split the third section of 5th grade and teach the students themselves. This means more preparation (science and history) and more students. Teachers such as these do not complain about additional workload and more students. I'm proud of the example that has been set here. We have fine teachers at BISD.

We ask your prayers for 4th grader Edward Solis who underwent surgery for a brain tumor this past weekend. Edward is the son of Edward and Letty Solis from Spofford. The family is positive about Edward's recovery. Little Edward can move, speak and knows people. He needs our help so let's give it to him. Have a great week!

By Gregg Nowlin
Contributing Writer

The Brackett Tigerettes began their 2002 season this past weekend at the Uvalde Softball Tournament. They played three games on Thursday, winning 2 and losing 1. The girls were beaten by West Campus a 4A team 12 to 2. In the second game the girls shut out Crystal City a 3A team 15 to 5. In the third game of the day they beat San Antonio Sam Houston a 4A team, 8 to 0, to make it to the consolation finals on Saturday. On Saturday they faced the Carrizo Springs Wildcats. It was a very exciting game until the very end. The Tigerettes jumped out to a 7 to 2 lead going into the 4th inning. After the Wildcats batted in the 5th inning they took an 8 to 7 lead. The girls committed several errors, which lead to 6 runs being scored by the Wildcats. The Tigerettes made a come back in the 6th inning closing the gap to make the final score 12 to 10

in favor of Carrizo Springs. Playing well for the Tigerettes was Celina Cano who pitched all four games, winning 2 and losing 2. Also playing well was Vanessa Castillo, Mayra Aguirre, Valerie Terrazas, and Stephanie Bonner. Other Tigerette 2002 team members also playing well were Stacey Terrazas, Celia DeLeon, Nataly Rodriguez, April Martinez, Nicole Mata, Caitlin Wylie, Angie Talamantez, Shonte Ward, Ashley Thoutret, Elizabeth Threadgill, Erica De Hoyos, Jessica Terrazas and Divina Pena.

Making the All- Tournament Team was Celina Cano. The girls will next play in the Pearsall tournament Thursday thru Saturday. There are a total of 21 teams entered. Brackett will once again be the smallest school entered. The Tigerettes first home game will be March 1st versus Junction at 6 PM. So come on out, and watch the Tigerettes begin their quest for their third straight playoff appearance.



Amanda Petrosky

The original play "Wednesdays," starring Brackettville native Amanda Petrosky, is coming to Texas Lutheran University. It will premiere in conjunction with the 2002 Krost Symposium, "Women's Place: Transitional

Roles for Women in the 21st Century," Feb. 21-24. The show is based around a group of friends who meet every Wednesday for a revealing group therapy session. The production will feature Petrosky, as well as Sally Nystuen Vahle, a visiting professional actor from Los Angeles.

"Wednesdays" primarily explores the pressures, biases and expectations placed on women today.

Petrosky plays the role of Avery Porter, a struggling actress who attends group therapy to help build self-confidence. She is the daughter of Carroll and Mary Petrosky and is a 1999 graduate of Brackett High School. She is now a junior theatre major at TLU.

The Texas Thunderstorm

By Joshua O'Neill

I lay in bed thinking about the events of the day. In the distance, I hear the gentle roll of thunder. I know what's coming. The rain begins as a soft warming to the event that's approaching. The genial sounds lull me to sleep. Then suddenly, a clap of thunder wrenches me from my slumber. The rain falls harder and harder.

Lighting stabs the sky, and the thunder cries out in pain. The rain pounding on my roof becomes a war drum, keeping the beat at a swift pace. Another blinding light flashes across the sky, as a deep rumble responds. The rain begins to soften.

The lighting struggles to light up the sky once more, and the thunder groans its' last. This is a Texas thunderstorm.

Brackett Girls Golf Invitational

By Dave Wilkins
Contributing Writer

Brackett High School hosted the Brackett Girls Golf Invitational Monday, February 18th at the Fort Clark Springs Golf Course. Fourteen area high schools were represented.

The Brackett High team finished fourth with a team score of 438. Team members were Erica Meyer, Shena Meyer, Megan McWilliams, Beth Ballew, Juliann

Ashabanner, and Courtney Frerich.

The Devine team won the tournament with a score of 378, San Antonio Holmes placed second with a score of 380, and Eagle Pass High placed third with a team score of 418.

The following girls were individual medallists for the tournament: 1st - Desiree Elizondo, San Antonio Holmes, 87; 2nd - Chelsea Lewis, Del Rio, 87; Jennifer Wilkins, Devine, 89.

Two person select shot invitational

On February 9, 2002 at 1:00 p.m. The Fort Clark Springs golf course held a 2 person select shot invitational. There were two flights A & B and there were three winners in each flight. The Players all enjoyed the tournament and that was with a strong wind blowing. The 1st place winners for Flight A were Aaron Billings from Del Rio and Bruce Thompson from Eagle Pass with a score of 62. 2nd place winners were Roy

Dyer and Billy London with a score of 64. 3rd place winners were Scott Saunders and Keith Edwards with a score of 65.

The 1st place winners for Flight B were Gordon Lundquest and Tim Lundquest with a score of 65. There was a tied split for 2nd and 3rd with a score of 69.

They were Danny Pena from Del Rio, Neto Hernandez from Del Rio, Tom McNew and John Ford.

13th Annual Las Moras Creek Invitational

By Roger Kury
Contributing Writer

Fort Clark Springs golf course reports that their 13th Annual Las Moras Creek Invitational will be held Saturday and Sunday March 16 and 17 with a practice round of the competition on Friday March 15.

They will be hosting 150 or more fine golfers and their followers.

Entries are coming in from Ft. Stockton, Alpine, Austin, San Antonio, Houston, Uvalde, Eagle Pass, Del Rio and local golfers.

Please welcome these fine people as they will be needing gas and other things during their visit.

U.S. Border Patrol Little Agents seize marijuana Miss USA

Del Rio, Texas - Border Patrol Agents from the Eagle Pass Station patrolling the Rio Grande River approximately 9 miles downriver from the port of entry seized marijuana worth \$1,027,680.

Agents patrolling the river spotted a heavily-loaded Ford Explorer leaving the river area, and proceeded to perform an immigration inspection of the occupants. The

vehicle sped away from the agents, leaving the highway approximately two-miles later and stopping in the brush.

Upon inspecting the vehicle, Agents found 27 large white feed sacks containing 90 individually wrapped bundles of marijuana weighing 1,284.6 pounds.

After an exhaustive search, agents were unable to locate the driver.

Codi Maxwell was crowned Little Miss USA in Del Rio on February 17.

As a delegate she will represent Del Rio and Brackettville during her reign as an official USA representative.

The pageant is a preliminary to the Miss Texas USA scholarship pageant.

Codi is the daughter of Sandi and Robert Maxwell.

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

Thursday, February 21
G Softbl V Pearsall Tourn. (A), TBA, TAAS Exit Level Reading GR 10, V Basebl LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Friday, February 22
1:30 PM KC Arts Council Concert, @ Civic Center, "The Cordsmen", G Softbl V Pearsall Tourn (A), TBA, JH Track, Del Rio, V Basebl LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Saturday, February 23
G Softbl V Pearsall Tourn. (A), TBA, HS Track, Del Rio, V Basebl LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Monday, February 25
8:30 AM G Golf Kerrville Tivy, 9:00 AM B Golf Brackett Invitational, 4:30 PM G Softbl JV Eagle Pass (H)

Tuesday, February 26
G Softbl JV/V Junction (A) 4:30/6:30 PM

Wednesday, February 27
1:30 PM Student Early Out/Staff Curriculum Coordination, PM FITNESS TRICKS: Climb Carefully. To get the most from a stair-climbing machine, hold the rails just lightly enough to avoid losing your balance. Don't lean on the rails or front monitor-you'll reduce your energy expenditure.

Middle Rio Grande Development Council Area Agency On Aging Services For persons Sixty Plus

The Area Agency on Aging of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council can facilitate accessing available resources for persons with disabilities and Sixty Plus in the following counties: Dimmit, Zavala, Maverick, Val Verde, La Salle, Kinney, Uvalde, Real and Edwards. The AAA provides service delivery through the Access and Assistance programs which include the following services:

- Information, Referral & Assistance
- Nutrition: Congregate & Home Delivered Meals
- Health Maintenance
- Transportation
- Health Screening
- Benefits Counseling
- Care Coordination
- Advance Directives
- Caregiver Support
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman

Benefits Counseling Programs includes Counseling and Assistance to all Medicare eligible individuals regardless of age. Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, Supplement Insurance through counseling or Presentations.

The AAA is your connection to services region wide. To obtain more information call 1-800-224-4262 OR 830-876-1253. For deaf or hearing impaired use TDD# Spanish...1-800-735-2989 for English call 1-830-876-1260.

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FINANCIAL FOCUS

Steering Your 401 (k) Through a Bumpy Stock Market

Joaquin Davis
Investment Representative
Edward Jones
830-775-0023

The stock market has gone through some tough times over the past couple of years, - and your 401(k) balance probably reflects this reality. What steps can you take to "perk up" your 401(k) account statements? Should you take any action at all?

Before you start considering changes, it's important to realize that your 401(k)'s performance carries a significant emotional impact. After all, you may get a good percentage of your retirement money from your 401(k) - so if it isn't doing well, you might be understandably nervous.

And yet, you'll want to keep two things in mind before making changes to your 401(k). First, never make any investment decisions based on an emotion - it's almost always a mistake. Second, remember that your 401(k) is a long-term vehicle. Therefore, unless your retirement is imminent, you shouldn't overly concern yourself with short-term performance.

Nonetheless, you still may want to adjust your 401(k) in response to the current market environment - but the changes you make may not be the ones that initially spring to mind.

For example, you might be tempted to move some money from the equity accounts within your 401(k) to fixed-income choices, such as bonds, or even to "cash" vehicles, such as a money market account. By doing so, you reason, you'll reduce your overall risk level.

But are you? While you may be lowering your short-term investment risk, you'll be incurring another, more dangerous, type of risk: the risk of losing purchasing power. Your fixed-income and cash instruments may not keep up with inflation - and although inflation has been low the past few years, it hasn't disappeared altogether. Over time, even a mild inflation rate can erode your purchasing power - and that can hurt you in your retirement years.

So, rather than "going conservative" in your 401(k), you may want to take a totally different approach: Put more money in your plan's equity accounts. When stock prices are down, your investment dollars will buy more shares - so you're actually buying shares "on sale." And if you're investing in good, solid companies, your perseverance should eventually be rewarded. As long as your employer's 401(k) plan has several different investment options, you should be able to find the type of high-quality stocks that meet your individual needs. Keep in mind, though, that equities are subject to market risk, including the potential loss of principal investment.

Of course, if you are within two or three years of retirement, then it may be a good idea to shift some of your 401(k) dollars into more stable, liquid investments. But, even then, you'll want some exposure to equities. You probably won't be cashing out your 401(k) completely when you retire, so you'll want the accounts to keep growing - and that means you need some stocks.

It's not always easy to "go against the grain" and put your faith - and your money - into those 401(k) accounts that may not have performed well. But, with patience and discipline, you can do it. A financial professional can help you review your 401(k) options. Ultimately, by making the right 401(k) choices, you can go a long way toward building the resources you need for the retirement lifestyle you want.

Identifying Vaccinate horses for protection Sheep and Goats against mosquito-borne diseases

Ear Tags for Sheep and Goats?

Yes. Beginning November 2001, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) requires that certain classes of sheep and goats have PREMISE identification ear tags applied before they are moved from their farm to be sold in interstate commerce or comingled with sheep and goats from any other farms. Compliance action in Texas will not be taken until April 1, 2002.

Identification requirements extend to:

- All sheep 18 months of age or older.
- All breeding sheep regardless of age.
- Sexually intact show or exhibition sheep and goats.
- All goats 18 months of age or older that are or have been comingled with sheep.
- All breeding goats that are or have been comingled with sheep.

Texas Regulations

The Texas regulations for intrastate movement, will be drafted and presented to the Texas Animal Health Commission in February 2002. TAHC regulations will mirror the USDA premise identification requirements.

How Much Will Tags Cost?

Aside from the time it takes to attach the ear tag prior to loading sheep and goats for shipment, there is no cost, if you use the white metal or white plastic tags provided through the state-federal program.

In meetings with industry representatives, a preference for a PREMISE identification system was expressed. Therefore, owners will be assigned a unique, permanent PREMISE identification number. Supplies of ear tags will carry this number, and a sequential number on the reverse side, which owners may use in maintaining individual animal records.

To get your PREMISE identification number and order free tags, call the toll-free designated "tag line" at 1-866-873-2824.

Tags are shipped by UPS, so be prepared to provide a physical shipping address.

Approved vendors offer other styles of official PREMISE identification tags that may be purchased after you get your premise number.

Tagging and Records

Identified sheep and goats may carry several ear tags, depending

on how many premises or flocks from which they have been moved or sold. Tags are to accurately reflect the premises on which the animals have been comingled with other sheep or goats.

Federal regulations require that records on purchases and sales be maintained for five years for disease investigation purposes. To comply with record keeping requirements when selling sheep and goats at the livestock market, have your premise identification number recorded on the market check-in document.

The American Sheep Industry Association (ASI), in 1998, identified scrapie as an important trade issue, estimating the industry loses more than \$20 million each year in lost export sales, extra disposal costs for dead sheep and offal, and lost productivity.

In the settlement of an ASI-filed trade action suit, federal funds were committed to support a national scrapie eradication program.

Eradicating the disease will heighten the industry's credibility and reputation for supplying wholesome and healthy animals and products. By 2010, U.S. animal health officials and sheep industry leaders say scrapie can be eliminated. By 2017, the U.S. goal is to be declared officially scrapie-free by international standards.

Historically, black-faced or black-faced crossbred sheep have been stricken with scrapie most often. For international trade purposes, the livestock industry must prove that other sheep breeds, and goats, are not affected.

The benefits of eradicating the disease? Australia and New Zealand, have scrapie-free designations, and these nations freely sell breeding stock worldwide with minimal restrictions.

After Ear Tags, What? Slaughter surveillance for scrapie in sheep will begin soon, as a disease detection tool. For the first time, this will allow the industry to know the incidence of this disease.

The incidence of scrapie in goats has been extremely low, so slaughter sampling for this species will not be conducted at this time. However, goats are susceptible to scrapie and when they are comingled with sheep, registered, breeding, or exhibition goats must be identified as discussed earlier in this brochure.

Despite blustery days now and again, spring is just around the corner, and animal health officials are urging owners to protect their equids, including horses, mules and donkeys against several mosquito-borne diseases before "bug" season starts.

"Vaccines are available to protect equids against both equine encephalitis, better known as "sleeping sickness" and West Nile Virus (WNV). However, the shots are no value if they aren't given prior to disease exposure," said veterinarian Terry Conger, state epidemiologist for the Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC), the state's livestock health regulatory agency. "These vaccines require two doses, administered several weeks apart, and full protection doesn't develop until four to six weeks after the second dose. Realistically, then, it can take up to 10 weeks for the horse to be disease-resistant. That's why it's so important to start the round of vaccinations now."

Dr. Conger noted that cases of "sleeping sickness," or equine encephalitis, occur sporadically in Texas equids, and on rare occasions, humans contract the mosquito-borne infection. Transmitted by mosquitoes that have fed on diseased birds, Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) and Western

Equine Encephalitis (WEE) causes swelling of the brain, resulting in staggering, convulsions, and fever. Although horses do not transmit the disease to humans, equids are "sentinel animals," or indicators that infected mosquitoes are in a specific area.

"Another form of sleeping sickness, Venezuelan Equine Encephalitis (VEE), is a foreign animal disease that originated in South America. In 1971, a VEE outbreak swept northward through Mexico, threatening horses in the southern U.S. In two years, due to an all-out effort, more than 2.8 million animals in 19 states were vaccinated against VEE," Dr. Irby said. "On rare occasions, VEE cases still creep into southern Mexico, and if it should move north, it would threaten American animals."

Therefore, as an added precaution, equids in South Texas should receive a three-way vaccine that protects not only against EEE and WEE, but also VEE."

Although it has yet to be diagnosed in Texas, another mosquito-borne, encephalitic disease causing concern is West Nile Virus (WNV). Dr. Irby said WNV was unheard of in the US until 1999 in New York, where seven persons died from the infection and at least 25 equids were infected.

In 2000, the virus had spread to 12 states, and by year's end 2001, the disease impacted 27 states, including Louisiana and Arkansas. At least 564 equids tested positive for the disease in 2001, reported Dr. Irby.

Epidemiologists are still uncertain how or when an infected person, bird or mosquito entered the country, initiating the bird-mosquito WNV disease cycle in the US. First isolated in 1937 in the West Nile District of Uganda, the disease now has widespread distribution, including Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and West and Central Asia. As the virus has moved across the U.S., the U.S. Department of Agriculture changed WNV's designation from a "foreign animal disease," to an "emerging disease."

"Texas is particularly vulnerable to the introduction of WNV, because major migratory routes for birds pass over a large portion of east Texas. This summer, we may find that the disease is brought into the state by infected birds," commented Dr. Irby. He pointed out that at least 17 species of mosquitoes can be involved in the disease cycle. "Many horses infected with WNV won't appear to be ill, while, others become debilitated and too weak to rise," he said. "About 20 percent of the

horses infected with WNV in 2001 either died or were euthanized because they were so ill."

"Late last summer, a WNV vaccine was approved for equids, and like many other encephalitic vaccines, two injections are needed. For WNV vaccine, the injections must be three to six weeks apart. The timing of vaccination is crucial, as demonstrated in Florida last year, where 267,000 doses of vaccine were made available. Eighty-six equine that became infected had received only one dose of vaccine. Seventeen other stricken animals received their second dose of vaccine less than three weeks prior to becoming infected," he explained. "Since immunity may not develop for four to six weeks after the second dose, owners should have their animals vaccinated now, so they'll be protected by the time mosquito season begins this spring."

Dr. Irby reminded owners to reduce mosquito populations by draining stagnant water from bird-baths, flowerpots, troughs and other containers, and by keeping pools properly chlorinated. Insect repellents and insecticides should be used only according to directions, he said, and owners may want to stable their animals at night, to provide added protection.

"WNV is a 'zoonotic disease,' one that also can affect human health," commented Dr. Conger. "Species other than horses, humans and birds are susceptible to the disease, and it has been demonstrated in other states that canines can contract the infection. No vaccine has been approved for dogs, but this information may be useful in an epidemiological investigation of a potential WNV introduction."

The Texas Department of Health (TDH) also is conducting disease surveillance, for testing mosquitoes, dead crows, blue jays and hawks. To submit a dead crow, blue jay or hawk for laboratory examination, call your regional Texas Department of Health office or the Texas Department of Health in Austin at 1-512-458-7255. TAHC field personnel are collecting blood samples from equids involved in regulatory disease programs, and the agency operates a 24-hour hotline at 1-800-550-8242 for taking reports of unusual signs of disease in livestock, such as:

1. staggering, falling, or inability to rise
 2. illness affecting a large percentage of animals
 3. sudden death loss
 4. blistering around an animal's lips, teats or hooves
 5. unusual ticks or maggots
- "Only the first three of the disease signs apply to encephalitic diseases, but the other two—blistering and ticks—should be kept in mind, as they could be signs of other very serious disease situations," said Dr. Irby. "TAHC and USDA veterinarians will work with private veterinary practitioners and producers at no charge to help diagnose foreign or emerging diseases. The earlier we can make a diagnosis, the sooner we can take appropriate measures to control or stop the spread of a disease."

Grand Jury Indicts 10 In Antelope Slaughter

Amarillo, Texas - A Dallam County grand jury has returned felony indictments on 10 individuals who allegedly participated in the killing of about two-dozen antelope last December in the Texas Panhandle. The slaughter was the single largest illegal killing of game in Texas in many years and could be the single largest illegal killing of antelope within the United States ever recorded, according to state and federal law enforcement officials.

The indictments were handed down as a result of an intensive investigation lasting almost a year to the day after the discovery of about 24 dead antelope on grassland pasture west of Kerrick, Texas. On the afternoon of Dec. 9, 2000, TPW game wardens learned of the incident from firefighters who responded to a grass fire that may be related to the antelope killings. When wardens arrived on the scene, they

found evidence that some of the antelope had been run over with vehicles, resulting in broken legs and other serious injuries. Some antelope had been shot at close range with shotguns.

All 10 of the alleged participants were indicted on a charge of taking wildlife resources without the consent of the landowner, a 3rd degree felony due to the use of a deadly weapon in the commission of a crime. The maximum punishment per person for this violation includes a jail sentence of two to 10 years in prison, a fine of up to \$10,000 and restitution for the value of the game animals killed.

The indictments include four men from Mississippi who traveled to Texas to take part in the annual pheasant hunt, five people from the Texas Panhandle and one from the Oklahoma Panhandle.

Those indicted from Texas and Oklahoma are: Wes Avent, 26, of

Amarillo; Billy Heath Collums, 23, and his wife Kenna Collums, 20, both of Kerrick; Leonard Hawkins, 40, of Kerrick; Brady Schoonover, 31, of Kerrick; and Paul Wells, 46, of Boise City, Okla.

The men from Mississippi are: Cavin T. Foster, 21, of Pontotoc, Miss.; Jason Holladay, 24, of Houlika, Miss.; Clayton Watkins, 23, of Van Fleet, Miss.; and Michael Wilson, 24, of Houlika, Miss. According to District Attorney David Green whose area includes Dallam County, the suspects from Texas have turned themselves in and arrangements have been made for the Mississippi men to voluntarily surrender. Bond has been set at \$5,000 for each. Investigating agencies included TPW, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the 69th District Attorney's Office and the Mississippi Department of Wildlife Fisheries & Parks.

TPW biologists estimate the current population of pronghorn antelope in Texas at 11,000, down from a 20-year high of 24,500 in 1987. Officials attribute the decline to a long-term drought that has gripped the state in recent years, particularly in the Trans Pecos region. The antelope hunting season this year ran from Sept. 29-Oct. 7. About 100 antelope permits were issued to landowners in Dallam County, according to Dumas-based TPW wildlife biologist David Cook. Landowners can offer the permits to hunters, charging \$1,000 to \$2,500 for an antelope hunt.

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- I have filled in for the County Judge in his absence.
- Served on the TRACS grant review board.
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Love, marriage and friendships Unanswered questions Little is more than enough

Frontier Baptist Church
By Dave Crowe

I am writing this on Valentine's Day, even though you won't be reading it until at least February 21st. But, today my thoughts are filled with love and marriage and children and life and as always, God.

For most of us, loving comes easy. It is easy to love that special someone, our families, our friends, our church, our town and our country.

Matthew 5:43-48, tells us to "Love our enemies and to pray for them," this can be extremely difficult when your heart has become hardened, where they are concerned.

Knowing this, Jesus warns us in Matthew 6:14-15, that if we cannot and will not forgive them, that the Father cannot and will not forgive us of our sins against him either and believe me, you and I sin against our Father everyday.

In John 13:34-35, Jesus says, "Love one another. As I have loved you, so you must love one another. By this all men will know that you are my disciples, if you love one another."

'Nuff, said about love for now.

Let's talk a moment about marriage.

It is not surprising to me that nearly 1/2 of all marriages are failing. Make no mistake about this, marriage is hard work. Marriage like a flower or a plant or any friendship, has to be nurtured, fed and cared for, only more so.

Matthew 19:4-6 Jesus talking to the Pharisees said "Haven't you read that in the beginning the creator made them male and female, and said for this reason a man will leave his Father and mother and be united to his wife and the two shall become one flesh. So they are no longer two, but one. Therefore what God has joined together, let man not separate."

Each person entering into marriage can only bring the sum total of whatever he or she is.

Read what I am about to write carefully because it is important. When things go wrong in a marriage, it is often times caused because the two were not adequately separate to begin with.

It takes two separate, but complete halves to make one whole. The more separate each person is to begin with, the stronger the bond can be between them.

Let's you and I talk about

friendships for a moment. Joseph Addison, once said "The single, greatest sweetener of human life is friendship. To raise this to the highest pitch of enjoyment is a secret which but only a few discover."

Aristotle said, "Friendship is a single soul dwelling in two bodies."

Next to Jesus, your greatest friend should be your marriage partner. Our first president, George Washington said it well. "Be courteous to all, but intimate with few, and let those few be well tried before you give them your confidence. True friendship is a plant of slow growth and must undergo and withstand the shocks of adversity before it is entitled to the appellation."

I've written about love, marriage and friendships. Now, I would like to share with you, something else that I once read. "Children are a special gift from God. Something that you had neither earned nor deserved nor had the right to expect. Always remember that the appropriate response for any gift large or small and no matter, the length of time, that you are allowed to enjoy it, is one of gratitude."

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

Questions. There are so many unanswered questions. Last Sunday young Michael Stephenson asked me, "Why do so many people around here die from cancer?" I think the question also made us think of the many who are currently battling cancer. As I told Michael, I have asked myself the same question. Is there something in the water?

Is there something in the soil? Is there something in the air? So many troubling questions in life and so few answers. "Why, God, do these troubling things have to happen?" I pray for this special knowledge and receive no specific answers! Or, do I?

I am sure there are many very capable scientists who are currently searching for the causes for and the cure of cancer and the other diseases/afflictions that cause such pain and struggle that prompt some of our most perplexing questions. Perhaps God is answering through them. Perhaps our question is really, "God, why is it taking so long for you to reveal the answers to the things that trouble us?"

Beginning in the Garden of Eden with Adam and Eve taking fruit from the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil, humankind has been both inquisitive and impatient.

Why does a child have to burn him/herself on the stove top when mom has warned that it is hot?

Why is it so hard for children to sleep on Christmas Eve? Why does the 15/16-year-old child have to rebel against the advice and guidance of their parents? Why does the 20/30-something man/woman believe that they can do the job better than their boss/employer? Why does the 50/60-year-old golfer still try to hit the golf ball 250/300 yards down the center with every swing? Why does the dying person cling so strongly to life when the pain and the struggle is so difficult? I think it is because we are an inquisitive, impatient and strong-willed species! And God made us that way!

We know we are made in God's image. Does that mean we look like God? I think not. Does that mean we have God's depth of knowledge? I am sure we don't. Does that mean that we are spiritually the same as God?

No, for then surely we would be God. What does it mean? I think it means that we were created with the ability to make choices. I think that it means that we were given the opportunity to be in relationship with God and each other. I think it means that we were allowed autonomy in life so that we might choose Good over Evil, each other over isolation, God over godlessness.

Questions! Questions are our means of growth and our means of self-torture. Does God have the answers to our questions? I am sure that is so. We may not like the answers. We may be overly impatient for the answers.

But there are answers and God is the Truth that we seek. But we must learn to trust. We must trust that God is in charge. We must trust that God hears our prayers and acts on them. We must trust that God will act on God's promises to bring us peace, an end to our tears and a time when we will be face to face with God and will get all of our questions answered.

Until then, Michael, I can only trust that God will comfort those who are struggling with cancer (and their families) and will take to God's presence in paradise those who succumb to that terrifying disease. Please join us Sunday at 10:45 am for our weekly worship service. Come and learn to trust God's promises of healing and wholeness. There is a family of faith waiting here who will be God's instruments of love and healing for you.

St. John Missionary Church
By Rev. William P. Adams Sr.

When Jesus then lifted up his eyes, and saw a great company come unto him, he saith unto Philip, where shall we buy bread, that these may eat?

And this he said to prove him; for he himself knew what he would do. Philip answered him, two hundred penny worth of bread is not sufficient for them, that everyone of them may take a little.

One of his disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, saith unto him,

There is a lad here, who hath five barley loaves and two small fishes; but what are they among so many?

And Jesus said, make the men sit down. Now there was much grass in the place. So the men sat down, in number about five thousand.

And Jesus took the loaves; and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down; and like wise of the fishes as much as they would.

When they were filled he said unto his disciples, gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. John 6:5-12. Look at God.

A little bit with Jesus is more than enough. Praise God!

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God's mercy and grace

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

I am reminded today of the chorus to a song that says "Bigger than any mountain, bigger than anything, God is bigger than any mountain that you can or cannot see." That is so true.

A mountain symbolizes strength. Sometimes you look at a mountain and say to yourself that there is no way anyone could ever climb it. Sometimes our problems look the same way, but God is "bigger than any mountain, bigger than anything, God is bigger than any mountain that you can or cannot see."

We all have those days when the devil would try to lie to us and tell us to buckle under, to stop trying to do good, that no effort you make will ever succeed, but Beloved, you can always count on your Heavenly Father to be there for you. He will never leave you

nor forsake you. He has endured all things and overcome all things. Through the blood of his son Jesus Christ, he has empowered you as joint heir with Jesus to be more than a conqueror, to be an overcomer in every situation, to walk on top of the water with your eyes on Jesus, not drowning under it.

God has empowered you through his Holy Spirit to have strength in all things, to take authority over the principalities and powers that try to lie to you and tell them that they are thieves and have to restore to you seven fold more than what they have tried to take from you.

During these times you choose to forgive, you choose to love, and you choose to count it all joy for the trials that are set before you, because God uses all things for good unto those who are called according to his purposes.

You choose to stand on the rock who is Christ Jesus and when the

winds blow and the rains come, your house will not fall because of the overcoming power of the blood of Jesus.

You choose to cover yourself in faith so that the darts of the enemy may not pierce your mind and heart. His breastplate of righteousness covers you, even as his blood covers you and God's mercy and grace flow over you.

You choose to shout for joy that Jesus is Lord of Lords and King of Kings, that every knee shall bow and every tongue confess that Jesus Christ is Lord.

Mountains are simply opportunities for God to show up in all his glory and show off to the world his overcoming strength, and everlasting, unconditional love. God is bigger than any mountain that you can or cannot see.

Jesus will carry you over it, even when you cannot climb it yourself. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Lent is for remodeling

St. Mary Magdalene Church
By Lynn McNew

Because older women in my family have endured the stooped back and broken bones of osteoporosis, I decided to do some reading on prevention. I found books with charts and chemical analyses, but one sentence stuck with me: "Like all living tissue, bone is constantly being broken down and re-formed."

As I read on, I found the words seemed to apply to this season of Lent. Forty long days of repen-

tance, repentance and still more repentance until I'm ready for Easter and His triumph rather than my failure.

But it was the word living that leapt out at me: living tissue that is continually torn down and rebuilt.

As long as my relationship to God is alive, this biological fact seemed to suggest, the tearing-down process is part of it. The break-up of outworn habits, the rejection of outgrown assumptions, go hand in hand with renewal. No growth without prun-

ing, no rebirth without death.

The medical name for this continuous cycle of break-down and reformation, my reading informed me, is "bone-remodeling."

Soul-remodeling isn't that what Lent is all about?

Repentance, forgiveness, new life. An essential sequence, not just at this time of year, but for always.

This Lent, Father, transform my Spirit with new life. You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God Bless You!

Time to change our ways

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
By Rev. Nathan LaFrenz

During Ash Wednesday celebrations throughout the world recently ashes were rubbed on millions of foreheads in the sign of the cross. Words spoken were "You are dust and to dust you shall return." It is a time to reflect upon our lives, to take our moral, ethical, spiritual temperature. It is a time to reflect on how we have sinned against God, neighbor, and ourselves. It is a time for repentance, to change our ways. But we are also reminded that in our baptisms we are reborn in grace. We have come this far in life by faith. We are headed for the cross and tomb of Easter.

Knowing this, how shall we live in the present? What will we do today to lessen death and affirm life? Lenten disciplines include prayer, fasting, and acts of charity. These disciplines are cheapened when they take on a character of obligation. Rather prayer, fasting, and acts of char-

ity can be viewed as tools for transformation. By undertaking these disciplines we can be transformed and be part of the transformation process of others. Join

with us at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church each Sunday morning at 9:00AM this Lenten season as we seek the transforming grace of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

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25	26	27 Dr. J. Espinoza Adult Cardiologist	28 Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose & Throat	29 Good Friday Holiday Clinic Closed

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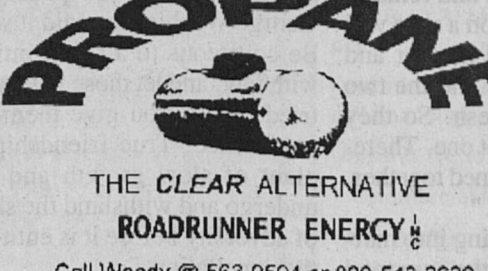
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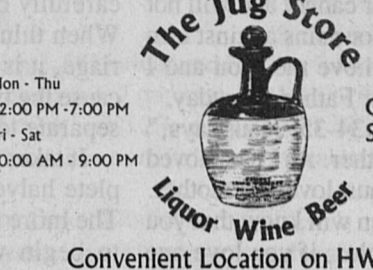
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 Uvalde, Texas 78801
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS	39 Foreign coin	DOWN	33 Seine feeder
1 Unser and Pacino	40 Tripod	1 Districts	34 The ___; 1956 Burt Lancaster film
4 Word of disgust	41 Aromatic shop	2 Late actor Peter	35 Cheer
8 Implied	42 Europe's neighbor	3 Walter or George C. Grim one	37 Years at the 25 Down
13 Reptile, for short	43 Part of a Texas city	4 Roper's event	40 Period of uninhibited activity
14 Leaf	44 Roper's event	45 Wise advisor	44 Mountaineer's item
Ericson's dad	45 Wise advisor	47 This: Sp. Apportions	46 Rest
15 Cause deterioration	47 This: Sp. Apportions	51 Come before the public	48 Cheap and showy
16 Prefix for nautical or ballistics	56 Aunt	58 Ali, for one	50 Sleighman
17 Counter-tenor	58 Ali, for one	61 Part of the leg	52 Ancient Britons
18 French name	61 Part of the leg	63 Requirement	53 White-plumed bird
19 Spoilsport	63 Requirement	64 Algonquian language	54 Leading
22 Common verb	64 Algonquian language	65 Guide	55 Courses: abbr.
23 Fly	65 Guide	66 Weeper's drop	56 Foreign news agency
24 Have a secret ceremony	66 Weeper's drop	67 Social affairs	57 Divider's word
26 __, Pennsylvania	67 Social affairs	68 Types	59 Victory symbols
29 Come	68 Types	69 Pale	60 Affirmative
32 Kitchen implement	69 Pale	70 Regular: abbr.	62 Permit
36 Mediteranean seaport	70 Regular: abbr.		
38 From __; completely			

ROARING TWENTIES

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

Today's Category: **OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS**

L K S U C I T I V E L K	1. Isaiah
S S R R K A M O S J K Y	2. _____
M S E U L D S S D H J M	3. _____
L U B T S I D D A A I O	4. _____
A D M H S J J N N C S N	5. _____
S O U E B S O E I I A O	6. _____
P X N D R J A E E M I R	7. _____
S E E Z E K I E L S A E	8. _____
G D B Z V S S D S E H T	9. _____
D O R D O E W D O S U	10. _____
J A J E R E M I A H H E	11. _____
S W S W P H A G A I D	12. _____
	13. _____
	14. _____
	15. _____
	16. _____
	17. _____
	18. _____
	19. _____
	20. _____

Trivia Time by Walter Branch

- In what profession would you use a theodolite?
- What National Park has the largest area?
- Who was Rembrandt's wife, the subject of many of his portraits?
- What movie was the first to pair Katharine Hepburn and Spencer Tracy?
- Who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979?
- In 1863, whom did President Lincoln name to replace Joseph Hooker as the general to lead the Army of the Potomac?
- What Amendment to the Constitution gave women the right to vote?
- What is the only state in the U.S. that grows and produces coffee?
- When did George Eastman invent the first hand-held camera?
- What was Ella Fitzgerald's first major hit song in 1938?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| February 21.....Balente Aguilar | February 25.....Cassandra Mata |
| February 21.....Jimmy Luttrell | February 25.....Jack Phillips |
| February 21.....Lester Meredith | February 25.....Arnold Pinales, Jr. |
| February 21.....Ricky Sandoval | February 25.....Oscar Sierra, Jr. |
| February 22.....Francisco Arellano | February 26.....Elaine Crane |
| February 23.....David Melancon | February 26.....Heather Martin |
| February 23.....F. B. Stanley | February 26.....Ruth Young |
| February 24.....Lorraine Coffin | February 27. Elizabeth Dillahunt |
| February 25.....Jack Brewster | February 27.....Milton Russell |

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Although you may be planning a weekend getaway, you must still be attentive on the job. Leave leisure matters for the appropriate time. Minor differences over budgetary matters could arise midweek.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Fortunes are favored this week business-wise. However, it's the opposite on the domestic scene. Try to smooth over the hurt feelings of a loved one.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You shine on the social scene. As a result, it's okay this week to amix business with pleasure. A contact made now proves invaluable in the future.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You have your heart set on a special purchase. However, your mate isn't exactly in sync with this. Iron out your differences before spending that money.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Doors are open to you on the job this week. Go for that promotion by exuding self-confidence. Bigwigs will be suitably impressed.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A minor financial worry isn't all that tragic in the long run. Extra money comes from a pleasantly surprising source. Over the weekend, guests drop by out of the blue.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Avoid letting romanticism cloud your thinking. Someone you want to believe in could let you down. Later in the week, some personal bookkeeping is essential.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A co-worker wants to cross the line into friendship. However, keep an objective distance. This is someone to be wary of.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Matters involving children come to the fore this week. Schedule an appointment with teachers. You'll be surprised at what you discover.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Romance happens when you least expect it. However, don't let this consume you. There are important work matters to tend to.

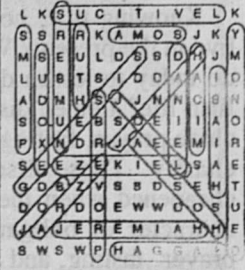
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The key to successfully completing a project is through cooperation. Be sure everyone on the team is pulling his weight. Later in the week, patience is the key with a family member.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's a good week to capitalize on an unexpected opportunity that arises. Be careful, though, of what's being said by a co-worker. This person is spreading false information.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Amos	11. Jeremiah
2. Daniel	12. Job
3. Deuteronomy	13. Joel
4. Exodus	14. Jonah
5. Ezekiel	15. Leviticus
6. Ezra	16. Micah
7. Genesis	17. Numbers
8. Haggai	18. Proverbs
9. Hosea	19. Psalms
10. Isaiah	20. Ruth



Trivia Time Answers (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.
 1. Surveyor; 2. Kruger; 3. Sakska; 4. "Woman of the Year"; 5. Mother Teresa; 6. George Meader; 7. The 19th; 8. Hawaii; 9. 1888; 10. "A-Tisket, A-Tasket"

ADOPTION

Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

WE BELIEVE FAMILY comes first. Our home is filled with life's most important treasures...love, encouragement, great sense of fun and lots of time with mom at home to dearly love and cherish your baby. May we help you? Deborah & Marc, 1-866-853-8572, tollfree.

AUCTIONS

ABSOLUTE AUCTION - DURANT, OK. Thursday, March 14th. Luxury home, guesthouse, pool and 4+ acre stocked lake on 175 +- acres. J.P. King Auction Company, Inc. Lic #085284, 1-800-554-5464.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

ALL CASH BIZ! Local Vending Route. \$4K/month potential. Minimum investment \$7K. Call Factory, 1-800-483-8717. Inspired Ventures.

ATTENTION ALL EMPLOYEES: If you work over 40 hours per week and are not paid overtime, call 1-800-575-5798. Sam Brand, Inc.

EXCELLENT PROFITS. LOG Home Wholesalers. Join proven 23 year log manufacturer. 16 log profiles, kiln-dried, TPI graded. Exclusive territory. Call Doug, 1-800-467-3006. Old-Timer Log Homes.

PROPANE OR BUTANE Delivery Truck Drivers and/or helpers who worked over 40 hours per week and not paid overtime, call 1-800-575-5798. Sam Brand, Inc.

DRIVERS WANTED

CFI NEEDS TEAMS and O/O. Loads with miles available immediately. Company - Owner/Operator - Singles and teams. Ask about our 2-week spouse training program in automatic transmission truck. Call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE, www.cfidrive.com

DRIVER - COMPANY & Owner/Ops - Regional - Home Weekly. Pay for experience up to 31 cpm Company, 81 cpm Owner/Ops. 1-800-454-2887, Arnold Transportation.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT now offering per diem pay for experienced teams, solos and trainers. O/O - Solos/Teams 83 cents. Call 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729).

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DRIVERS WANTED

OWNER OPERATOR AVG \$1.13 in Southwest 5 state area. FFE needs 27 trucks to cover this obligation. Sign-on bonus, base plates, generous fuel surcharge and plenty of freight. 1-800-569-9298.

DRIVERS - READY TO roll? Friday paydays. 2-day orientation. Health insurance. In-Cab E-Mail. 6 months OTR, Class "A" required. Continental Trucking, 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS: SOLOS UP TO .34 cents, teams up to .48 cents, Contractors .81 cents all miles. Lease options available (Zero down.) Holiday orientation pay. Burlington Motor Carriers, 1-800-684-3144.

DRIVERS-SW REGIONAL. Home on weekly basis, teams start 34 cpm, OTR starts 32 cpm. 6 months OTR experience w/CDL-A. Ask for Harold/Bob, National Freight, 1-800-666-0380.

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED at KLLM! No experience needed. We can train you. Drivers can earn \$600-\$700/week. Tuition reimbursement. Truck drivers have job and financial security. 1-888-822-8209.

DRIVERS: OTR DRIVERS needed. Class A CDL w/experience required. Good work record, clean MVR. Call today, Marten Transport, Ltd., 1-800-395-3331 or visit our website, www.marten.com on pay and benefits.

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EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS. Job opportunities. Free call for application/examination information. Federal hire/full benefits, 1-800-842-1704, ext. 222, 7am-10pm cst, 7 days. Exam Prep.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

CREDIT CARD DEBT? Stop collection calls. Cut finance charges. Cut payments up to 50%. Debt consolidation. Fast approval. No credit check. Avoid bankruptcy. National Consolidators, 1-800-270-9894.

BE DEBT FREE - years sooner. Low payments. Reduce interest. Stop late fees. Stop collectors. Family Credit Counseling. Non-profit Christian Agency. Se habla Espanol. Recorded message. 1-800-729-7964. Free quote, www.familycredit.org

\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ - IMMEDIATE CASH for structured settlements, annuities, real estate notes, private mortgage notes, accident cases, and insurance payouts. (1-877-NOTES-31).

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\$1000 UNTIL PAYDAY! Bad credit? No credit? No problem! Call today - Cash tomorrow. One hour phone approval. 1-877-4-PAYDAY, 24/7. Payroll Loans, USA.

FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE, 3 yr. old, 4 BR - 3 bath, & 20 acres. N.W. Brackettville, TX 4 mi. out on FM 2804. Call 830-563-9770 or us68vet@yahoo.com.

TRACTOR FOR SALE, 40 HP deisel, AC 5040 (Allis Chalmers). Many extra attachments, asking \$6,995. Call 830-563-9770.

JEEP "71" RANCH, 3 speed, 6 cyl. New 4 B-Carb, big tires, runs good, tow bar. \$4,995 call 830-563-9770.

THERMO ELEC. BARBECUE grill bought at Russells Hardware in Del Rio. Paid \$350, asking \$125. 563-9080.

REDUCED FOR QUICK sale. 3 bedroom; 2 bath mobile home unit 27 Ft. Clark. \$2,500 down assume note. Contact Mark Kesteloot 563-3879.

THE YELLOW SCOOTER, brand new, only 400 miles. \$2,000 call Ginny at 563-2024 or 3819.

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

NEED A COMPUTER but no cash? You're approved. Financing guaranteed. No cash needed today. Bad credit okay. No credit check - no credit turn downs. 1-800-947-7988, www.pc-credit.com

WOLFF TANNING BEDS - Affordable, Convenient. Tan at home. Payments from \$25/month. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1305, www.np.etstan.com

GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE SAT. 23rd, unit 3 lot 58 8 a.m. - ?

HEALTH & FITNESS

DIABETIC SUPPLIES at no cost. If you have Medicare or private insurance. New meters, test strips and insulin, if you qualify. (No HMO's), National Diabetic Supply, 1-888-657-8427.

HELP WANTED

IMMEDIATE OPENING SECRETARY/Bookkeeper send resume to P.O. Box 528 Brackettville, TX 78832 or call 563-2580.

REAL ESTATE

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Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
830-563-2713
Rentals Available

3 bed, 2 baths, 2 car carport, wide front porch. Priced to sell.

3 bed, 2 baths, extra large living room, jacuzzi tub, 2 carports. On corner lot on golf course. \$80,000.

2 bed, 2 baths townhouse. Great shape only \$45,000.

2 bed, 2 baths, carpeted, appliances \$57,000.

10 acres with buildings on Hwy 90. One good well. \$130,000.

Building lots in different sections of Fort Clark. Prices vary. All reasonable.

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DATA ENTRY. WE need Claim Processors now! No experience needed. Will train. PC required. Great income. Electronic Processing Services. 1-800-240-1548, Dept. 706.

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LARGE ONE BED, 2 bath in unit 14 F.C.S. with separate 12 x 14 out building. Can be used as spare bedroom, office. Drive is covered for R.V. with tool shed. Open to any reasonable offer until February 28, 2002. For information call Rick or Carole 563-2545.

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Molly Earl Kaplan - Broker
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Rent:

• Stage Stop for rent, gas stove, W/D, large yard.

• 3 bedroom, 2-bath on 20 acres.

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• Historic home on the Fort 2-bedroom, 2 bath large, sun room.

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DEBBIE TRANT
BARBARA VOSS

Best Buy! 3/2 home, FP, jacuzzi tub, screened porch, fenced. New carpet & interior paint, \$59,900.

Fort: nice 3/2 stone home, FP, tiled carport/patio, reduced price & special financing!

Unit 37: RV lot with large slab & plumbed bldg.

2 commercial lots on Hwy 90!

Ranches & small acreage available!

View listings: www.realestatetxkinneycounty.com

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Les Meyer
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Homes in Fort Clark Springs, Historical and Recent Construction

*New Listing *Calvary Condo 1/1/2 garages - \$40,000.00

*New Listing *3/2/2, All brick, with 2 lots on Airport (FCS)

*4/3 carport on 5 acres 1.5 miles north of town, Quality improvements

*4/3/2 all the extras in the Oaks Subdivision (FCS)

We have buyers for all size ranches!

If you are thinking of selling please give us a call

REAL ESTATE

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

ALS	RATS	TACIT
CROC	ERIC	ERODE
AERO	ALTO	RENEE
PARTY	POOPER	CAN
TSETSE	ELOPE	
	ERIE	ARRIVE
CORER	ORAN	ATOZ
RIAL	STAND	DELI
ASIA	PASO	RODEO
MENTOR	ESTO	
	METES	APPEAR
TIA	HEAVY	WEIGHT
ANKLE	NEED	CREE
STEER	TEAR	TEAS
SORTS	ASHY	STD

RE - ELECT SENNE COUNTY JUDGE



Early voting Next Week,
Monday February 25th

X Your vote to **KEEP HERB SENNE** County Judge is a vote for:

- An **Emergency Medical Service (EMS)** system that is well trained, quick to respond, and on duty 24 hours a day - 7 days a week
- Continued **strong**, well rounded **Law enforcement** program(s)
- The Construction, Operation & Maintenance of a privately funded Detention Center to house U.S. Marshal and INS inmates **at no cost to Taxpayers**; which will create jobs and afford an opportunity to **lower ad valorem taxes**
- Continued efforts to **"fight off the dump people"** thru coordination with individuals, groups, legislators, units of government and others
- Conservation, protection and **wise use of our water** resources thru coordinated activities with the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District and other water management and/or regulatory entities
- Continued **cooperation with Fort Clark Spring's** Board of Directors and staff
- Continued **cooperation with** city of Brackettville and the city of Spofford
- A continued **progressive, user friendly, high-tech County Library**
- A continued **well managed (Nutrition) Center** for the Aging
- Continued **improvement(s) in** County roads and low water crossings
- Continued use and improvement of the **County's new performance based grade and step system which measures job complexity, provides performance incentives, and fair wages**
- **Justice balanced** with the offense

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Leona Ranch, located 15 miles north of Brackettville, Texas, has an abundance of whitetail deer, javelina, turkey, quail, dove, rabbits and squirrels. Other non-game species include feral hogs, wild Spanish goats, racoons, ringtails, fox, bobcats and a few mountain lions.

The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrubbrush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for wildlife.

For information call (830) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (830) 563-2077 evenings.



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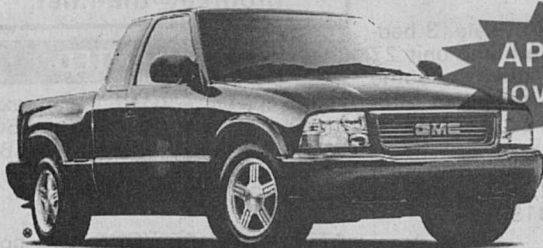
APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$18,600
Brown Disc. ... \$1,103
Bonus Cash \$2,002

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\$15,495*

'02 SONOMA EXT. CAB



APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$20,170
Brown Disc. ... \$1,673
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\$16,495*

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APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$22,285
Brown Disc. ... \$1,288
Bonus Cash \$2,002

PONTIAC
DRIVING EXCITEMENT
#1246

\$18,995*

'02 CENTURY



APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$22,647
Brown Disc. ... \$1,650
Bonus Cash \$2,002

BUICK

\$18,995*

'02 SIERRA EXT. CAB



APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$25,999
Brown Disc. ... \$2,502
Bonus Cash \$2,002

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#1445

\$21,495*

'02 LESABRE



APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$26,379
Brown Disc. ... \$1,382
Bonus Cash \$2,002

BUICK

\$22,995*

'02 BONNEVILLE



APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$26,360
Brown Disc. ... \$1,363
Bonus Cash \$2,002

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DRIVING EXCITEMENT
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APR as low as 5.9%

MSRP \$30,236
Brown Disc. ... \$3,239
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MSRP \$30,340
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Bonus Cash \$2,002

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APR as low as 5.9%

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Brown Disc. ... \$5,563
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MSRP \$45,194
Brown Disc. ... \$3,197
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