

The Brackett News

4-H members try new shooting range
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15 year, No. 5

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Agents seize \$6.5 million in drugs

DEL RIO — Border Patrol Agents from the Del Rio Sector seized \$6.5 million worth of marijuana during February. The 8,190 pounds seized marked the largest February total over the past five years and three times that of February 2002. Agents also seized a half million dollars worth of cocaine during February.

The busiest day for drug seizures came on Feb. 27 when agents from Eagle Pass discovered two caches of marijuana, weighing 702.8 pounds and 670.7 pounds abandoned near the Rio Grande. That same day Del Rio Station agents nabbed a 282-pound abandoned load.

Del Rio Sector agents apprehended 7,127 undocumented immigrants during the month of February, including 2,010 in Eagle Pass, 1,342 in Carrizo Springs, 1,247 in Del Rio, 1,107 in Brackettville, 806 in Uvalde, 141 in Comstock, 211 in Abilene, 109 in San Angelo, 91 in Rocksprings and 63 in Llano.

A&M announces its honor students

COLLEGE STATION — Two Brackettville residents were honored as Texas A&M University named its honor students for the 2002 fall semester, recognizing students for outstanding academic performance.

Zachry Hunt Davis Jr. was named to the Dean's Honor Roll. He is seeking a bachelor of business administration degree in finance.

Lloyd Lee Davis II was named a Distinguished Student. He is a pre-engineering major.

The Dean's Honor Roll recognizes students taking at least 15 semester hours who have maintained at least a 3.75 grade-point ratio (GPR) out of a possible 4.0 during the most recent grading period. A Distinguished Student is recognized for earning a 3.25 to 3.75 GPR while taking at least 15 hours.

Computer Club to meet Monday

Are you ready for a new car, but dreading the nightmare of pushy car salesman?

Well, come and learn a hassle-free way to find and buy the car of your dreams on the Internet. It's easy, you'll save lots of money, and you don't even have to leave your house.

Join the Computer Club for this month's meeting on Monday night at 7 and learn a stress-free way to find your new car. The cost is 50 cents per person, all of which is donated to the library for utility expenses.

For more information, call 563-3443.

Ring appointed to water board

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Christopher Ring is the newest member of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors.

He was appointed to fill a vacant seat on the board Monday by the Commissioners Court.

Ring is the third director on the seven-seat board to be ap-

pointed by the court. Directors Chuck Hall and Hadley Wardlaw were also selected by the commissioners.

Ring replaces Zach Davis, who resigned from the board in January.

Ring was one of only two applicants. The other was Tony Frerich. County Judge Herb Senne broke a tie to appoint Ring to the water board.

"I do know that there is a lot of friction occurring within the operations of the groundwater board," Senne said. "I personally don't like that. I like to see people working together in harmony, realizing that it's OK to disagree, but it's not appropriate from where I come from to be disagreeable. From that direction, and that direction only, is where I am coming from in

casting my vote.

"I feel like Mr. Ring has been a very compatible person to the board. He has been to just about every meeting. I know that Mr. Frerich has been probably at most of the meetings.

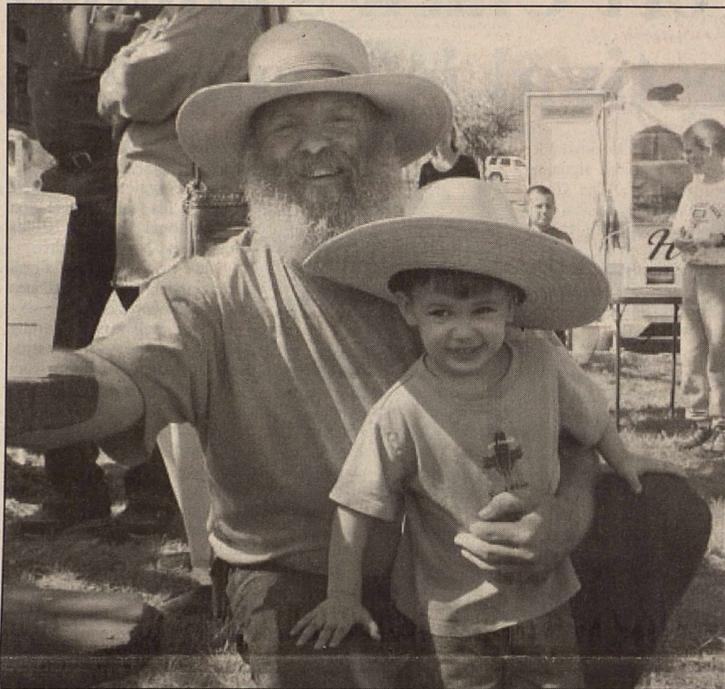
"I weigh very heavily on the fact that Mr. Frerich is a long-time resident of Brackettville. He's an agricultural person. He is bonified grass-roots agricul-

ture, always has been and always will be," he said.

"I also weigh very heavily in the fact that Mr. Ring is a 5 1/2-year resident of Brackettville. He is non-dependent on the ranch, in all probability, for livelihood. But I think the water segment of the ranching operation to him is equally important as it is to Tony."

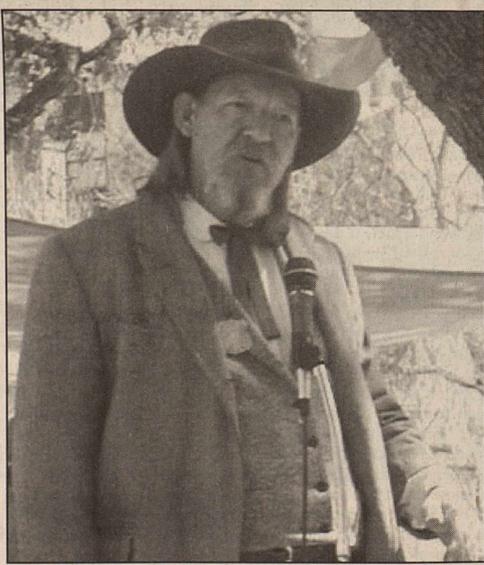
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Fort Clark Springs Festival



Fort Clark Festival: A family affair

ABOVE: Wroe Lynch of Brackettville and his grandson, Mikey Rochar, 2, of Houston were all smiles Saturday at the Fort Clark Springs Festival.



LEFT: Well-known cowboy poet, Rev. Dave Crowe, pastor of Frontier Baptist Church in Brackettville, entertains the audience Saturday afternoon at Fort Clark Springs' annual festival.

Gerardo, Meil run for board

Three candidates have now filed to run for the Brackett ISD Board of Trustees in the upcoming May 3 election.

Martha Gerardo and Sondra Meil both filed to run in the election this last week, according to school district officials. Mark Frerich had previously filed paperwork to be included on the ballot.

The three candidates are vying for two at-large positions on the school board. Three-year terms are expiring for trustees Rose Mary Slubar and Tim Ward.

There are also two seats up for grabs in the Brackettville City Council election, also on May 3.

Bonnie Wardlaw will be challenging incumbent City Council member Martha Ward McDonald in the May 3 election.

The two candidates are the only ones to file for the Place 1 position on the city ballot as of

press-time.

Tomas Gomez is the Place 3 incumbent alderman. He has yet to file for re-election. Camilo Cruz Jr. and June Kaminski are running for the position.

Each City Council seat has a two-year term.

Candidates seeking positions in either election can file an application through March 28.

Early voting by personal appearance for the city election will be held at City Hall April 16-29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for Good Friday on April 18. Applications to vote early by mail will be accepted beginning March 4. Ballots must be received by April 29.

Early voting by personal appearance for the school board election will be held at the BISD Central Office April 16-29 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Applications to vote early by mail will be accepted by the close of business on April 25.

Sheriff denies violence at water board meetings

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess has taken offense to the rumors surrounding violence and the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors.

"We've never had any problems," the sheriff said. "We have never removed anyone from a water board meeting — we've never even had to ask anybody to settle down."

Burgess decided to speak out following the comments made by County Judge Herb Senne Monday during the Commissioners Court meeting.

Senne's statement preceded a 3-2 vote to appoint Christopher Ring to the water district board.

"I do know that I have personally, with y'all's concurrence, have had the Sheriff's Depart-

ment at the groundwater board meetings because there have been times where it could have gotten out of hand to the point that someone could have been injured in the process of conducting a meeting," the judge said. "And I don't like that sort of setting."

"Consequently, the sheriff, in his workability and his wisdom, has kept a deputy there. I don't want that to continue, and the only way that I can make that happen — we can have that happen — is to have the sheriff there all the time or have a board that is going to work together in harmony."

Senne was not the first to make a public statement about violence at the board meetings. A statement from John Boerschig, a Katy attorney who owns land in Kinney County, was

■ See SHERIFF/Page 2

INSIDE

■ **Taylor Stephenson**

Spring Break has finally arrived! We'll be out of school this entire week. The students and staff were ready to go for a break.

Opinion/Page 2

■ **New Alamo facts**

New facts continue to emerge about the Alamo, according to Richard Curilla, who recently spoke to the Fort Clark Historical Society.

Lifestyles/Page 4

■ **BHS takes first**

COTULLA — Brackett's sprint relay took top honors Thursday, helping the Tigers to a fourth-place finish at the Cotulla Relays.

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Super S celebrates 30 years of service

Back in 1973, Marlon Brando won the Academy Award Oscar for Best Actor in "The Godfather," the amazing thoroughbred "Secretariat" won the Kentucky Derby, the Miami Dolphins won the Super Bowl, and supermarket shoppers in San Antonio won big savings when Super S Foods opened its doors for business with its very first store on E. Commerce Street. All history-making events to be sure.

This year marks the 30th anniversary of Super S Foods and this will be a banner year for the company and its customers.

Since it opened its doors, the supermarket's business plan has been guided by a simple philosophy: "The key to business success is providing total customer service."

Super S Foods has since grown to become one of the largest chains of independent supermarkets in Texas by doing exactly that.

In celebrating its 30 year anniversary, Super S Foods rededicates itself to its customer ser-

vice pledge. It is growing strong, operating 47 supermarkets in 38 counties in rural communities throughout Central and South Texas.

"We are so excited to reach this milestone at Super S Foods and we're grateful for the three decades of support from our loyal customers," said founder John Dieterle, who's been at the helm of this Texas family owned supermarket business since the beginning.

"Supermarkets have changed quite a bit over the past 30 years, but one thing hasn't, and that is our commitment to serving our customers. That's what has made us successful and what will keep us successful for another 30 years and beyond."

As part of the 30 year anniversary celebration, customers can save with items priced at 30 cents each and register for \$30 gift certificate good towards the purchase of frozen foods.

The celebration coincides with March Frozen Foods and

■ See SUPER S/Page 3



Celebrating 30 years

Helping Super S Foods celebrate 30 years are local employees Manolo Rosas Jr. (from left), Debbie Buantello, Manolo Rosas Sr., Charles Holt, Praxie Aguirre and Juan A. Aguirre.

Photo by Jewel Robinson

Ring appointed to water board

Continued from Page 1
Both candidates answered questionnaires last week and were then interviewed by the court during Monday's meeting.

Commissioner Pat Melancon made the motion to appoint Ring, and his motion was seconded by Francie Wylie.

"I nominated Christopher Ring mainly from the questionnaires and the responses we got from the two candidates," Melancon said. "I felt more comfortable with the answers I got from Christopher Ring."

Wylie said: "I was impressed with the fact that Chris had his name on the ballot when the original election occurred for directors. I was also impressed by the fact that he has showed a genuine interest in, and has been present at 99 percent of the groundwater district meetings."

"I think Tony has been there quite a bit too," Melancon added.

Commissioner Nat Terrazas motioned to appoint Frerich, and Joe Montalvo seconded the motion.

"I think Tony has been here long enough to know what's needed, and he does deal with ranchers quite a bit," Terrazas said. "It seems to me that he's not going to do anything to hurt the county."

Montalvo added: "I went to school with Tony and I've known him all my life. He is honest. Living in the county as long as he has, we all know him and he is well liked."

Davis announced his resignation Jan. 7 during a five-hour meeting which saw officials adopt additional revisions to the

groundwater district's rules. During the interview process, Ring said that his family had no intentions of selling its water rights, but said he was not opposed to water marketing.

"If we have plenty of water and there is plenty of water to go around, and there's some excess water to where it won't hurt any of the springs or damage any of the springs, I would not be opposed to it," Ring said.

Frerich asked the commissioners if they had problems with selling water.

"Of course, we're not here to answer your questions, but I will be glad to give the commissioners a chance to respond if they want to," Senne said.

Melancon replied, "No, I don't, but when it becomes detrimental to the people of the county and our spring at Fort Clark, that's where I have a problem with selling water. What I would be looking for would be means to control and stop that from happening."

Frerich added: "I'm not a known water marketer. I don't even have any water out there to market. I just wanted to know that."

Davis was the only board member who opposed adopting the rule revisions drafted by Brian Sledge, the district's attorney from Austin.

"I've voiced my concern earlier, even in writing, to the ethics that this board is operating under," Davis said during the meeting. "I can't continue with the way this board is operating."

"You haven't seen the last of me, I assure y'all," Davis added, as he stepped down.

Sheriff disputes violence rumors

Continued from Page 1
used in a paid advertisement in *The Brackett News* on Feb. 27.

Boerschig said the frustration of local water marketers "has boiled over to the point that the Sheriff's Department has been called to escort water board members safely out of the hearing room who dare oppose or delay the agenda of the water marketers."

The sheriff said there has never been cause for concern during a meeting.

"We're there just to keep peace and harmony, and that's what we're doing," Burgess said.



Fort Clark's annual festival is a success

"Lively music floating under the trees" is a phrase signaling the beginning of "The Glory Road," a summer musical telling the story of Fort Clark in its developmental years.

This same phrase could be used to describe the atmosphere at Fort Clark Springs Festival held last weekend.

Kicking off the festivities on Friday evening was a delicious Cajun catfish dinner and street dance.

Jackie and Bob Churnside cooked many pounds of delicious catfish and served a long line of eagerly waiting patrons, who, for the most part, passed the time with visiting with old friends and making new ones and enjoying the music. The Churnsides donated their profits to the festival, which also helped to make the wait worthwhile.

Over 100 people braved the early morning mist and chill to participate in the 5K run.



Around Town

Lynn McNew

Candice O'Neill and all her helpers deserve a lot of credit for coming up with such a great idea.

The day progressed and the sun shone and there were activities all over the place.

Two buildings full of arts and crafts highlighted the skills of local artisans, as well as those who came in to participate.

Music of all varieties, from dulcimers to country bands, entertained festival-goers at the Museum and the butcher block.

In the Commissary, local talent abounded, from BISD students to adults, singing, dancing and playing instruments.

Throughout the day, door

prizes were awarded to many lucky winners.

Two bicycles, donated by Mike and Ida Holley, were won by two local children, Wes Molano and Natalie Aguirre.

Other prizes included floral arrangements, gift certificates and a microwave oven.

Shafter Hall was the setting for living history demonstrations, including everything from wood carving to soap making. Gunfights, skits and reenactments completed a busy day.

Saturday evening found a standing-room-only crowd laughing and booing at the entertaining melodrama, "Virtue Is Its Own Reward," presented by the Old Quarry Society. The music and acting were excellent.

All in all, the weekend was a rousing success and everyone involved worked hard to make it so. A 'big round' of applause goes to all these people, especially to the chairman Charlene Simmons.

The Brackett News

The Brackett News (USPS 003987) is an entirely locally owned, independent newspaper published weekly on Thursday for \$20 per year in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas, by The Brackett News, Inc., 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, (telephone: 830-563-2852, fax: 830-563-9538) and entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

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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. 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.

Big Mama Sez!



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The word bioterrorism has a frightening ring to it. We've all heard the term tossed around. Perhaps you read about it in a specialized news story or saw a reference to it in a recent movie. But let's face it, before Sept. 11, discussion of bioterrorism was pretty infrequent.

That all changed on Sept. 11. The term "bioterrorism" has become a part of our daily vocabulary. It seems everywhere you turn today, bioterrorism is the topic of conversation.

It's hard to miss. Every newspaper, television and radio is discussing the issue. Images of anthrax, chemicals and other deadly substances are filling our minds. Some people have already bought gas masks for spouses and children. It's been tough keeping fear out of our minds. It's only human.

But we must remember that bioterrorism is about terror. The more we allow fear to consume our daily lives, the more the terrorists have won the battle.

I understand many of you feel helpless against an act of bioterrorism. Many people feel there is nothing they can do to combat this fear. But that's where they're wrong. You can combat your fears by educating yourself and finding strength in information.

Since the attacks of Sept. 11, I've made a point of learning as much as possible about bioterrorism. And you know what, it's helped. Every briefing I attend, every news article I read, and every website I study brings me a new sense of calm. Knowledge really is power.

Did you know that chemical and biological weapons are extremely difficult to transport, much less distribute? Did you know that anthrax cannot be spread from one person to another? Did you know that it takes thousands of spores to infect a person with anthrax? Did you know that these spores can only live in our atmosphere for a short period of time and that it takes near perfect conditions to keep them alive? Those are some pretty staggering facts.

Historically, the odds are against chemical and biological weapons. In 1979, some 5,000 people were exposed to anthrax aerosol in the former Soviet Union, but a total of 66 people died. More recently, in March of 1995, the Japanese Aum Shinrikyo cult released nerve gas in the Tokyo subway. Thousands of people were in the subway system at the time of release, but only 12 people were left dead.

We all agree that any malicious death is a tragedy. But my



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

point is that even in the best of circumstances, only a small percentage of bio or chemical terrorist acts are fatal.

Those are some tough odds to beat. But should something slip through the cracks, you should rest assured that we will be prepared.

The nation's health agencies have formed a strong and flexible public health infrastructure.

The Department of Health and Human Services is working closely with the Center for Disease Control, the Health Alert Network, and other state and local health agencies. They have a specific action plan that includes pharmaceutical stockpiles and accelerated development of vaccines and antibiotics. It also includes rapid response teams, emergency preparedness, disease surveillance and research and development.

The bottom line is that our health agencies stand ready to fight any disease outbreak.

But it doesn't stop there.

State, local and federal health agencies are looking after our water supply.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture and the Food and Drug Administration are closely monitoring our food supply.

President George W. Bush nominated Gov. Tom Ridge to oversee homeland security and the Senate and House of Representatives have now overwhelmingly approved formation of the Department of Homeland Security. The United States Congress is doing our part to keep all these agencies well funded and well prepared.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt once said, "We have nothing to fear, but fear itself."

He was right. We cannot allow terrorists to change our nation. We cannot live our lives based on fear. I urge each of you to become informed. Let information conquer your fears.

America is the greatest nation in the world. We have a lot to be proud of and a bright future to anticipate.

Remember the President's words — America will not waiver, we will not tire, we will not falter, and we will not fail in our fight against international terrorism. Until next time, God Bless each of you and may God continue to bless America!

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Thank You

Mrs. Refugia Guajardo would like to give you a heartfelt Thank You for all your prayers, flowers, and food. May God bless each and Everyone of you.

Refugia Guajardo and family

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

Kinney County 4-H members try out new shooting range

Thirty-four members of the Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports shot on the club's newly developed range for the first time last Monday and Tuesday.

Experience ranged from first-time shooters to those who have shot competitively for several years. Previous meetings were held where instruction was given in safe gun-handling and basic shooting procedures. Instruction on gun cleaning and care was also given, and a practical exercise followed where everyone cleaned rifles.

Those in attendance were also afforded the opportunity to shoot air rifles for fun. Last week's meeting at the new range kicked off this year's .22-cal-

iber shooting activities.

With approximately 60 youth signed up for the 4-H shooting project, the development of adequate shooting facilities has been the focus of nearly nine months of planning and work.

Negotiations for a long-range contract to lease 59 acres from Fort Clark Springs were finalized in early January.

Jimmy Bader of Bader Equipment Company was contacted and donated equipment and time to clear approximately 22 acres and build dirt berms and back-

stops. Rio Grande Electric Cooperative donated and installed a meter loop, electric service and a security light.

T.J. Moore Lumber donated 300 feet of pipe so that construction could begin on a cover for the firing line.

District Resource Investments and Bamert Seed Company have donated grass seed to cover the freshly worked dirt berms and firing range.

Bret Allen donated two of the stadium lights needed to light the 88 feet of target area. John Boerschig and Fort Clark Springs also donated the use of equipment.

Kinney County Wool and Mohair has agreed to sell supplies for the project at a discounted rate. USDA Natural Resource Conservation Service and West Nueces-Las Moras



SWCD provided technical service on survey and prescribed burning services.

Numerous others in the community have donated equipment, materials and time to get the range to this point.

A dedication ceremony is planned for later in the year to

officially recognize those who have contributed to the development of the range.

The goal of 4-H Shooting Sports is to help youth develop character, personal growth, sportsmanship and ethical behavior through the safe and responsible use of firearms.

Long-range plans for the facility include the addition of a classroom, a 100-yard range, trap and skeet ranges and archery ranges. Construction of this initial phase is less than half-way completed and donations of materials, money and labor are all still needed.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, March 3

3:34 p.m., Two men reported that they had locked their keys in their vehicle at the Courthouse.

6:25 p.m., A woman reported a family disturbance in Unit 27 at Fort Clark Springs.

8:35 a.m., Encamdo Gonzalez, 38, of Mexico was arrested by DPS Troopers Tully Welch and Marcos Hernandez for driving while intoxicated. He was released later the same day on a \$1,500 bail bond.

8:50 p.m., A woman requested assistance unlocking her vehicle at her residence on E. Veltman Street.

Tuesday, March 4

3:50 p.m., A woman reported a fender-bender in front of the high school gymnasium.

7:20 p.m., A man reported goats out on Highway 131, about 5 miles south of Brackettville.

8:48 p.m., A 911 caller reported a reckless driver traveling in the opposite lane, headed towards Del Rio from Brackettville.

Wednesday, March 5

2:39 p.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley reported a goat out on Highway 90.

9:10 p.m., A woman requested assistance checking on a man at her residence on El Paso Street.

11:36 p.m., A woman reported a fight at her residence in Kickapoo Park.

3 a.m., A woman said she had been evicted from her residence on Chandler Road, and said she needed one more day to move out.

Thursday, March 6

3:40 a.m., A Uvalde Hospital employee reported that a Brackettville man had been checked into the hospital. He had been assaulted sometime that evening.

6:50 p.m., A woman reported a 14-year-old girl driving a black truck with no driver's license. She had not been stopping at stop signs.

Friday, March 7

3:09 p.m., A man reported a

furniture truck driving on Highway 90, west of Brackettville, with its back door open.

8 p.m., A man requested assistance checking on a neighbor on Brown Street.

8:22 p.m., Mario Alberto Garcia, 29, of San Antonio was arrested by Trooper Welch for a warrant out of Bexar County. He was later turned over to Bexar County officials.

Saturday, March 8

7:50 a.m., Deputy Manuel Pena Sr. reported stolen real estate signs from North Street.

9:56 a.m., A woman said another vehicle ran into her's at the Teen Center at Fort Clark Springs.

11:25 a.m., The Uvalde Police Department reported a reckless driver in a sports car on Highway 90, east of Brackettville.

1:40 p.m., A Del Rio Border Patrol agent reported a silver vehicle driving reckless on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

2:14 p.m., A man reported that he had locked his keys in his vehicle.

11:49 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance at the Las Moras Bar. A man was giving the customers a hard time.

Sunday, March 9

8:10 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee reported a man with a possible stab wound, sitting in his car in Unit 15.

3:30 p.m., A woman reported a skunk in her kitchen at her residence on James Street. A city employee was notified.

4:50 p.m., A 911 caller reported that someone was possibly transporting illegal aliens.

6:48 p.m., A man reported goats out on Highway 131.

Monday, March 10

11:45 p.m., Paul Edward Wolf, 48, of Camp Wood was arrested for driving while intoxicated and possession of controlled substance. He was still being held in the Kinney County Jail at press-time.

Super S celebrates 30 years of service

Continued from Page 1

the beginning of Lent in which customers will find outstanding values on frozen foods and lenten meal solutions.

In the 1980s and '90s, many rural communities throughout Central and South Texas watched as their local grocery stores were forced out of business because of fierce competition from mega stores that were entering into the market. This created a specialized need that Super S Foods was able to fill.

Were it not for the local Super S Foods store in these towns, many customers would be forced to drive 30 miles or more, one way, for their grocery shopping needs.

Super S Foods has held on to the traditional values of a local, hometown grocery store and, at the same time, is able to offer its customers all the products and services of the big city "super stores."

Town by town, store by store, Super S Foods established itself as a leader in the independent grocery store business.

Beyond offering outstanding food products, the stores pride themselves on total customer service and satisfaction. They feature such customer services as credit and debit cards, Western Union money orders and trans-

fers, phone cards, hunting and fishing licenses, Texas lotto and lottery tickets, and the cashing of authorized payroll checks. They accept Lone Star cards and WIC vouchers. Customers can even pay their utility bills in some locations, and all stores offer a convenient ATM for quick cash.

Super S Foods is involved, on many levels, within each community they serve. The company is always there to lend moral and financial support to worthy charitable endeavors.

One of its most important projects is helping to provide educational opportunities for young people.

Each year, Super S Foods awards a \$1,000 college scholarship to a deserving high school senior in every community in which they operate a store. This is investing in a community on a very vital level.

If the next 30 years are anything like the first 30, Super S Foods will continue to grow and prosper, along with the towns and people they serve.

There will always be a need for companies like Super S Foods, which are dedicated to meeting the needs of the community with a tradition of honesty, integrity, value and total customer satisfaction.



Spring Spectacular

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Oak Finish Curio
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SALE \$169



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SALE \$199



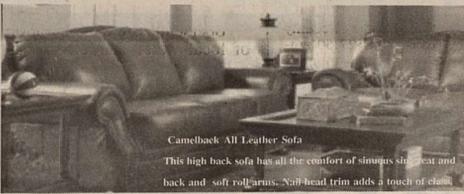
La-Z-Boy Reclina-Rest in traditional styling, tufted pillowback design for relaxing.
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5 Pc. Mates Chair Dinette
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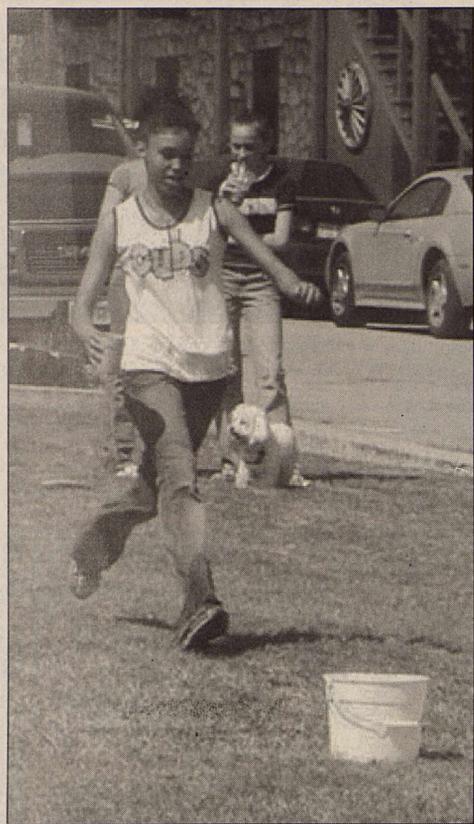
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Festival fun
Timmeka Simmons participates in one of the many activities Saturday at the Fort Clark Springs annual festival.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

New facts emerging about the Alamo

By JAMES C. REESMAN
Contributing Writer

New facts continue to emerge about the Alamo, according to Richard Curilla.

The local Alamo historian and filmmaker from Alamo Village was the guest speaker at the monthly meeting of the Fort Clark Springs Historical Society on Saturday.

Curilla explained the differences between the "traditional story of the battle of the Alamo" and the "researched story of the Alamo." He also revealed some of the problems historians face with even eye witness accounts.

For example, Col. William Travis' slave, Joel, who survived the battle and reported what he saw when Travis was killed, gave at least two different versions of the same event. In another case, three eye witnesses of another event gave three different versions in relating their experiences.

According to Curilla, there have been at least 16 movies made about the battle of the Alamo, and as many different screen plays interpreting the event.

The basic facts remain the same in every story — Travis and a band of men, including Jim Bowie and Davy Crockett, defended the Alamo, and Gen. Santa Anna and a force of Mexican soldiers, including infantry, cavalry and artillery, attacked it.

The battle lasted 13 days, beginning Feb. 23, 1836.

All of the men in the Alamo were killed, but Mrs. Dickinson and several wives and children of other defenders survived and were released after the battle.

What differs are the details of what the battle site looked like and what events actually happened.

Curilla handed out a two-page list of 27 traditional beliefs about the battle and the site, and then supported or refuted them in his discussion of the story as it is supported in documented historical research.

Curilla opened his remarks by asking members what was the most historically accurate scene in John Wayne's version of the battle.

Everyone saw a catch in that one and no one answered, but most were probably thinking of the famous "line in the sand," which Travis reportedly drew when giving his men the choice of staying or going before the battle. However, in John Wayne's movie, Travis didn't draw a line.

Curilla's own response to the question was that the only fully historically accurate scene in the movie was the opening credits.

Here are just a few of the discrepancies between known facts and what movies have portrayed:

■ The entire Alamo compound was defended, not just the site of the chapel.

■ The hump in the facade by

which almost all of us identify the Alamo in photographs was built by U.S. Army soldiers in 1849 and was not part of the original building.

■ Mexican soldiers wore mixed uniforms. Some of the latest pattern uniforms, according to regulations issued in 1833, had light blue trousers and dark blue jackets (Calvary wore red jackets in 1833), and some in earlier red, white and green uniforms of the 1828 pattern.

The uniformity seen in John Wayne's Mexican Army in red, white and green was a Hollywood invention.

■ The famous red flag flown by Santa Ana as a sign of no quarter was there, but it was not solid red; it was a Gouffon, which has a black skull and crossbones on a solid red background.

■ Davy Crockett, may or may not have worn buckskins and a coonskin cap, but if he did, he was probably the only man there in leather. Almost all the men present, including those from Kentucky or Tennessee, were wearing fabric clothing common throughout the Texas frontier at the time.

■ The famous line in the sand was impossible. The soil is not sandy in San Antonio. In addition, the first person to relate the story of the famous line was a descendent of the person who first related that the colonel had given his men a choice of staying or going. He admitted that

no one had told him of the line incident, but stated that he had known Colonel Travis and believed that "it was the kind of thing he would have done."

■ The battle took place at night. The attack started at 5:30 a.m. and all the male defenders were dead by sunrise. It was unsupported by artillery fire so that the Mexicans would not kill their own men during the assault.

■ The famous Deguello is a Mexican bugle call for cavalry. It does mean "no quarter," but any that we have heard on the screen are purely the work of Hollywood composers.

Curilla presented 19 more points and comparisons with known historical fact, some of which are much more controversial.

A new Alamo movie is in production. It is attempting to be as historically accurate as scholarship can make it. The attack will come in darkness, for example. But like all interpretations after the fact, the details will be debated for another lifetime.

The most important fact is not who fought or what they wore, or when and how they died during the battle. The mere fact that some 189 to 260 men took up arms for a cause in which they believed, and then stood by their beliefs in the face of certain death, is enough. They became the rallying cry by which Texas became a nation: "Remember the Alamo!"

Interact provides opportunities for students

By FRANCES MCMASTER
Contributing Writer

Rick Barrera, the chairman of the Del Rio Rotary Club Interact Program, was the guest speaker for the Brackettville Rotary Club's meeting last Thursday.

Barrera was introduced by Lynn McCarson, the Brackettville club's program chairman for March.

Interact is an organization for

students that is similar to and sponsored by Rotary for the purpose of community service.

At the present time, no Interact Club exists in the Brackettville schools.

Barrera spoke about his own experience as a member of Interact when he was a student, and presented the possibility of starting a club in Brackettville.

The first Interact Club came into existence in Florida in the early 1960s.

Rotarians began it as a way of getting young people involved in community service and interested in becoming Rotarians when they became adults.

As a Del Rio High School junior in 1988, Barrera became interested in doing community service and joined Interact.

The student members collected clothing for an orphanage in Acuna, and he remembers them going across the border and delivering the clothes.

Later, the group attended a Rotary District Conference, and found their Interact Club had won third place for their efforts in the district.

Barrera left Del Rio to attend college and worked 40 hours a week while getting his education, so he wasn't involved with Rotary at that time.

However, as soon as Barrera came back to Del Rio in 1999, he asked to become a Rotarian and was soon put in charge of the Interact Club.

Barrera said that young

people are often eager to do community service, and if their energy is channeled in a positive way, they are likely to remain committed to community work as adults.

Barrera stressed that Interact members are also very helpful in Rotary fund-raisers.

Both Superintendent Taylor Stephenson and Paula Renken, the Rotary Club vice president and Jones Elementary School principal, expressed interest in the possibility of an Interact Club in Brackettville.

At least, Stephenson said, the young people should be able to have a choice and can find time in their busy schedules.

One advantage of having Interact is that it would provide opportunities for community service, which is an important facet in qualifying for college scholarships.

Plans are to be made for Del Rio Interact members to visit Brackettville to discuss possibilities with interested students here.

BRIEFS

Health screenings offered Monday

The Free Health and Wholeness Clinic on Monday at Slaton Hall, located at 210 James St., will feature health screenings at 9 a.m. and 1 p.m., with a class on advance medical directives at 10 a.m. and a class on diabetes at 2 p.m.

Lifeguard classes offered in Del Rio

Lifeguard certification courses are being offered at Friendship Pool on Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio.

A pre-requisite class will be held on Friday, March 14, at 6 p.m. Other courses are from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m. on March 15-16 and March 22-23.

For more information, call Jane Pratt at (830) 775-8626.

Daniels, Unruh win Bridge game

Duplicate Bridge was played last Tuesday in the Gorgas Room at Fort Clark Springs. The Howell Movement was used for eight teams.

Dianna Daniels and Mylo Unruh took top honors. Second place went to Ruth Potter and Sarah Richhart, and third was taken by Sharon Boucher and Nelda Thomason.

On Feb. 25, there were seven pairs playing the Howell Movement.

The winners were Helen Marie Jones and Rozetta Pingent. Boucher and Thomason finished second, while Bob Barnett and Carol Benfield were third.

Lee wins ladies' club title in golf

Betty Lee won the Fort Clark Springs Ladies Golf League Club Championship last week with a low-gross score of 83 at Fort Clark Springs. Winners of the low-net Flight Championship were Sheri White, Flight A; Pat Nelson, Flight B; and Orlene Alvis, Flight C.

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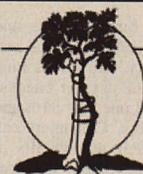
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Tigerettes finish third at track meet

COTULLA — The Tigerettes won the mile relay Thursday at the Cotulla Relays en route to a third-place finish overall. Carrizo Springs won the meet with 139 points, while Lytle finished second with 98 and Brackett was third with 95 1/2. Stephanie Coronado, Rachel Swinson, Juliann Ashabranner and Stacey Castilla won the mile

relay after turning in a time of 4:19.3. Courtney Frerich, Swinson, Castilla and Ashley Castillo took second in the 800-meter relay with a time of 1:53.6. In the sprint relay, Timmeke Simmons, Dana Bonner, Caitlyn Wylie and Castillo were sixth after being clocked at 55.6. Ashabranner won the 3,200-

meter run with a 12:58.8 and was third in the 1,600 with a 5:50.2. Jessi Crane finished fourth in the 3,200 with a 14:33.3. Swinson won the 400-meter dash with a time of 62.8, while Coronado was fourth with a 66.7. Courtney Frerich took top honors in the 300-meter hurdles with a 51.7.

Castilla and Frerich were third and sixth in the high jump with leaps of 4-foot-10 and 4-foot-8, respectively. Castilla was also fourth in the 200-meter dash with a 28.8. Shanae Simmons was fifth in the discus with a throw of 83 feet, 9 inches, and sixth in the shot put with a throw of 26 feet, 10 1/2 inches.

Tigers claim first at Cotulla Relays

COTULLA — Brackett's sprint relay took top honors Thursday, helping the Tigers to a fourth-place finish at the Cotulla Relays. Tito Hidalgo, Terrell Freeman, Cody Edwards and Mark Kesteloot ran a 45.41 to win the 400-meter relay.

place honors in the long jump with a jump of 19 feet, 7 3/4 inches. Watkins, Hidalgo, Edwards and Freeman were third in the 800-meter relay with a 1:37.6. The mile relay team of Kesteloot, Noe Talamantes, Watkins and Puente finished sixth with a time of 3:47.09.

Kesteloot also won the gold in the 400-meter dash after being clocked at 54.2. Hidalgo and Edwards finished second and third in the 100-meter dash with times of 11.63 and 11.66, respectively, while Watkins was sixth with an 11.89. In the 200, Freeman finished third with a 24.40 and Jamie Puente was fifth with a 25.3. Freeman also took second-

In the junior varsity division, Miles Braesicke, Boyd Brotherton, Ramiro Pina and Tres Rueda finished third in the 800-meter relay and fourth in the sprint relay. Pina finished second in the 200-meter Dash and Brotherton was sixth in the 100. Eliot Stone took second in the long jump, while Braesicke finished fifth in the discus and sixth in the shot put.

Seventh-grade Cubettes take top honors in Carrizo Springs

CARRIZO SPRINGS — Brackett won 10 events Friday as the Cubettes took top honors in the seventh-grade division at the Carrizo Springs track meet. The mile-relay team of Julie Castillo, Daphne Hunt, Bailee Allen and Bianca Stewart turned in a time of 4:53.7 to win their race. Anolda Watkins, Hunt, Castillo and Stewart won the 800-meter relay with a 2:00.7. In the sprint relay, Watkins,

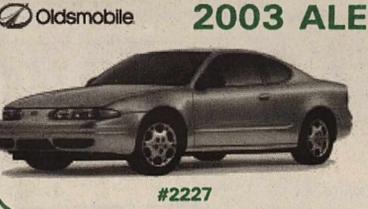
and Elva Garcia took fifth with a time of 61.1. Allen won three events. She took first in the 100-meter hurdles with a 19.5 and first in the 300 hurdles with a 56.9. She also won the shot put competition. Stewart also won three other events. She took first in the 400-meter dash with a 71.2, and also won first in the high jump and triple jump. Castilla was fifth in the 400 with a 78.2 and was sixth in the high jump.

Hunt won the 800 with a 2:42, and Garcia was third with a 3:04. Hunt was also second in the discus, while Garcia was second in the 1,600 with a 6:53.1. Castillo and Watkins were first and second in the 200-meter dash with times of 30.4 and 30.6, respectively. Castillo also finished fourth in the long jump and fourth in the triple jump. In the eighth-grade division, Dannika Schmidt, Kara Yeager, Nadine Terrazas and Lola Cano

won the 1,600-meter relay with a time of 4:52.3. They also took second in the 800 relay with a 2:08.1. Schmidt won two other gold medals. She finished first in the 300 hurdles with a 56.0 and won the high jump. She was also fifth in the triple jump. Terrazas won the 400 with a 70.8, and Cano won the 2,400 with an 11:22.2. Yeager was second in the 800-meter run with a 2:56.4. She also finished second in the discus.

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ACROSS
1 The ___ '80s TV show
6 Smack
10 ___ she blows!
14 Support
15 Item made of rubber
16 Bylaw
17 ___ Rica
18 Instructed once again
20 Color
21 Obedient
23 Pens
24 Cry for assistance
25 Nome transport
27 Give confidence to
30 Black substance
31 Boo-hoo
34 Fur
35 Opposite of excitement
36 Full deck
37 Kid's kid
41 Western
Indian
42 Manilow
43 ___ fixe
44 Special sense
45 Oklahoma native
46 Backward
48 Nonpareil
49 Incisions
50 Want very much
53 Runner
54 Rule
57 Settle on unoccupied land
60 Get rid of
62 State
63 Do a lawn chore
64 Like school paper
65 ___ up; confined
66 Eccentric old fellow
67 Counter orders
DOWN
1 Passing grades
2 Donahue
3 Alleviate
4 Performance
5 Scanty
6 Razor sharpener
7 Was deceitful
8 College major
9 Word with cent or chance
10 Threesome
11 Like some juries
12 Nautical direction
13 1981 Oscar winning film
19 Containing vinegar
22 Bullfight sound
24 Graceful dance
25 Father of Chastity
26 Boisterous
27 Dispute
28 Varieties
29 Slumber
30 Trap
31 Piece of playground equipment
32 Tennessee athlete
33 Delaware's Joseph
35 Oversight
38 Steaks
39 Entryway
40 Singles, doubles, et al.
46 Part of the summer abbr.
47 Toughens
48 Apparent
49 Trainee
50 Man
51 Wander
52 Word of agreement
53 Half a Samoan seaport?
54 Ground
55 On the waves
56 Joins
58 Investigator, for short
59 Taro root
61 Coastal resort, familiarly

10. 1963
11. 99 years
12. The 1987 Sears Roebuck & Co., Inc., Catalogue
13. "Oklahoma"
14. Earl Warren
15. In God We Trust
16. "Son of Sam"
17. The 1987 Sears Roebuck & Co., Inc., Catalogue
18. "Green Grow the Lilacs"
19. Chief Justice administered the presidential oath of office to John F. Kennedy
20. What motto of the U.S. wasn't official until July 30, 1956?
21. What country's electorate rejected women's suffrage on February 28, 1971, leaving it the only Western country denying women the vote?
22. In what year did McDonald's hit the one-billion mark in hamburgers served?

Trivia Time Answers (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.
1. 99 years; 2. Jimmy Carter; 3. Rube Goldberg; 4. "Samford and Son"; 5. "The 1987 Sears Roebuck & Co., Inc., Catalogue"; 6. "Oklahoma"; 7. Earl Warren; 8. In God We Trust; 9. Lechstein; 10. 1963

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

Today's Category: COUNTRIES

N	E	K	K	L	S	A	O	Y	U	A	R	1. India
A	D	G	H	I	I	P	I	N	D	I	A	2. _____
D	S	D	Y	R	J	Z	A	N	S	S	3. _____	
R	D	K	T	P	D	A	A	I	W	W	4. _____	
O	F	S	J	D	T	G	P	R	N	R	5. _____	
J	U	S	H	C	U	M	S	A	B	O	6. _____	
A	D	W	T	H	A	I	L	A	N	D	7. _____	
S	G	E	K	N	X	N	E	P	A	L	8. _____	
D	H	D	T	E	C	N	A	R	F	U	9. _____	
G	R	E	E	C	E	D	S	D	S	C	10. _____	
D	I	N	S	O	M	A	L	I	A	E	11. _____	
V	I	T	A	L	Y	O	C	I	X	E	12. _____	
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Trivia Time by Walter Branch

1. What was James Earl Ray's prison sentence when it was handed down in 1969?
2. What Walt Disney cartoon character taught a generation of kids how to spell "encyclopedia"?
3. For what cartoonist is the National Cartoonist Society's highest award, the Reuben, named?
4. What sitcom was adapted from England's "Steptoe and Son"?
5. What 1897 6,000-item catalog was a best-seller in 1968?
6. What musical was based on the play, "Green Grow the Lilacs"?
7. What Chief Justice administered the presidential oath of office to John F. Kennedy?
8. What motto of the U.S. wasn't official until July 30, 1956?
9. What country's electorate rejected women's suffrage on February 28, 1971, leaving it the only Western country denying women the vote?
10. In what year did McDonald's hit the one-billion mark in hamburgers served?



- | | |
|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Mar. 14...Louella Gilliland | Mar. 16.....Taylor Pinnell |
| Mar. 15...George Martinez | Mar. 17.....Jason Smith |
| Mar. 15....Gregg Nowlin | Mar. 18....Emma Schiester |
| Mar. 16.....Stephen Foster | Mar. 18....Charles Warren |
| Mar. 16.....Josie Pena | Mar. 19..Ray Ashabanner |

ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a week of errand-running for you. Most are related to home matters. Later in the week, you're articulate and persuasive.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) When looking for a venue for a family outing, think local. There are plenty of attractions in your home town. An opinion you hold is likely to be changed.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're completely focused on what must be done. By midweek, you find yourself with some leisure time on your hands. Be constructive in its use.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Some comparison shopping is needed when considering a major purchase. In general, though, your finances appear to be in good shape. This is due in great measure to your diligence.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're not one who lacks self-confidence. This goes a long way toward achieving your goals. Over the weekend, some social plans are subject to change.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your mate has some wonderful suggestions. Listen to them carefully. Changes you implement now on the home front are all good.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Last-minute details have you putting the finishing touch on that work project. However, by week's end, it's all out of the way. Enjoy a blissfully relaxing weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) It's a good week for couples to go over their finances. Keep your goals set firmly for the future. Retirement isn't as far away as you think.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Teamwork is the watchword for the week. Going it alone won't get the job done. Enlist the help of all around you.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A disagreement with a bigwig upsets you early in the week. However, with a little persuasion, you can get your point across. In the long run, your approach is the right one.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) An unfinished domestic project has you tied up in knots. You'll spend long hours after work to get things done. This weekend, enjoy the fruits of your handiwork.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Admitting you've been a bit bull-headed goes a long way. Your mate is more inclined to forgive if you show remorse. Later in the week, a hobby can become a moneymaker for you.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:

- | | |
|------------|--------------|
| 1. Austria | 11. Japan |
| 2. Brazil | 12. Jordan |
| 3. Canada | 13. Mexico |
| 4. Ecuador | 14. Nepal |
| 5. Egypt | 15. Somalia |
| 6. France | 16. Spain |
| 7. Greece | 17. Sweden |
| 8. Iceland | 18. Thailand |
| 9. India | 19. Uganda |
| 10. Italy | 20. Vietnam |

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Life without chocolate

I love music. Well, OK, you might ask what that has to do with the title of this article.

I hope I can tie it all together, because what I really want to talk about this week is overcoming temptation.

Chapter 4 of Luke's gospel tells us the story of Jesus spending 40 days in the desert without eating.

As we all know, at the end of the 40 days, He was very hungry and the devil taunted Him, saying, "If you are the Son of God, command this stone to turn into bread." (verse 3)

And, of course, Jesus refuses throughout all the temptations and challenges Satan puts before Him.

Part of this chapter of Luke's gospel forms the basis for one of my favorite songs, "On Eagle's Wings."

"For to His angels He's given a command, to guard you in all of your ways. Upon their wings they will bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

This brings me to my opening statement: "I love music." Jesus' words in this song should be a consolation for us during Lent.

As we enter into the second



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

week of the Lenten season, I am already finding it difficult to keep my Lenten promises all the time.

Whether it is life without chocolate or taking more time for prayer, life (and the devil) hand me temptations everyday.

How I deal with these temptations is the important thing. I can choose to give up because I have made a mistake, or I can believe in the words of the song and know that there is help for me, if I am willing to ask and accept it.

In 1 Corinthians 10:13, Paul tells us, "No test has been sent you that does not come to all men. Besides, God keeps His promise. He will not let you be tested beyond your strength. Along with the test He will give you a way out of it so that you may be able to endure it."

Now I realize this Bible verse can be a wonderful source of

strength for anyone in great need, but I also believe God's promise works for anyone, even me, in any situation where we need some help, including Lenten promises.

All I have to do, all anyone has to do, is be determined to do better, to try harder. And then to ask God for the strength to pass up that chocolate candy or spend 30 minutes less each day watching television and more in prayer and Bible reading.

Lord, I thank You for the gift of Your Son. No one can ever come close to the sacrifice You and He made for us — You in giving over Your Son to death and Jesus for dying for our sins. Please give me the strength to overcome the temptations of the devil this week.

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

In addition to regular weekend Masses at 6:30 p.m. on Saturday, and at 8 a.m. (Spanish) and 10:30 a.m. on Sunday, we have Mass on Wednesday at noon, and then Mass and Stations of the Cross on Friday at 6 p.m.

God bless you.

Walk with joy the way of the cross with Christ

My Dear Bothers and Sisters of Brackettville,

May the peace of the Most Holy Trinity reign in your hearts and may the Morning Star lead you ever deeper into the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ!

I am filled with joy as I hear accounts of your faith and conversion. Know that I pray for you always and for the holiness of your families.

Each time I visit the holy places here in Rome and walk the very ancient streets that the Apostles walked themselves, I think of you as I lift you and your intentions up to the Father in Heaven. I ask him, through Christ, to send his Holy Spirit to fill the hearts of each and every person in Brackettville; especially the youth. I often recall you by name in prayer as I plead on your behalf.

I also find great comfort and take confidence in the fact that many of you speak to our Lord on my part. I am very



Postcard Home

Brother Henry Clay Hunt III

grateful for this and ask you to continue in all seriousness, as you know I am a weak man.

We now find that some time has passed since we celebrated the joy of the coming of our Savior into the world at Christmas, and we seem to be racing toward the season of preparation for his passion, death and resurrection, called Lent.

Each of us have struggles and difficulties in life that we can call crosses, and these crosses are very real. We have all tasted the loneliness of rejection, the pain of brokenness, the helplessness of misunderstanding, and the fear of the unknown. Even in all this, we are called to rise above ourselves, to dare to try and live this way we call Christianity.

Christ said, "Whoever wishes to come after me must deny himself, take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24)

How can we do this? I have come to see that the key is to live in a perpetual state of joy and gratitude. We can never lose the joy of the birth of our Lord. We hold it in our hearts, as we carry our crosses, and this prepares us for the glory of the resurrection, for with Christ all things are possible.

In this time as we prepare for the glorious celebration of Easter, let us walk the way of the cross with Christ with a spirit of joy — a joy that the world cannot understand, but can only be sounded in the depths of the human heart, in the encounter with the mystery of the living God.

God be with you and may the Tower of David shield you and our land from all the attacks of the evil one.

From Rome, Brother Henry Clay Hunt III, S.O.L.T.

He who associates with a wicked man learns his ways

"Jimmy, you and I need to talk." Paul's voice was insistent.

Jimmy looked up from the bed and the book he was reading.

"What about, Dad?" Jimmy asked.

"About one of your friends," Paul replied.

"Look, Dad, we've been around this block before. I pick my friends, remember?" Jimmy was feeling sensitive about this subject.

"You're right, Jimmy. As long as you show good judgment, you may choose your friends. Your mom and I respect that. But you must respect our right as your parents to forbid you to have a friend if it isn't the right kind of person for you to hang around with."

Jimmy was beginning to feel resentful: "Let's don't go there, Dad. You and I can just disagree on some things. You don't have the right to tell me who's not good for me."

Paul tried to stay calm. "Jimmy, your mom and I are proud of the way you choose your friends."

"We don't believe you'd deliberately choose someone who's going to be a bad influence on you. But, sometimes we can see things that you can't."

"Your friend Dave was busted the other day for mi-



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

nor in possession and for curfew violation. We've known for a long time that some members of his family are involved in illegal drugs.

"We don't believe Dave is a good influence. You're not to hang around Dave or any of his friends or family members any more, starting now."

"Da-a-ad," Jimmy sputtered. "That doesn't sound very Christian to me. Maybe I can influence him to change. Doesn't God want me to be a good witness to Dave?"

"Yes, He does," Paul answered. "But at the same time, He doesn't want you to spend your time with fools."

"Long ago, a very wise man said that no good comes from giving comfort to the wicked. He who touches pitch blackens his hands and he who associates with a wicked man learns his ways." (Sirach 12:3; 13:1)

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

Follow the will of the Lord and allow Him to deliver us from evil

Because of my position on the upcoming war with Iraq, I have been considering the issue of how to combat evil without resorting to the violent subjugation of one nation by another.

My first thought takes me to the 23rd Psalm, "Even though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I fear no evil; for Thou art with me; Thy rod and Thy staff, they comfort me."

The Hebrew for "staff" and "rod" are generally understood as the shepherd's staff used as a weapon for protecting the sheep from predators. Thus, one way of battling evil is to trust in God to offer protection.

The Law of Moses as written in Deuteronomy 23:9 reads, "When you go out as an army against your enemies, then you shall keep yourself from every evil thing."

From this and the previous reference, I conclude that the writers of the Old Testament saw no evil in using violence against one's enemies — if God com-



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Ken F. Sellers

manded it.

In fact, the Old Testament has many stories of God's participation in the violence of war. God leads Joshua against the Canaanites.

God leads David against the Philistines. God replaces Saul with David as king because Saul did not follow God's instructions and spared the life of King Agag of the Amalekites.

Matthew 6:9-13 (the Lord's Prayer) is a New Testament source of advice. It includes in verse 13: "and do not lead us into temptation but deliver us from evil."

Once again we find that our biblical direction for confronting evil is to follow God as God

delivers us (notice we aren't doing the delivering) from evil. So, the Old and New Testament guidance for battling evil is to be prepared to follow God, and God's instructions, as God battles evil.

A new song asks the question, "Have you forgotten?"

The inference is that those who would criticize this country's means of waging war on terrorism have forgotten the pain and anguish of the act of terrorism perpetrated on Sept. 11.

How could anyone forget as we all watched with horror as thousands of innocent people died in the World Trade Center, the Pentagon and in that Pennsylvania field?

I know I haven't forgotten! And, I do not want such a senseless thing to happen again, here or in Iraq, or in South Korea.

God is our refuge from evil regardless of the source. If we are to combat evil, we must follow God, not politicians, to the

battlefield.

The greatest combat zones are in our homes, on our playgrounds, in our schools, in our nursing homes, in our system of justice, in our treatment of those who are different from ourselves, and in our intolerance of those who disagree with us politically and religiously.

God alone points to where evil and injustice truly need opposition. The history of the world, and of religion, exposes the recklessness with which human beings determine where and when to use violence to oppose perceived evil.

God's plan for the defeat of evil with love is active in many places of worship in Brackettville.

If you want to join the war against evil visit a church this Sunday and enlist in the Body of Christ. 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.

The Bible tells us our bodies are not intended for sexual immorality

Last Saturday, while in Brackettville, a young 30-something-year-old woman approached me and said, "Pastor, for several months now, my marriage has been deteriorating and a few days ago, I discovered why."

She told me that she had known for some time that her husband was spending more and more time on the Internet.

It was not until she intercepted some e-mail messages that she discovered that her husband had been visiting chat rooms and porno sites on the web.

She asked me if I would visit with him. She said, "He respects you and he might listen to you. He won't listen to me anymore."

I agreed to visit with him and did, but I'm not sure he wanted or appreciated my help or advice.

He told me that his use of the computer was his own business and that he didn't have a problem with pornography. I told him if he ever felt like talking to me

about it, that I would be available at any time.

He thanked me and I left. Maybe he'll read this article — I hope so.

A man is truly fooling only himself when he decides his use of pornography is not a problem or if it is his problem alone.

Pornography has the power to not only destroy the man, but his marriage and family as well. Pornography has the power to change a man from the inside out.

Like his wife said, "How can I compete with hundreds of anonymous women who are now in our bed and in his head? Our bed is crowded with countless, faceless, strangers, where once only we were so intimate."

I couldn't help but wonder if this man, or any man, could truly understand the sense of betrayal that a woman feels when their intimate relationship has been violated by a third party. Even an anonymous one like a computer or a girlie magazine



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

or an X-rated video.

At the least, the very knowledge that he has chosen to expand his emotional and sexual energy with another woman (even mentally) over her is crushing to her self-esteem.

Now, I realize that pornography in some form or another existed since Noah's day or before. But it's only been in the last 200 years or so that courts and commentators have attempted to define it:

"All sexually oriented intended to primarily arouse sexually the reader or viewer or listener, is pornography."

You can call it "art" or "erotica" or "adult entertainment," but pornography is

surely one of Satan's most effective weapons.

1 Peter 5:8 says: "Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."

Don't underestimate the lure of this sordid material. No man, Christian or not, is totally above temptation when it comes to pornography, particularly with its easy accessibility on-line.

Concerning human sexuality, we know all the don'ts. First Corinthians tells us that our bodies are not intended for sexual immorality.

The Songs of Solomon says that sex is holy and that God created us as sexual beings to bring about the most loving, caring, giving union that a man and his wife can know this side of heaven.

Hebrews 13:4 says the marriage bed should be kept pure and that marriage should be honored by all.

Please give this some thought. Please.

Abide under the shadow of God

He that dwelleth in the secret place of the Most High shall abide under the shadow of the Almighty.

I will say of the Lord, He is my refuge and fortress: My God: in him will I trust.

Surely he shall deliver thee from the snare of the fowler, and from the noisome pestilence.

He shall cover thee with his feathers, and under his wing shalt thou trust; his truth shall be that shield and buckler.

Thou shalt not be afraid for the terror by night; nor for the arrow that flieth by day;

Nor for the pestilence that walketh in darkness; nor for the destruction that wasteth at noon day.

A thousand shall fall at thy side, and ten thousand at thy right hand but it shall not come



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

nigh thee. Only with thine eyes shalt thou behold and see the reward of the wicked.

Because thou hast made the Lord, which is my refuge, even the most high, thy habitation;

There shall no evil befall thee, neither shall any plague come nigh thy dwelling.

For he shall give his angels charge over thee, to keep thee in all thy ways. Psalms 91: 1-11.

Praise God.

The way you know if Jesus is living in you and making you complete is affirmed by the way you live your life

Most people have heard the statement "I am looking for a man/woman to complete me" or you may have heard someone say "without him/her I would be only half a man/woman."

These words may sound sweet and romantic to some people, but they embrace a deceptive premise that will lead to strife and unfulfilled expectations in any relationship.

God has created you to be complete in him.

"As ye have therefore received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk ye in him: Rooted and built up in him, and established

in the faith, as ye have been taught, abounding therein with thanksgiving. Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily. And ye are complete in him, which is the head of all principality and power." (Colossians 2:6-10).

In school you learn that H₂O is the symbol for water made from one complete molecule of hydrogen and two complete molecules of oxygen. The same ap-



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

plies to us in our relationship to one another, especially in the relationship of a husband and wife. When a man and woman come together, God says they become one flesh even as Christ and the church become one. Jesus is complete, not half a person.

If the hydrogen or the oxygen was missing a proton or neutron, it is no longer complete. You must be "complete" to be whole.

Having Jesus living in you makes you whole.

The way you know if Jesus is living in you is affirmed by the way you live your life. If you are producing "good fruit" in your life along with your profession of faith in Jesus Christ, then you can be assured that you have made him your Lord and Savior. His Holy Spirit has begun a good work in you and will continue to perform a good work

until Jesus Christ returns or you go to be with him. (Philippians 1:6)

You should always know that your completeness is not ever, ever, ever dependent upon another person (except Jesus Christ). Knowing that you are already complete in Jesus Christ prepares you to have a successful relationship with another person who has the same principles working in him/her.

If that other person is not confident of his/her completeness through Jesus Christ and is depending on you to give them that feeling of "completeness,"

run from that relationship. Until that other person realizes that only Jesus can fulfill them and that are walking in the strength and confidence of Jesus working out each area of his/her life, that person is going to be unhappy and disappointed.

Things might look great and fun for a time, but it will all come to naught because you will not be perfect enough for them. Both must give 100 percent through the power of Christ. That is the recipe for successful relationships.

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

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ROLL	ENNUI	LIT
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