

# The Brackett News

**Rattlesnake Warning!**  
See Below

17th year, No. 2

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## County, City join forces to sponsor Spring Festival

The Kinney County Commissioners Court agreed to join forces with the City of Brackettville to sponsor a Spring Festival. A tentative date is set for Saturday, April 23.

The cosponsorship will allow both entities to utilize each other's services leading to the success of the event.

City of Brackettville City Secretary Bonnie Mayes spoke to the commissioners court Monday during the regular meeting.

Mayes noted that her networking has ties to about 179 possible vendors for an arts and crafts show. She also suggested other events that would draw in people to what-could-be-an-annual event.

"We're just trying to do something for the community," Mayes said. "Something that would bring the community closer together and work together rather than being harsh in all aspects."

Of those 170 vendors, Mayes

is hoping to recruit about 50 for the event.

With the county coming on board, the use of the civic center is expected, pending legal clearance from the Kinney County Attorney Tully Shahan, according to Kinney County Judge Herb Senne.

Kinney County Precinct 2 Commissioner Joe Montalvo asked if the costs of the utilities would be shared between the county and city, Mayes answered yes.

Then the group began tossing ideas around. Talk of a volleyball tournament, car show and even resurrecting the Tortilla Toss.

Mayes noted that the Spring Festival would become an annual event.

"We are looking at something that would bring us all together. I don't know a lot of people here," Mayes said. "I would have fun."

The commissioners then

*'We're just trying to do something for the community. To bring the community together.'*

- Bonnie Mayes, City Secretary

unanimously voted to join in on the Spring Festival.

The court also established the Vondy Award of Historical Merit in honor of Agnes Vondy, who recently celebrated her 97th birthday.

Vondy is a historical figure in Kinney County and the commissioners court proclaimed Feb. 8 as Agnes Vondy Day, in her honor.

The new award set up by the court will honor those who uphold the ideals of history.

The first award was presented to Vondy herself at a birthday party for her last week.

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (KCGCD) granted 22 permits to 15 applicants. The permitted amount of groundwater totaled 17,619.61 acre feet. *Note: all amounts are in acre feet.*

John Boershig was granted two permits for a total of 913.89 acre feet. Boershig originally requested 1,430 cumulatively for the two permits. Steve Walthour, consultant to the KCGCD and acting district manager during the hearing process, initially recommended 514 acre feet for Boershig's permits. After the permit hearing Walthour's final recommendation was 913.89 acre feet.

Toledo Boulevard requested 25,861 for one permit. Walthour initially recommended 15,511.38. His final recommendation was 15,097.75. The KCGCD board granted Boulevard 6,651.

Cougar Strategic Partners (CSP) where granted 2 permits totaling 120.72. CSP requested 520 in the original permit application. Walthour's first and final recommendations were 231.51 and 120.72 respectively.

Walthour first recommended 2,409.53 on Zack and Kayla Davis' permit. The Davis' had requested 2,559. The final recommendation was 1,726.54. The Davis' where granted 593 from the KCGCD.

Dinero Land & Cattle Co. requested 3,200 from the district. Walthour initially recommended 454 and subsequently recommended 1,190. The board granted a permit for 1,190.

Willie Jo Dooley was granted a permit for 1,220. Dooley had requested 5,615. Walthour had recommended the board give Dooley 2,123.

### KCGCD Permits Awarded Jan. 28th

Permittee	Amount Granted	Amount Recommended	
John Boershig	913.89	913.89	100%
Toledo Boulevard	6,651.00	15,097.75	44.05%
Cougar Strategic Partners (CSP)	120.72	120.72	100%
Zack and Kayla Davis	593.00	1,726.54	34.35%
Dinero Land & Cattle Co.	1,190.00	1,190.00	100%
Willie Jo Dooley	1,220.00	2,123.00	57.47%
4S Ranch	800.00	1,513.00	52.88%
OPM/Cougar Ranch Ltd.	50.00	66.81	74.84%
Orville Frerich	110.00	244.00	45.08%
Hayden and Doris Haby	2,588.00	7,865.00	32.91%
McDaniel Farms Inc.	1,308.00	3,112.00	42.03%
OPM Holdings, Ltd.	53.37	53.37	100%
Prototype Machine Co./The Randolph Company,	1,095.00	516.49	212.01%
Tully Shahan, Jamie Rains and Tulisha Wardlaw	562.26	595.27	94.46%
Virginia Shahan	364.37	364.37	100%

4S Ranch requested 2,650. Walthour recommended 1814.63 and then 1,513. The board granted 4S Ranch a permit for 800.

OPM/Cougar Ranch Ltd. where granted a permit for 50, or approximately 25 percent of their requested amount of 194. Walthour had proposed 136.66 initially and 66.81 after the hearing.

Orville Frerich received a permit for 110. Frerich had requested 622. Walthour's final recommendation was 244.

Hayden and Doris Haby requested 12,307 for 2 permits. Walthour proposed 6,724.22. His final recommendation was 7,865. The Haby's where granted permits totaling 2,588.

McDaniel Farms Inc. applied for 4,404. The district granted them a permit for 1,308. Walthour's final recommendation was 3,112.

OPM Holdings, Ltd. were granted a permit for 53.37. They had requested 64. Walthour's final recommenda-

tion was 53.37.

Prototype Machine Co./The Randolph Company, requested 7,160. The amount requested included spring flow into Pinto Creek. Walthour proposed

516.49. The district granted a permit in the amount of 1,095. This permit was granted to the family of board member Christopher Ring. Attorney Tim Brown who represented the permittee during the hearing was subsequently hired by the KCGCD board to represent the district on matters concerning spring flow.

Tully Shahan, Jamie Rains, and Tulisha Wardlaw where awarded 2 permits for 562.26. The application requested 762.58. Walthour recommended 595.273.

Virginia Shahan received 364.37 for 2 permits. Walthour recommended 373.24, initially. His final recommendation was 364.37.

The permits of Earl Kelley, Hollis London, and Pat Rose where continued to a later date.

## The lures of gangs and violence; second session Monday at 6:30

The second session of the Child Lures Prevention series is next Monday evening Feb. 21 from 6:30 to 8 p.m. in the BISD new cafeteria.

Chief Ray Romo of the Uvalde Police Department will talk on The Lures of Gangs, Hate and Violence.

Chief Romo grew up in Uvalde and has worked for the police department for more than twenty years. He worked his way up through the ranks and was appointed Interim Chief last year. He has a bachelor's degree in social science and a master's degree in counseling from Sul Ross State University.

He also completed a graduate studies program in Youth Ministry from the Center for

Ministry Development. Chief Romo has been married to pharmacy technician Dana Romo for 23 years.

They have two children: Candace, a doctoral student at the University of Texas Medical Branch-Galveston and Joseph, attending elementary school in Uvalde.

The series will continue on Feb. 28 when the topic will be The Lures of Internet Predators and Violent Computer Software.

The final session on March 7 will feature the topic, The Lures of Sexual Exploitation.

Each night there will be a drawing for door prizes and refreshments will be furnished. Families are welcome to bring children and child care will be

available.

Children old enough to benefit from the sessions are encouraged to attend with their parents.

All workshops are free of charge and each attendee will receive a parent book to keep. Volunteers will be available to translate into Spanish and the parent books will be available in Spanish.

There will be a grand prize drawing on the evening of March 7 for those who have attended all four sessions.

These workshops are for the whole community and all adults and young people are invited and welcome to attend.

For more information call Dr. Don Smith at 563-2285 or Rev. Nathan Lafrenz at 563-7371.

## Kinney County Little League meeting is Feb. 24.

It is that time of year for Little League baseball in Kinney County.

Basketball will be wrapping up and we will be heading outside to play ball.

There will be a meeting next week of the current directors and anyone interested in serving on the board.

It is important that anyone interested in helping out with the Little League program attend this meeting. This will be the second called meeting. At the first meeting, held in January, there

was no interest as far as attendance.

This will be the last attempt to organize baseball in Kinney County. If the interest to continue Little League baseball in Kinney County is not shown at this next meeting then there will be no program in Kinney County.

This is a great responsibility to serve and help with the program for the youth of this community.

The more people that show an interest the easier it is on all

supporters. Call if you are unable to attend this important meeting.

It would be a terrible thing if Little League baseball ceased to exist due to lack of support.

The meeting is scheduled for Thursday, Feb. 24 at 6 p.m. at the EMS building.

Again, it is very important that you call if you are interested in filling an open position on the board and can not attend.

For more information call Roy 830-968-7398 or Jenifer 830-968-7397.

## Students, you could win a trip to Washington, D.C.

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. is proud to offer students, ages 14-18, whose parents or legal guardians are members of the Cooperative, the chance to vie for a trip to Washington, D.C. in the Government-In-Action Youth Tour Contest this summer.

Being a member of the Co-op means that the parent/guardian has an account with RGEC, and receives their electric power from the Co-op.

To enter, eligible students are asked to complete the required entry forms and submit a 500-700 word essay on the topic "Developing Leaders For Rural America."

The deadline for submitting entries is April 15, 2005.

Entry Forms and rules packets have been distributed to school districts in the area, and are available at any Rio Grande Electric Co-op office and on the website, www.riogrande.coop.

### BRIEFS

#### Fort Clark Ladies Golf results in wins

We had our monthly meeting before playing golf. Game of the day was low net on even holes. Jackie Marrs took 1st place while Marian Weber placed 2nd, Ann Malin placed 3rd and Sheri White placed 4th.

#### 1st Baptist Church's special speaker

Sunday morning, February 20, at the First Baptist Church in Brackettville, Ben Freeman will be guest speaker at 11:00 a.m. He has a very unique personal story, as well as, having helped with ground zero after the 9-11 attack. Everyone is invited to come.

#### Enjoy 'Catfish' tonight, Friday

The Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts will present the annual Dinner Theatre tonight and Friday, Feb. 18 at Post Theatre.

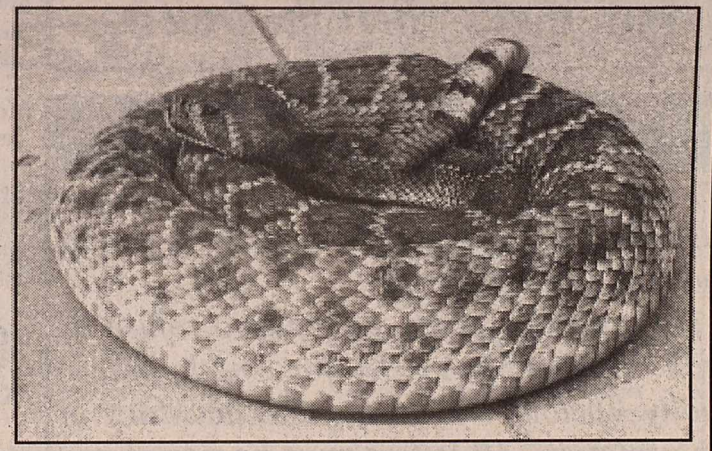
Doors open at 6 p.m. with BYOB cocktails, dinner will begin at 7 p.m. and the play begins at 8 p.m.

This year's presentation will be "Catfish Moon" by Larry Sartin performed by the Upstagers of Del Rio, under the direction of Fred Brockwell.

Limited seating is still available for Friday. Tickets must be purchased in advance by calling 563-9229 or 563-3070.

### EARLY WARNING

Rattlesnakes are coming out of hibernation in the area. Local SBC employee Albert Caballero sends out a warning to everyone to be careful. Early spring-like temperatures are drawing out the rattlesnakes. This 5' 7" rattler was killed by Caballero at Ranch Road 334, towards Camp Wood, Texas.



## Fire department issues tabled by Brackett council

The Brackettville City Council met Tuesday. On the agenda was the items dealing with the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department that included possible action prescribing the powers and duties of the fire department and its officers; possible action of hiring an administrator to oversee the department and its personnel; to discuss action on closing the existing bank account in the name of the Brackettville Vol. Fire Department at the Bank and Trust and possible action on Volunteer Fire Fighter's operating city equipment while under the influence or the drinking of alcohol on city property.

The council took no action on these agenda items. Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca Garza made the motion to table these items with alderman Matt Bland making the second.

It passed unanimously. However, City of Brackettville Mayor Joe N. Garza Jr., noted

that a meeting between the city and the volunteer fire department would be taking place within two weeks.

Several citizens came to the defense of the volunteer fire department during the citizen's comments portion of the meeting. Speakers included former city council member Mary V. Flores who thanked the department for their work and volunteering.

Also speaking were Randy Castilla who has been with the department for more than a decade. Castilla noted that with all the other issues including the pot holes, the swimming pool, brush area and recycling tires. "Why is the fire department such an important matter to you. What brought all this on?" he asked.

"I think you all have bigger issues," Castilla said.

Juan Hernandez also spoke saying he is very impressed with the work they do with the

limited resources they have. He also suggested the city have a back-up plan in place before the possible disbanding of the volunteer fire department.

Rosemary Slubar spoke as well. Slubar worked for the EMS service for 25 years as a volunteer. She defended the volunteer fire department, noting that their work is not easy - especially when working for free. "They are going into buildings that are on fire without the proper equipment. This is bad," she said. "Volunteers work a little bit different from someone you are paying a salary to."

Local EMS director Steve Burch added that when he spoke with various members that the volunteers still plan to respond to calls when needed. "They are very dedicated persons," he said. "I trust them to be there when I need them."

There was no action taken on the fire department during Tuesday's council meeting.

## 'Joe Texas' on stage in Uvalde Feb. 26.

Uvalde Arts Council, Inc., presents Robert Joe Vandygriff in a concert performance Saturday, Feb. 26 at 7:30 p.m.

Vandygriff was nominated as one of the Top Western Humorists/storytellers by the Academy of Western Artists in 2003. R.J. Vandygriff portrays "Joe Texas" and sets out to dispel the ru-

mor "the cowboy is a dying breed" through stories, poems and songs.

The Dallas Morning News said "R.J. is one part Gene Autry, one part Will Rogers ... R.J.'s descriptions of the land and sky and the cowboy's work are so vivid, you experience

things first hand..." He has appeared with folks like Garth Brooks, The Judds and George Jones. Tickets to the performance are on sale for \$10. The performances will be held at Janey Slaughter Briscoe Grand Opera House. For more information call the box office at 830.278.4184.

### INSIDE

**Bonilla**  
This weekend we will mark the birthday of "The Father of our Nation:" George Washington. President Washington is still hailed today as one of America's greatest leaders. *Opinion/Page 2*

**Vada Baldree**  
I have to admit that bananas are not my favorite fruit but do eat them on occasions. *Community/Page 4*

**Donald Smith**  
I hope you were blessed by the story of Josie and Rolando.

*Religion/Page 6*

### INDEX

Classifieds	7
Community	4
Crime	3
Lifestyle	3
Crossword	5
Opinion	2
Service Directory	5
Sports	4
Religion	6



LETTER TO THE EDITOR

# Brackettville is the best place to live

Yes Ma'am, Don't take it for granted.

Brackettville is the best place to live. People here speak and act Texas friendly - different from even other parts of Texas.

Strangers, even the police, say hello and wave as you drive by.

Friends give real hello hugs.

We moved to Arizona last March. There, people did not talk to strangers or give hugs. They averted their eyes and kept their heads down.

I tried to initiate conversations. Mostly, people just walked by. I walked in front of one elderly lady and said, "Good Morning." She froze in her tracks, clutched her purse even tighter and glanced up at me with terrified eyes before she quickly changed her path and hurried away.

She was afraid! We moved back here last fall. I think people here are better because children are taught to respect their elders, themselves, and their peers, both

at home and at school.

They are brought up saying "Sir" or "Ma'am" at the beginning or end of everything they utter, whether they are speaking to someone younger or older than them.

When we first moved here, a very elderly man addressed me as "Ma'am. As we became friends, I asked him to call me by my first name. He said he couldn't do it because that was not the way he "was raised, Ma'am."

By contrast, I arrived at the door of a store in another state, just a second ahead of a young man in his twenties. I stepped back to allow him to open the door for me, as any Brackettville man would do. He walked through the door and let it slam in my face.

Wherever you young people go, take our values with you. Maybe someday, a little old lady in Meza, Ariz. will smile and say hello back.

Pat Moffatt



**Big Mama Sez!**

*Don't be afraid to go out on a limb, that's where the fruit is.*

## LETTERS POLICY

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words.

The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity.

The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail.

Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

# The Brackett News

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# Remembering an American patriot



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

This weekend we will mark the birthday of "The Father of our Nation." George Washington. President Washington is still hailed today as one of America's greatest leaders. This holiday pays great tribute to a great American patriot.

George Washington was born on Feb. 22, 1732 to a Virginia farming family.

His upbringing focused on learning the morals, manners, and body of knowledge requisite for an 18th century Virginia gentleman.

He pursued two intertwined interests: military arts and western expansion.

Many of his early lessons followed him through his years of service and leadership.

Washington demonstrated his tremendous leadership qualities long before becoming the first President of the United States.

During our nation's Revolutionary War, Washington proved himself to be a great general as he led our troops in the war for independence from Britain. As Commander-in-Chief of the

Army, Washington defeated the British, and America soon became its own free nation.

Shortly after the war, he became the first President of the United States of America.

There were several men that could have been chosen for this esteemed position.

Thomas Jefferson, Benjamin Franklin and John Adams were all involved in the political landscape of our nation.

But it was George Washington who was unanimously chosen by his contemporaries to serve as our first president.

This is a true measure of greatness. These men looked first to Washington, knowing his leadership skills and his potential to make our nation great.

Washington served as presi-

dent from 1789 to 1796.

In eight short years, Washington helped to establish our nation's Constitution and defined the president's role in the new country. It is George Washington we have to thank for the notion of creating our nation as a democracy. He had the foresight to step down after his second term, hoping to bring America one step further from the monarchy rule of Britain. This was an instrumental move, which taught our nation the importance of elections and democracy. In a letter to James Madison, Washington wrote, "As the first of everything, in our situation will serve to establish a Precedent."

It is devoutly wished on my part, that these precedents be fixed on true principles." The model and examples that George Washington established are still respected today.

Put simply: he created the foundation upon which America was built.

Citizens of our new nation began celebrating George

Washington's birthday long before his death.

The first public celebration of Washington's birthday was held in 1781 during the American Revolution. Americans were eager to pay respect to the leader who encouraged a strong democracy as the foundation of their new nation.

Troops marched through the streets and the day was made an official holiday.

Very few men in history have received this type of honor during their lifetime.

Let's take this time to honor the leadership that created America. Washington's birthday is commonly celebrated today as President's Day.

This is a day designated to honor the contributions of the many great presidents who have shaped this great nation. Please use this holiday as more than a chance to shop for "President's Day Sales" events, and teach your children about the first American patriot, the father of our country, President George Washington.

# The national budget allows us to set priorities



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

Our country, like most households, operates on a budget which seeks to balance our spending with our income.

Budgets are a time for serious discussions weighing needs and wants with the available resources.

In Congress it is a difficult process which can take a great deal of time.

The tone of the budget debate is usually set by the President's recommendations for spending.

The two separate houses of Congress then work on their versions of a budget, which becomes the blueprint for the appropriations process.

I was encouraged by President Bush's overall proposal of a \$2.7 trillion budget because the announcement means we will have a serious effort to reduce our budget deficit after several years of higher spending to fight the war on terrorism.

As a fiscal conservative, I greeted increased expenditures over the recent past as painful necessities to protect the American people.

Several years ago, our national economy was buffeted by several extraordinary events.

The economy entered a recession after the internet bubble burst and a wave of corporate scandals rocked the markets.

In the midst of this adjust-

ment, the 9-11 attacks took place, killing thousands and paralyzing our economy. Since that time, we have gone to war in Iraq and Afghanistan to upend terror-sponsoring regimes and free millions of people. While we have been victorious, the effort has been, and will remain, expensive. But for a safer and more secure homeland, that cost is a relative bargain.

As our nation dealt with these challenges, Congress and President Bush passed bipartisan tax relief which jump-started the economy and led to strong job creation and lower unemployment.

This year, with our economy on the upswing, and after initial expenses to bolster homeland security, we are in the best position yet to begin reducing the deficit.

President Bush's budget envisions increasing defense spending by 4.8 percent.

Spending on the Department of Homeland Security would rise by 7 percent.

The proposed budget would scale back increases of discretionary programs to 2.1 percent, which is less than the rate of inflation.

The budget for the 2006 fiscal year beginning in October plans to reduce the budget deficit by 8.6 percent in the first year alone, excluding costs involved

in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Economists say the most important measure of spending is the ratio of debt to the size of a nation's economy, or Gross Domestic Product (GDP).

The President's budget projects a budget deficit amounting to 3 percent of GDP for 2006, down from 3.5 percent this year.

If we follow this roadmap, we can cut the budget deficit by half to 1.5 percent of GDP by 2009, according to White House budget officials.

The President's budget marks a desire to adopt a more conservative fiscal philosophy on government spending.

It is a good starting point and I share his commitment to discipline.

However, it is Congress which has the ultimate responsibility under the Constitution to set spending levels and allocate resources. Within the framework of a conservative budget, I will fight to increase some programs critical to Texas which have been shortchanged in the President's budget, and

will work to find savings in other areas.

The state and Criminal Alien Assistance program, which reimburses states for the costs involved with illegal aliens, is one example of a program which appears underfunded. NASA's traditional science programs and Amtrak are others.

We must assure our farmers all have the help necessary to keep making healthy food for our country and for export. Holding the overall line on expenditures will be often difficult, but we know we have an ally in the White House as we rein in spending.

In times of tighter budgets, as you may guess, it is sometimes hard to secure funding for projects in our home states.

The level of scrutiny always increases when funding is more restricted, but I remain optimistic.

I have always approached budgeting as a serious matter, and have presented my colleagues with the best evidence available that particular projects are good, not only for Texas, but for our nation.

If I continue using that yardstick, I believe we will gain what is right for the Lone Star State and stick to conservative fiscal principles which will make our nation and economy stronger in the long run.

# Should divorce be this easy?

By Nathan Tabor  
Contributing Writer

The debate over gay marriage and the entire homosexual agenda was a point of great contention in the 2004 election cycle, as voters in 13 states passed local marriage-protection amendments. Just this past month, the U.S. Senate reintroduced the Marriage Protection Amendment, which would use the Constitution to define and protect traditional marriage as

being the union of one man and one woman.

Of course the radical gay rights activists are livid about this, but they need to face the facts.

As decadent as modern America has become, the average citizen still doesn't embrace the idea of unelected judicial tyrants tampering with the sanctity of marriage by sanctioning same-sex nuptials.

But frankly, the real threat to traditional marriage in America does not lie with the future social change agenda of the homosexuals. This column isn't about gay marriage, or even about homosexuals. This is about the demise of traditional marriage - and that occurred more than three decades ago with the advent of "No-Fault Divorce."

When the no-fault doctrine was established as law in the 1970s, the idea of marriage as a permanent bond became less important. "Til death do us part" became passé, and divorce rates quickly doubled nationwide.

According to the National Center on Health Statistics, 43 percent of all first marriages now end in divorce within 15 years. Second and later marriages fall apart at an even higher rate. Overall, more than 50 percent of all marriages break up in divorce courts. No-fault divorce is a big problem because there is no longer anything to keep a spouse from simply walking out on a marriage.

Children suffer the most. "Only acts of war and the events of natural disasters are more harmful to a child's psyche than the divorce process," states the Newsletter of the American Academy of Matrimonial Law-

yers. Bitter child custody fights are often part of the cost of no-fault divorce.

What's more, the popular "amicable divorce" myth, where former spouses remain good friends, has been exposed as a deceitful lie. Fully two-thirds of all divorced couples still fester with bitterness toward one another five years later. Sadly, nobody wins.

Honest people know that no-fault divorce has been an unmitigated failure, as Dr. Diane Medved candidly admits in her book, *The Case Against Divorce*:

"I have to start with a confession: This isn't the book I set out to write... For example, I started this project believing that people who suffer over an extended period in unhappy marriages ought to get out... I thought that striking down taboos about divorce was another part of the ongoing enlightenment of the women's, civil rights, and human potential movements of the last twenty-five years... To my utter befuddlement, the extensive research I conducted for this book brought me to one inescapable and irrefutable conclusion: I had been wrong."

Realistically, I know that there are sometimes legitimate reasons for divorce, and not every marriage can or should be saved. But every marriage ceremony should reflect a serious commitment, not just a passing fancy.

We can stop the soaring divorce rate in America by discarding the failed no-fault divorce model and toughening the laws on getting a divorce.

Laws proposed in many states say that when a couple has children under 18, they can only get a no-fault divorce if they both consent to it. Specific information is available on the website of Americans for Divorce Reform at ([www.divorce-reform.org](http://www.divorce-reform.org)).

By abolishing no-fault divorce, couples and their children will find real security in their marriages, the way most people used to. They will be more willing to invest their efforts in building a family, if they know it won't all be taken away from them against their will by an arbitrary, unavoidable divorce decree. Think about this idea as an option. You have to wait days to purchase a gun.

Why not make couples wait awhile to get a divorce? That will give them a chance to cool down.

Some states already require an extended separation period before a divorce can be finalized, but many don't.

Other bills include proposals to encourage counseling and let couples choose what will be grounds for divorce in their marriage.

One refreshing idea called "Covenant Marriage" has already become law in Louisiana, Arkansas and Arizona. Just think: Holy Matrimony as a solemn, binding covenant, freely entered into by a man and woman who fully intend to spend the rest of their lives together - now isn't that an intriguing notion?

Forget the radical homosexuals. Heterosexuals need to set the example and take the lead in strengthening the foundations of traditional marriage.



# Show emergency workers you care - slow down or move over

Texas Highway Patrol troopers want drivers to show emergency workers they care, not only on Valentines Day but everyday.

Beginning Tuesday, drivers pulled over by DPS troopers for traffic violations will receive a flyer that reminds them to slow down or move over for stopped emergency vehicles that have emergency lights activated.

This reminder packs an added punch because it's the law.

Since the slow-down or move-over law took effect on Sept. 1, 2003, DPS has written 2,304 citations and 14,404 warnings to drivers who have violated the law.

Although DPS has issued several press releases concerning this law, troopers continue to see drivers who do not slow down

or move over for emergency vehicles with lights activated, including police, emergency medical service and fire vehicles.

The slow down/move over law requires drivers nearing stopped emergency vehicles with emergency lights activated to either slow down or change lanes.

Specifically, the law states a driver must either slow down 20

miles per hour below the speed limit or vacate the lane closest to the stopped emergency vehicle that has emergency lights activated if the road has multiple lanes traveling in the same direction.

(If the speed limit is below 25 mph, the driver must slow down to 5 mph.)

Drivers should only move over if they can safely and legally do so; otherwise, they should slow down. "Our Highway Patrol troopers spend a large part of their time working on highways and roads with vehicles speeding past," said DPS Director Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr. "Just the slightest slip of the

wheel can endanger them. This law requires drivers to give them and other emergency vehicles the space they need to perform their duties safely."

A violation is punishable by a maximum fine of \$200.

If the violation results in property damage, the maximum fine increases to \$500.

## Unruh named chapter sweetheart

Preceptor Theta Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met Monday evening, Feb. 7 for their annual Valentine's party. The members and spouses met in the Green Room at the Golf Clubhouse. The meal was catered by Meme's Restaurant. Gil Raymer gave the invocation followed by a welcome by Mylo Unruh, President of the Chapter. Louise Pflughoeft read an article about



Mylo Unruh crowned chapter's 2005 Sweetheart.

the beginning of Valentine's Day. Mylo Unruh was then crowned the Valentine Sweetheart for 2005, by Louise Pflughoeft, last years sweetheart.

Those attending the event were: Luella and Dwite Gilliland, Alicia and Gil Raymer, Louise and Earl Pflughoeft and Mylo and Dale Unruh. The next meeting will be held on March 7 at the home of Mylo Unruh.

## KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**Monday, February 7**  
9:23 p.m., A man reported a fire on Highway 693 and 277 where a gas valve was venting. He was informed the fire was a control burn but a city employee and Deputy Donald Page was dispatched to the scene.

**Tuesday, February 8**  
8:12 a.m., A woman stated she had locked her keys in her vehicle.

10:00 p.m., Juan Manuel Iglesias, 34, of Pleasanton, Texas, was arrested by Trooper Tony Ashley for driving with suspended license. Iglesias was later released.

**Wednesday, February 9**  
2:50 p.m., A Fort Clark Security employee requested a deputy in regards to finding a bag of syringes (some filled). Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched.

3:03 p.m., A woman reported an accident in front of the school with an injured child. EMS and Deputy Fritter were dispatched.

**Thursday, February 10**  
7:40 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent called in reference to a missing juvenile that had been stopped at the intersection of Highway 90 and 3008. Constable Bobby Guidry was dispatched. The probation officer and juvenile's parent had been notified. Constable Guidry was informed to release him to his

uncle.  
7:45 p.m., A woman reported a man had taken cd's from her car and also she could not find her car key. Constable Guidry was advised.

1:55 p.m., A man stated he needed assistance and thinks he ran out of gas. Deputy Ron Ring was advised.

**Friday, February 11**  
9:17 p.m., A man reported a speeding vehicle which dropped an ice chest and a tool box in front of his residence.

9:30 p.m., A woman reported children around the alternative school. Deputy Page was notified.

**Sunday, February 13**  
6:48 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent stated he had 9 illegal aliens in custody who had walkie talkies and a handgun. Advised Deputy Manuel Pena of the situation and he requested to run a check on the handgun. The gun was not being shown as stolen. Deputy Pena was advised.

11:55 a.m., A woman reported the alarm was sounding at a local business. Owner was notified of the situation. Deputy Pena reported the building was secure.

1:56 p.m., A man reported an illegal alien on Highway 131. Border Patrol was notified of the situation.

3:35 p.m., A man reported a break in at a local ranch. Deputy Pena was notified of the situation.

4:51 p.m., A woman reported a cow on Highway 1572. The owner was notified.

5:04 p.m., Ricardo Martinez, 20, of Acuna, Mexico, was arrested by Deputy Pena and Ramon Gutierrez for burglary of habitat. Martinez was still being held when report was made.

5:28 p.m., An anonymous caller reported two illegal aliens crossed in front of him on Highway 277. Border Patrol was notified.

6:00 p.m., May Johny Hernandez, 22, and Juarez Noe Hernandez, 23, both of Cuernavaca, Mexico, was arrested by Deputy Pena and Gutierrez for Criminal Trespass, Class B. May and Juarez Hernandez were still being held when the report was made.

6:01 p.m., Trooper Tony Ashley called to report a reckless driver driving a white Montero on Highway 90, East of Brackettville. Deputy Page was informed.

9:19 p.m., A woman reported a red pickup parked near the entrance of their ranch on Highway 90. Deputy Page was informed and stated the vehicle had been there most of the day.

## Secretary of Labor calls for New Freedom Initiative Nominations

DALLAS - Labor Secretary Elaine L. Chao calls upon non-profits, small businesses, corporations and individuals that have demonstrated exemplary and innovative efforts in advancing the employment and workplace environment of people with disabilities to submit their entries for the 2005 "Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Awards."

"President Bush and I believe that Americans with disabilities, like all Americans, should have the opportunity to work and to live productive lives," said Secretary Chao. "The recipients of the Secretary of Labor's New Freedom Initiative Awards recognize that persons with disabilities bring skills and talents to the

workplace and, when given the opportunity, can contribute substantially to an organization's success." The Award recognizes public-private partnerships and programs that have had a positive impact on the employment of people with disabilities through access to assistive technologies, the use of innovative training, and hiring and retention techniques. It also recognizes organizations, businesses or individuals who develop comprehensive strategies to enhance the ability of Americans with disabilities to enter and advance within the workforce of the 21st Century. Additional information on the award and specific nomination criteria are available in the Feb. 10, 2005 Federal Register or at [www.dol.gov/odep](http://www.dol.gov/odep) under the *New Freedom Initiative* tab. The information is also available by calling the Office of Disability Employment Policy (ODEP), Education and Outreach Section, at (202) 693-7880.

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# Going bananas

I have to admit that bananas are not my favorite fruit but do eat them on occasions. When I do get hungry for one, I want it perfect for how I plan to serve or use it.

Also, Don't like those varieties that have no flavor. Here may be a couple of facts you might find helpful in the future.

Banana Tips: 1. As a banana ripens, the starches turn to sugar thus making the banana softer and sweeter.

2. When using bananas for baking, use firm ones with yellow skin and green tips. During baking they will soften but won't become mushy.

3. For desserts that use raw bananas, choose a firm banana whose skins are completely yellow but no brown.

4. If your recipe calls for mashed bananas, use ripe ones with deep yellow, brown-freckled skins but soft flesh.

5. Carefully watch baking time for desserts baked with bananas. The flavor can become bitter and the texture tough if overbaked. They're at their best when served within several hours of baking.

### Bananas Foster Upside Down Cake

Serves 8. 1 cup packed dark brown sugar, 3/4 cup unsalted butter, cut up, softened, divided, 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon, 2 tbsp. dark rum, or 1/2 tsp. rum extract mixed with 2 tbsp. water, 3 large ripe but firm yellow bananas with green tips, sliced diagonally in 1/4 inch slices, 3/4 cup sugar, 2 large eggs, 1 tsp. vanilla extract, 1 1/2 cups all purpose flour, 3/4 tsp. baking powder, 1/4 tsp. baking soda, \*1/4 tsp. salt, 1/2 cup sour cream.

Place brown sugar, 1/4 cup of the butter and cinnamon in small sauce pan. Heat over medium-low heat until butter is



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

melted and mixture is smooth, stirring occasionally. Stir in rum. Pour mixture into 9x2 inch round cake pan. Arrange banana slices in concentric circles over the brown sugar mixture.

Heat oven to 350 degrees. Place remaining 1/2 cup butter and sugar in large bowl; beat at medium speed 5 minutes or until light and fluffy. Add eggs one at a time, beating well after each addition. Blend in vanilla. In a medium bowl, blend together flour, baking powder, baking soda and salt. Using low speed. Beat in flour mixture in 3 parts alternately with sour cream, beginning and ending with flour mixture. Spoon and gently spread batter over bananas.

Bake 45-55 minutes or until cake is golden brown and passes the toothpick test.

Cool pan on wire rack 15 minutes. Run small knife around edge of cake. Carefully invert cake onto serving plate. Serve warm. Top with whipped cream or vanilla ice cream if desired. \*If using salted butter. Omit additional salt called for.

### Banana Bread Pudding with Maple Sauce

Serves 12. Bread pudding. 3 1/2 cups whole milk, 1/2 cup mashed ripe banana (1 med.), 3/4 cup plus 1 1/2 tbsp sugar: divided, 5 large eggs, 2 tsp. vanilla, 1 (12 oz.) loaf challah, brioche or other rich egg bread, cut into 3/4 inch cubes (about 12 cups), 2 cups sliced ripe but firm bananas (3 to 4 bananas).

Sauce. 1/2 cup pure maple syrup, 1/4 cup unsalted butter,

1/4 cup packed brown sugar. Butter 13X9 glass or ceramic baking dish. In a large bowl, whisk milk, mashed banana, 3/4 cup of the sugar, eggs and vanilla. Blending well. Arrange half of the bread in bottom of baking dish, top with sliced bananas. Pour half of the milk mixture over bananas. Top with remaining bread and pour remaining milk mixture over bread. Let stand 30 minutes to moisten bread.

Meanwhile, heat oven to 325 degrees. Bake pudding 25 minutes. Sprinkle remaining 1 1/2 tbsp. sugar evenly over pudding and bake an additional 20-25 minutes or until edges have started to puff and are golden brown.

The center should move slightly when shaken but not ripple as if liquid. Let stand 20-30 minutes to cool slightly.

Meanwhile, fix sauce. Place all ingredients in small sauce pan. Simmer over medium-low heat 4 to 5 minutes or until sugar has dissolved and sauce has thickened, whisking occasionally. Serve hot sauce over warm pudding.

This pudding is similar to french toast and can be served as a dessert or main dish for brunch.

Be careful not to overbake; if it puffs up too much, the custard will begin to separate and become watery.

Also, I see no reason this recipe could not be halved successfully.

# Tigerettes end season with a victory

By Ricky Creel  
Girls Varsity Head Coach

The Tigerettes basketball season came to an end February 8th, 2005. The Tigerettes finished with an overall record of 13-8, and tied for third in the district with a 3-5 record.

The last game was proven to be a good one for the Tigerettes, as they defeated Medina 46-36. The Tigerettes set the tone of the game in the first period by outscoring Medina 16 to 7. "Our defense was very active, and did not give them second chances on the boards." The Tigerettes out rebounded Medina 48 to 35. Ashley Castillo had 14 rebounds while Courtney Frerich had 12.

Timmeka Simmons chipped in with 9 rebounds. Medina outscored the Tigerettes in the second period 14 to 11, so the first half score was Tigerettes 27 Medina 21.

"I was very proud of the girls this year, even though we did not make the playoffs. I thought we learned a lot about the game and how to play as a team."

The third period was dead even at 8 to 8. The Tigerettes finished the game the way they started it, by winning the first

period, 11 to 7. Senior Courtney Frerich finished with a double-double, 13 points and 12 rebounds. Sophomore Emily Valensuela had 12 points, Junior Timmeka Simmons had a season high, 11 points. Senior Stephanie Bonner and Junior Ashley Castillo both had 3 points. Junior Jessi Crane and Sophomore Kara Yeager finished with 2 points. Junior Dana Bonner played, but did not score. Good luck to you in your spring sport.

# Cubettes dump Center Point

By Rhonda Marquardt  
8th Grade Head Coach

Brackett Cubettes won, 23-15. Their season record stands at 7-7.

Among the Cubettes contributing to the win were Rebecca Mann with 5 points and 6 rebounds.

Bianca Martinez scored 2 and 1 rebound. Bianca Terrazas had 12 points, 1 rebound and 5 steals. Samantha Moore scored 5, 2 rebounds, 3 steals and 2 assists.

Esna Herrerra contributed with 2 rebounds, Summer Allen had 1 rebound, Marianna Salmon had 1 rebound and 1 steal.

Jessie Jones had 1 rebound while Harmony Pettett rebounded 6 and had 1 steal.

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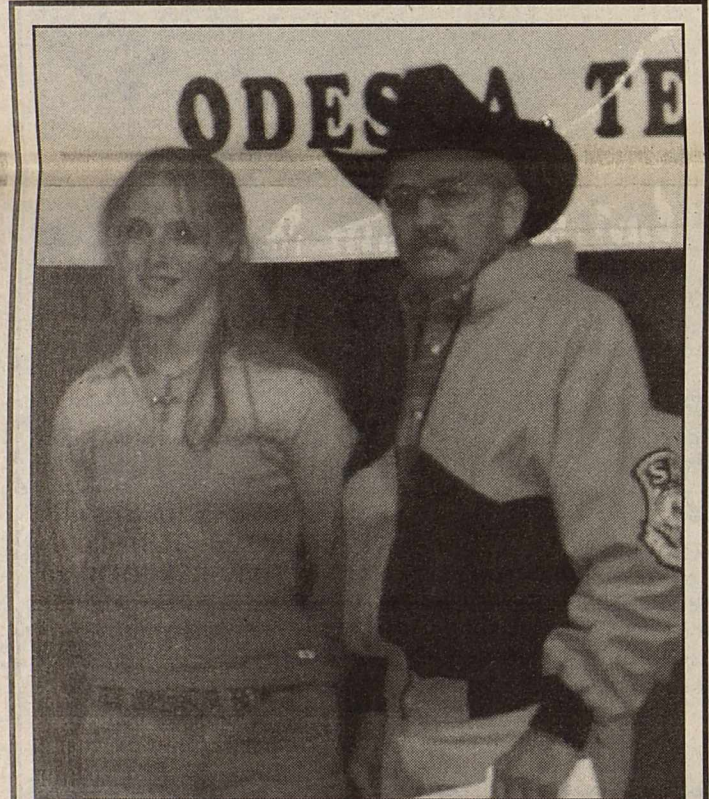
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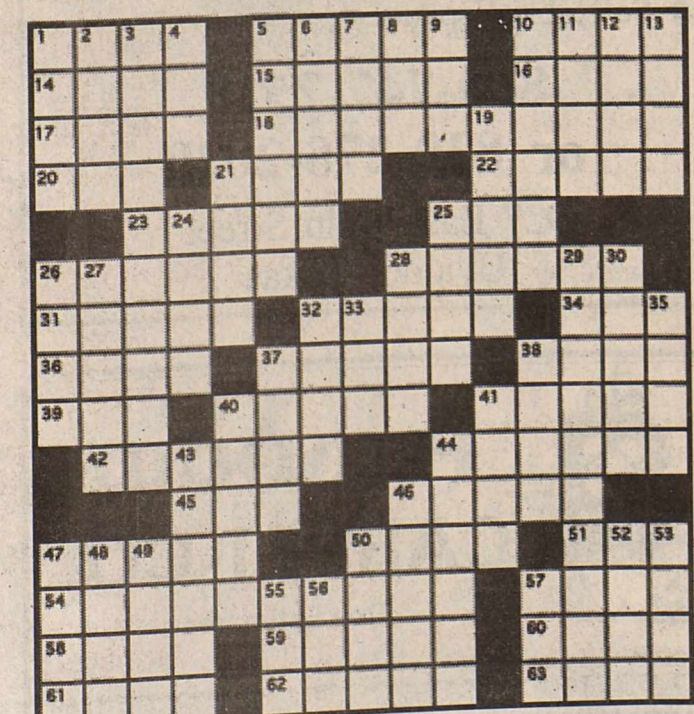
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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

**ACROSS**  
 1 Mexican lunch  
 5 Stories  
 10 Offspring  
 14 Stench  
 15 Old place of assembly (usually)  
 16 May event  
 17 Slope  
 18 Handle skillfully  
 20 R-V center  
 21 Word used to describe a baby  
 22 Actress  
 23 Free-for-all  
 25 Item on a death certificate  
 26 Handbook  
 28 Current styles  
 31 Eats like  
 32 Sandwich necessity  
 34 \_\_\_ out; supplement  
 36 Mediocre  
 37 Warbling sound  
 38 6100  
 39 square feet, for a baseball diamond  
 39 Trinitrotoluene, familiarly  
 40 Velled one  
 41 Bilbao's location  
 42 Regard  
 44 Sinks  
 45 Lait  
 46 bundle  
 46 Everybody's button  
 47 City on the Rhine  
 50 Naked  
 51 Was introduced to  
 54 Neutralize  
 57 Give up  
 58 Hodgepodge category; abbr.  
 59 Wavy fabric  
 60 "Bus Stop" playwright  
 61 This: Sp.  
 62 State  
**DOWN**  
 1 Kids  
 2 Miner's entry  
 3 Ann & Abby  
 4 Discarded piece  
 5 Twain, really  
 6 Marble  
 7 Vanished  
 8 Late Greek tycoon  
 9 Exhaust  
 10 Lymphatic organ  
 11 Algerian port  
 12 Musical symbol  
 13 Pintail duck  
 19 Incited  
 21 \_\_\_ in; wearing  
 24 Continental prefix  
 25 Russian sea  
 26 Vertical pole  
 27 Have \_\_\_ to pick  
 28 Prefix for graph or communication  
 29 Train mishap  
 30 Coil of yam  
 32 Border  
 33 \_\_\_ of; free from  
 35 Ewes-to-be  
 37 Playing card  
 38 Building projection  
 39 Beauty's co-star  
 41 Keep  
 43 From that place  
 44 Trade  
 46 Mother-of-pearl  
 47 Highest point  
 48 Charles VII and Henry II  
 49 Strong desire  
 50 Worms, often  
 52 Advantage  
 53 Abound  
 55 Earthbound bird  
 56 Nonsense  
 57 XVII



**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: **BOYS' NAMES**

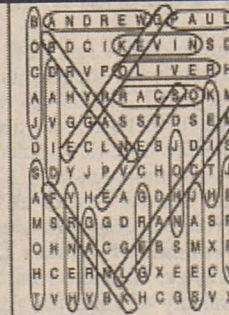
B	A	N	D	R	E	W	G	P	A	U	L	1. Kevin
O	B	D	C	I	K	E	V	I	N	S	D	2.
C	D	R	V	P	O	L	I	V	E	R	H	3.
A	A	H	Y	R	R	A	C	S	O	K	M	4.
J	V	G	A	S	S	T	D	S	E	M	5.	
D	I	E	C	L	N	E	S	J	D	I	S	6.
S	D	Y	J	P	V	C	H	O	C	T	J	7.
A	F	Y	H	E	A	G	D	H	J	H	E	8.
M	S	R	G	G	D	R	A	N	A	S	R	9.
O	H	N	A	C	G	E	B	S	M	X	R	10.
H	C	E	R	N	L	G	X	E	E	C	Y	11.
T	V	H	Y	B	K	H	C	G	S	V	X	12.
												13.
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												20.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- |                             |                                |
|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Feb. 17.....Virginia Brady  | Feb. 19.....Conrada Garcia     |
| Feb. 17.....Carol Dimery    | Feb. 19.....Reggie Pena        |
| Feb. 17.....Elton Goodloe   | Feb. 20.....Barb Brissette     |
| Feb. 17.....Rochelle Mellen | Feb. 20.....Henry Yeackle      |
| Feb. 17.....Ernesto Ortiz   | Feb. 21.....Balente Aguilar    |
| Feb. 17.....Basilio Pacheco | Feb. 21.....Jimmy Lutrell      |
| Feb. 17.....Rena M. Pena    | Feb. 21.....Lester Meredith    |
| Feb. 17.....Jean Quigg      | Feb. 22.....Francisco Arellano |
| Feb. 18.....Irene Braum     | Feb. 23.....David Melancon     |
| Feb. 23.....F.B. Stanley    |                                |

**Roaring Twenties Solution:**

1. Andrew	11. Jerry
2. Bryan	12. John
3. David	13. Keith
4. Frank	14. Kevin
5. Gary	15. Michael
6. George	16. Oliver
7. Greg	17. Oscar
8. Henry	18. Paul
9. Jacob	19. Steve
10. James	20. Thomas



**HOROSCOPES**

by Charles Cooper

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You can feel free to indulge in pure fun this week. Work isn't exactly pressing for a change. Take advantage of this lull.  
**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Most of what you accomplish this week is home-based. Work goes smoothly as well. Later in the week, someone close to you pops a surprising question.  
**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Romance and recreation are tops on your list this week. A change takes place at work concerning a higher-up. Do your best to go along with this.  
**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You need to gain more confidence where business is concerned. Believe in yourself, and good things happen. This weekend is busy with some over-the-top socializing.  
**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) Friendships take center stage this week. Leave enough time to spend with each one so no one feels slighted. Later, a money concern captures your attention.  
**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're able to tap into some great money-making ideas this week. However, don't allow your enthusiasm to carry you away. Plans should be implemented carefully.  
**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) It seems you can't agree with family members on how to approach a financial matter. Perhaps you need an outside source to help. In fact, it wouldn't be a bad idea to seek the advice of an expert in that area.  
**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) The early part of the week is best to tend to business affairs. Later, you find it a bit difficult to concentrate. Over the weekend, you're lucky in love.  
**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) Your intellectual powers are challenged this week. If need be, where it concerns that work project, do some more research. Knowledge is key here.  
**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You're pretty much homebound this week. This enables you to put the finishing touches on a project you've been neglecting. Relationship matters are the focus of the weekend.  
**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You're a bundle of energy as the week begins. Just be sure you don't run out of steam too early. You'll want to be refreshed for the weekend's social schedule.  
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) It's good to have high expectations. However, don't set the bar so high that you're bound to be disappointed when things don't pan out. A quiet weekend spent with that special someone is just what you need.



# Leaning on the everlasting arms

Attending the sick and the dying is a regular part of every pastor's world, and I'm no exception. It is sad how quickly we learn to spot the signs of immanent death. There is a difference in the attitude, sometimes a change of pallor, sometimes coldness in the limbs. More than once I've had someone announce their immanent death to me, and I've been often surprised at the accuracy of their predictions.

Death shouldn't be feared by Christians. After all, we know what is going to happen to us. But many Christians, frightened by the fiery rhetoric of enthusiastic preachers, fail to understand the nature of death.

Life is granted by God - a loan rather than a permanent endowment. In our own simple search for holiness, we aren't ready for eternal life. We become ready through a relationship with God and how



First United Methodist Church  
Rev. Roger Baker

we live out that relationship. In the Methodist tradition, we say we're "moving on towards perfection" - meaning that we've been granted forgiveness and we're now moving on towards true holiness through God's gift of the Holy Spirit.

In time, God recalls His precious gift of earthly life and calls us into account for how we've spent this gift. Some of us will be rewarded, and some will not. But Christians need not fear this accounting - we have an advocate with the Father! (see 1 John 2:1-2)

Sometimes families, thinking they know the most intimate

details of their recently departed, lament that their loved one is not going to meet their Maker on good terms.

Sometimes it seems the family wants me to negotiate with God on behalf of their loved one, and they tell me stories of good acts performed many years ago.

For any who wonder at the eternal destination of a loved one, I offer three points of advice. First, share the intimate details of your own assurance of salvation. If you missed a chance to share this story with a loved one, you can still share your story with others.

Second, we must remember that each creature is precious to God. Presuming that we love our departed more than God is simply wrong, and leads to wrong conclusions.

Finally, need to remember that God's gift of salvation is just that - a gift. You don't have to

buy a special box of detergent to get the towel inside, you don't have to know the "secret handshake", you don't have to post a bond that might be forfeited.

God gave Himself to us through Jesus Christ - freely. And God gives us the freedom to accept this gift in ways that defy imagination and theologians.

There's a wonderful Protestant hymn I love - "Leaning on the everlasting Arms." Are you leaning on the everlasting arms of Jesus or just depending on things to work themselves out?

Come visit us at First United Methodist and we'll show you how wonderful life can be when death isn't a threat but instead is a wonderful family reunion.

We worship Sunday morning at 10:45, but come early for Sunday school at 9:30 AM and enjoy a cup of coffee with us!

**Welcome!**  
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Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.  
Evening Service 7 p.m.  
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
Sunday School: 10:10 AM  
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Healing Service: 12:10 PM  
Wednesday Study Series: 7:00 PM  
The Purpose Driven Life  
Reverend Nathan Lafrenz 563-9607

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11:00 am Worship Service  
6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies.  
7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service  
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Pastor: Ned Sitzes  
Frontier Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann & El Paso

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# These forty days of Lent

That's the title of a hymn we Catholics sing during this time of the year. It continues: "... Oh Lord, with you we fast and pray; teach us to discipline our wills. And follow, Lord, your way."

With the arrival of Ash Wednesday this past February 09, many Christians have entered into and have begun to experience the season of Lent. Forty days long it will continue to be.

Actually, a bit longer than forty days. Forty-six to be exact. However, if one discounts the Sundays while adding up the weekdays between Ash Wednesday and Holy Saturday, we do arrive at an exact forty days.

It seems that the thinking be-



St. Mary Magdalene Church  
Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

hind the tradition is that we do not count Sundays in the calculation. Sunday belongs to the Lord, who said to us through the Prophet Isaiah (Jerusalem Bible Translation: 43:1-4): "Do not be afraid, for I have redeemed you. I have called you by your name; you are mine . . . you are precious in my eyes, because you are honored and I love you . . . Do not be afraid, for I am with you."

The focus on Sundays has to be on God - Who is Love Personified - Loving us.

Now comes our turn: To Review and Renew our Love of God.

Question: How do I go about doing that?

The answer: Take a look at Jesus of Nazareth, how he went about it.

We can find Clue No. 1 in the Letter of The Apostle Paul to the Philippians (New Revised Standard Version, 2:5-8): "Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited; but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born in human

likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death, even death on a cross."

Translation! Forget yourself and turn your attention to God and to those others outside your little (self-centered?) world.

Clue #2 might be this one from the same Letter of the Apostle Paul to the Philippians (but from a few verses previous to the one above - New Revised Standard Version, 2:2-4):

"... Do nothing from selfish ambition, but in humility regard others as better than yourself. Let Each of you look not to your own interests, but the interests of others . . ."

"What think you?"

# The importance of courage in young people

I hope you were blessed by the story of Josie and Rolando.

It illustrated how important it is for young people to be courageous in living moral lives and how important it is for parents to set an example for children.

Neither Josie nor Rolando chose to listen to their parents and decided not to follow Christian principles and live moral lives. But they both repented and returned.

There are four essential steps Josie and Rolando took to change their lives and return to God.

The first step was they recognized their condition.

John wrote in Revelation, "Realize how far you have fallen [2:5]." They both recognized how far they were in the down-



Empowering Families  
Dr. Donald Smith

ward spiral of bad decisions. Their own choices and behavior got them there [Sirach 15:11-20].

They recognized that just as bad choices had gotten them into the slimy pond with the ugly frogs, good choices ensured a better chance at the American Dream.

The second step Josie and Rolando took to change was to stop walking down the road that was leading to disaster.

Life can be like a runaway train. It's difficult to stop but stop it they did. They asked God to give them strength to turn the wheel that applies the brakes to disastrous decisions.

The third step Josie and Rolando took to change was to choose new directions for life and take action to get there [Acts 26:20]. They opened their lives to the gospel of Jesus Christ and to the power of the Holy Spirit.

That choice brought answers to problems and the strength it took to walk a new road back to sanity and peace.

The fourth step Josie and Rolando took to change was to do the good works that fit the new lifestyle God had for them [Matthew 3:8].

How do you do that? Look

around you! Who do you see enjoying a relationship with God?

Who do you see making the American Dream a reality for themselves and their families?

What are they doing? What kind of people do they hang around with?

How do they spend their money?

What do they do for fun? How do they express their love for each other? How do they express their love for God?

When you find those people, do what they do. Abandon your old friends who won't leave the slimy ponds of sin. Want help? Call your pastor! If he can't help, call me!

God bless you. A new story begins next week.

# A man of sorrows

He is despised rejected of men: A man of sorrows, and acquainted with grief: and we hid as if we were Our faces from him; he was despised, and we esteemed him not.

Surely he hath borne our griefs and carried our sorrows; yet we did esteem him stricken, smitten of god and afflicted.

But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastise-



St. John's Missionary Church  
Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

ment of our peace was upon him: and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53: 3-5. Praise God!

# The pest

She is disciplined and usually well mannered but she has one habit that can sometimes be annoying.

She doesn't make a big do of it but when I am sitting in the big soft chair in the living room and she wants to sit in my lap, whether I want her to or not she pesters me till I give in.

I am talking about my daughters little dog. She will come up and sit at my feet very patiently for a long time and if I don't respond or take notice she will gently paw my leg.

If I tell her no, she continues to stay there letting me know she wants something. Her persistence usually pays off and there I am reading a book and the dog in my lap.

Her actions remind me of a principle or promise in our relationship to God.



Jerry Davenport  
Brother J.

We may have access and the privilege to ask for certain things. God tells us to be persistent in our prayers and petitions, (Luke 18:1-8).

The Bible tells us to seek God, (Isaiah 55:6). It also tells us to humbly ask or knock, (Psalm 3:4 & 4:1, Matthew 7:7). There is one vital condition; we must have accepted Christ to be near God, (John 9:31, Ephesians 2:12,13).

After we accept Him we can come with boldness, (Ephesians 3:12). See you in Church next Sunday.

# Texas' reciprocal agreement

Texas Gov. Rick Perry has signed a proclamation allowing citizens with concealed handgun licenses issued by North Dakota to legally carry concealed handguns in Texas.

Based on this proclamation, North Dakota law allows Texas citizens with concealed handgun licenses to legally carry concealed handguns in North Dakota. This action has the same effect as a reciprocal agreement.

"In essence, this agreement allows licensed Texans to enjoy the same or similar privileges their licenses give them at home," DPS Director Col. Thomas Davis Jr. said. This is the 16<sup>th</sup> reciprocity agreement Texas has reached with another state. (These agreements were made possible by 1997 and 2003 changes to the Texas concealed handgun law.)

Texas also has reciprocity agreements with Arkansas, Arizona, Florida, Georgia, Idaho,

Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, Montana, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Utah, Wyoming and Colorado. "Texans should remember that laws vary from state to state, and before traveling, license holders should educate themselves about laws in other states that govern where and when they can legally carry their concealed handguns," Davis said.

# HUD needs to HEAR from you!

The Resident Service and Satisfaction Survey is one of four ways that HUD's new Real Estate Assessment Center (REAC) will evaluate your housing agency's performance through the new Public Housing Assessment System (PHAS). The survey will measure your satisfaction and experience with your living conditions. Your household may be randomly selected to receive the survey. If you are selected, please take the time to complete it. Resident participation is essential to the survey's success. Your opinion is very important to HUD! If you have any questions about the survey, please call REAC's Customer Service Center at 1 (888) 245-4860.

Notice of Resident Meeting  
The meeting will be held: Date: Wednesday February 23, 2005 Time: 1:00 p.m.  
Location: 205 South Sweeney (Office) Brackettville, Texas 78832  
The meeting should last approximately 45 minutes. Executive Director June Kaminski



**ADOPTIONS**

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**JONES STEWART ANGUS** Ranch sale - Monday February 28, 1 p.m. Imperial Auction Market, Imperial, Nebraska. Selling 100 stout, balanced registered Angus bulls. 1-785-325-2089 or www.midcontinentfarms.com.

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**State and local sales tax collections rise**

AUSTIN— Texas Comptroller Carolee Keeton Strayhorn reports that state sales tax collections rose for the 17<sup>th</sup> consecutive month in January. The state collected \$1.39 billion in sales tax revenue, up 6.1 percent compared to January 2004.

Also, Strayhorn returned \$502.8 million in local sales tax to Texas cities, counties, transit systems and special purpose taxing districts, up 5.2 percent compared to sales tax distributions to local governments in February 2004.

"These numbers indicate that Texas' recovering economy had a positive impact on holiday season sales," Strayhorn said.

January state sales tax collections and February's local sales tax allocations primarily represent sales made in December, but also include some earlier sales by businesses that report sales tax to the Comptroller on a quarterly or annual basis.

**Specialty plates make perfect finishing touch for motorcycles**

Motorcyclists have always enjoyed the freedom of the road. Now there's a great way for motorcycle enthusiasts to exercise their freedom of expression by displaying specialty license plates on the bumpers of their bikes.

Motorcycle plates are TxDOT's featured specialty plate for the month of February.

The Texas Department of Transportation offers a range of motorcycle specialty plates including Big Bend, Fight Terrorism, God Bless America, God Bless Texas, and Native Texan.

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**EMPLOYMENT**

**CARRIER WANTED** FOR San Antonio Express-News morning route. Brackettville Area. Call Joe Salinas at 830/775-0332 or 1-800-613-0473.

**SUBSTITUTE TEACHERS** WANTED. BISD will hold a free workshop for anyone interested in substitute teaching, February 17, 2005, 2:00 to 3:30 p.m., in the Central Office Boardroom. Requirements: H.S. diploma or G.E.D., and love of kids. Call: Susan Esparza, Secretary to Supt., 563-2491, ext. 100. This is a required workshop for new or returning substitutes (for those not on the Fall list).

**EMPLOYMENT**

**AIRLINE MECHANIC - RAPID** training for a high paying career. Aviation Maintenance. FAA predicts severe shortage. Financial aid, job placement assistance, 1-888-349-5387, AIM, 6 locations.

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**EVENTS**

**GUN SHOW, FEB. 19-20, Sat.** 9-5 & Sun. 9-3, Waco Heart'O Texas Fairgrounds, Fine Arts Building. (Exit 331 off I-35). Buy - sell - trade. Information: 1-563-927-8176.

**FINANCIAL SERVICES**

**CASH LOANS UP** to \$1,000.00. No credit check! Cash in your checking account within 24 hours. Employment required. Go to www.paychecktoday.com or call 1-888-350-3722.

**CASH NOW. CORE** Funding purchases annuity payments, structured settlements or other income streams. Call Tom or Dawn, 1-800-481-7742.

**FOR SALE**

**26 ACRES; MAINHOUSE** 2500 sq.ft., FP & laundry room. 735 sq.ft. guest house. \$185,000. 563-2319 or 563-5143.

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**REGISTERED LABRADOR PUP-**PIES for sale. \$350.00. Chocolates and blacks available. 3 weeks old now. Call 563-9428.

**FREE 4-ROOM DIRECTV** system includes standard installation! 3 months FREE HBO and Cinemax! Access to over 225 channels! Limited time offer. S&H. Restrictions apply. 1-800-264-3458.

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Paul & Elsa O'Rourke  
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Unit 27 - 2 bed; family room with fireplace, 2 baths. Great location on cul-de-sac and near club house. Two large lots. \$150,000.

Unit 27 - On golf course. 3 bed. 2 baths double wide, rock skirting, detached garage with plumbing. Two lots \$70,000.

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**HEALTH INSURANCE, GREAT** rates! \$25 copay, well child care, physical exams, mammograms, RX card - all with no deductible. Complimentary quotes. Call Fred Sears, 1-800-343-0791, Lone Star Insurance.

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103 W. Spring St.  
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830-563-2446

● Lot 126, Unit 15 Fort Clark Springs, Shafter Rd.  
● Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.  
● Unit 3, lot 66, 3 br/2ba, enclosed porch, multi-car carport, storage room - \$27,500.00  
● Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.  
● Unit 15 Ft. Clark Springs: 2 br/2 bath Mobile - Roof cover, Carport Golf Cart Shed Fully furnished \$34,500.00  
● 4.53 Acres off 19 Pepper Lane, Del Rio  
● Unit 1 Lot 146 Ft. Clark Springs 2 bd / 2ba  
● Unit 1 Lot 145 Ft. Clark Springs 2 bd / 2ba  
● Masters Condo #1204 - Carport, all furniture and appliances.  
● Unit 35, Block B, Lot 27-28, Mobile home - 2 br/2bath  
Have Buyers - Need Listings! Ken Barnett - Pat Owens - Melissa Davis

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**UNIT 1 - REDUCED** - Large townhome in beautiful setting near Las Moras Creek, over 1,700 sq. ft., 2BR, 3B nice courtyard. Only \$45,000.

**UNIT 15 - Nice 16' x 60'** 1999 River Bend Mobile Home, approx. 896 sq.ft., 3 BR, 2B. Only \$25,000.

**27 RETAMA** - 1991 Palm Harbor has 4 BR, 3 B with approx. 1,848 sq.ft. Deck in back with hot tub, workshop, storage shed and fenced yard.  
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**Custom Built Home in the Oaks**  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY** to make comment or request a public hearing is hereby given by the Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc., located at 713 East Main Street Uvalde, Texas on the continuation of rural public transportation services within the counties of Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde and Zavala. Financial assistance to provide this service is being sought from the Federal Transit Administration and the Texas Department of Transportation. Services will be for the general public, run on fixed route and demand response route. Fares will be charged for the service. Written comment or a written request for a public hearing is being accepted at P.O. Drawer 1709 or 713 East Main Street in Uvalde until March 7th, 2005. Further information can be found at the above address or by contacting Sarah Hidalgo-Cook, CCTM, Transit & Safety Director at 830-278-6268 ext. 140 or ccwt-swtransit@sbcglobal.net.

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Open 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.  
.50 items  
Lots of Bargains, dresses, electric stove & chair  
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2,400 sq. ft.  
55' X 110' Lot  
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**Alibi Lounge**  
Now Open for Business  
Alibi Menu Specials  
MONDAY Bloody Mary  
TUESDAY Men's Choice  
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Kitchen will open at a later date  
Bottle and can beer at competitive prices  
Mixed Beverages served daily  
Lounge conveniently located on top of hill East of Brackettville with plenty of paved parking.



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0% on select Models W.A.C

 <p><b>05 GMC Sierra Crew Cab</b> \$35,195 #4115</p> <p>GM Price.....\$41918 GM Disc.....\$1000 MSRP.....\$40918 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$3723</p> <p><b>SAVE \$6723</b></p>	 <p><b>04 GMC Denali</b> \$41,695 #3928</p> <p>MSRP.....\$50360 Brown Disc.....\$8665</p> <p><b>SAVE \$8,665</b></p>	 <p><b>04 Cadillac SRX - V8</b> \$36,495 #3160</p> <p>MSRP.....\$52520 Brown Disc.....\$16025</p> <p><b>SAVE \$16025</b></p>	 <p><b>04 GMC Envoy XUV SLT</b> \$30,695 #3581</p> <p>MSRP.....\$39160 Brown Disc.....\$8465</p> <p><b>SAVE \$8,465</b></p>
 <p><b>05 GMC Sierra Crew Cab</b> \$26,695 #4256</p> <p>MSRP.....\$32295 GM Disc.....\$1000 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$2600</p> <p><b>SAVE \$5600</b></p>	 <p><b>05 GMC Canyon Ext Cab</b> \$20,695 #4547</p> <p>MSRP.....\$24065 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$1370</p> <p><b>SAVE \$3370</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Pontiac Vibe</b> \$17,995 #4405</p> <p>Total Vehicle.....\$20200 GM Discount.....\$300 MSRP.....\$19900 Rebate.....\$1500 Brown Disc.....\$405</p> <p><b>SAVE \$2,205</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Pontiac G6</b> \$19,895 #4554</p> <p>MSRP.....\$21705 Rebate.....\$1000 Brown Disc.....\$810</p> <p><b>SAVE \$1810</b></p>
 <p><b>05 GMC Yukon</b> \$31,395 #4378</p> <p>GM Price.....\$38075 GM Disc.....\$900 MSRP.....\$37175 Rebate.....\$2500 Brown Disc.....\$3280</p> <p><b>SAVE \$6680</b></p>	 <p><b>04 GMC Envoy</b> \$27,695 #4182</p> <p>GM Price.....\$33025 GM Disc.....\$900 MSRP.....\$32125 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$2430</p> <p><b>SAVE \$5,330</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Pontiac Sunfire</b> \$15,195 #4628</p> <p>GM Price.....\$19060 GM Disc.....\$290 MSRP.....\$18770 Rebate.....\$3000 Disc.....\$575</p> <p><b>SAVE \$3865</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Pontiac Grand Prix</b> \$20,895 #4241</p> <p>MSRP.....\$23940 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$1045</p> <p><b>SAVE \$3045</b></p>
 <p><b>05 GMC Sierra 1/2 Ton Crew Cab</b> \$26,595 #4339</p> <p>MSRP.....\$33195 GM Disc.....\$2000 MSRP.....\$31195 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$2600</p> <p><b>SAVE \$6600</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Buick LeSabre</b> \$23,495 #4514</p> <p>MSRP.....\$27795 Rebate.....\$2500 Brown Disc.....\$1800</p> <p><b>SAVE \$4300</b></p>	 <p><b>05 Cadillac CTS</b> \$34,895 #4327</p> <p>MSRP.....\$37235 Brown Disc.....\$2340</p> <p><b>SAVE \$2340</b></p>	 <p><b>05 GMC Sierra</b> \$20,495 #4594</p> <p>MSRP.....\$24320 GM Disc.....\$500 MSRP.....\$23820 Rebate.....\$2000 Brown Disc.....\$1325</p> <p><b>SAVE \$3825</b></p>

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	Sale Price		Sale Price		Sale Price		
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3528A	03 Cadillac Deville	23995	3831A	04 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab	15495		
4221A	02 Mazda Millenium	13495	4575A	03 Ford F-250 Super Cab	26995		
4179A	01 Oldsmobile Aurora	14995	4096A	02 Dodge Ram 150 Ext. Cab	16995		
4347A	04 Pontiac Grand AM	17995	4660A	03 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	16995		
4499A	03 Toyota Solara SLE V-6	17995	4689A	04 GMC Sierra Crew Cab	30995		
4529A	02 Pontiac Bonneville SLE	14995	4696A	03 Ford F150 Crew Cab	20995		
4453A	99 Cadillac Seville STS	15995	4310A	03 GMC Sierra Crew Cab	25995		
3832A	04 Toyota Camry	16995	4614A	99 Ford F150	10995		
4678A	05 Nissan 350Z	25995	4561A	04 Nissan Titan Crew Cab	25995		
4583A	00 Cadillac Deville	12995	4431A	04 GMC Sierra Ext Cab	25995		
4726A	02 Mazda Protege 5	11995	P7690BB	02 Ford F150 Super Cab	19995		
3811B	04 Oldsmobile Alero	11995	4729A	94 Ford F150	6495		
3336BB	02 Nissan Altima	14995	4559B	00 Ford F150 Ext. Cab	12995		
P7688A	97 Buick La Sabre	4995	4315A	02 Chevrolet Silverado Crew Cab	19995		
					4416A	04 Cadillac Escalade ESV	49995
					4392A	02 Cadillac Escalade	32995
					3852A	03 GMC Yukon Denali	36995
					3285A	03 GMC Yukon XL	26995
					4159B	01 GMC Yukon XL	16995
					4244B	00 GMC Yukon	16900
					4316A	02 GMC Yukon XL	24995
					4497A	04 Chevrolet Tahoe	28495
					4566A	01 GMC Yukon XL	21495
					3986A	04 Chevrolet Suburban	25995
					3768A	01 Nissan Pathfinder	13495
					4737A	05 Cadillac Escalade	47995
					P7692	05 Cadillac Escalade	45995
					4076A	04 GMC Yukon XL	31995
					3157A	03 GMC Yukon XL	25995
					P7685	01 Chevrolet Suburban	22995
					4492A	03 Chevrolet Suburban	32995
					4528A	99 Chevrolet Suburban	12995
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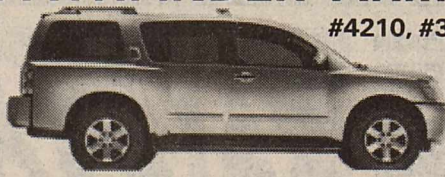
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MSRP.....\$38920  
Brown Disc.....\$3225  
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**\$33,195\***



#4210, #3545

### 2004 NISSAN MAXIMA

MSRP.....\$30470  
Brown Disc.....\$2075  
Rebate.....\$1750

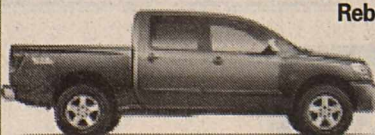
**\$26,645\***



### 2004 Nissan Titan SE C.C.

MSRP.....\$30810  
Brown Disc.....\$2515  
Rebate.....\$2000

**\$26,295\***



#4132, 3802

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MSRP.....\$16250  
Rebate.....\$2000

**\$14,250\***



#4658, #5111

### 2005 Nissan Altima

MSRP.....\$24160  
Brown Disc.....\$1200  
Rebate.....\$1500

**\$21,460\***



#4412, #3111

### 2004 Nissan Xterra

MSRP.....\$22950  
Rebate.....\$2400  
Brown Disc.....\$1205

**\$19,345\***



#4673, #4710

### 2004 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab

MSRP.....\$22670  
Rebate.....\$2500  
Brown Disc.....\$1175

**\$18,995\***



#3818, 3838

### 2004 Nissan Quest

MSRP.....\$30820  
Rebate.....\$2000  
Brown Disc.....\$2125

**\$26,695\***



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**Brown Automotive**

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