

The Brackett News

BHS tennis teams on TV show Sunday
See Taylor Stephenson, Page 3

15 year, No. 9

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Bank & Trust to honor local heroes with picture wall

The Bank and Trust has dedicated walls in all of its branch offices to honor our American Heroes.

"We are inviting the community to bring in a non-returnable picture of their American Hero," said Mary Jo Hignite of The Bank and Trust.

"We are also inviting them to bring in pictures of people that are currently or in the past have served in the armed forces or even people who are not in our armed forces but go above and beyond to support our troops and their families."

Non-returnable pictures can be brought to The Bank & Trust, located at 102 North St., between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., Monday through Friday.

4-H Club learns about local EMS

Carolyn Rutherford, discussed Kinney County EMS at this month's 4-H meeting.

Rutherford, director of the local EMS, gave an informative report on how to apply to get into the EMS, what it takes to be in the EMS, and how long it takes to become part of the EMS.

The 4-H group also discussed the District Roundup. Contests are to begin in April. For information on the contests, contact Robert Elledge.

Kinney County 4-H will meet again on April 21.

Agency offers info on prescriptions

There are several ways seniors can save on prescription drugs.

Some major pharmaceutical corporations offer prescription assistance plans to low and middle income people who receive Medicare.

To apply for these programs, come by the Kinney County Aging Services, located at 408 Ann St., on April 16 and April 23 from 10 a.m. to noon.

The service is being provided by the Middle Rio Grande Area Agency on Aging Benefits counseling Volunteers Program. For more information, call (800) 224-4262.

BISD students can test out of courses

Any Brackett ISD student in grades K through 12 who would like to sign up to test out of a course may sign up in their building office on or before April 22. The exams will be given on June 3, 4 and 5.

Parents and students may read the student handbooks for more information, or call Michelle Frerich at 563-2491, Ext. 401.

Commissioners reject resolution supporting local water district

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

The Kinney County Commissioners Court was faced with a

resolution supporting the local groundwater conservation district Monday during a special meeting.

After hearing from a court-

room full of citizens, the commissioners voted 3-1 not to adopt the resolution. Commissioners Pat Melancon, Joe Montalvo and Nat Terrazas were

opposed to the resolution, while Wylie was in favor of it.

Members of the water district board are fearful of losing control of the county's groundwater resources because of Senate Bill 1886, recently introduced by Senator Frank Madla.

Local supporters say the bill simply reinforces the intent of the district. Citizens ratified the formation of a tax-based district in a county-wide vote last year. The district is now charging user fees, as well as collecting taxes.

"Everybody believed that this was going to be a tax-based district," Terrazas said. "People came to me and said that's what they were going to do. I believe the district is hurting a lot of people out there."

The district's board has received criticism from the agriculture community because of the restrictive rules it has adopted.

"I don't support it because

the rules were passed without a management plan," Montalvo said. "They didn't have a hydro-geological study done, and they could have had one done for free."

Melancon said he wasn't sure where he stood on the issue.

"I need to familiarize myself more with the bill," he said. "I don't think I'm well enough informed to make a decision."

Wylie argued that the purpose of the resolution was to support local governmental control.

"It opposes the state stepping in," she said. "I'm not sure that's what I want. I don't think that's good for anybody."

County Judge Herb Senne abstained from voting on the issue.

"I will be the first one to admit that I haven't followed the actions of the water board as closely as I should have," he said.

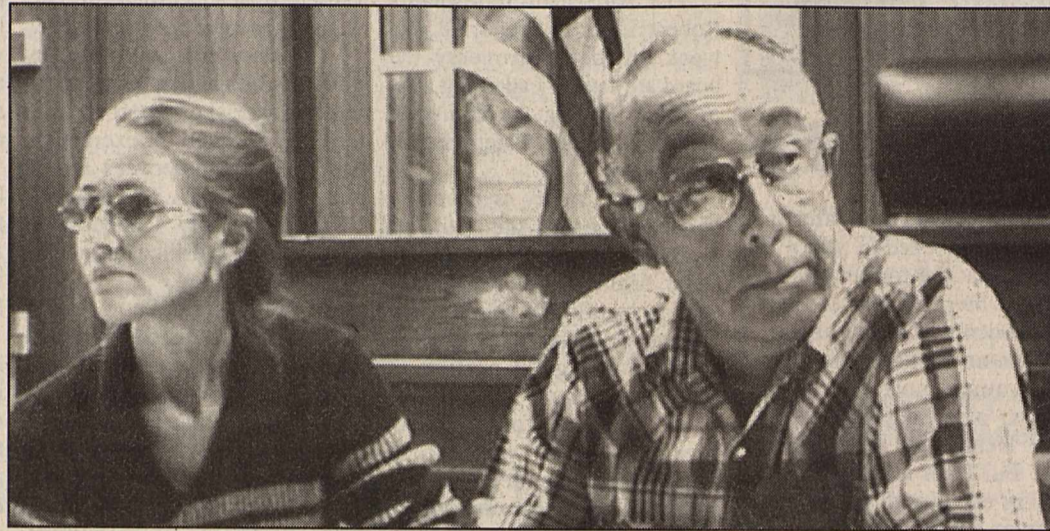


Photo by J.J. Guidry

Citizens comments

Commissioners Francie Wylie (left) and Joe Montalvo listen to citizens' comments concerning the water district Monday during a special meeting.

Mooney: Use analytical approach to purchase a computer

By FRANCES McMASTER
Contributing Writer

Silk Waters Mooney spoke about computers in home and in business at last Thursday's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting at Las Moras Restaurant.

Drawing on her experience in the field, Mooney presented information that would be helpful to anyone using computers or thinking about buying one.

Mooney has been living in Brackettville for eight years, and for seven years has operated a small computer service and support business named Dr. Computer. She is a certified network administrator and has designed, engineered and administered computer networks in Brackettville, Del Rio, D'Hanis, Eagle Pass, Rocksprings and San Antonio.

When personal computers first came onto the market, Mooney got one to use in a small business she owned in Houston. There were no classes to attend or "how to" books available at that time, so she had to figure out how things worked by wading through huge technical manuals. Fortunately, her father was a mechanic, and she grew up watching him fix things and playing with toys, like an Erector set. The task was formidable, but she learned about computers.

After being in business almost 10 years, she decided to change careers and develop her interest in art. Mooney enrolled in Santa Fe College in New Mexico.

She was able to support herself while in college by aiding small businesses that were struggling to incorporate computers into their work. She helped by setting up accounting systems, customizing programs and word processing systems. However, a disk problem affecting her arm and shoulder made art an impossibility, so she focused on computer technology as her professional field.

Over the years, she has assessed the problems experienced by people who are using, or want to learn to use, computers on a personal or business basis.

One problem she saw frequently was ineffective buying patterns. Technology is changing so fast that it invites impulse buying, but Mooney suggests a wiser way to go about purchasing a computer is to use the same analytical approach you use when buying a car.

"What do you want the computer to do?" she said. "That determines your need."

Impulse buyers are likely to see an ad on TV or in a newspaper about a cheap computer or one that has some feature they want and become intrigued with that particular item. The problem is that the price has been marked down because something about that computer is being phased out. The person who gives in to impulse will have short-lived fun gratifying the impulse, but the purchase is not likely to be what they really need.

Make a list of what the com-

puter has to be able to do to meet your needs, then seek advice from someone who knows computers.

Mooney suggested attending the Computer Club that meets at the Kinney County Library on the third Monday of each month at 7 p.m. This is an excellent place to ask questions of informed persons.

You can ask a professional, but be sure they are certified and that their knowledge is up to date. She said there are no experts or gurus. In such a rapidly changing field, it is impossible to know everything. There are only people who are trying their best to be of help.

An example of a wise choice for a small business that has a secretary or receptionist whose job is retrieving information or typing letters would be a minimum personal computer, or PC. This can be bought for around \$800. In "computerese," you would need 1.8 Ghz CPU, 512 Mb RAM, 40 Gb or less of hard drive and a CD RW. A modem/sound/video is a given. You also need virus protection and a personal firewall, good quality surge protection and a UPS unit.

Business users need an annual IT budget. This is to provide for new items and possible repairs. There should be at least two computers — one for a server and one for a workstation; a daily automated tape backup system, and month-end archives to CD storage off site. Policies on multiple workstations are needed to limit the use of the computers.



Photo by Bill Haenn

Computer talk

Frances McMaster (left) welcomes guest speaker Silk Mooney to last week's Rotary Club meeting.

Also needed are virus protection and firewall, as well as a UPS unit.

"Data is money," Mooney said, adding that records lost in the Sept. 11 tragedy because of not having off-site backup cost millions of dollars to replace, and a fire or flood can be disastrous to a small business.

Mooney is married to Jim Mooney, who is the senior network engineer and analyst for the Del Rio Sector of the U.S. Border Patrol. The couple serves as co-chairpersons for the Computer Club. Silk has completed one of a planned series of children's books and is active with Fort Clark Arts.

INSIDE

Chuck Hall

The microwave went out in my house the other day. "Went out? What does that mean?" It stopped working. That's better.
Opinion/Page 2

Dave Crowe

"OK, preacher, one more time, so that even I can understand it, who and what is God and who and what was Jesus?" "Not was, Christ is!"
Religion/Page 5

Lynn McNew

Someone recently asked me about my son, who is in the Army in Iraq, and then said, "Oh, I imagine you don't like to talk about that."
Religion/Page 5

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Photo by J.J. Guidry

MUD receives outstanding performance award

Fort Clark MUD received accolades recently for outstanding performance from the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality. Fort Clark's water system had no monitoring or maximum contaminant level violations of the state's total coliform rule over the past five years. MUD employees include Mark Kesteloot, general manager Larry Sofaly, Kathryn Letsinger and Randy Castilla.

Early voting set to begin next week for elections

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Early voting for the Brackett ISD Board of Trustees and Brackettville City Council elections begins on Wednesday.

School board members Rose Mary Slubar and Tim Ward are not seeking re-election in the upcoming May 3 election.

Four candidates are vying for two three-year positions on the school board — Susanna Castillo, Mark Frerich, Martha Gerardo and Sondra Meil.

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

Patricia Barragan and Bonnie Wardlaw will be challenging incumbent City Council member Martha Ward McDonald for Place 1 on the council.

Tomas Gomez is the Place 3 incumbent alderman. He will face Camilo Cruz Jr. and June Kaminski in the election.

Each City Council seat has a two-year term.

Early voting by personal appearance for the city election

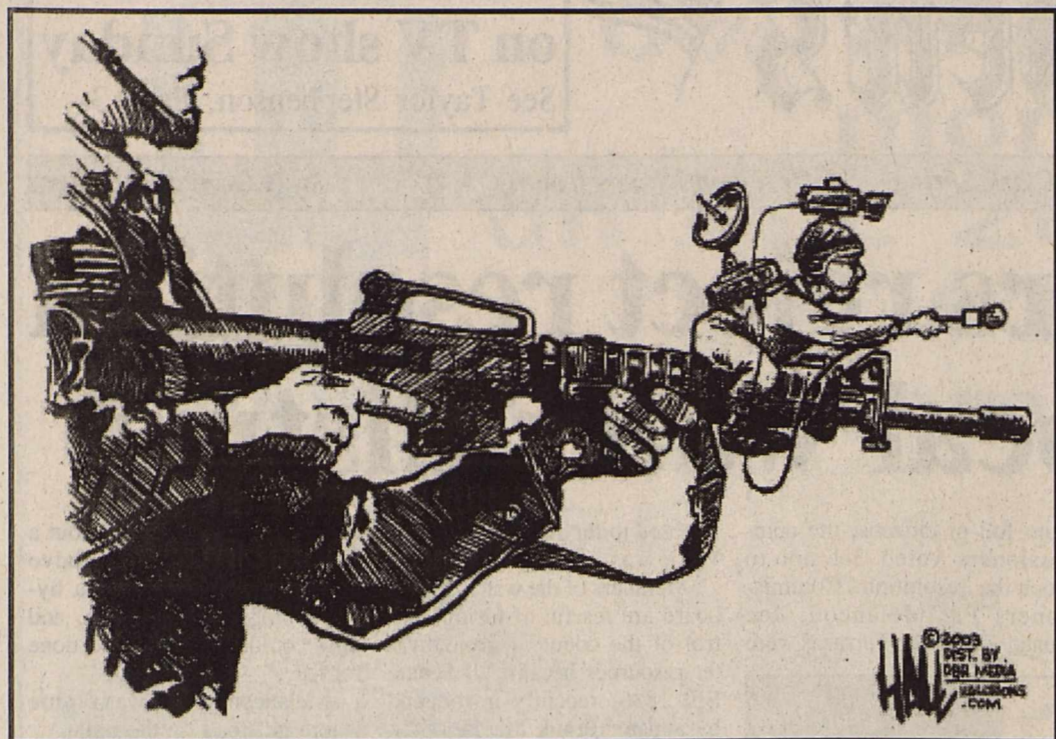
ELECTIONS

Following are the candidates, in the order they will appear on the ballot, in the May 3 elections:

- City Council**
Place 1: Martha Ward McDonald, Bonnie Wardlaw, Patricia Barragan.
Place 3: Camilo Cruz Jr., Tomas Gomez Jr., June Kaminski.
School Board
At-large: Martha Gerardo, Sondra Meil, Mark Frerich, Susanna Castillo.

will be held at City Hall through April 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., except for Good Friday on April 18. Applications to vote early by mail are now being accepted. 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 through April 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.



Columnist salutes Sears

The microwave went out in my house the other day.

"Went out? What does that mean?"

It stopped working. That's better. It ceased to function. It quit service. It refrained in its capacity. It ended its performance. It halted operation. It terminated utility. It check working. But it did not "go out."

It was a Sears Kenmore. Companies don't stand behind their products any more. Warranties are simply no good. It was only 26 years old, why did it just quit microwaving?

I don't like giving companies free advertising. Especially when they don't pay me. But I think the finest products I have used over the years have been those that carried the Sears logo.

I am willing to give them a



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

plug anyway because of an e-mail I received the other day. It told — true or false, I cannot say — that Sears has continued to carry health insurance for family members of service men and women that were Sears employees and had been called for active duty.

The piece went on to say that Sears had also promised to hold the positions that had been vacated, not for the two years required by law, but for as long as it took!

Finally, Sears even offered to pay the difference in salary between what the former employees had been making and what the service was paying them.

I am not in favor of sending our young men and young women over seas into harm's way. Neither am I in favor of war. But I am in favor of supporting our president. He has a lot more information than I do. He does not make his decisions lightly. I am also very much in favor of supporting our troops. And finally I tip my hat to businesses that support our military.

Maybe it was just another e-fraud. There's lots of them going around these days. But I like to believe it. Either way, I bought another Sears microwave.

But I could be wrong.

EDITORIAL

Troubled waters need legislative help

The following editorial was written by the Austin American-Statesman Editorial Board and is being reprinted with permission:

Though water is as big a deal as there is in Texas, eyes glaze over when the topic is water law.

A bill with potential to affect the sale and export of groundwater has Capitol insiders gearing up for a big battle that might have been averted had the directors of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board considered the consequences of questionable decisions.

The American-Statesman's Robert Elder Jr. reported this week on the controversy the board attracted by adopting a set of rules limiting the ability of members to sell water outside the county.

Kinney County is probably best known as the site of the set built for John Wayne's movie "The Alamo," but it also sits over parts of three aquifers, including the Edwards, the water supply for a good portion of South and Central Texas.

Giving local folks control over groundwater was what the Legislature intended when it authorized groundwater districts to manage the resource. What the Legislature gives it can take and Kinney County's groundwater district is an example of the consequences of a political subdivi-

sion's questionable choices.

Eyebrows were raised when board member Darlene Shahan was appointed the district's interim general manager, an obvious conflict of interest. Incredibly enough, though, conflict of interest provisions don't apply to water districts. Appearances aside, the setup is legal. If anyone had any doubts, they could ask the county attorney about it. The Kinney County attorney is Tully Shahan, Darlene's husband. Tully Shahan is the son of the late Happy Shahan, who sold Brackettville as the location site for Wayne's Alamo movie. Darlene Shahan's brother-in-law is also a member of the board.

There's a little more. When directors adopted rules restricting the sale and export of water, they inserted an exemption for wells drilled between Jan. 1 and Aug. 6, 2002. The Shahans own one of only a handful of wells that were drilled during the exemption period.

In July, state Sen. Frank Madla, whose district includes Kinney County, wrote a letter to the board noting the conflict.

"I believe that appointing a member of the board to act as interim general manager is not in the best interest of the district, the board, or the citizens of Kinney County. I am primarily concerned about the dissension and controversy that will surface within Kinney County

regarding the conflicts that will inevitably arise from a member of the board voting on actions that impact his or her position and performance as a paid employee of the district," Madla, D-San Antonio, wrote.

Madla also cautioned the board about the rules restricting water export sales. Translation from Senator Speak: "Don't do it."

Members of the Legislature can be ignored, but a decision to do so carries consequences. Ignored by the Kinney County district, Madla's filed a bill to rewrite the rules. As Elder reported, critics of Madla's legislation complain that the bill would undermine local control and open the door for water speculators to raid rural water resources.

In a perfect world, one could lament legislative intervention in local matters. As residents of Austin can attest, the Legislature isn't shy about intervening in local issues when provoked.

The merits of Madla's bill will be debated fiercely. What's clear in this, however, is a crying need for stronger conflict-of-interest provisions in the legislation establishing groundwater districts. Authority carries responsibility, and directors of groundwater districts must understand that their decisions on protecting a precious resource have far-reaching consequences.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Commissioner Wylie: Citizens must support local government for all people

We must support local government for all the people — it is their voice!

It is the elected officials' duty to represent the county as a whole.

Any Commissioners Court has the ability and duty to oppose any attempt from the state to single out its county and run

local government, regardless of the issue.

Kinney County has local government in place that was duly ratified by county voters to address the issues contained in Senate Bill 1886.

It is the Legislatures' duty to pass laws that apply across the state.

What would make the state stop at this current attempt to run local government?

Do we want to relinquish local government?

We must support local government for all the people — it is their voice!

Francie Wylie
Commissioner, Precinct 1

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Brackett loses a special friend in Gabriel Walker

Little Gabriel Walker, age 6, passed away in San Antonio this past Sunday. Gabriel has been coming to school at Brackettville since he was 3.

Gabriel was in first grade. He had some special needs physically, but gave back so much more than he received by softening the hearts of all who knew him.

His teacher, Mrs. Goebel, guided his progress. His special friend and teacher assistant, Rosie Garcia, was with him, teaching and caring for him at school every moment.

Gabriel was a happy boy who made huge strides forward mentally and physically. He learned to sing Christmas songs from Rosie.

He delighted in saying: "Mr. Stephenson, up on the house-top." Rosie mouthed every word with him, but had him do the singing himself.

Brackett's kids and teachers at Jones Elementary posted letters for Gabriel telling of their love for him. He was a special little angel who made them smile.



Making A Difference

Taylor Stephenson

Juanita Lopez said prophetically, "Now he can run and play with all the kids" in Heaven.

To his grandma, Cordi, and mom and dad, Betty and Tony, and all of the special relatives and friends, we share your loss. Gabriel brought a smile to our faces. Thanks to the children, teachers and Mrs. Renken who worked so hard with Gabriel. Go with God, Gabriel!

Town Meeting

I have heard many positive comments on the town meeting held Monday night. I look forward to receiving the report from the committee.

Each Brackett board trustee was able to list names that they felt should be considered for the committee. I selected the committee from that list.

My job was to balance the

group ethically to represent Brackettville, and to select folks who I thought would be effective team members. We have a superb committee.

BHS Sports

How about that BHS tennis team, Coach Bonnie Brotherton? We won the district team championship, winning the boys' and girls' singles and doing well in doubles. We're excited about going on to the next level of competition.

Our tennis team will be featured this week on High School Extra Sunday morning at 11:30. The district track meet will be held this Friday in Dilley. We will do well. We have fine track teams this year.

Tiger Band

The Tiger Band will be in competition in San Antonio this next Wednesday. I listened to their three prepared compositions this past Tuesday. They are playing beautifully.

Jim DCamp has done a fine job with our young musicians. You have worked very hard, band. We're proud of you!

Have a great week!



Project Graduation donation

Del Rio/Laughlin American Legion Post No. 298 recently made a donation for the annual drug-free, alcohol-free Project Graduation for the Brackett High School seniors of 2003. Ron Wiley (center) of the American Legion visited the BHS campus to present the check to seniors Eliot Stone (from left), Tammy Smith, Pedro Pacheco, Maria Martinez, Doug Sanchez and Elizabeth Threadgill.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

A quick meal that is filling and healthy

Busy days require quick meals that are filling as well as good for us. Today's help will let you get a complete meal on the table within 35 minutes.

Texas meatballs and rice serves four. Here's what we need: 1 pound of lean ground beef, 1/2 teaspoon of salt, 1 slightly-beaten egg, 1 1/2 teaspoon of chili powder, 1/4 teaspoon of pepper, 1 16-ounce can of stewed tomatoes, 1 large onion thinly sliced and separated into rings, 1 large chopped green pepper, and 3/4 cup of uncooked instant rice.

Mix ground beef, egg, chili powder, salt and pepper together and shape into 1 1/2 to 2-inch balls. Then place them in a 2-quart casserole. Microwave on high until meatballs are set and no longer pink color, four to seven minutes, rearranging meatballs once. Drain well. Stir



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

in the remaining ingredients and cover. Microwave on high until bubbly and onions are tender, four to seven minutes, stirring halfway through cooking time. Let stand, covered, until rice is tender, two to three minutes.

Here is a cherry cobbler that serves four to six. We need: 6 tablespoons of margarine or butter, 1 cup of flour, 2/3 cup of chopped nuts (optional), 1/3 cup of packed brown sugar, 3/4 teaspoon of ground cinnamon, 1/2 teaspoon of lemon juice, 1/4 teaspoon of ground allspice, 1 teaspoon of cornstarch, and a 24-

ounce can cherry pie filling.

To make the topping, microwave the margarine in a small bowl on high until it is melted, 45 seconds to 1:15. Then, stir in flour, nuts, brown sugar, cinnamon and allspice. Set aside.

Mix the cherry pie filling, cornstarch and lemon juice until smooth in a 1-quart casserole, and microwave on high for one minute. Sprinkle with topping.

Reduce the power to medium-high (70 percent) and microwave until the filling is translucent and bubbly, five to eight minutes. Serve warm or cold, topped with ice cream or whipped topping as desired. While the main dish is cooking, open ready-mixed salad, adding tomato and a sprinkle of ground pepper used for casserole. Cool dessert during dinner time meal. Left over buns slathered with butter, browned in broiler.

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, March 31
1:34 p.m., A woman reported that she had locked her keys in her car.

2:38 p.m. A woman reported a pickup truck at the Stop-N-Shop with keys locked in it.

7:43 p.m., A woman reported a Great Dane had come at her while she was walking.

8:33 p.m., A Sentry Security employee reported an alarm going off in Unit 27 at Fort Clark Springs.

Tuesday, April 1
6:06 p.m., A woman reported sewer problems at the corner of Third and Fort Street. A City employee was notified.

9:44 p.m., A man reported a suspicious red truck driving around the Fort Clark RV Park. A woman said she was fearful it was her ex-husband, who may want to hurt her.

Wednesday, April 2
7:19 a.m., A woman reported a dead dog and the remains of a human body behind her resi-

dence on E. El Paso Street. No dead body or dog was found.

11 a.m., Manuel Torres Almaraz, 23, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Troopers Tony Ashley and Marcos Hernandez on outstanding warrants for speeding. He was released after paying a \$210 fine.

10:50 p.m., A man reported that he was being harassed. Two men were following him around and tail-gating his vehicle. He said one of the men exited his vehicle and tried to hit him.

Thursday, April 3
11 a.m., William Eupene Greenwhay, 29, of Austin, was arrested by Troopers Ashley and Hernandez on outstanding warrants for speeding and failure to appear. He was released the following day after serving time.

6:50 p.m., A Fort Clark man reported that someone had taken his children without his permission.

Friday, April 4
2:25 p.m., A man reported

that he was having a dispute with his ex-wife and that she would not leave his residence in Unit 22 of Fort Clark Springs.

8 p.m., Yesenia Flores Garcia, 26, of San Antonio was arrested by Deputy Larry Robinson for outstanding warrants. She was released later that day after paying a \$320 fine.

Saturday, April 5
11:30 p.m., A Pico employee reported a fight at the store.

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I, Martha E. Ward McDonald am announcing my candidacy for City Councilwoman (Alderman, Place 1) on May 3rd, 2003. I'm asking you as taxpayers to "RE-ELECT" me as your councilwoman again.
I'm married to Delbert C. McDonald Jr., known to everyone as "Uncle Mac."
Qualifications: Brackett High School graduate, successful completion of JTPA Computer Literacy, Correctional Food Service, 3.2CC.E.U) American Correctional Food Service Association, Tougher Players (Ben E. Keith), Serving Safe Food and Menu Management (Sysco-Food Service).
Job: I have been with the Kinney County Sheriff's Department for 16 years as their dietician, I'm currently serving on the Superintendents Committee Advisory Board. I enjoy working with other people. I'll continue working with the COUNTY OFFICIALS, the SCHOOLS, and other ORGANIZATIONS.
Also, I will support HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION for the Citizens of Brackettville, and Kinney County. I WILL NOT SUPPORT the selling of water from this COUNTY. This will hurt our CITY, COUNTY, SPOFFORD, and FORT CLARK SPRINGS CITIZENS. As a TEAM we can work and ACCOMPLISH A LOT, if I'M RE-ELECTED.
I RESPECT you and YOUR VOTE IS TRULY APPRECIATED on May 3rd, 2003 (CITY of BRACKETTVILLE)
Thank You,
Martha E. Ward McDonald
Pd. pol. adv. pd. for by Martha E. McDonald P.O. Box 613 Brackettville, TX

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God possesses absolute power

"OK, preacher, one more time, so that even I can understand it, who and what is God and who and what was Jesus?" "Not was, Christ is!"

Let's begin with God. How does one explain God? God is (today), God was (yesterday), God will always be (tomorrow) — notice a trinity, even in this. God is a spirit, without form, without hindrances of any kind, he transcends all that is physical.

God is a living, loving God that possesses absolute power over all that is, ever was or ever will be. This power over the universe is traceable to his being its creator and sustainer.

The boundlessness of God can be expressed this way. First, God has the power to do everything that is consistent with his nature and will. Secondly, God has the power to know and see all things instantaneously and he possesses all knowledge. A knowledge that is all-compre-

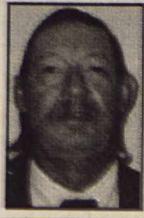
hensive. Thirdly, God is in some way present in all points of space and time.

God is love, God is righteous and he is faithful to the covenants that he has made, his zeal for the social rights of the poor and helpless, his compassion for all those who are in misery, his patience in dealing with those deserving of punishment, and the impartiality of his justice.

To fully understand and know God, one would have to write a book as big as the Bible. Since it is available, I recommend that you read it. If you already have, I recommend that you read it again.

Now, to explain Jesus, as best I can. First, last and always, remember that Jesus is God. Jesus is that spirit that is God, only with flesh and bone on it.

God transcended and became a human, was born and lived the life of a man so that we would know for certain that he truly knows how we feel and what we



Frontier Baptist Church

Rev. Dave Crowe

go through.

The great love of God is manifested in the incarnation and atonement, for it was in the sending of his son (he himself) to die for our sins, that we understand the full measure of his concern for us — his creation.

God is the Father of the whole creation. He shows mercy to all his works, shedding his blessings on the evil and good alike.

In a special sense, God is the Father of those who have received adoption through his son, Jesus Christ, and have entered into a covenant relationship with him.

Let me say this also. I find it difficult to explain God and

Jesus without explaining the Holy Spirit as well. How does one explain the Holy Spirit?

As we recognize Jesus was in a very real sense, a manifestation of God's love and power, God continues to be present among his people (which includes you and I today) through his Holy Spirit.

His Holy Spirit, or the Holy Spirit, is with us every moment of everyday. The force is with us.

There arose the Doctrine of the Holy Spirit. The essence of this doctrine is that the unity of God is not simple, but there exists within the God three "persons," Father, Son and Holy Spirit (Ghost), all united in essence, will, action, purpose and nature, and that these three persons are one and co-eternal, none having preceded the others in coming into existence.

That's a lot to digest, but I hope that I have answered your question!

The Word of God, salvation are eternal

Mount McKinley in Alaska, over 20,000 feet high, is the highest peak in North America.

Compared in size, Calvary, although sometimes called a mountain, is only a mole-hill. One famous hymn calls it a "green hill," but very likely it was a desolate knoll called the "Place of the Skull" when Jesus was crucified there.

Yet, Calvary, or Golgotha, as it was also known, towers above the world's tallest mountains. Because our Lord earned eternal salvation there for us all, it still will have meaning when every mountain range has vanished.

Every physical thing in our world, even a mountain, is temporary. Only the Word of God and the salvation in Christ that it promises are eternal.

St. Paul tells us, "So we fix our eyes not on what is seen, but on what is unseen. For what is seen is temporary, but what is unseen is eternal." (2 Corinthians 4:18)

With our physical eyes, we cannot see God and the love in His heart, but it is real. It



Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Nathan Lafrenz

outlasts all things temporal, all problems, all disasters, wars, mountains, seas, and the sun.

Through Isaiah the Lord tells us, "Though the mountains be shaken and the hills be removed, yet My unfailing love for you will not be shaken nor My covenant of peace be removed." (Isaiah 54:10)

God's covenant of love and peace in Christ abides forever. This love will outlast all prophecies, philosophies, all knowledge. This is a truth worth contemplating every day.

We have troubles, problems, cares, concerns, but they will disappear. God's love is steadfast.

Let us celebrate God's steadfast love each Sunday morning in our community of churches.

Remember our soldiers in your prayers

Someone recently asked me about my son, who is in the Army in Iraq, and then said, "Oh, I imagine you don't like to talk about that."

Then, this same person said, "What do you think about all these protestors when you know what your son is going through?"

Well, this made me stop and think. First of all, I don't mind talking about my son. I am very proud of him and his desire to serve his country. I appreciate the concern of people who ask, and also the continued prayers for all our service men and women, at home and abroad.

Sometimes we seem to forget about those serving here at home and they are very important, too. These are the ones who guard our borders, our airports and our government buildings to keep us safe from another attack. If they weren't there, we would all have reason to be very much afraid.

As near as we can tell, our son is currently at the Baghdad airport. He is commander of the Headquarters Company of the 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division, and the newscasts seem to tell us that is where they are.



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Lynn McNew

We have not heard from him since before this all started.

Am I concerned? Yes. Am I worried? Somewhat. Am I afraid? No.

I believe all my children are in the hands of the Lord and He keeps them safe. We don't know what God's plan for us is going to be, but we know it is a good one.

I believe in the words of Psalm 91, which also form the basis for one of my favorite songs, "On Eagles' Wings."

Verses 11-12 tell us, "For to His angels He has given command about you, that they guard you in all your ways. Upon their hands they shall bear you up, lest you dash your foot against a stone."

I find myself turning to this Psalm frequently when my mind begins to fill with worries and anxiety. Do yourself a favor and read it.

I have given a lot of thought to the people I see protesting and I am reminded of a T-shirt I saw recently which said, "If you want peace, work for justice."

I think all of us want peace. No one in his right mind could willingly want to put our military in danger, even though this is what they are trained to do.

Yet, when we read and hear and see pictures of the things that have been done to women and children, to families, by these vicious people in Iraq, we cannot stand by and allow it to continue. This is justice.

And so, I guess I would have to say to all those protesting, "Thank you. Thank you for reminding me yet again of the wonderful country we live in, where policemen stand by to protect you as you march with your protest signs."

"Thank you to the entertainers and movie stars, who have become what you are today because we have watched your movies and bought your music."

"Now you are in a position where you can say what you want and believe people will listen to you."

"I hope you are thankful that you are in a country where you

are allowed to speak your mind. I hope you are thankful for the people protecting you."

So if you want to ask me, or my husband, about our son, please do so. We may not be able to tell you anything, but we will be glad you asked.

And when you say your prayers before you go to bed tonight, I would like you to remember something my son wrote to me a few months ago: "As you get on your knees to pray tonight, please remember somewhere someone's son or daughter (mine and perhaps yours) is fighting or standing guard with an American flag on his shoulder."

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

Maybe you would like to attend the Life in the Spirit seminar and retreat on Saturday, beginning at 8:30 a.m. and concluding with 6:30 p.m. Mass.

This Sunday is Palm Sunday, when we remember Jesus' triumphant march into Jerusalem. Let us continue to pray for a triumphant march into Baghdad and an ending to all this.

God bless you! God bless our troops! And God bless America!

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Sale Items	Regular	Sale
#560 Daytripper	\$129.00	\$103.00
#701 Grande	23.00	19.00
#740 Mainliner	149.00	119.00
#802 Shave Kit	59.00	47.00
#804 Make-up	69.00	56.00
#821 Joe Duffie	129.00	103.00
#921 Laundry Bag	45.00	37.00

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ECHDAHL FARM & ESTATE Auction, Saturday, April 12 - 10am, 5681 Hwy. 623, Mineral, TX. Farm equipment, ANTIQUES, tools, 60 L.E. wildlife prints, 45' Executive Dream and 32' BelAire Travel Trailers, collectibles, Ford M135-4x4 tractor w/loader, 600 photos on website: www.siskauction.com. Sisk Auctioneers, Txs#7425, 361-449-3176.

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ACTED	CAMEO	POL
LOUD	TOYED	LIKE
ELD	WOMEN	NOTED
SEESAWED	MAVENS	
ASH	PISA	
BERN	EQUITABLE	
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LISA	DOLCE	EMIR
KEEL	STYVES	ELLS

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Morning Prayer: 2nd, 4th Sunday

NOTICE OF ELECTION

To the Registered Voters of Brackettville, Kinney County, Texas: Notice is hereby given that the polling place listed below will be open from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM, on May 3, 2003, for voting in a school board election, to elect two trustees.

LOCATION OF POLLING PLACE
Brackett ISD, 400 Ann Street, Central Office Boardroom

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday at 400 Ann Street, Central Office Boardroom, between the hours of 8:00 AM and 4:00 PM, beginning on April 16, 2003 and ending on April 29, 2003.

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

Applications for ballots by mail must be received no later than the close of business on April 25, 2003. Issued this the 3rd day of April, 2003.

Tim Ward
Signature of Presiding Officer.

AVISO DE ELECCION

A los votantes registrados en Brackettville, Condado de Kinney, Texas. Se notifica, por la presente, que las casillas electorales sitadas abajo se abriran desde las 7:00 AM hasta las 7:00 PM el 3 de mayo, de 2003 para votar en la Eleccion para elegir dos directores.

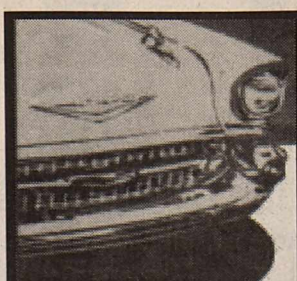
Eleccion de la mesa Directiva
Escuela ISD Brackett en la oficina central por la calle 400 Ann

La votacion en adelantada en persona se llevara a cabo de lunes a viernes en la officina central-Brackett Independent School District entre las 8:00 de la mañana y 4:00 de la tarde empezando el 16, de abril, 2003 y terminando el 29, de abril 2003.

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en ausencia por correo deberan enviarse a:
Susan Esparza, Early Voting Clerk
PO Box 586
Brackettville, Texas 78832

Las solicitudes para boletas que se votaran en adelantada por correo deberan recibirse para el fin de las horas de negocio el 25 de abril, 2003.
Emitida este dia 3 de abril, 2003.

Tim Ward
Firma del Oficial Que Preside



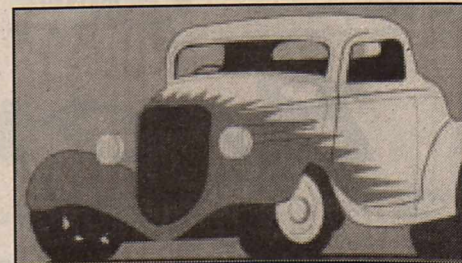
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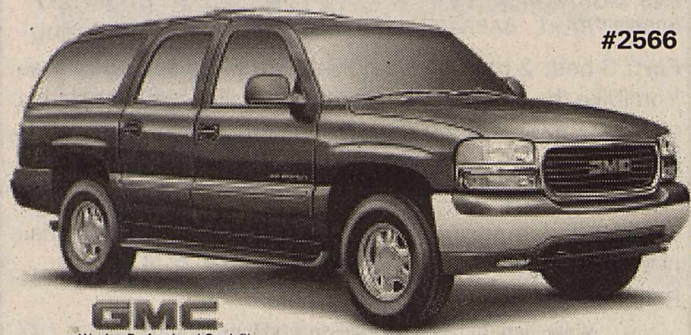
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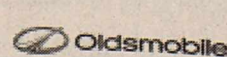
PRE-OWNED VEHICLES

*Artwork for illustration purposes only.

Trucks		Cars		SUVS		Minivans	
2281B	2001 GMC Sportside.....\$23,875	P7213A	2002 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$21,375	P7228	2003 Buick Century.....\$16,495	1915A	1999 GMC Sub. SLE.....\$16,475
2340A	2002 GMC CrewCab.....\$26,475	2125A	2000 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$15,875	1215A	1999 Cadillac Deville.....\$17,575	1065B	1999 Chev. Tahoe LS.....\$16,400
P7207A	1998 Chevy 1500 Ext. Cab.....\$10,875	P7233A	2001 GMC SLE Ext Cab.....\$20,875	2185A	2003 Cadillac CTS.....\$32,675	2314A	1998 Chev. Suburban LT.....\$14,800
1771B	1999 Dodge Ram 1500.....\$10,975	2187A	2001 GMC Sierra.....\$17,685	2444A	2002 Toyota Corolla.....\$10,400	2508B	2003 Sequoia SR5 leather 4K miles.....\$34,900
2375A	2002 Ford F350 CC DSL.....\$29,875	2478B	2001 Ford Ranger SC.....\$13,775	2234A	2001 Ford Focus.....\$9,875	2577A	2001 GMC Yukon XL SLE.....\$24,800
2323A	2000 Chevy S10 Ext. Cab.....\$11,475	2316B	1998 Dodge Ram 1500 SLT.....\$12,875			2499A	2000 GMC Yukon XL SLE.....\$24,600
2346B	2002 GMC 2500 CC DSL.....\$33,195					2394B	1999 Mercury Mountaineer.....\$13,600
P1711A	2002 GMC Ext Cab SLE.....\$22,475						
P7111A	1998 Ford F150 XLT SC.....\$14,575						
18398B	2002 Chevy S10 RC.....\$10,475	2131A	1999 Buick Park Ave.....\$14,475	2114A	2001 Chev. Sub. Z71.....\$29,875		
2519A	2000 GMC SLE EXT Cab.....\$19,750	P7221	2000 Chev Camaro.....\$13,975	2115A	2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$27,895		
2480A	1998 CHEV. RC (extra clean).....\$10,475	1998B	2000 Pontiac Sunfire.....\$9,975	2339A	2001 GMC Yukon SLT.....\$28,475	2168A	2000 Chev. Venture.....\$12,875
		P7164	2002 Pontiac Bonneville.....\$15,975	P7220A	2002 GMC Yukon 4X4.....\$31,875	2083A	1999 Plymouth Voyager.....\$13,800
		2106A	1999 Cadillac Seville.....\$24,875	2276A	1999 Chevy Tahoe LS.....\$16,475	P7240A	2001 Ford Windstar.....\$13,800
				2315A	1999 Chev. Suburban LS.....\$14,800		



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