

# The Brackett News

**Citizens show concern for district's priorities**  
See story below

15 year, No. 42

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## County hit with second rollback petition

### Citizens continue efforts for election to reduce tax rate

Last month, county officials found that a petition for a rollback election was not valid.

Local citizens responded Monday with a second petition, including 350 signatures, in opposition to the 12 percent increase of the road and bridge tax rate. The petition was presented to the Commissioners' Court during a special meeting.

"It was disheartening to have the first petition rejected, but we have several citizens who are dedicated to this cause that are determined not to give up," said J.J. Guidry, editor of *The Brackett News* and a former city councilman, who presented the petition to the Commissioners Court.

"We were able to obtain 350 signatures in less than two weeks,

and we still have more people asking to sign the petition. I'm proud that so many of our neighbors are willing to stand up for something they truly believe in," he added.

The petition is for a county-wide election to determine whether or not to reduce the county tax rate for the current year to the rollback tax rate.

According to the state tax code, the Commissioners Court now has 20 days to "determine whether or not the petition is valid and pass a resolution stating its finding. If the governing body fails to act within the time allowed, the petition is treated as if it had been found valid."

If the county finds that the petition is valid, the code says "it shall order that an election

be held in the taxing unit on a date not less than 30 or more than 90 days after the last day on which it could have acted to approve or disapprove the petition."

The original petition was presented to the court on Oct. 14, but the commissioners voted to reject it on Oct. 30 on the advice of County Attorney Tully Shahan, who said it did not meet the standards of a valid petition as outlined by Article 277.002 of the Texas Election Code.

"The Commissioners' Court cannot order a rollback election because you don't have a valid petition," Shahan said. "The main purpose of having a petition that fully identifies each signer of a petition is that you must validate that person's va-

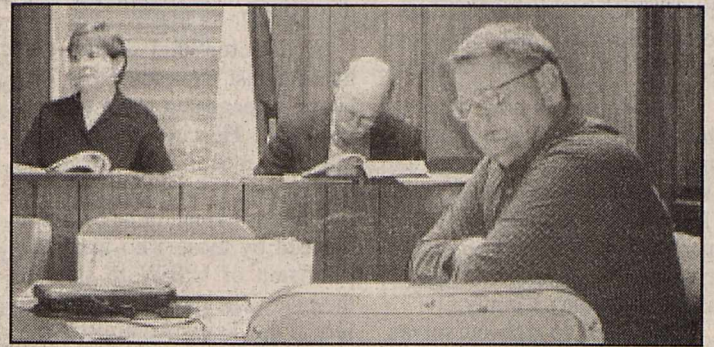
lidity to vote."

The Texas Election Code says that valid petitions must include the signer's printed name, date of birth, voter registration number, residence address, signature and date of signing.

The original petition included only printed names and signatures, but the second petition presented this week included all of the information required in the Texas Election Code.

County Judge Herb Senne and Commissioners Pat Melancon, Joe Montalvo and Francie Wylie all voted for a 12 percent tax hike and the budget for the current fiscal year, while Commissioner Nat Terrazas opposed.

"The proposed rate for the



**Looking for validity**  
County Clerk Dora Sandoval (from left), County Attorney Tully Shahan and Commissioner Pat Melancon discuss the recent rollback petition.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

general fund does not come up any this year," Senne said. "The proposed rate that you see an increase in is for road and bridge. That's about a nickle per \$100 valuation."

After adopting four consecu-

tive deficit budgets, officials approved major budget cuts this year. Melancon said "the major increase in the budget is 18 to 20 percent a year just in health insurance."

The commissioners pledged over \$300,000 in savings last year to balance the budget.



**Brackett ISD's Thanksgiving**

**ABOVE:** Antonia Pena (from right) and Cindy Flores get a little help serving lunch on Friday from Yolanda Rueda, a fourth-grade teacher, and John Paul Schuster, BHS principal.

**LEFT:** Brett Allen (right) enjoys Thanksgiving lunch with his daughter Corlee, a second-grader, at the Brackett ISD cafeteria.

Photos by J.J. Guidry

## City Council adopts flat rate for surcharge

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Carrizo Springs, Crystal City and Eagle Pass also have a flat rate surcharge.

The Brackettville City Council adopted a flat rate of \$6 for its utility surcharge in place of the percentage formula rate that has been used in recent years.

"The current surcharge is a formula," City Secretary Bonnie Wardlaw said. "Nobody knows how the formula came about. I spoke to CP&L representatives and that's where a big confusion has come in. It is not CP&L that put the surcharge on the bill, it was the City of Brackettville."

Wardlaw said the surcharge is used to pay for the electricity required to operate the water pumps.

"As a municipality, we do have a right to charge as long as this money is going towards that. We're not going to use the surcharge money to purchase a vehicle, for example," she said.

"You do have currently a little over 1,000 meters right now. Our electricity bill for the water flow fluctuates from \$4,500 to \$6,000 a month."

The flat rate of \$6 was approved by council members Camilo Cruz, Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez and Johnny Samaniego.

"I think if we go with a \$6 flat rate we're safe," Flores said. Wardlaw said that Camp Wood has a monthly surcharge of \$9.95.

"Uvalde does not charge a surcharge," she said. "They do have another charge on their water bill, though, that goes towards the Texas Underground Water Aquifer."

Wardlaw said almost all of the city's water users will save money with the new flat rate.

"There is maybe a handful of people who have a surcharge of \$5 or \$6," she said. "Almost every surcharge that I have come across is \$10 and up."

The city did not include a surcharge on last month's utility bills.

"We are in the process of getting a new program installed, and I did not feel comfortable putting that formula in for a percentage when I could not explain where it came from," Wardlaw said. "I don't know where this formula came from or how (former city secretary David) Luna got it. It seems to me it would be a lot easier to charge people a flat rate instead of their bill fluctuating."

Wardlaw said before citizens never knew what the surcharge would be.

"I have gone over the bills for past two months. One month the surcharge may be \$26 and the next month it might be \$10," she said. "If we put a flat rate, people will know what to expect every month."

### INSIDE

#### ■ Chuch Hall

If you are a regular reader you might remember a couple of columns from the past relating to my getting stuck in the gravel in the river.  
**Opinion/Page 2**

#### ■ Bobby Templeton

On behalf of the Bisd faculty and staff, we would like to wish all a happy Thanksgiving. We have a great many things to be thankful for.  
**Community/Page 3**

#### ■ Roger Baker

Christmas is coming and many of you are determined to spend some cash to show your love, so here are a few ideas on ways to do this.  
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15th year, No. 42

## District plan addresses endangered species, but not ag

J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Citizens expressed their concern last week that endangered species are one of the priorities of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District.

The district's management plan addresses endangered species, but not agriculture production, Jim McDaniel argued.

Citizens were able to address the board last Thursday during a hearing concerning the management plan.

The original management plan said it was an objective of the district to "identify animal and plant species, including endangered species, that could be affected by use and availability of groundwater."

The revised version now says: "The district will annually attend a meeting of, or schedule a meeting with, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the staff of those agencies to monitor the work of those agencies regarding the animal and plant species of Kinney County."

Cecil Smith, president of the board, said it is a "management goal that talks about maximum

resources."

"We are required by the state to address this issue in our management plan," he said.

According to the Texas Administrative Code, the state requires that management plans address "natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater, and which are impacted by the use of groundwater."

Wes Robinson, a local businessman said: "My main concern with this district and that draft management plan is seeking to exceed their mandate by state statutes in the business of endangered species. It far exceeds what you're supposed to do. And if any of you have read the statutes, you know that. I hope that is taken out of there."

Smith said he believed the "problem has been solved" with the revision.

Wendy McDaniel Foster, a Brackettville native whose family still farms in Kinney County, said the local management plan is the only one in the state that addresses endangered species.

"I'm glad the words 'endangered species' have been taken out of the plan," she said. "However, having the board say

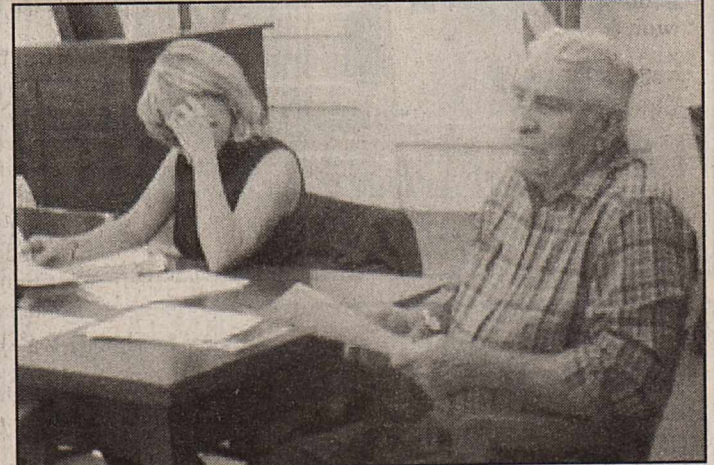
they're going to meet with the agencies who deal with them still puts you in the endangered species business."

"If the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has an issue with endangered species, they will appeal to the groundwater board because that's in their mandate. They have to work with you because you govern the water in the county. There is no law or statute saying you have to meet with them and make it easy."

Jim McDaniel, Foster's father, said he was offended that endangered species were addressed in the plan, but not agriculture.

"Agriculture, the word itself, is not in there at all, but we're talking about endangered species and that really bothers me," he said. "This county is an agriculture county and I would like to have agriculture addressed in there, saying that you're not going to try to harm it. I've felt, up until now, that you all are trying to harm me and I haven't enjoyed that feeling, because I know all of you."

Smith, Bob Young, the director who authored the plan; Don Ralston, general manager; and the district's legal counsel met



**Speaking out**  
Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board members Darlene Shahan (left) and Cecil Smith listen to citizens' concerns last week while discussing the district's management plan.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

with the staff of the Texas Water Development Board the day before the hearing to "receive their feedback and advice."

"Based on all the comments and feedback, we had legal counsel develop a revised draft management plan," said Smith, adding that the board did not receive a copy of the revisions until 30 minutes before the hearing.

The board said it would make

copies of the revisions available at the Courthouse, the Kinney County Library and the water district office.

"We worked very hard for about three hours yesterday," Young said. "We went over every comment from every person in detail."

The district will take additional written comments through noon on Dec. 2, and reconvene the hearing on Dec. 4 at 4 p.m.



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water board is holding hands with the Sierra Club

The groundwater board is doing it again. They are trying to make us think they are doing us a favor, but you need the full story. Here it is: Yes, they did take the words "endangered species" out of their draft groundwater management plan. Now, instead of the management goal to "identify ... endangered species," they reworded that section but are still doing the damage.

The draft plan now states the board will schedule or attend a meeting with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFW) or the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPW) every year to monitor the endangered species issue in Kinney County.

We need to ask ourselves, why are they pushing this so hard? If there is a problem with an endangered species in this

county, there will be no choice but to act. USFW will notify us when that time has come. We will then be able to turn to some of the directors of the groundwater board and thank them for this environmental movement that may end livelihoods and endanger the natural treasures of this county.

A director said during the hearing last Thursday that the board is mandated to do this by state law. He cited the chapter after the meeting that required this action. I checked it out and found he is wrong, or he has been misled by those who want the provision of USFW to stay in the plan. The new draft plan refers to the Texas Administrative Code (not the water code), Chapter 31, Section 356.5. This section states a groundwater district

must address "natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater, and which are impacted by the use of groundwater."

Please read that statement again. Do you see anything in that requiring the board to have a meeting with TPW or USFW?

Maybe I missed it. Or maybe the board completely missed the mark again with this one.

The hearing on the new draft plan will be held Dec. 4 at 4 p.m. You can submit comments until Dec. 2 at noon. Let them hear from you. We elected some of these directors, and others were appointed, but you can contact any of them and tell them to hold hands with the Sierra Club somewhere else, but not on taxpayers' time and money.

Tony Frerich



You would have been proud

If you are a regular reader you might remember a couple of columns from the past relating to my getting stuck in the gravel in the river. Every time it rains in abundance, I just have to try it. I know I can't make it, but it lures me. It beckons me from the depts. Calling to me, "Chuck ... Chuck." I simply have to try.

If you're not a regular reader, then I won't bother to inform you of my past foolish blunders into the realm of continued bad judgment. I just wish that I could adequately explain the enticement that summons me into the water with a pickup. I can report that I made a good decision. At least one. Write it down. You might not live long enough to hear it again.



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

Anyway, there I was, at the river in a two-wheeled drive vehicle, needing to cross, and decided not to. I could hardly believe it myself. I really needed to be on the other side. I desperately wanted to take some mineral to the cows. I chose to stay on the short side of the crossing. I feel like it was a wise decision. I drove home feeling very good about myself. Even if I had to back up more than 200 yards to find a place to turn around, it

was a small price to pay for not having to walk 4 or 5 miles. A small price in deed, I'd say.

To be even more honest, I actually left the truck and decided to take the mineral sacks to the cows myself. On foot. I wasn't about to take the mineral back to the house. I was too hard-headed to do that.

I learned something, too. I learned what it feels like to weigh 250 pounds. I had to wade the river and carry a 50-pound sack of mineral. I forded the water, climbed the slope up to the mineral trough, gave the treat to the bovines, and trekked back to the abandoned truck. Everyone was happy — me, the cows, the truck, the mineral, the creek, everybody!

But I could be wrong.

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DEADLINES: Display advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for advertising to be composed for the current publication. Classified and Legal Notice advertising deadline is noon Tuesday.



BRIEFS

**Water District's office closed today**

The Kinney County Water Conservation District Office will be closed today for the Thanksgiving holiday. It will be open next Wednesday and on Dec. 1 to receive applications for existing and historical water use.

**Cancer group meets next week**

The Kinney County Cancer Support Group will meet next Thursday night at 6:30 at First Baptist Church.

This group includes those who are currently receiving treatment in remission or who are cured and their caregivers. The meeting includes Christmas pot luck supper.

CRIME

Monday, Nov. 17

10 a.m., Orville Calvillo, 21, of Del Rio was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess for possession of marijuana. He was transported to the Texas Department of Corrections.

4:52 p.m., The owner of Conrad's reported a fight at the business on Ann Street.

Tuesday, Nov. 18

9:36 p.m., A Fort Clark Springs man requested assistance because of a dispute with his ex-wife. Deputy Shannon was dispatched to the residence.

9:57 p.m., A woman reported that she had been assaulted by her ex-husband.

Wednesday, Nov. 19

6:31 p.m., A 911 caller reported a boy that had been beat up by two other boys near a residence on Veltman Street.

Thursday, Nov. 20

7:40 a.m., Walter Allen Webb, 56, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch for DPS warrants out of Kinney County. He was released the same day.

Friday, Nov. 21

7:19 p.m., A woman reported fighting in front of the Civic Center.

11:10 p.m., A man said that he shot another man after the two were in a physical altercation at a ranch in northeastern Kinney County. The man who had been shot was transported to the Uvalde Hospital for treatment. Richard George Kapsos, 56, of Crockett was arrested by Deputy Ron Ring for attempted murder. He was released the next day on a \$7,500 bail bond.

OBITUARIES

**Bernave Terrazas Jr.**

Bernave Terrazas Jr., 49, passed away Nov. 21, 2003, in Austin. He was born Aug. 22, 1954, in Del Rio.

Terrazas, who served in the U.S. Army, was preceded in death by his grandmother, Petra Terrazas, and his grandfathers, Victor Garcia and Felipe Terrazas.

He is survived by his wife: Terry Terrazas of Austin; daughters: Theresa Quiroz and husband Fernando, Jennifer Padron and husband Mike, all of Austin, and Stephanie Hickey and husband Nick of Washington; son: Bernave Terrazas III of Austin; parents: Bernave and Julia Terrazas of Brackettville; grandmother: Theresa Garcia of Brackettville; brothers and sisters: Joel Terrazas, Ruben Terrazas, Noemi Martinez, Norma Del Bosque, Susanna Castillo, all of Brackettville; grandchildren: Jonathan, Christian, Julian and

Breanna Quiroz, Marissa and Melina Padron, and Mason and Baby Hickey; in-laws: Felipe and Saida Martinez of Brackettville; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Sunday night at the Brackettville Funeral Home and a Rosary was recited at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Mass of Christian burial was held Monday at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church and burial followed at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Cemetery.

Military honors were conducted by the Fort Sam Houston Honor Guard.

Pall bearers were Severo Martinez, Fernando Quiroz, Mike Padron, Tomas Castillo, Eric Martinez and Ruben Terrazas Jr.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of the Brackettville Funeral Home.

**Rhoda Lou Rehders**

Rhoda Lou Rehders, 74, passed away Nov. 19, 2003, in San Antonio. She was born July 24, 1929, in Jayton.

Rehders loved to play bridge, fish and dance. She taught school for 20 years for the Hobbs and Andrews school systems up to her retirement.

She was preceded in death by her parents, Claude and Sue Kelley, her sister, Claudine Peebles, and her great-grandson, Jackson Tibbels.

She is survived by her husband: Lucian Rehders of Brackettville; sons: Dr. Kelley Tibbels and wife Sandy of Decatur, Kent Tibbels and wife Arla of San Antonio, Kirkland Tibbels of Los Angeles, and John G. Reh-

ders and wife Shirley of Santa Fe, N.M.; daughters: Kathy Nichols and husband Kim of Coahoma, Kayla Colley of Austin, Susan Schimberg and husband Bill of Deleware, Ohio, Michele McBriarty and husband Denis of Orlando, Fla., Maria Swinson and husband Carl of Wanamingo, Minn., and Rebecca Johnson and husband Russell of Indian Springs, N.M.; 16 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Visitation was held Monday at the First United Methodist Church in Jayton. Services were held at the church with Rev. Keith Wiseman officiating, and burial followed at the Jayton Cemetery.

**Brackettville has a lot to be thankful for**

On behalf of the Brackett Independent School District faculty and staff, we would like to wish all a happy Thanksgiving.

The citizens of Kinney county have a great many things to be thankful for.

We live in a great little town where people care about each other and are readily willing to come to the aid of others with a card, a visit or a well timed phone call.

I can't count the number of benefit barbecue lunches I have eaten in the past six months. For those that have lived here all of your life, this may seem like the norm, but take it from a relative newcomer — this type of dedication to each other is not typical of most communities.

During my first week or two in town, Pastor Ray Melton told



Making A Difference

Bobby Templeton

me something that has really stuck in my mind and I think of often. He said: Sometimes people here fight like cats and dogs, but in the end, they always find a way to be there for each other.

me something that has really stuck in my mind and I think of often. He said: Sometimes people here fight like cats and dogs, but in the end, they always find a way to be there for each other.

That is so true of Brackettville and it is something for us all to be thankful for.

The citizens also have a great deal to be thankful for in their school staff.

In my short six months here, I have come to respect and ad-

mire the teaching staff here a great deal. I am, more than a little, inspired on a regular basis by the dedication of these folks. You can drive by 400 Ann St. on any given weekend and most evenings and see cars in the parking lot and lights on in the building.

Those cars and those lights belong to our teachers who are off the clock and away from home preparing for your kids.

This is a group of professionals we can all be proud of and should be very thankful for. It is a pleasure for me to serve these people, and your students will lead more productive, more fulfilled lives because of them.

Be safe and enjoy the company of your family and friends. Happy Thanksgiving.

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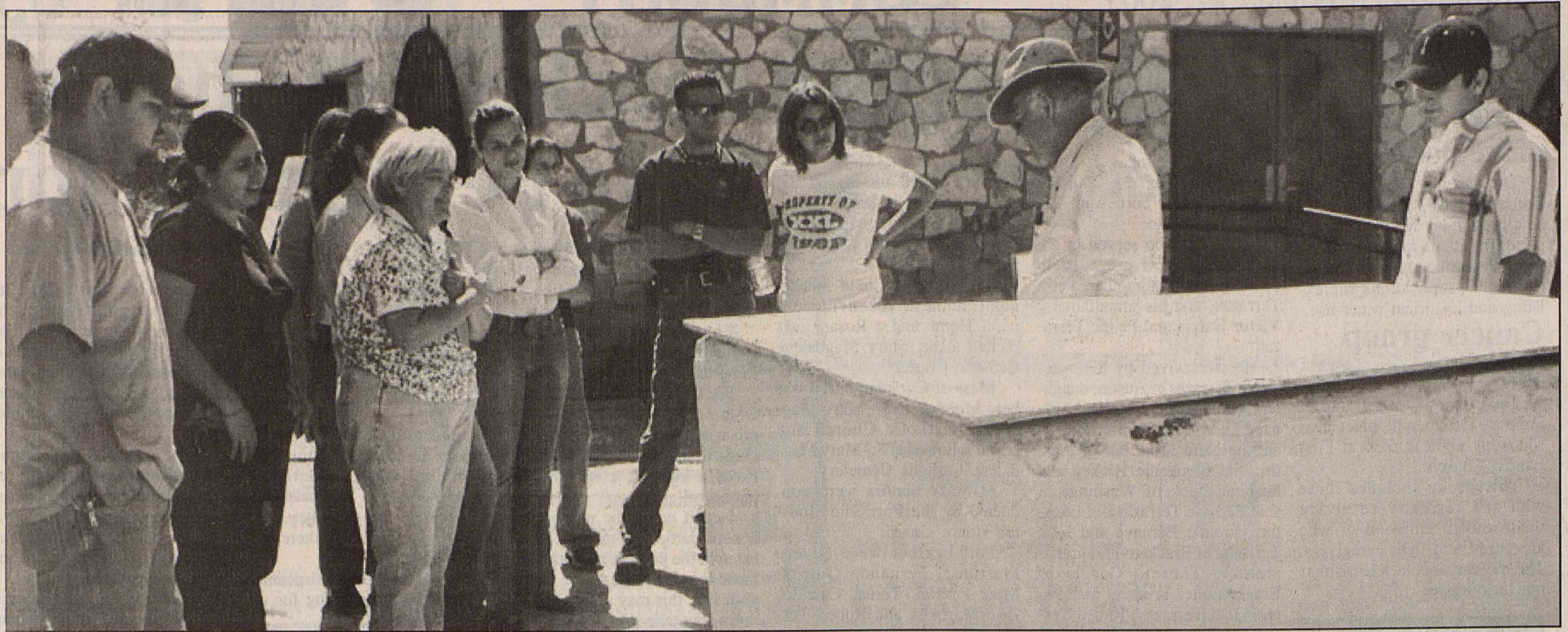
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Photos by J.J. Guidry

**Evaporative cooling**

John Morony Jr. (second from right) discusses the concept of evaporative cooling with the students in his environmental biology course. The students tested evaporative cooling by building two miniature homes, one made of adobe and the other with cinder block, and comparing the temperatures of the two.

# Adobe

Ancient Art ...  
or Modern Miracle?

Local junior college professor teaches students advantages of building with earthen materials

By J.J. GUIDRY AND DIANA WARD  
Staff Writers

The oldest existing structures in the Southwest are built with adobe blocks.

Early settlers built with the earth because it was the only plentiful building material. There were no forests or large quantities of rock available, so they built with what they had.

Experts believe that this is probably the way materials should be chosen for most construction. Whatever material exists locally is probably best suited for the climate and environment.

With the advent of the railroad and the ability to transport building materials over long distances, the Southwest saw a change in both construction materials and architectural styles.

Although most of the homes built by their owners were adobe, it wasn't the material of choice, but rather necessity.

The adobe became the "poor man's" home. Whole families participated in mixing mud in pits with their feet and then pouring the mud into wooden forms. They were able to manufacture their building material in their own yard.

Even today, many people in the Southwest continue to build with adobe. Although for many it is still out of necessity, for many others, adobe is the material of choice.

While the adobe is still seen by some to be the poor man's house, many others believe that only the wealthy can afford an adobe home. In areas like Santa Fe, N.M., custom adobe homes can sell for over \$1 million. The fact is that adobe homes can be

built for every budget.

That is what John Morony Jr. is teaching his students in his environmental biology class at Southwest Texas Junior College in Del Rio.

**What is Adobe?**

Adobe is a brick that is made from mud. The ideal mix of materials is approximately 20 percent clay and 80 percent sand.

These materials are mixed with water and the mud is then poured into forms to shape the blocks. The form is removed as soon as the block will retain its shape and the brick is left to dry in the sun. In a few days the brick is turned on its side to speed up the drying time. In a few more days it is then ready to be moved and stacked. The brick reaches full strength after 30 days, the same time as concrete.

"Soil suited for adobe can generally be found a foot or so from the surface where the clay content increases and organic matter is much reduced," Morony said. "Soil suitable for adobe can be found in most areas — often at the building site."

"Some adobe is better than other adobe, but all adobe seems to work. No two adobes are the same," he added.

**Simple Economics**

Adobe has many advantages. First is that there is evidence suggesting it is simply a superior building material for home construction — and the best possible material in some instances and locations. Also, adobe is the only building material not tied to the price of crude oil.

"The price of crude oil affects the price of just about everything but the price of dirt,"



**Learning how to make adobe bricks**

ABOVE: Southwest Texas Junior College students Toni Riley (from left), Julie Salas and Dalia Berain use wooden forms to shape adobe bricks during their environmental biology class in Del Rio.

LEFT: Juan Leon Jr. (left) and Alfredo Guevara III use shovels to remove rocks and silt from the dirt mixture used to make adobe bricks.

Morony said. "As the price of crude oil increases, so will everything having to do with the building industry."

"There is now much interest in alternative home construction here and in Europe. However, Europe appears to be taking the lead — adobe and compressed earth blocks are the building material of choice."

In the manufacturing process, the amount of energy used and the amount of pollution created varies depending on the material. A concrete block consumes nearly 30,000 BTUs from fossil fuels, while adobe simply utilizes the sun.

There is also less energy used for transportation since the adobe is a "local" building material. One of the key components to keeping costs down is building a home yourself. Morony owns property in Kinney County and is building his own adobe house here.

"Adobe bricks are not cheap if you hire two men to make them," he said. "The solution is to do it yourself. Anyone can make an adobe brick. In the non-industrial world, they just make a few adobe bricks every day. When they have enough for a room, they add a room on."

**Evaporative Cooling**

Evaporative cooling is another advantage of building with adobe. It explains why adobe is cooler in the summer and

*"The price of crude oil affects the price of just about everything but the price of dirt."*

**SWTJC professor John Morony Jr.**

warmer in the winter. When water evaporates from the surface of something, that surface becomes much cooler because it requires heat to change the liquid into a vapor.

"When the relative humidity is the lowest, evaporation of moisture from the adobe takes place and thus directly cools the adobe," Morony said. "It is much easier to maintain your internal temperatures the way you want them. Your utility bill should be significantly less."

Morony and his students tested evaporative cooling by building two miniature homes, one made of adobe and the other with cinder block, and comparing the temperatures of the two. When the two houses were compared, the outside temperature was 98 degrees, while the temperature was 90 degrees inside the adobe home and 103 inside the cinder block house.

"That's impressive," Morony said. "The data was recorded in the company of a friend of mine who is a physical chemist. He could hardly believe what he was seeing."

"You have to wonder what

the energy cost would be to bring the cinder block building down to what the adobe was."

Morony's use of small scale models composed of different building materials provided comparative data for evaluation.

**Hands-On Education**

Morony's environmental biology class is growing in popularity with students at the junior college because of the hands-on learning and the scientific concepts that are applicable to every-day life.

"The students have been very receptive," Morony said. "I've been very pleased with their interest and hard work. They seem to enjoy it. Several of the students have already told me they want to build adobe houses."

Morony is in his fourth year at the local junior college. The 67-year-old is still a newly wed — he was married May 10 to Benita Martha Lozano, a retired elementary teacher he met while living in San Antonio. It is the first marriage for both.

Morony has a bachelor of science degree in wildlife management from Texas A&M Univer-

sity and a master of science degree in vertebrate zoology from Louisiana State University. He previously taught at LSU and San Antonio College.

"I have taken zoology and botany with Mr. Morony, and I am really enjoying the environmental biology class," said Jerry Guadarrama, a student from Del Rio. "We're learning a lot about the environment and real-life experiences. Mr. Morony is a good guy and a great teacher."

This is the first time environmental biology has been taught at the junior college, but Morony hopes the course will continue to attract students.

"The environmental biology class benefits students by providing, not only classroom, but laboratory experiences critical to basic survival skills, such as adobe block building for homes," said Don Tomas, associate dean of instructional services for the junior college's Del Rio campus.

"Through these experiences, economic development possibilities arise for individuals to learn a trade and/or to help others."

"Maslow's theory of hierarchy suggests that people are motivated by basic needs for survival and safety. Environmental biology is a great course to help students understand how the environment and people can interact with each other to meet these basic needs," he added.



**Talking about adobe**

Morony (from left) discusses his environmental biology class with Hector Gonzales, dean of instructional services, and Don Thomas, associate dean of instructional services.





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Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Clues include: 1 Uncle, 4 Gaffer's hazard, 8 Thrill, 13 Baby's word, 14 Chaplin's wife, 15 Star-crossed lover, 16 Zeal for life, 17 Colors, 18 Fluttering tree, 19 Justices of the Peace, 22 Missouri, 23 Conceive, 24 Highly skilled, 26 Zeus and Hera's kid, 29 Long-running Broadway play, 32 County in Texas, 36 Ending for check or room, 38 Part of, 39 Language: abbr., 40 Ohio, 41 Entrée choice, 42 Poetess Teasdale, 43 Object, 44 Nickname for a president, 45 Alleged, 47 Ship's pole, 49 Belief, 51 Amiable, 56 Cheer-leader's shout, 58 Capable of being sailed across, 61 Soap source, 63 Reduce, 64 Agony, 65 Better, 66 Someone, 67 Parts of, 12 Down, 68 SATs, 69 Establishes, 70 Hissing sound, 1 Dieter's lunch, 2 Saw, 3 Rage, 4 Appear unsteady, 5 Hit the ceiling, 6 and the King of Slam, 7 Noodles, 8 Rubber end, 9 Spanish article, 10 Cut off, 11 Wooden pegs, 12 Geological cycles, 13 Ms. Moore, 20 Symbol of Judaism, 21 Lawn tool, 25 Irik, 27 Discharge, 28 Puts away for later, 30 South African, 31 Snake-like, 32 Miss, 33 Smell, suspect trickery, 34 Races, 35 Ebb, 37 Not perm., 40 Horseman, 44 Uno y dos, 46 Passes into, 48 with suits, 50 Music lover's purchases, 52 Collar areas, 53 Steel beams, 54 Otherwise known as, 55 Eye part, 56 Simplest of transports, 57 Confidante, 59 Glen, 60 Once, 62 alone; not to mention.

BOARING TWENTIES

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

Today's Category: FISH

Grid for Boaring Twenties puzzle with words circled: BARRACUDA, SHWALLEYE, AHHHTMINNOW, LNAECFKEQHMB, MKURCLLIPNAO, OKITKOTPEIHT, NCWHSUDPRLIR, SOWUBNHACRMO, EDGIEDWRHAU, GDLEREKCAMHT, YASTURGEONIQ, HHERRINGOSWW

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Boaring Twenties Solution: 1. Barracuda, 2. Cod, 3. Crappie, 4. Flounder, 5. Haddock, 6. Halibut, 7. Herring, 8. Mackarel, 9. Mahi Mahi, 10. Marlin, 11. Minnow, 12. Perch, 13. Salmon, 14. Shark, 15. Sole, 16. Sturgeon, 17. Trout, 18. Tuna, 19. Turbot, 20. Walleye

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

Horoscope text for Aries, Taurus, Gemini, Cancer, Leo, Virgo, Libra, Scorpio, Sagittarius, Capricorn, Aquarius, Pisces. Includes: ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You manage to successfully juggle socializing and work this week. As a result, an exciting opportunity comes your way. Devote some time over the weekend to going over finances. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Getting out and about with family members is favored this week. Romance is also in the stars for singles. Later, get cracking on a home decorating project. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Before you can enjoy the holiday, you'll need to clear up lingering work matters. On that special day, watch your use of credit. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Early in the week, you're busy getting the house ready for the holiday. Once that's done, relax and enjoy. A minor crisis at work is averted thanks to your quick thinking. LEO (July 23 to August 22) You're center stage for the holiday. However, pay attention to the needs of family members. They need their share of the limelight as well. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) The beginning of the week is favored for reaching agreements and signing contracts. Once this is attended to, you focus on the holiday. Despite a bit of friction, everything goes well. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You put undue stress on yourself by expecting things to be perfect. If you relax more, you'll be able to enjoy that special day. Go for ease and convenience - not perfection! SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're just not up for a lot of company this week. Force yourself. The family is counting on you. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) A family member comes through on a promise made some time ago. Later in the week, everyone has a special holiday idea. As a result, you have more fun than you'd anticipated. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) A friend proves invaluable to you on a business deal. Be sure, though, you both understand all the terms you've agreed to. This way, you avoid misunderstandings at a future date. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll find yourself hosting the holiday meal this year. Go all out. This isn't the time to be frugal. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Give a loved one some space. You've been a bit overbearing. Once you do, you'll find your holiday most enjoyable.



# Enjoy giving during the holidays

It won't be very often that you'll see shopping tips flow from my pen. But Christmas is coming and many of you are determined to spend some cash to show your love, so here are a few ideas on ways to do this to celebrate the real reason for the season:

Consider giving a Bible or devotional book. Study Bibles come in all sorts of shapes and flavors. Instead of worrying about getting the exact match for your loved one, ask a clerk at a good Christian bookstore (such as Cokesbury in San Antonio or Lifeway). You'll spend from \$10 to \$20. A Bible cover makes a great accessory along with some notepaper and a pen.

Can't make the trip to San Antonio? Ask a neighbor with the Internet to help you shop at [www.cokesbury.com](http://www.cokesbury.com) or [www.lifeway.com](http://www.lifeway.com).

How about using the Gideons' memorial program to give Bibles to the world at large?

Maybe you've enjoyed a Gideon Bible at a motel, in a hospital or received one when you entered the armed forces.

You can grab a Gideons Memorial card in the back of several local churches or go to their web site at [www.gideons.org](http://www.gideons.org). The cost: whatever you want to

give. Why not make a donation to the St. John's Missionary Baptist Food Pantry in a friend's name?

This local institution feeds almost 500 people a week in Kinney County. All the food is donated or purchased through the USDA commodities scheme.

You can give cash or goods in kind. The cost: whatever you like.

Rev. Bill Adams will give you a thank-you card acknowledging your donation (or send it to the person in whose name you're making the gift). The cost: what ever you want to give.

The food pantry is located behind Pico. You can call Rev. Adams at 563-3550 or drop a check to P.O. Box 1647.

Remember, when your family gets hungry, the food pantry will feed you. Why not support this local outreach?

One of my favorite charities is Methodist Children's Home in Waco. They provide a temporary home to dozens of children who need shelter due to family situations, ranging from being abused to being orphaned.

Send them a gift in a loved one's name and you'll get a thank-you card and (if you wish) the Sunshine newsletter.



First United Methodist Church

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Find them on the net at [www.methodistchildrenshome.org](http://www.methodistchildrenshome.org) or dial (800) 853-1272.

For that favorite pastor or church worker in your life, how about a membership to the Fellowship of Merry Christians?

The cost is \$24 per year and guarantees some extra smiles for your pastoral staff — I should know, I'm a member! Try [www.joyfulnoiseletter.com](http://www.joyfulnoiseletter.com) or dial (800) 877-2747. They take major credit cards, too.

Admittedly, for children, there aren't a lot of alternatives. Kids need to see something physical many times so they don't feel neglected, especially when they start bragging to each other! So here's where you can really make a BIG difference.

Grab a pen and write a check to Gateway Ministries, the outfit that is sponsoring this year's Community Christmas Celebration.

Rev. Charolette Corey is buying toys for kids in Kinney

County, and that takes a lot of money. Any amount you can give will go a long way to make sure every child has some sort of physical reminder of the greatest gift of all.

You can find envelopes at most local businesses or call Charolette at 563-2121.

Speaking of kids, you might consider turning off the television during the holidays and spending the time with your own children.

Haven't got any children? Look around a bit — our town is full of kids who would love to spend a little time with an adult who will listen to them and value their opinions.

Reading to children is a special gift you can give any time of the year. Brackett ISD actively solicits volunteers all year — just fill out a background check form and you're all set to help out in the schools!

At First Methodist Church, we're still amazed at the first and most important gift of Christmas, Jesus the Christ.

Come join us for worship this Sunday morning at 10:45 and you'll hear recording artists David Murray and Chuck Swigart give a fantastic program of Christmas music to welcome us into the Advent season!

# Holy or holey faith?

Swiss cheese may be good for sandwiches, but it is not good as a shield. If your "shield of faith" (Ephesians 6:16) looks like Swiss cheese, something is sorely wrong.

When you wear and use God's armor, the devil is defeated. His fiery darts cannot penetrate to reach their deadly marks. But if you have allowed holes to form in that armor, by lack of using faith and allowing the spirit of fear to eat away that shield, the lies and tricks of the devil can prove to be deadly.

God gives to every man a measure of faith. (Romans 12:3) God expects us to use it to the best of our ability, not to get puffed up about it, but to use it to glorify Him in using the spiritual gifts that he gives us.

By using the measure of faith that he gives us, we use faith, "the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1) and doing so make manifest "the things which are not, to bring to nothing those that are, that no flesh glory in His presence." (1 Corinthians 1:28-29)

It is all God. It is His ar-



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

mor. It is the measure of faith he gives us. It is His anointing through Jesus Christ.

We can only boast in him and not of ourselves. But, because we have bragging rights in our God, the only true God, we can have the confidence to stand against the evil one and to resist the devil so that he will flee. (James 4:7)

It is through God and only God (God the Father, God the son — Jesus Christ, and God the Holy Ghost), that we have whole faith, holy faith, and not "holey" faith.

Don't give that mouse of devil and opportunity to eat away any of what the Lord has given you. Remember, "God hath not given you the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (2 Timothy 1:7)

Thanks be to God for his wonderful love! Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

# What profession would God choose today?

Such a variety of possibilities exist today, would the God of our life experience as much difficulty and soul searching as so many of our young people living today in these United States go through?

Would he eventually choose one "major," but subsequently decide to change course to another, and then yet another? And then, which of the thousands available would God decide finally to pursue?

"God's Letter" to us, a description some like to use to identify The Bible, gives us some indications.



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

No. 1: According to the very first part of our Old Testament, God began traveling the route of life with those "God created ... in his image," which gesture continues to influence our existence even yet today. (The following references come to us from the New Revised Standard

Version) An imaginative but charming account from Genesis 3:8-9: "God was 'walking in the garden,' Adam and Eve 'hid themselves from the presence of the Lord,' but the Lord God called to the man and said to him, 'Where are you?'"

No. 2: And then we can read in more than a few other places in God's letter to us human beings such promises as this one, the first of many such: A message came from above for Isaac (Genesis 26:24): "Do not be afraid, for I am with you and will bless you." And another message

to young Jeremiah (1:8): "Do not be afraid of them, for I am with you to deliver you."

Let us forget, the third Gospel, that of Luke, records at least 10 events in which Jesus of Nazareth healed various people of a variety of physical defects and ailments.

It would seem then that, unless our God were to choose to follow modern trends seeking "The American Dream" of a constant betterment in living standards, he might still be inclined to enter whatever profession with an attitude of "I'm here for you and not for me."

# Give thanks to the Lord

"O Lord, truly I am thy servant; I am thy servant, and the son of thine handmaid. Thou hast loosed my bonds. I will offer to thee the sacrifice of Thanksgiving, and will call upon the name of the Lord.

"I will pay my vows unto the Lord now in the presence of all his people. In the courts of the Lord's house, in the midst of thee, O Jerusalem. Praise ye the Lord. O Praise the Lord, all ye people: praise him, all ye people. "For his merciful kindness is



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

great toward us: and the truth of the Lord endureth forever. Praise ye the Lord. O give thanks unto the Lord; for he is good: because his mercy endureth forever." (Psalm 116) Praise God!

# The path of happiness is the through the words of wise

"Hi Beth! Whatcha up to?" Dori asked.

"You don't really want to know," Beth replied. "Right now I'm very upset and you don't want to hear it."

"Hey, we're friends," Dori replied. "What's happened?"

"I went for a conference with Donnie's teacher and I don't like her attitude," Beth said.

"What about her attitude?" Dori queried.

"She's trying to tell me how to raise my kids. What does she know?" Beth stammered.

"Well, maybe she's just trying to be helpful," Dori said.

"Whose side are you on Dori?" Beth demanded. "Look, I know Donnie's having some

problems. But Jack and I have our own ways of dealing with it. We don't need any outside advice."

She paused, then said, "Especially from Donnie's teacher who's single and has no children of her own. What can she know about raising kids?"

"Beth," Dori said seriously, "don't let yourself be so sensitive. Sometimes it's wise to listen to someone outside the family."

"But we don't need her advice," Beth fumed.

"Calm down Beth," Dori said. "Miss Mata has a good education and she's had a lot of year's experience with kids Donnie's age."



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

"Don't be so sensitive and listen to what she's got to say. After all, she has got Donnie's best interests at heart."

Beth was quiet, but looked searchingly in Dori's eyes. "You're right," she finally said. "I'm looking at Donnie's problems through my own failures."

Again she was reflective: "And I guess I'm not really a

failure, I just don't know how to handle my son at times."

"Beth," Dori said, "long ago a very wise man said that the path to happiness is through the words of the wise (Proverbs 10:17), but poverty and shame come to the fool who disregards good advice (13:18).

"Miss Mata wants to help you and Donnie. The wise man also said to listen to good counsel and receive instruction that you may become wise in handling your son (19:20)."

**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.

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& 10:30 Worship  
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**God Created the Church to be a Family for ALL His Children.**

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Worship at 10:45 a.m.

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Worship Service - 11 a.m.  
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.  
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**Pastor Darin Koenig**

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11:00 am Worship Service  
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**Pastor: Ned Sitzes**

Frontier Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann & El Paso

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

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<p><b>2003 F-150 S/C</b> <b>\$16,995 or \$245/mo</b></p>	<p><b>2003 FORD ESCAPE</b> <b>\$17,995 or \$259/mo</b></p>	<p><b>2004 FORD F-350 Crew Cab</b> <b>\$24,995 or \$395/mo</b></p>																																
 <table border="1"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$38580</td></tr> <tr><td>REBATE</td><td>\$4500</td></tr> <tr><td>DRFLM DISC</td><td>\$4035</td></tr> <tr><td>YOU SAVE</td><td>\$8585</td></tr> </table> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 5.4L V-8</li> <li>• Air Conditioning</li> <li>• Dual AC</li> <li>• AM/FM/Cass/CD</li> <li>• Power Package</li> </ul> <p>*\$2,000 Down + TT&amp;L, 72 Months @ 0% APR W.A.C.</p>	MSRP	\$38580	REBATE	\$4500	DRFLM DISC	\$4035	YOU SAVE	\$8585	 <table border="1"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$25450</td></tr> <tr><td>DRFLM DISC</td><td>\$3051</td></tr> <tr><td>SALE PRICE</td><td>\$22399</td></tr> </table> <p>*38 pmts of \$289. Residual \$13,743, \$0 Down + TT&amp;L, 4% APR W.A.C. 10,500 mi/yr. Sale price. \$22,395</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 4.6L V-8</li> <li>• Auto</li> <li>• Air Conditioning</li> <li>• Fog Lamps</li> <li>• AM/FM/CD</li> <li>• Alloy Wheels</li> </ul>	MSRP	\$25450	DRFLM DISC	\$3051	SALE PRICE	\$22399	 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• 3.9L DOHC V-8</li> <li>• Automatic</li> <li>• Leather</li> <li>• 17" Chrome Wheels</li> <li>• Heated Seats</li> <li>• Dual Tops</li> </ul> <table border="1"> <tr><td>MSRP</td><td>\$41165</td></tr> <tr><td>DRFLM DISC</td><td>\$5170</td></tr> <tr><td>YOU SAVE</td><td>\$5170</td></tr> </table>	MSRP	\$41165	DRFLM DISC	\$5170	YOU SAVE	\$5170												
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<p><b>2003 FORD EXCURSION XLT</b> <b>\$29,995 or \$499/mo</b></p>	<p><b>2004 F-150 S/C</b> Current Truck Owners** <b>\$0/dn \$289 mo \$0 dn/\$259 mo</b></p>	<p><b>2003 Ranger S/C XLT</b> <b>\$13,995 or \$199/mo</b></p>																																

\*0% in lieu of rebate, terms varies by model. \*\*On select new vehicles. \*Art for illustration purposes only. \*\*\*Must own a 97 or newer truck.

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