

# The Brackett News

Tigers come up short in post-season opener  
See story, Page 5

15 year, No. 2

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## BRIEFS

### City Council faced with controversy and missing funds

The Brackettville City Council was met with controversy last week during its regular meeting with an executive session that lasted well over two hours.

The discussion centered around utility district personnel. Numerous sources have revealed that cash has been missing from City Hall, and the city is no longer accepting cash for water and sewer payments.

"I'm at a complete loss," Mayor Carmen Berlanga said after the executive session. "Usually, we can take action after executive session. The agenda is just for discussion so we can't take any action. I don't know why there wasn't more on the agenda at this time."

### K.C. Arts Council hosts performance by Time Machine

The group Time Machine will perform for the entertainment and cultural expansion of the school students of Kinney County on Feb 28.

Plans were finalized by the Kinney County Arts Council at a recent meeting at the Fort Clark Springs Adult Center.

Time Machine was founded in 1996 and performs a variety of music, which includes classical jazz and contemporary. For more than 15 years, the originator, Mario Fraga, has been performing with great success in South Texas and northern Mexico.

Since the Kinney County Arts Council is a non-profit organization, the Texas Commission on the Arts matches funds for the cultural arts projects.

Evening performances are always planned at the Civic Center on the same date as the school's program.

### Brackett students host sock drive to benefit orphans

Brackett High School recently held a sock drive benefitting orphans in Belarus, Russia.

The winning class, which collected 628 pairs of used and new clean socks, enjoyed a pizza and ice cream party last Thursday.

The sock drive began Jan. 29 and continued through last Wednesday. The week-long collection included boxes and posters throughout high school.

An assignment of out-growth of geography was done by Alanna Conoly. Jacquelyn Conoly helped her organize it. She received participation and support from the school and sponsors Rhonda and Charles Marquardt.

# FCS' finances raise concerns

## Association has losses of \$110,558 in 2002

Concerns about the financial status of Fort Clark Springs is nothing new.

But Director Mona Miller couldn't help but speak out Saturday during the association's monthly meeting.

The board approved the annual audit of the association conducted by Schuler and Schuler of Del Rio. Fort Clark had a loss of \$110,558 for fiscal year 2002, compared to a loss of \$232,508 in 2001.

"I realize that our loss this year was less than last year, but a loss is a loss," Miller said during the members' comments portion of the meeting. "The Board of Directors is responsible, ultimately, for this loss."

Board treasurer Carol Miller responded: "Considering that only one of the last 20 years have we made a profit, there are a lot of boards that should be chastized too."

According to the audit, total revenues and interest income were \$2,448,140 and total expenses and loss on sales were \$2,251,681. The loss was incurred due to bad debts of \$113,860 and depreciation of \$193,157.

"I'm talking about this board — I am on this board," Mona Miller said. "I am chastizing myself. I fought a great many battles against spending money and hit my head against the wall, but that's all right — majority

rules." Director Tom Saylor said the association needs a full audit of its operations.

"If you don't do a full audit and go through and analyze everything from top to bottom, then you're just going to do a topical or surface audit and that, in my opinion, is not really an accurate picture of this operation," he said.

The October financial statement presented to the members at the meeting showed the association had a profit of \$7,306 for the first month of the fiscal year.

Saylor said the balance sheet passed out to the board showed the association had a deficit of

## FORT CLARK SPRINGS ELECTION

Ballots for the annual Fort Clark Springs election have been mailed out. Results will be announced at the membership meeting on March 29. The ballot includes:

■ The election of three board members. Candidates include Tom McNew, Wylie Simmons, John Dixon, Ruth King, Nolan Brandt, Ray Reyna and Mary Gray-Partlow.

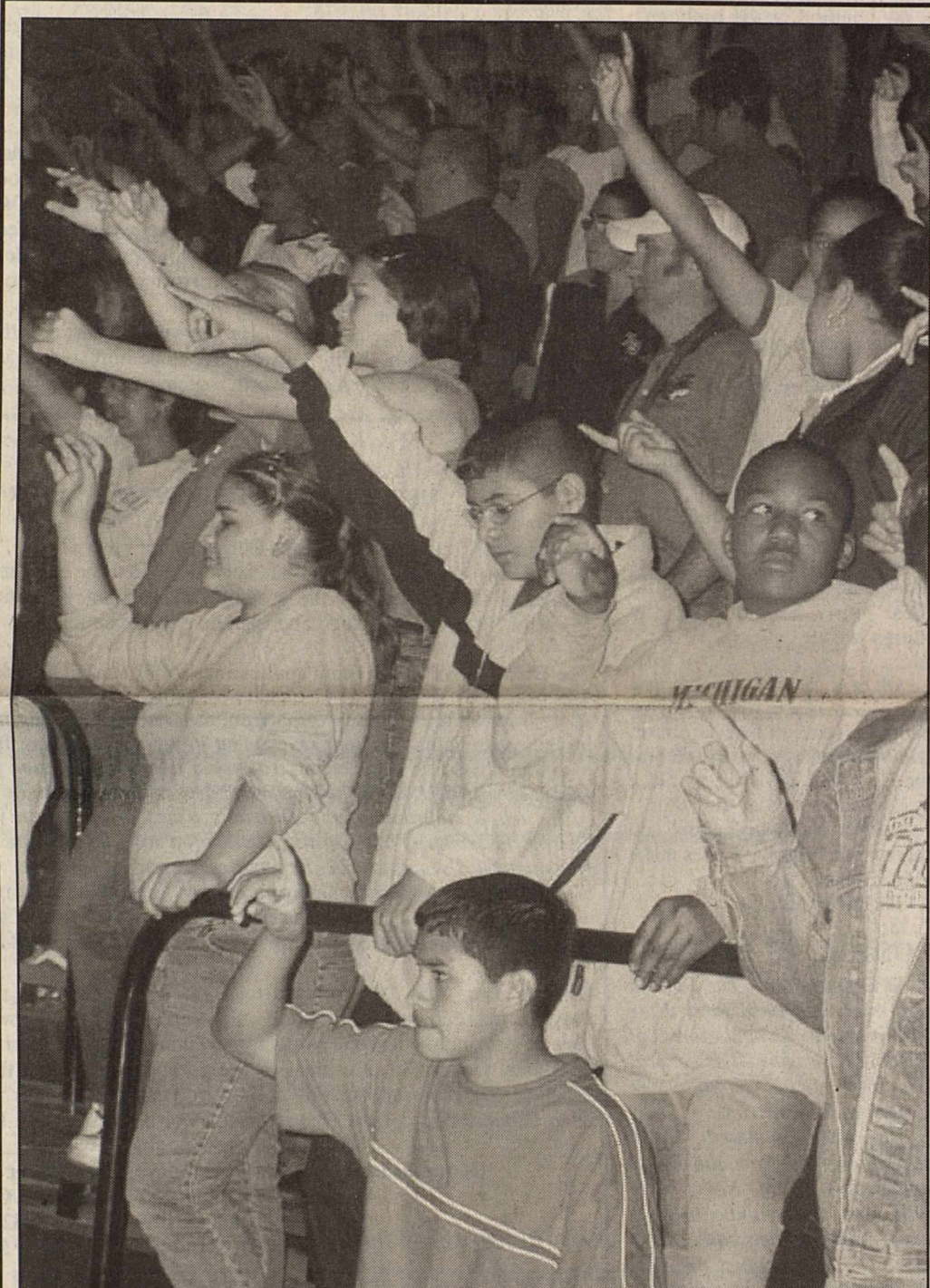
■ A proposition to increase the regular annual assessment from \$312 per year (\$26 per month) to \$348 per year (\$29 per month) in conjunction with a corresponding decrease of \$3 per month in the Impound Fund assessment.

■ A proposition to remove Tom Saylor from the Board of Directors.

\$2,869.37 at the end of October.

"We just now got the October statement for 2002," Saylor

said. "Now how does she (Carol Miller) go from a negative \$2,869 to a positive \$7,306 in a two-day period?"



**School spirit**  
BHS students raise their hands during the playing of the school song Tuesday at a pep-rally for the Brackett basketball team. The Tigers opened the playoffs Tuesday, but fell short to Nixon-Smilely. See story, Page 5.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

# Federal law impacts local school district

## Trustees consider improvement plans

On Jan. 8, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001.

The act redefines the federal role in K-12 education. Bush hopes it will help close the achievement gap between disadvantaged and minority students and their peers.

It is based on four basic principles: stronger accountability for results, increased flexibility and local control, expanded options for parents, and an emphasis on teaching methods that have been proven to work.

The act has already had an impact on school districts around the nation.

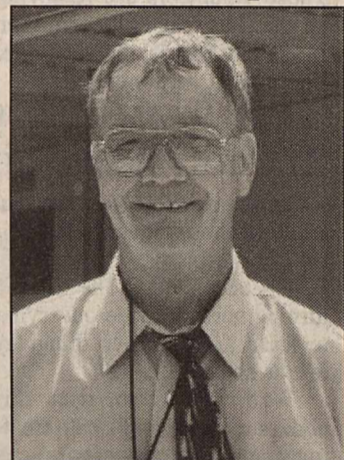
"The new federal law requires all states to do more testing of students in reading and math," Brackett ISD Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said. "Many of the states have no new money for testing because their state's economy is in bad shape."

"I am not an advocate of more testing of children. We lose many days of instruction because of having to prepare and test children for state tests."

"I would have preferred that the federal government make funds available for programs to help those children who are in need instead of requiring states and local districts to spend their existing funds on more testing."

Stephenson said the law will also impact the shortage of teachers across the state.

"Today, there is a tremendous shortage of teachers in Texas," he said. "The shortage will get worse next year. The new requirements for having teachers highly qualified is a good one,



**Taylor Stephenson**

but it will not help Texas recruit new teachers.

"I would have preferred money for reducing pupil-teacher ratios and increasing salaries of teachers to make it a more attractive profession."

"In the future, teacher aides will need to have 60 college hours. It is difficult to find folks with that many college hours in small towns," Stephenson said.

The law also has had an effect on the district and campus improvement plans, which were recently presented to the Board of Trustees and are expected to be adopted next month.

"The campus improvement plans are more detailed and have been completed later in the school year," Stephenson said. "The plan that is currently being adopted is for the 2002-03 school year. I am pleased with the efforts of the campuses, but believe that we should have our plans approved much earlier in the school year. The delay was caused by changing state and federal requirements."

## INSIDE

### Shanae Simmons

This weekend I went to my first concert. It was not a big one. Actually, it was in the high school auditorium, but it was still really nice.  
*Opinion/Page 2*

### Taylor Stephenson

The President's Day holiday came at a good time for students and staff. Stock shows have begun, and we have more participation this year.  
*Community/Page 3*

### Chuck Hall

A long time ago, a guy told me that the Kansas teachers' association formed a co-op type of buying/selling organization. They named it K-Mart.  
*Lifestyles/Page 4*

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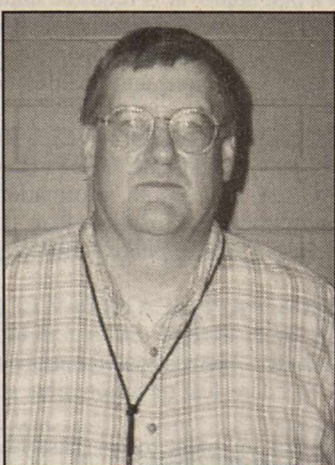
## DCamp named new band director

Jim DCamp of Uvalde went to work Monday as Brackett High School's band director.

"I think Jim DCamp is a fine teacher and will be an asset to our band," BISD Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said. "He has the training and interest to do a fine job at BISD. I look forward to watching the band improve and grow under his direction."

DCamp was hired last week by the Board of Trustees. He replaces Ann Davidson, who will continue to work in the school district as an assistant band director and as a special education assistant.

DCamp has 20 years teaching experience in band. He taught in Uvalde for five years, Madisonville for two years and Nueces Canyon for three years before leaving the profession to go to work for H&H Music Company.



**Jim DCamp**

DCamp has a bachelor's degree in music education and performance from St. Ambrose University in Davenport, Iowa. He earned a master's degree in music theory in 1990 from Sam Houston State University in Huntsville.

DCamp has three children. The oldest is a band director. He has a son who attends Sam Houston and a daughter who attends Uvalde High School.

DCamp plays the trombone and is being considered for a fellowship in music performance at Notre Dame.

While at Uvalde, he worked as an assistant director where the program moved from IV ratings in contest to sweepstakes.

In the past couple of years, DCamp quit teaching band to go to work as an instrument repairman for H&H Music Company in San Antonio, excelling in repairing woodwind instruments.



**Successful hunt**  
Eli Woolsey (from left), Brand Wylie and Ryan Benton are all smiles after a recent bobcat hunt in Kinney County.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Other areas of FCS besides golf course deserve attention

My family and I have visited and lived at Fort Clark Springs since the early '90s.

We recently purchased a home at FCS because the area is so beautiful.

I was going to play tennis with my grandson, but found both courts in atrocious condition, to the point of being hazardous, but I noticed how nice the par-three golf course looked.

Today, I took my great-grandson to play at the park in the swimming pool area.

I found this park decayed and hazardous with the merry-go-round, slide and swing rusted, squeaking and unkept, but it came to my mind how nice the par-three golf course looked.

I've driven down the roads on FCS and observed how bad

they are getting — to the point of possible realignment on vehicles.

However, while passing the golf course, I noticed how manicured and pretty it was.

I went to the golf course club house, where I used to eat and drink coffee.

I found the snack bar closed and noticed the horrible condition of the club furniture and patio area, but the golf course was sure pretty, with water being sprayed on the green mounds and workers laboring on the course.

It made me wonder what the priorities are at FCS. The sad part is that I'm sure these golfers have children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren such as I, but how can they enjoy the

golf course when the courts where the children play are so dilapidated?

I received a copy of The Sentinel and noticed the alleged \$34,315 loss on the golf course. However, I did not notice the golf course being listed in the operating expenses section. It made me wonder just what the maintenance cost is for the grounds of the golf course.

I'm sure, as a member, this information will be readily available upon request.

I think the golfers are fine people and can't blame them for wanting a bigger piece of the money pie.

However, I believe the money should be spread out equally to all departments.

Jerry E. Miller

Volunteers can make all the difference in a community

Yesterday, Feb. 13, while wandering around Fort Clark Springs, what did I find?

Volunteers working, working, working! A group of men were patching potholes on Scales Road.

When we had coffee together later at the fort restaurant, they were laughing and saying they had never had so much fun! Imagine that.

Then another friend asked, "How many chairs are left to refurbish?" They were talking about the tables and chairs on the patio at the golf course. Those volunteers are removing all the slats, sanding each, then filling and varnishing each one. There must be hundreds!

At the Garden Club, there

were reports of the volunteer hours spent on the rose garden, the cactus garden and the Service Club.

Al, another volunteer, gave a wonderful presentation about the care of cactus and gave each member present a cactus dish garden! Thank you, Al!

Today, I'm going to a board workshop. They spend more hours as volunteers than anyone else. Will an audit workshop be fun? Probably not.

In a little while, I'll go walking on Scales Road, getting ready for the 5K Walk/Run!

There will be no trash. Why? Because, volunteers walk the road everyday and pick up trash — every little bitty gum wrapper.

The 5K is also a volunteer project to refurbish the children's playground at the swim park, which brings us to Fort Clark Festival, an all-year, on-going volunteer project that takes hundreds of people and thousands of hours.

So what are you doing for your community? Are you part of the solution or the problem? Are the people around you helping or hindering?

Choose your friends and activities carefully. Step up to the plate and be someone who builds up, not one who tears down.

Next time someone asks for volunteers, say: "Yes, it will be a pleasure."

Mary Frances Gray-Partlow

The fort needs directors who will make wiser decisions

I told myself not to write, but a few of those letters to the editor got me going.

It's been said, "The G.M.'s turning herself inside out trying to learn and improve things as fast as she can."

Well, that is not what this obdurate soul would call treating members and employees without any respect or spending money as if there were no end. We full-timers have to deal with the things the G.M. does every day of the year. Now, just maybe, things might be different if all of her assessments were paid up, not just the ones she feels like paying.

I know several members paying more assessments on multiple properties that are paid in-full

every month without fail.

Why should they have to be current and she doesn't? Isn't this a fine example being set by our G.M.?

It's been said that we're a very mixed group and we can't see eye to eye. Well, I disagree. In my opinion that's what makes the fort so great. It never gets boring around here.

The input not being heard from our very mixed bag is what could keep this place alive.

You go see the doctor when something's wrong, don't you? Doesn't he keep looking for ways to make you better?

Well, that's what we're doing — looking for the right people who will make the fort better. Think about it!

And what we need now is to vote in those who are willing to listen and make wiser decisions from that input. In my opinion, those people are John Dixon, Nolan Brandt and Ray Reyna. Also, please check the "against" box for recalling Tom Saylor. He's done nothing wrong. With these four, we can keep the things we've worked so hard for.

Oh yes, as for this being a wonderful place full of caring people, I couldn't agree more. It's extra icing on the cake for me. It's why I chose this place to live and someday retire in.

So get out your ballots and mark them. Your vote does make a difference.

Richard Card Sr.

Commissioner responds to question of conflict of interest

Re: Editorial - Jan. 30, headline article - Feb. 13, "Please act now" half-page ad - Feb. 13.

In the above referenced editorial, the paper states, "This is obviously a conflict of interest and anyone can see that it is wrong."

This statement is incorrect. It is definitely not a conflict of interest and the paper is irresponsible reporting it as so. This needs to be corrected.

In the above referenced head-

line article, the paper reports that I am the commissioner in Precinct 2. That is incorrect and needs to be corrected.

The above referenced ad placed in last week's paper was not printed as submitted.

The alterations were significant. The ad was sloppy looking and difficult to read. I need to know what your policy is when this occurs. I expected more accuracy for \$189.

Francie Wylie

Editor's note: The Jan. 30 editorial was published after Wylie, county commissioner of Precinct 1, was hired as general manager of the Groundwater Conservation District.

The editorial stated: "Zach Davis resigned from the board earlier this month. Now, Wylie will have the chance to help name one of her new bosses. This is obviously a conflict of interest and anyone can see that it is wrong."

LETTERS 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. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.



Christian band entertaining

For those wondering how last week's column about going to China turned out, I did not get chosen. I was greatly disappointed, but I am still standing.

This weekend though, I had a nice little distraction that definitely diverted me from my disappointment.

I went to my first concert. It was not a big one. Actually, it was in the high school auditorium, but it was still really nice.

The Fellowship of Christian Athletes brought the Robbie Seay Band to Brackettville and they definitely rocked. We didn't have a big number of people, sadly, but they still did a great job.

Being a Christian band from Magnolia, they really seemed to know how to entertain. I thoroughly enjoyed the whole event.



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

His band members also did a fabulous job. The drummer was excellent, and the shoe-less guitar player was great.

Another member who rocked played a freaky looking bass-like thing that was really interesting to watch.

It was all really fun — I was just disappointed that we did not have a bigger turn out.

The FCA did a lot to get these guys to come down to our small town, and though there were not many at the performance, it was worth it. The band showed that people who try their best can succeed; all you need is a little faith.

I myself even seemed to gain a little more after their performance. It was highly appreciated. Hopefully, we can get them to come again.

PUBLIC NOTICE

PROTECT YOUR RIGHTS AS A WATER WELL OWNER

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (the "District") was created by the 77th Texas Legislature in 2001 and has been delegated the responsibility of conserving, preserving, protecting, and recharging the groundwater in Kinney County under the authority of Chapter 36 of the Texas Water Code and the District's enabling act.

The District is now accepting applications for Historic Use Permits from well owners and operators in Kinney County. If you currently own or operate a well in Kinney County, you may be eligible for a Historic Use Permit from the District. The only way to ensure that the District may protect your rights and your investment in your well against future well owners and operators is to obtain a Historic Use Permit. You must file an application for a Historic Use Permit with the District by April 1, 2003, or you may forever lose your right to be protected as a historic user. Also, it is a violation of the District's Rules to operate a well after April 1, 2003, without having an Historic Use Permit Application on file with the District or a Regular Permit for Non-historic Uses issued by the District. Certain small water wells used solely for domestic and livestock watering purposes may be exempt from these requirements, but such well owners and operators should contact the District and review the District's Rules to ensure that they qualify for such an exemption before April 1, 2003, in order to not risk missing the deadline.

Historic users may be protected to a greater degree than non-historic users with regard to possible requirements to cut back on the amount of groundwater produced in the future. This may be your only chance to protect your interest in your future ability to withdraw groundwater in Kinney County. It is critical to file an application with the District by the April 1, 2003, deadline. For more information on how you can protect your rights as a well owner or operator or to obtain a copy of the District's Rules or a Historic Use Permit application form, contact:

General Manager, Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District  
Courthouse Annex, 522 E. Ellen, P.O. Box 369  
Brackettville, Texas 78832  
Phone: (830) 563-2462, Fax: (830) 563-9240.

FORM INFORMATION:

EXISTING EXEMPT WELL REGISTRATION FORM: Fill out all information that is known and return to the District office by mail or fax. Costs: \$0.00

An exempt well may include a well used solely (1) for domestic use or for providing water for livestock or poultry on a tract of land larger than 10 acres that is incapable of producing more than 25,000 gallons of groundwater a day, unless the well supplies water for a subdivision of land for which a plat approval is required under Chapter 232 of the Local Government Code; (2) for mining under a Railroad Commission permit issued pursuant to Chapter 134 of the Texas Natural Resources Code; (3) for supporting exploration and production of hydrocarbons or (4) for those additional exceptions and qualifications set forth in §36.117 of the Texas Water code.

HISTORIC USE APPLICATION-WELL REGISTRATION FORM, HISTORIC USE PERMIT APPLICATION, HISTORIC USE PERMIT APPLICATION-CONSERVATION RESERVE PROGRAM FORM. Fill out all information and return to the District office by fax or mail. Costs: \$500 for Applications for more than 100 acre feet of water and \$200 for Applications for up to 100 acre feet of water, plus applicable groundwater use fees.

REGULAR PERMIT APPLICATION-WELL REGISTRATION FORM and REGULAR PERMIT APPLICATION FORM. Fill out all information and return to the District office by fax or mail. Costs: \$500 for Applications for more than 100 acre feet of water and \$200 for Applications for up to 100 acre feet of water, plus applicable groundwater use fees.

If you are in need of any other forms (Historic or Regular Permits), please contact this office and we will mail or fax you the necessary forms. If you have any questions regarding this process please call:

DISTRICT OFFICE: 830/563-2462  
DISTRICT CONSULTANT: 210/854-5992

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Do you have something to say about a local issue? Write a letter to the editor today!

# BISD welcomes President's Day

The President's Day holiday came at a good time for students and staff.

Stock shows have begun, and we have more participation this year from students. San Antonio and San Angelo are back-to-back stock shows where we have lots of interest from Kinney County youth.

We have had such fine presidents that it is a good time to reflect on the leadership that these folks have given to our country.

### Watching Hoops

There are some great college games on TV this time of the year. My wife and I enjoy college games. The Big 12 has many strong teams from top to bottom that include Oklahoma, Texas, A&M, Tech, Missouri, and eight other strong teams. They're fun to watch this year.

It's also fun to watch the Tigers and Tigerettes play ball.

Our Tigers, under the leadership of coach Charlie Marquardt, have advanced to the playoffs after winning second

place in a tough district.

The Tigerettes, coached by Ricky Creel, did not place in the top three and have begun to play tennis, track, softball and golf.

Many of you know that my brother, Jack, is the head basketball coach at Midland High. My nephew, Rob Young, is the head girls' coach at Comanche. Both of their teams made the playoffs this year. Last week, Jack registered his 600th win as a head basketball coach.

### Debate Team

How about our cross examination debate team results at district? Maria Martinez and Eliot Stone won first place, Tony Rosetti and Beau Watkins finished second, and Emily Petrosky and Cody Robinette were fourth.

Cross examination is a team-debating event. First and second place teams advance to the state competition that will be held on March 10-11 in Austin.

Congratulations also to the sponsor, Cathy Bader, and UIL coordinator, Cindy Brandt.



*Making A Difference*

Taylor Stephenson

### New Band Director

Our new band director, Jim DCamp, goes to work this week.

We're excited to have someone of Mr. DCamp's ability come to help us in Brackettville. He's also excited about the opportunity.

Mrs. Davidson will continue to work in the Brackett schools this year as an assistant to DCamp and as a special education assistant.

### Fort Clark election

I encourage you to vote in Fort Clark's election. We have some fine candidates who want to give of their time and ability serving on the board.

These are difficult jobs, but the fort is an outstanding place to live. The financial problems

require a plan to solve them.

Our state has a bigger problem with finance. It appears that there has been little thought in the past few years to long range thinking at the state level. Our state deserves financial stability.

### Rotary Youth

Hector Febres and Emily Petrosky represented Brackett ISD at the Rotary International Youth gathering in Eagle Pass and Piedras Negras, Mexico, this past weekend.

They also attended the Rotary Youth Leadership Association (RYLA) with Rotary International exchange student Maarten Vos in New Braunfels about a month ago.

We're proud of these young folks who have represented Brackettville in leadership training. The youth are the adult leaders of the future and have worked on leadership, team building and planning. Our county could profit by training adult leaders in these same components.

Have a great week!

## OBITUARY

### Maureen "Micky" Church

Maureen "Micky" Church, age 62, passed away on Thursday, Feb. 13, 2003.

Born in Brattleboro, Vt., on April 15, 1940, the daughter of Harrison and Marjorie Amidon Sisco, she was raised in Middlebury and Southbury, Conn.

A veteran of the U.S. Air Force, Church lived 23 years in San Antonio before she found her home in Brackettville, where she made many friends and was a member of the Fort Clark Springs Historical Society, the Stitchery Group and the Garden Club.

After being diagnosed with cancer, she spent her last year in Boerne, where she enjoyed her family and many friends.

Preceded in death by her parents, Church is survived by children: Lisa Raymond, John T. Church III, Tracy Lent and husband Frank, and David Church;

father of children: Jack Church; grandchildren: Rodney Mishler, Ashley Lent, Russell Lent, Jenna Lent, Carl Raymond and Kyle Church; sisters: Carol Munson and husband Jack, and Nancy Garza; brother: Glen Sisco and wife Linda.

The family wishes to thank the numerous friends and caregivers who brightened her days for the past year. She was loved and will be missed by so many.

A Memorial Service is scheduled for Saturday at 11 a.m. at the Vaughan Funeral Home in Boerne with R.D. Holloway officiating.

In lieu of flowers, the family requests that memorials be made to VNA and Hospice of South Texas, 8721 Botts St., San Antonio, TX 78217.

To send a message or tribute to the family, please visit [www.vaughanfuneralhome.com](http://www.vaughanfuneralhome.com) and select the obituary icon.

## BRIEFS

### Rotarians to host barbecue Sunday

The Brackettville Rotary Club is having a barbecue lunch Sunday at Shahan Park from 11:30 a.m. to 2 p.m. Barbecue plates with all the trimmings will be served for \$5 apiece. Proceeds will be used to support the Brackettville Rotary Club Scholarship Fund.

### Fort Spring Fling dates announced

The Fort Clark Springs Ladies Golf League will host its annual Spring Fling golf tournament on March 24-25. The format has changed this year to a four-man scramble. Entrants may sign up and the committee will set up the teams. For more information, call Lynn Ebert at 563-3235.

### Church census taken this weekend

St. Mary Magdalene's Catholic Church will be conducting a census this weekend. It will be used to assess the needs and resources of the parish community. Census takers will be visiting all homes in the community.

## KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

### Monday, Feb. 10

2:30 p.m., A woman reported a black Avalanche truck driving reckless on Highway 90, east of Brackettville. The Uvalde County Sheriff's Office was notified of the situation.

3:26 p.m., A caller reported a one-vehicle rollover on Highway 90, east of Brackettville. The Uvalde County Sheriff's Office was notified of the accident.

5 p.m., A DPS trooper requested a deputy to pick up a woman, who was wanted on outstanding DPS warrants, at the Cline Border Patrol checkpoint.

8 p.m., A man asked for assistance in having a woman removed from his mother's house on W. Fulton Street.

10:30 p.m., A Del Rio DPS trooper said a U.S. Custom's agent needed assistance at Pico's on Highway 90.

11:30 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee reported a dog barking and making too much noise in Unit 3.

### Tuesday, Feb. 11

9:20 a.m., Michael Nathan Luna, 18, of Brackettville Pass was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess for theft. He was released the next day on a personal recognizance bond.

9:51 a.m., A woman reported a minor car accident at the corner of Thorn and Ann Street.

3:20 p.m., A man reported that his wife left their 8-year-old child by himself.

### Wednesday, Feb. 12

8:15 a.m., A Tejas Land Sales employee reported a one-vehicle roll-over on Highway 90, close to Bizzell Construction. DPS, EMS and Texas Department of Transportation personnel were all notified.

5:20 p.m., A man reported someone driving reckless through the construction area on Highway 90, between Cline and Uvalde. The Uvalde Police Department was notified.

8:45 p.m., A DPS employee from Del Rio reported large debris

on Highway 90, near Sycamore Creek. The Texas Department of Transportation was notified of the situation.

11:22 p.m., A woman said someone was knocking on her door and she didn't know who it was.

### Thursday, Feb. 13

9:09 p.m., A Uvalde Police Department dispatcher reported that a woman was worried about her family out on a ranch on Tularosa Road.

### Friday, Feb. 14

3:15 p.m., A woman requested assistance at her residence on E. First Street because her neighbor wanted to speak with a deputy.

10:22 p.m., A man reported a loose cow on Highway 131.

### Saturday, Feb. 15

12:45 p.m., Jesus Terrazas, 72, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley for driving while intoxicated, second offense, and resisting arrest. He was released two days

later on a personal recognizance bond.

12:50 p.m., Trooper Ashley reported that a woman had run out of gas.

1:30 p.m., A man reported a domestic disturbance on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

### Sunday, Feb. 16

12:30 p.m., Ava Dildzne Kunshick, 50, of Johnson City was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez on an outstanding warrant for theft by check. She was transported to the Wackenhut Correctional Facility in Del Rio.

6:30 p.m., A 911 caller reported a cow loose on Highway 131, close to Fort Clark.

10:40 p.m., A Union Pacific employee stated that shots were heard, possibly hunters, about 3 miles west of Spofford, as the train was going past.

### Sunday, Feb. 17

8:37 a.m., A woman reported a large herd of goats out on Highway 2804.

## Please act NOW before it's too late

### IN SUPPORT OF Kinney County Groundwater conservation District

Dear Senator \_\_\_\_\_

Dear Representative \_\_\_\_\_

I am a citizen/property owner in Kinney County. I completely support my local groundwater conversation district. I do not want local control to be taken away. Like all other areas of the state, this issue must be kept at the local level with the majority of the people it effects making the decisions.. Please help preserve local control for all Texans.

- **Eighty-eight** percent of voting Kinney County residents voted in favor of the creation of our groundwater conservation district **and to tax ourselves.**
- The vast majority of Kinney County citizens, farmers and ranchers continue to **support** the District's efforts to manage our groundwater resources **for all users.**
- Groundwater is the principal water resource in Kinney County.
- The District has adopted rules that positively promote sound water management.

This was published in The Brackett News, Thursday, February 6, 2003. I do not want this!

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

THIS IS TO give notice of intent to introduce in the 78<sup>th</sup> Legislature, Regular Session, a bill to be entitled "an Act relating to the administration, powers, duties, taxing authority and operation of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District and the development and management of groundwater resources within Kinney County."

Respectfully submitted,

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Paid advertisement

## CUT, COPY, SIGN, SEND

Cut out the attached letter,  
Copy as many as you need,  
Sign, Date, Address,  
SEND, SEND, SEND.  
Send letters to:

The Honorable Tom Craddick  
Speaker of the House  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Rick Perry  
Governor  
P.O. Box 12428  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Timoteo Garza  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Frank Madla  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Ken Armbrister  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Robert Puente  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Mike Jackson  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Robert L. "Robby" Cook  
Texas House of Representatives  
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Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Gonzalo Barrientos  
Texas Senate  
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The Honorable Eddie Lucio, Jr.  
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The Honorable Juan "Chuy" Hinojosa  
Texas Senate  
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The Honorable William "Bill" Callegari  
Texas House of Representatives  
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The Honorable Florence Shapiro  
Texas Senate  
P.O. Box 12068  
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The Honorable David Dewhurst  
Lieutenant Governor  
P.O. Box 12068  
Austin, Texas 78711

The Honorable Steve Wolens  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

The Honorable Mike "Tuffy" Hamilton  
Texas House of Representatives  
P.O. Box 2910  
Austin, Texas 78768-2910

Fort Clark woodcarvers host surprise guest Not as swift as we used to be

On his return from the Rally on the Rio, a woodcarving seminar, Joe LaConto, carving instructor, stopped at Fort Clark Springs to visit friends Trent and Katie Brown and to instruct the FCS Woodcarvers Club on the art of carving in cottonwood bark.

LaConto, a member of the National Woodcarvers Guild, is from Colorado Springs, Colo. He is also associated with the Pikes Peak Whittlers of Colorado Springs. LaConto instructs at seminars all over the United States.

Those who attended carved a face in Cottonwood Bark. The particular style that he chose to teach originated in Poland and was great for beginners to learn how to relieve the features of the face.

Though Trent Brown is an experienced carver, the rest of the group has been carving less than a year and really appreciated LaConto's guidance.

In attendance for the class were carvers Trent and Katie Brown, Nancy Britton, John



Special guest

Joe LaConto, carving instructor, stopped at Fort Clark Springs to instruct the FCS Woodcarvers Club on the art of carving in cottonwood bark.

Carlson, Lou Green, Diane McCown and Irvin Usher.

The FCS Woodcarvers Club meet every Monday in the Brown's workshop in Unit 37. Newcomers are always welcome.

Evasive tactics used by seat-belt violators

This will be my last discussion on seat belts. It has to do with evasive tactics used by seat-belt violators.

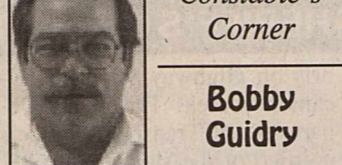
Over the years, I have seen people do just about everything to try to get out of a ticket.

I have seen the old pull-the-earrings or scratch-the-ear to try to cover up for not having a seat belt on. I have seen drivers reaching for the sun visor to pretend to retrieve something.

But my favorite one is: I'll pretend not to see the police officer. You know, the old bury-the-head-in-the-sand trick. I don't see him so surely he doesn't see me.

Yup, I fall for these tactics all the time and I'm sure all of

Constable's Corner



the other law enforcement officers do too.

My question is, wouldn't it be much simpler to buckle up and save all the trouble, possibly a fine or worse, and even an accident and possible injury?

Come on, do us all a favor and do the right thing — buckle up — please. Remember, click it or ticket.

Drive safe!

Preceptor Theta Sigma Phi hosts annual Valentine Sweetheart Party

Saint Valentine must have been smiling from above as he viewed the festive scene at the Las Moras Restaurant on Feb. 14.

A collage of brilliant red and yellow flowers, provided by Louise Pflughoeft, decorated the table as the sisters of Theta Sigma Phi took their places beside their husbands and sweethearts.

Arlis Simpson, wearing the rhinestone tiara, welcomed the gathering on her last day as president.

Fittingly, on this romantic evening, Clara McCord an-

nounced her engagement to Frank Eckenroth.

McCord then introduced Arleen Karson, her sister, who also announced her recent engagement.

Mylo Unruh gave the invocation. After dinner, Lynn McNew, while distributing a yellow rose to each of her sisters, sang a beautiful love song, followed by Doraline Keller's poem commemorating the meaning of sisterhood.

To cap the evening, Simpson presented the tiara to Keller, the sweetheart of the year and the sorority's new president.

Corey displays DRT chapter history book

Members of the Caddell-Smith Chapter of the Daughters of the Republic of Texas were able to get their first glance of the chapter history book for 2002-03 during the February meeting at the Uvalde Country Club.

Charolette Corey had the book displayed on a table at the entry. There will still be another six weeks of material to be added to the book, but members were excited about the beautifully-designed book that Corey had produced.

Pat McKelvy, DRT Library Committee member, reported on a very successful 13th Annual Texas History Forum at the Alamo last week, which included

14 chapter members and guests among the 100 attendees.

McKelvy also announced a number of DRT activities the next few weeks that will be of interest to the public.

The "Voices from the Alamo," a candlelight tribute service honoring the valiant Alamo Couriers of 1836 and remembering the message they carried, will be Saturday at 7 p.m. at the Alamo Shrine in San Antonio. The featured speaker will be Bill Groneman, noted Alamo historian and author, who is a retired New York City fireman.

The "Glory At The Alamo," portraying the beginning of the Alamo siege, is on Saturday,

March 1, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. and on Sunday, March 2, from 1 to 5 p.m. at Alamo Plaza. Caddell-Smith chapter member Franci Plunkett from Mica will be among the reinactors for this event.

"Dawn at the Alamo" will be a predawn commemorative ceremony honoring the fallen on both sides in the Alamo conflict on Thursday, March 6, from 6 to 7 a.m. at Alamo Plaza.

Also on March 6 at 2 p.m. will be the annual Memorial Service commemorating the 167th anniversary of the Battle of the Alamo at the Alamo Chapel.

The weekend of March 8-9 will be "Remembering the Alamo," which is a weekend for

God and Texas. This will be a dramatization of the events concerning the Alamo conflict of March 5-6 and will be played out all day in Alamo Plaza. Plunkett will again be involved with the reenactment.

The next meeting of the chapter will be on Saturday, March 8, at the Sabinal Public Library at 2 p.m.

The winners of the fourth and seventh grade essay contests will be presented. Brackettville schools did participate in this endeavor. Local chairman is Mary Seaver.

Other Brackett residents attending, other than those mentioned, were Louise Stone and Agnes Vondy.

Uvalde's Gartman awarded DAR patriotic medal

Bob Gartman has been named as the recipient of the Daughters of the American Revolution Patriotic Medal.

Gartman was presented the medal by June Smith, chairman of the American Heritage Committee, at the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter meeting Saturday at Holiday Inn in Uvalde.

Gartman is the chairman of Uvalde's City of Lights Committee, which this year not only was in charge of the Christmas lighting, but also recognized the first

anniversary of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack with a large steel framed angel, which was adorned with lights and 3,047 ribbons.

In memory of the Columbia Space Shuttle tragedy, a wreath was added to the angel. Gartman was the 2002 Uvalde Citizen of the Year.

Other guests recognized were prospective member Kathleen Rivera and applicant member Diane Dooley.

Regent Pat McKelvy called the meeting to order and led the

opening ritual, assisted by chaplain Bea Carmichael. The minutes of the previous meeting were read by recording secretary Betty Lawrence. Correspondence by Phyllis Janes and the financial report was given.

Hill Country Council chairman Louise Stone reminded members of the meeting next Thursday at the Frio Canyon Lodge in Leakey.

A new chapter flag has been completed and was presented to the group.

NSDAR is now promoting a Veterans History Project. This is about recording, by interviews or tapes, the memories of veterans of previous wars.

Janie Van Hoozer, vice regent, presented an interesting video on the Life of Abigail Adams.

Brackettville members of the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter are Jan Chism, Charolette Corey, Woody Hornburg, Marjorie Love, Pat McKelvy and Louise Stone.

Daniels, Unruh take honors

The Fort Clark Springs Duplicate Bridge Club met last Tuesday in the Gorgas Room. The Mitchell Movement was used for nine pairs.

Dianna Daniels and Mylo Unruh took top honors, Alice Seargeant and Flo Stafford were second, and Ella Chambers and Rusty Richhart took third.

On Feb. 4, 10 pairs played,

using the Mitchell Movement.

The winners in the north-south division were Chambers and Richhart. Ann Malin and Ann Watts finished second, and Judy Douglas and Sara Richhart were third. Lloyd and Orlene Alvis won the east-west, Seargeant and Stafford took second, and Carolyn Rutherford and Nelda Thomason were third.



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

A long time ago, a guy told me that the Kansas teachers' association formed a co-op type of buying/selling organization.

They named it K-Mart. It quickly grew and shares were sold until it became what it is today.

I don't know if there is even a grain of truth to the story, but it makes an interesting tale. I even suspect that the validity of all of my stories are questionable.

K-Mart in Del Rio is closing. I went there last week to see if they had the same stuff, but at lower prices.

I ran into a former student. Not a hard thing to do. I asked what he was doing.

"I'm working here," he said.

"Here? What are you going to do when your job ends?" I asked.

"My job's going to end?" The boy wasn't as swift as he used to be.

"Yes, your job is going to end. K-Mart is closing," I said. "Look around, see all of the sale notices?"

"Oh. No, I don't work here at K-Mart. I work here in Del Rio," he said.

Kansas, come clean out your store. I guess not one of us is as swift as we used to be.

But I could be wrong.

Save some money and make your own ready-made mixes

I relish ways to cut time spent on preparing meals, but my husband nor I appreciate many store pre-mixes or ready-mades.

Main reason? Cost! With just a little time, you can make your own and save nickels. Here are a few to stock in your pantry. Watch for future mix recipes.

I like to store mine in plastic (heavy) containers and tape recipe and directions for use on the container.

Is there one special you would like? If so, send request to our newspaper and I'll do my best to find it.

Here's a mix to bake three taste-tempting cookies:

Master Cookie Mix

Here's what we need: 4 1/2 cups of all-purpose flour, 1 1/2 cups of sugar, 1 1/2 cups of packed brown sugar, 2 teaspoons of salt, 2 teaspoons of baking soda and 1 1/2 cups of shortening.

With a large bowl, combine the dry ingredients. Cut in shortening until crumbly. Store in airtight container in a cool, dry place for up to six months. It will yield about 10 cups.

Note: The mix may settle, so when using, spoon the mix into a measuring cup.

Peanut butter cookies

This recipe will yield 2 1/2 dozen. Here's what we need: 1/2 cup of peanut butter (reduced-fat or generic brands don't work well), 2 eggs, 1 teaspoon of vanilla and 2 cups of master cookie mix.

Mix all the ingredients well. Drop by rounded tablespoon 2 inches apart on an ungreased cookie sheet. Flatten slightly with fork or glass, dipped in



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

sugar if desired. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes before removing to wire racks.

Cinnamon Raisin Cookies

This recipe will yield 2 1/2 dozen. Here's what we need: 2 eggs, 1/2 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon of almond extract, 2 1/2 cups of master cookie mix, 1/2 cup of raisins, 1/2 cup of chopped walnuts (or nuts of your choice).

Combine the first four ingredients together well. Stir in raisins and nuts. Drop by rounded tablespoons 2 inches apart onto a lightly greased baking sheet. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 12 minutes, or until they set and edges are lightly browned. Cool 1 to 2 minutes before removing to wire racks.

Banana Cookies

This recipe will yield 3 dozen. Here's what we need: 2 eggs, 1/2 cup of mashed ripe bananas, 1/4 cup of all-purpose flour, 1 teaspoon of vanilla, 2 1/2 cups of master cookie mix and 1/2 cup of chopped pecans.

In a mixing bowl, combine the first five ingredients and mix well. Stir in pecans. Drop by rounded tablespoon 2 inches apart onto lightly greased baking sheets. Bake at 350 degrees for 10 to 11 minutes, or until they set and edges are lightly browned. Cool 1 to 2 minutes before removing to wire racks.

Prayer to St. Jude

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be adorned, glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus pray for us. St. Jude worker of the miracles pray for us.

St. Jude helper of the hopeless situations, pray for us.

Say this prayer nine times a day by the 8th day your prayer will be answered. Say it for 9 days.

It has never been known to fail. Publication must be promised.

Thank you St. Jude.

D.O.H.

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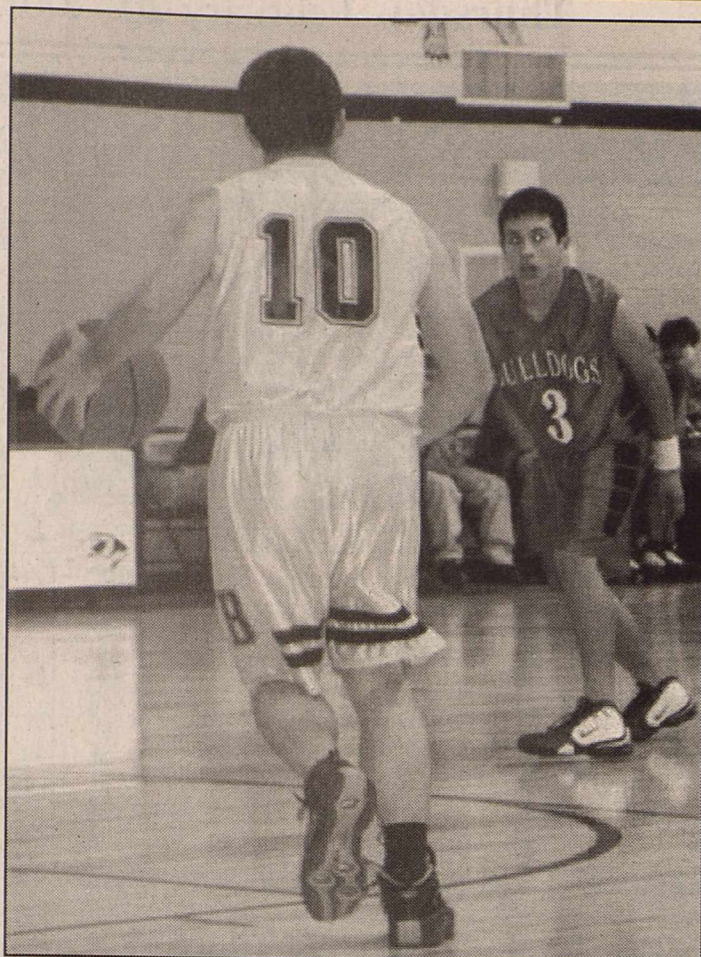
VOTE Tom McNew

Fort Clark Springs Association Board of Directors

Political Adv. Paid for by Committee to elect Tom McNew To Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors Tamara Clardy, Treasurer, 1925 L Loop 431, Eagle Pass, TX 78852

Financial Aid Awareness Month

All seniors planning on attending college this fall needs to submit a completed FAFSA (Free Application for Federal Student Aid) as soon as possible. You may pick up a paper form from Michelle Frerich (Counselor), or fill out a form online (recommended by the government) at www.fafsa.ed.gov. Anyone who plans to go to college can apply!



**Bringing the ball down** Photo by Javier Cervantes  
Brackett Tigers guard Boyd Brotherton (10) brings the ball down the court in recent basketball action.

## Tigers fall short

Nixon-Smilely wins playoff opener

CASTROVILLE — Nixon-Smilely jumped out early and never looked back as the Mustangs claimed a 67-30 win over the Brackett Tigers Tuesday night at Medina Valley in the first round of the high school basketball playoffs.

Nixon-Smilely came out running, building a 25-4 lead after the opening stanza. The Tigers outscored the Mustangs 15-9 in the final period, but couldn't overcome the first-half deficit.

The Tigers end their campaign with a 14-9 record in their first season under coach Charlie Marquardt.

"It's sad that the season had to end like this," Marquardt said. "We accomplished a lot over this year and over came quite a few obstacles."

"The guys played with a big heart and showed character and class that should make the community proud of them. I know that I sure am proud to have coached them."

"We are going to miss the seniors because they showed a

great deal of leadership this year. It was fun to be around this basketball team," he added.

Philip Munoz led the Tigers with eight points in the contest, while Jared Hobbs scored five and Dietrich Davis had four. Jesse Davis, Tillman Davis and Tony Rosetti all scored three points, and Oscar Sierra and Charlie Slaughter had two points apiece.

Last week, Brackett finished the district race with an 8-2 mark after defeating George West 64-37 on the road.

Slaughter paced the Tigers with 21 points and nine rebounds. Munoz had 16 points and nine boards, while Hobbs posted 11 points and three rebounds.

"The guys really took care of business," Marquardt said. "When someone had an off night, someone else picked up the slack."

Dietrich Davis pitched in six points, Jesse Davis had five points and four boards, Boyd Brotherton scored four points and Noe Talamantes added one.

*Return Honesty and Integrity to the Board of Fort Clark Springs*

VOTE FOR:

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P7207	2002 Ford F150 RC.....\$11,975	2351A	2001 GMC Ext. Cab SLE Z-71.....\$22,475	2185A	2003 Cadillac CTS.....\$32,675	P7144A	1999 Chevy Tahoe LS.....\$18,475
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2323A	2000 Chevy S10 Ext. Cab.....\$11,475	P7143A	2001 GMC Sierra SL.....\$14,475	2270B	1997 Pontiac Gd. Prix Coupe.....\$8,975	2268A	2001 GMC Yukon XL.....\$26,875
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2346B	2002 GMC 2500 CC DSL.....\$33,195	P722B	2003 Buick Century.....\$16,495	2454A	1999 GMC Yukon SLE.....\$14,875		
P1711A	2002 GMC Ext Cab SLE.....\$22,475	2377A	1998 Geo Metro.....\$6,475	P7192A	1998 Ford Explorer XLT.....\$12,975	2231A	2001 Nissan Quest GLE.....\$18,475
2258A	1999 Ford F250 XLT SC.....\$16,875	2156A	2000 Chevrolet Impala.....\$13,475	2276A	1999 Chevy Tahoe LS.....\$16,475	9974B	1997 Pontiac Montana EXT.....\$10,875
P7212	2000 Ford F250 DSL XLT.....\$22,375	1754C	1999 Chevrolet Malibu.....\$8,995	P7138	2002 Chevy Trailblazer LS.....\$21,275	2168A	2000 Chev. Venture.....\$12,875
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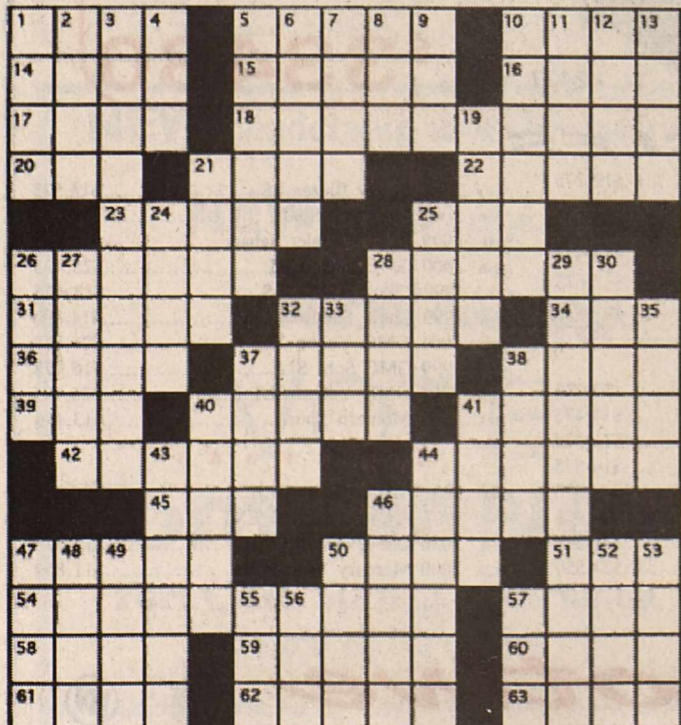
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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Leaping amphibian  
 5 Old  
 10 Part sometimes pierced  
 14 Lowdown  
 15 Fill with pride  
 16 37 Across' feature  
 17 Overdue  
 18 Law  
 20 Traveler's dir.  
 21 Untainted  
 22 Candy dish items  
 23 Party honoring a star  
 25 Allantiac resort, for short  
 26 Go round and round  
 28 Very attractive thing  
 31 Semi-precious stone  
 32 acid  
 34 Truck  
 36 Lack of order

**DOWN**  
 1 Rectangular piece  
 2 even  
 3 Lingered sensation  
 4 John  
 5 Read  
 6 Open-eyed  
 7 Cooking herb  
 8 Nickname that sounds like a dinner  
 9 Japanese delicacy  
 10 Skin softener  
 11 Norse god  
 12 Italy's shape  
 13 Sea eagles  
 19 Chihuahua friend  
 21 Spread  
 24 Stable meal  
 25 Smelly  
 26 Crashes into  
 27 Curved moldings  
 28 Selfish child's word  
 29 Forest sights  
 30 Cup: Fr.  
 32 Related  
 33 Short

37 Bushy-tailed animal  
 38 Half of a late comedy pair  
 39 Put up in rollers  
 40 Soft mud  
 41 Pop  
 42 Mariners  
 44 Extents  
 45 Down  
 46 Runner  
 47 Means of ascent  
 50 Nemesis  
 51 One who raised Cain  
 54 Fortifying  
 57 Not imaginary  
 58 Weather forecast  
 59 Douse  
 60 Indigo dye  
 61 Picnic intruders  
 62 Abacus  
 63 One in servitude



**Trivia Time Answers** (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.  
 1. 1986; 2. Elvis Presley; 3. Monopoly; 4. Maple trees; 5. Guelts; 6. Alexander Haig; 7. 90; 8. Iran; 9. Cuba; 10. Ghostbusters

**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—forward, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?


**Today's Category: SHAKESPEAREAN CHARACTERS**

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

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**Trivia Time by Walter Branch**

- What year was "The Love Boat" cancelled?
- What singer did many Americans believe worked underground for the Federal Drug Enforcement Agency under the pseudonym Jon Burrows?
- What Parker Brothers game can be bought in 23 languages?
- What kind of trees are used at Coshocton, New York's tree-sitting championships?
- What designer's handbags filled five shelves at Imelda Marcos' palace?
- What general's horoscope read, on the day Ronald Reagan was shot: "This could be the week you've been waiting for"?
- How old was Lucille "Killer" Thompson when she earned a black belt in Tae Kwan Do?
- What country calls its parliament "Majlis"?
- What country are you in if you're doing hard time at Boniato Prison?
- What word did Ray Parker Jr. refer to when he said, "There aren't many words that rhyme with it"?

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**  
  
 Feb. 20.....Henry Yeackle  
 Feb. 21.....Balente Aguilar  
 Feb. 21.....Jimmy Luttrell  
 Feb. 21.....Lester Meredith  
 Feb. 21.....Ricky Sandoval  
 Feb. 22.....Francisco Arellano  
 Feb. 23.....David Melancon  
 Feb. 23.....F.B. Stanley  
 Feb. 24.....Lorraine Coffin  
 Feb. 25.....Jack Brewster  
 Feb. 25.....Cassandra Mata  
 Feb. 25.....Jack Phillips  
 Feb. 25.....Arnold Pinales, Jr.  
 Feb. 25.....Oscar Sierra, Jr.  
 Feb. 26.....Elaine Crane  
 Feb. 26.....Heather Martin  
 Feb. 26.....Ruth Young

**HOROSCOPES**

by Charles Cooper

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19)  
 You should only gamble if you're prepared to lose. This isn't a good time to play fast and loose with your finances. Later in the week, opportunities for advancement abound.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20)  
 You feel time isn't on your side as you rush to meet a deadline. Be careful. Too much haste will result in backtracking to correct mistakes.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20)  
 If you have questions about a work project, feel free to ask. It's best to admit when you don't know something. Over the weekend, tackle a new hobby.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22)  
 There's too much planning and not enough doing going on. It's fine to map out a strategy. Just be sure you follow through with action.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22)  
 Some start the week a bit under the weather. By midweek, though, you're in the pink again. Later in the week, an important phone call brings business news.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22)  
 You're apt to express your opinions quite forcefully this week. However, you'll be talking without listening. Pay attention to what others have to say, and you learn much.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22)  
 It's unlike you to be so cynical. Try to find out what's causing this. Once you do, you can solve what seems to be an insurmountable problem.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21)  
 You don't find it easy to forgive. However, someone close to you is truly contrite. If you open your heart, you'll be able to make the relationship stronger in the long run.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21)  
 You feel content this week to sit on the sidelines and let others take the lead. Avoid a tendency, though, to be too passive. You don't want to be perceived as being disinterested at work.

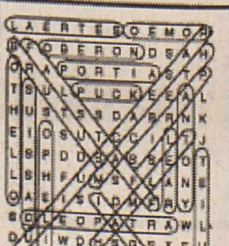
**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19)  
 Someone in authority at work gives you a hard time this week. While undeserved, try to curb your tongue. It doesn't pay to get into a shouting match.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18)  
 You feel the need to "nest" this week. While uncharacteristic, you really do need some down time. This weekend, romance blossoms unexpectedly.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20)  
 A friend's surprise visit sets the tone for the week. You're in a festive and happy mood. Over the weekend, spend quality time with a child.

**Roaring Twenties Solution:**

1. Antony	11. Laertes
2. Brutus	12. Lear
3. Cassius	13. Macbeth
4. Cleopatra	14. Oberon
5. Falstaff	15. Ophelia
6. Hamlet	16. Othello
7. Horatio	17. Paris
8. Iago	18. Portia
9. Juliet	19. Puck
10. Julius Caesar	20. Romeo



# God loves us supernaturally

Valentine's day is over — is the poetry over too? The greatest poetry of all is found in the word of God. It is the greatest prose poem ever to be written, the poetry of love.

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten son, that whosoever believeth in him shall not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)

You have probably heard it spoken most of your life. Does it have real meaning for you or is it just one-dimensional ink lying on a page? How much have you embraced the depth of its meaning?

These days, we have been bombarded by the word "love" in so many different ways that the meaning God intended us to embrace escapes us.

Too often we have allowed ourselves to become desensitized by the things we see, hear and speak. We compare God's love to the love we see people express around us. This leaves us wanting. This leaves us empty with a void that can only be filled supernaturally.

Supernatural love can only be obtained from a supernatural source — God. He is not a god that blasts us with his wrath if we don't offer him a good enough sacrifice. He is not a god



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

that continually has us measure ourselves by ourselves so that we become gods ourselves in an inept attempt to "be in control" or feel superior to others.

The one true God is our plural God — God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit, who in turn, are one God. This God loves us supernaturally and unconditionally.

God's agape (love) reaches out and touches you in the most sacred, vulnerable, tender place of your being. It takes your breath away and causes you to be carried away on wings. It so boggles the mind that the mind cannot fully conceive it.

Your mind cannot contain the eternal, vast, unlimited essence of God's love. At some point, even in understanding a little bit, your mortal body balks at the vastness of it.

It is not until you receive your "glorified body," the body you will receive when you go to be with him in eternity, that

you can truly know and receive all the love that God has for you.

Until the greater gobles up the great, you can still revel in his poem of love to you by simply picking up your Bible and reading it.

Pray to him and praise him daily. Your lover loves to be told how much he means to you. Invite him into every area of your life. Eat with him, sleep with him, work with him, travel with him, relax with him, learn with him, do everything with him.

He lives inside you (if you have asked him to forgive you of your sins and come live in your heart as your Lord and Savior). He even loves to hear you recommit your love to him if it has been a while since you felt a true relationship with him. Listen to your heart to hear him speak to you.

Jesus is your poem of love. He is your living, eternal promise of love. He is the one you can trust with all your hopes, all your dreams and all your love. He will never leave you nor forsake you. He is the poem that you will hear whispered in your heart for as long as you live and through all eternity.

Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

# We're powerless to heal ourselves

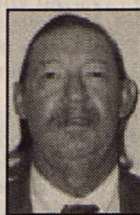
By now, I hope that I have convinced you to get out of the driver's seat and move along toward the rest of your life, with the protection and guidance of God almighty.

It's time for us to make a searching and fearless moral inventory of ourselves. It's time for us to clean house spiritually to find out why we have been at war within ourselves and with the people closest to us.

1 John 1:8-9 says, "If we say we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just, and will forgive our sins and cleanse us from all unrighteousness."

Honestly inventory both our "good" and "bad" traits and the behaviors that represent them.

Here's something to think about, in our life's moral inventory, the defects or dysfunctional behaviors, which might include some that once worked, may now be out-of-date. Most of us don't realize that we are still doing many self-defeating things that keep leading us into painful situations and complicating our attempts to control life, other



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

people, ourselves and God.

A very important part of this inventory is to find the useful traits that strengthen us in this "new life." When we acquire this deeper self-knowledge, we can begin to know and love that person that we really are.

When we begin to face the truth about our basic behavior, we can begin to realize that we are not God and cannot change the people, places and things in our lives to control our happiness. We may also begin to understand that, in fact, we are powerless to heal our spiritual sickness and to "make things right."

While writing this, I remembered a serenity prayer which asks for "the serenity to accept the things that I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference."

Sound advise for us all. Evi-

dently, we can only grow and change spiritually as we see our character defects and controlling habits for what they truly are.

"I appeal to you brethren, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a loving sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewal of your mind, that you may prove what is the good and acceptable and perfect will of God," Saith Paul in Romans 12:1-2, 2,000 years ago.

Hundreds of years earlier, David said in Psalm 139:23-24, "Search me, O God, and know my heart! Try me and know my thoughts! and see if there be any wicked ways in me, and lead me in the way everlasting."

I guess the real question that I am asking is, are you ready to let God be the controller and life-changer or do you still want to attempt to "fix it yourself?"

The holy power of God is released to flow through our lives to clean them only when we quit trying to control the "how" and "when."

# Put your trust in God

"You look worried Betty. What's going on? Is something bothering you?" June asked.

"I don't know," June said. "It seems like life is getting more and more dangerous. The terror alert is high and we have to worry about terror attacks and more people getting killed. We have to worry about a war in Iraq and the possibility of many of our young people getting killed."

"Yeah, Betty, I know what you're saying," June replied. "Our nation has been so secure for so long. We don't quite know how to cope."

"I guess it wouldn't be so bad except that somebody has to deal with sadness everyday," said Betty. "Every year, right here in our little town, several teen-agers kill themselves in senseless actions in automobiles."

"You're right," June replied. "And what about teen-agers getting pregnant or getting on drugs? Whole families are grieved and upset because of unthinking decisions by kids and adults."

Betty took a sip of her coffee. She remained contemplative for a few minutes and then spoke.

"It kind of reminds me of the '60s when we were looking everywhere for bomb shelters, thinking someone was going to drop a nuke on top



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

of us," she said. "Children grew up frightened in those days."

"How're you handling it, June?" Betty asked. "You seem to be calm and collected."

"Well, Betty, I guess I'm as concerned as the next person," June replied. "Not long ago, I read something that was written by a very wise man long ago. He said, serve the Lord and be sincere of heart and steadfast, undisturbed in times of adversity. Cling to him and forsake him not and your future will be great. Accept whatever befalls you and in crushing defeat be patient. For gold is tested in fire and worthy men in the crucible of humiliation. Trust in God and he will help you. Make your ways straight and hope in Him (Sirach 2:1-6). I'm thankful that we have a president who prays."

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

# Deal with conflict in a loving way

War seems to be on the near horizon. Our government is convinced that the Iraqi regime under Saddam Hussein is a clear and present danger to the United States of America. I cannot disagree with their conclusion, for it is based on more information than the public has been given. However, I do disagree with their choice of responses based on my commitment to following in the steps of Jesus.

I truly believe that a living Jesus, present always and forever in the Body of Christ, requires that every conflict, whether personal or global, be dealt with as much as possible in a loving way. Because of this issue, there has been an ongoing debate in the Christian community over the "Just War Theory" since the time of St. Augustine.

Even now, the Christian community is as divided over the issue of war with Iraq as the secular community is. Though there might be acceptable rationale for some wars, I believe we should be concerned about the rationale for this war.

I felt the war on terrorism in Afghanistan was wrong. Even

though it was identified that Afghanistan was the home of those who plotted and directed the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks, many Afghans who were innocent of any connection with the terrorists that lost their lives, as did some American men and women from "friendly fire."

I do not believe that God condones "collateral damage," the title given to those innocents on all sides killed and maimed by war. As the Right-to-Life Christians say, "All life is sacred to God!"

Now the world awaits pre-emptive war from the United States. Iraq is a sovereign country that is cruel to its residents and with its neighbors, that is true. Iraq does seem to have weapons of mass destruction. Iraq does seem to be a threat to others in its region of the world. I cannot refute these claims, for I am not privy to the information that is at their foundation. What I reject is the decision that we must strike first — with or without the consent of United Nation allies.

Jesus knew his attackers before they came for him that night in the garden of Gethsemane.



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Ken F. Sellers

Yet, he did not set his followers against them to prevent harm to himself. Instead, he admonished those who tried to defend him with their swords.

I cannot help but think back to Sept. and the days and months that followed. The radical Islamic followers of Osama Bin Laudin and the Taliban government of Afghanistan preemptively struck at a nation they assumed to be an enemy of their religious beliefs and desirous of world domination over their religion. They were wrong, but they most assuredly believed the rationale their leaders gave for pursuing the attack on America.

That attack and the "collateral damage" inflicted still brings tears to the eyes of mothers, fathers, siblings, friends, neighbors and citizens throughout our country.

Is our current rationale for

war with Iraq so different? Is it necessary in our fear of future attacks on our way of life that we become the means by which other mothers, fathers, siblings, friends and neighbors in another country on the other side of the world encounter the pain we felt? In the name of love and safety for all of God's children, wherever they live, can we not wait until the justification for such a war is not suspicion but fact? Is it Christian to agree to killing their innocents in order to save our own?

I think not! Perhaps we should settle this conflict in the way of the Old Testament. We send our best warrior against their best warrior. The side of the winner prevails! Let us pray that David is with us!

God's story of peace is told weekly in many places of worship in Brackettville. If you want to hear about how you can be a source of peace, visit a church this Sunday.

If you have no church home, come visit us at First United Methodist Church on James Street for worship this Sunday at 10:45 a.m.

# Raise up with Jesus

We having the same spirit of faith, according as it is written, I believed, and therefore have I spoken; we also believe, and therefore speak: Knowing that he which raised up the Lord Jesus shall raise up us also by Jesus, and shall present us with you.

For all things are for your sakes, that the abundant grace might through the thanksgiving of many redound to the glory of God. For which cause we faint not; but though our outward man perish, yet the inward man is renewed day by day.

For our light affliction, which is but for a moment, worketh for



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory;

While we look not at the things which are seen, but at the things which are not seen; for the things which are seen are temporal; but the things which are not seen are eternal. II Corinthians 4: 13-18. Praise God!

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THE KINNEY COUNTY Ground-water Conservation District is currently accepting applications for the position of General Manager. Please direct all inquiries and/or resumes to P.O. Box 369, Brackettville, Texas 78832.

AVON - ENTREPRENEUR WANTED. Must be willing to work whenever you want, be your own boss and enjoy unlimited earnings. Let's talk. 1-888-942-4053.

SALES - SALES MANAGERS - One of the highest paid jobs in America. Highly successful national company. Will train. We provide appointments. Call Don, 1-800-322-4103, Jessica @ VericommCorp.com

REAL ESTATE

100 ACRES - \$44,900. Trophy whitetails (5 deer limit). Tree covered hills and draws. Abundant turkey, quail, small game. Good access. More acreage available. E-Z terms. Call 1-866-899-5263, Texas Land & Ranches.

ABSOLUTE STEAL! 5 Acres - \$19,900. Sacrifice price on beautiful North Texas hill country property. Perfect getaway, retirement or horse set-up. Access to 600 acre private park. Financing. Texas Land & Ranches. Call now, 1-866-516-4868.

O'Rourke Realty Paul & Elsa O'Rourke P.O. Box 670 Brackettville, TX 78832 (830) 563-2713

2 bed; enclosed porch, 2 baths, fire place, jacuzzi room, wet bar, sprinkler system. \$85,000.

In beautiful condition, double wide - 3 bed, 2 baths, screened deck, fireplace. \$70,000.00

2 bed, 2 baths mobile home, many attractive features. Unit 32. \$32,000.

Unit 27 - 3 bed, 2 baths double wide. Reduced price now. orourke@the-i.net

REAL ESTATE

COLORADO RANCH SALE. 35 acres - \$49,900. Magnificent mountain ranch at 8,000' elevation. Mix of meadows with spring fed ponds and aspen. Stunning views, virtually surrounded by federal lands. Must see! Good terms. Call Colorado Land & Ranches, 1-866-353-4809.

HAVING TROUBLE SELLING your land? Land-locked, unclear Title, Un-divided interests? Let me help. Texas Rural Land Co., 1-281-793-6656.

NEW MEXICO MOUNTAINS. 140 Acres - Only \$49,900. Gorgeous grasslands, mature tree cover, 6,300' elevation. Mountain views, year-round roads and electric. Perfect for horse lovers. Adjacent to national forest. Excellent financing. Call today. This won't last. SW Properties of NM, Inc., 1-866-350-5263.

RENTALS

RENTALS - O'ROURKE REALTY - Elsa & Paul O'Rourke. (830) 563-2713

WANTED

WE BUY ALUMINUM cans. Junk batteries and other metals. Smitty's 563-9970.

Find all the local news that is important to you only in The Brackett News!

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO. P.O. Box 1035 Brackettville, TX 78832 830-563-2446 830-563-2447

The Masters Condo unit 1201 1bdr, furnished, garage \$34,000. Unit 15 lot 160, 161 (160 Bliss Circle) FCS 3bdr, 2bth manufactured housing enclosed porch, partially furnished, POSSIBLE OWNER FINANCED!

- Townhouse lot 116, unit 1 furnished. Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing. Unit 27 lot 2 blk O FCS Eagle way 2Br, 2Bt 1180 sq. ft. custom built screened in porch. Reduced \$5,000. Brackettville - Old Stagecoach House corner of El Paso & Fort 1 bdr/1 bth. FOR SALE OR LEASE. Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch. 166 AIRPORT RD. 2br/2bt enclosed porch, patio, storage, fenced b/y 2 car carport all electric.

Have Buyers - Need Listings! Same name new owner Ken Barnett - Pat Owens - Melissa Davis info@kinneycountyland.com

LAS MORAS REALTY

DEBBIE TRANT / BARBARA VOSS 830-563-2997 104 A-E Spring

New Listing, Town: spacious 3 bed, 2 bath home in choice location on 2 lots. Includes large garage/workshop, fenced yard & new metal roof!

New Listing, Town: 3 bed, 2 bath mobile home on 1 lot. Has metal roof, CHA, just \$9,000!

New Listing, Fort: nice 2 bed, 2 bath manufactured home on large corner lot next to greenbelt. Unit 32. Has covered wrap-around deck, carport, storage shed. Includes furnishings! Ranches and small acreage available.

View listings: www.realestatetxkinneycounty.com

Tejas Properties

Phyllis & Les Meyer 615 Hwy 90 EAST 830-563-9911

- 3/2/carports, large yard, plus a 16X20 Office/Storage. The Oaks, 2/2/2, Beautiful Home, 2 lots and huge oaks. 2/2 Home with carport, Ward St. in FCS, excellent condition. 1450 acres Great Hunting! In the hills N. of Town. 733 acres Hills and valleys, wildlife plus 2 wells. 2150 acres Home, barns, good deer and exotics. We have ranches of all sizes available! www.Tejas-Properties.com

REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS

KINNEY COUNTY COMMISSIONERS Court is currently accepting proposals for certain janitorial services to be performed at the Kinney County Civic Center. Interested parties may contact the Office of the Kinney County Judge located at 501 S. Ann Street for further details. Proposals will be accepted until such time as appropriate proposal(s) are received and awarded. Proposals will be opened beginning March 10, 2003, during regular and/or subsequently posted meetings of the Kinney County Commissioners Court. Respondents may hand deliver or mail proposals to County Judge, Herb Senne, P.O. Box 348, Kinney County Courthouse, 501 S. Ann Street, Brackettville Texas, 78832. Kinney County reserves the right to accept and/or reject any and all proposals and to award bid(s) in a manner that is in the best interest of Kinney County. Kinney County is an equal opportunity employer.

SELL YOUR UNWANTED ITEMS IN THE CLASSIFIEDS CALL 563-2852 TODAY!

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

TOAD PASSE LOBE INFO ELATE ODOR LATE REGULATION ENE PURE MINTS ROAST RIO ROTATE MAGNET AGATE AMINO VAN MESS SKUNK DEST SET SLIME BURST SEAMEN RANGES SAD MILER STAIR BANE EVE EMBAYTLING REAL RAIN RINSE ANIL ANTS ADDER ESNE

NOTICE OF CITY ELECTION (AVISO DE ELECCION CIUDAD)

To the Registered Voters of BRACKETTVILLE, Texas: (A los votantes registrados del BRACKETTVILLE, Texas;) Notice is hereby given that the polling places listed below will be open from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., on May 03, 2003, for voting in a CITY election, to ELECT TWO ALDERMAN. (Notifiquese, por las presente, que las casillas electorales sitados abajo se abiraran desde las 7:00 a.m. hasta las 7:00 p.m. el 3 de MAYO de 2003 para votar en la Eleccion para ELLIJR DOS MIEMBROS DE CONCILIO).

LOCATION(S) OF POLLING PLACES (DIRECCION(ES) DE LAS CASILLAS ELECTORALES)

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at (La votacion en edelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en) CITY HALL/EDIFICIO MUNICIPAL DE LA CIUDAD

between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. beginning on APRIL 16, 2003 (entre las 8:00 de la manana y las 5:00 de la tarde empezando el 16, DE ABRIL, 2003) and ending on APRIL 29, 2003. (y terminando el 29 DE ABRIL, 2003).

Additional early voting will be held at the same location as follows:\* (La votacion en adelantada ademas se llevara a cabo en el mismo sitio de tal manera:)

Table with 2 columns: Date (Fecha) and Hours (Horas). Rows show NA for all dates and hours.

Applications for ballot by mail shall be mailed to: (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a :)

DAVID G. LUNA (Name of Early Voting Clerk) (Nombre del Secretario de la Votacion En Adelantada) P.O. BOX 526 BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS 78832

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on (Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el) APRIL 25, 2003/ 25 DE ABRIL DE EL 2003

Issued this the 13 day of FEBRUARY, 2003. (Emitada este dia 13 de FEBRERO, 2003).

Carmen M. Berlanga Signature of Presiding Officer (Firma del Oficial que Preside)

KINNEY COUNTY WOOL & MOHAIR WOULD LIKE TO SAY THANK YOU TO THEIR CUSTOMERS & FRIENDS Join us for our 10th Year Ownership on February 21st & 22nd, 2003

Stop by and take advantage of discounts, register for gift certificates, and enjoy refreshments!

Drawings will be held on Saturday at noon. (Need not be present to win)

Thank you, Tony, Nancy, and Joe Frerich.

WHY LEASE?

Own your own part of the Texas Hill Country for as little as \$695.00 down and \$116.69 per month at 8.75 % financing. Based on 20 acre tract with minimum down payment.

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 scrub-brush 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,