

# The Brackett News



Luck O' The Irish to ya!  
Happy  
St. Patrick's Day

17th year, No. 6

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## BRIEFS

### Fort Clark Ladies Golf

Game was black mark. Carol Benfield - 1st place, Betty Lee - 2nd place and Jackie Marrs - 3rd place.

### Support group

There is some interest in the Brackettville area for an Alzheimers and related dementia support group. Do you know someone who would benefit from a support group? Please call 563-2852 or 563-2106 to help make an informed decision about time and place. Thank you.

### Voices' Spring Concert

The Voices of Fort Clark present the annual Spring Concert Saturday, March 19 at 7:30 p.m. in the Post Theatre.

The concert is titled "Sing a Rainbow" and includes songs with the colors of the rainbow in their titles.

Featured soloists will be Nathan LaFrenz, Shelby Schuster, and Lynn McNew.

There will be no admission charge; however, a free-will offering will be taken.

### Sorority meets

Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi met for a luncheon meeting on Monday, March 14, in the Green Room at Fort Clark Springs Golf Club. Following the Opening Ritual, members ordered lunch from Mimi's Restaurant.

The meeting continued with a discussion of Founder's Day, April 30.

It was decided the meeting would be held in the Green Room with everyone ordering their own lunch.

A slate of officers was nominated for 2005-2006 and the following people were elected: Lynn McNew, President; Bobbi Waddell, vice-president; Arlys Simpson, secretary and Luella Gilliland, Treasurer.

Members present included Mylo Unruh, Louise Pflughoeff, Luella Gilliland, Jan Chism, Bobby Waddill, and Lynn McNew.

The next meeting is Monday, April 4 at the Green Room.

### LEPC hosting raffle

The Local Emergency Planning Committee is raffling a Bud Breen original oil painting as a fund raiser. Tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Tickets are available from Jewel Robinson or by calling the EMS office at 563-9090.

### GED Classes

Adult GED Classes are being held at the Brackett Educational Academy (formerly known as the Alternative School) 703 N. Ann Street, on Tuesday, March 22. Orientation and Registration at 5 p.m. Bring photo ID and social security number for registration. For more information, call 830-563-9537.

## INSIDE

### Bro J

He was born in the Midwest. He has brown eyes, brown hair and olive colored skin. He is from a royal family and very wealthy.  
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### Bonilla

Students, what are you doing this summer? How does becoming an expert on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. and helping out your neighbors in Texas sound?  
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# Groundwater Conservation District grants ten permits for 6,121 acre feet

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (KCGCD) granted 10 permits to 7 applicants.

The permitted amount of groundwater totaled 6,121.104 acre feet. *Note: all amounts are in acre feet.*

Rhonda and Charles Marquardt were granted one permit for a total of 240 acre feet.

Steve Walthour, consultant to the KCGCD and acting district manager during the hearing process, recommended 240 acre feet

for Marquardt's permit.

G.A. and W.E. Woodward requested 1,609 for two permits. Walthour recommended 1,576.549. The KCGCD board granted Woodward 1,253.96.

Ben Jones Sr. and Jr. Estates were granted permits totaling 160.8. Walthour's recommendations were 219 and 148.428 respectively.

Walthour recommended 972 on El Corazon Ranch Management's permit.

El Corazon requested 972, which what was recommended.

El Corazon was granted 400 from the KCGCD board or 41 percent.

Earl A. Kelley Ranch requested 1,255.23 from the district.

The board granted a permit for 456. Walthour initially recommended was 933.113. The following recommendation was 708.451.

Robert Condry was granted a permit for 1,360. Condry had requested 5,728.

Walthour had recommended the board give Condry

## KCGCD Permits Awarded March 5

Permittee	Amount		
	Granted	Recommended	
Rhonda and Charles Marquardt	240	240	100.0%
G.A. and W.E. Woodward	1,253.96	1,575.549	79.6%
Ben Jones Estates	160.8	367.428	43.8%
El Corazon Ranch Mgt.	400	972	41.2%
Earl A. Kelley et al Ranch	456	933.113	48.9%
Robert Condry	1,360	3,384	40.2%
Charles E. and Billie Foust	2,250.344	2,250.344	100.0%

2,622.670 initially. His final recommendation was 3,384.

Charles E and Billie J. Foust requested 3,201.4. Walthour recommended 2,250.344 initially.

His final recommendation was 2,804. The board granted the Fousts 2,250.344.

# Commissioners approve resolution in support of conservation district

The Kinney County Commissioner's Court voted to approve a resolution against the consolidation of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District into the Edwards Aquifer Authority during the courts meeting Monday.

Kinney County Judge Herb Senne and commissioner's Marvin Davis, Joe Montalvo and Pat Melancon voting to accept. Commissioner Nat Terrazas was not present for the vote. He arrived shortly thereafter.

Before the court approved the resolution, citizens were allowed to speak.

Speaking in favor of the resolution were Tootsie Herndon, Don Hood, and Cecil Smith, all members of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District. A fourth member of the district, Duke Meek, was in attendance.

"I'd just like to thank the commissioner's court and the judge for taking a stand and making the resolution to protect the KCGCD," Herndon said.

"I think that this is very important because we were voted in by a large majority of the vote and I think we need to keep our Kinney County Water District in place to protect and conserve our

water" Herndon said.

She also noted that the city of Spofford will also pass a similar resolution and "This affects all the water districts in Texas. Not only Kinney county, but every water district is in danger."

Hood then spoke, "We are a political subdivision. You are a political subdivision.

"They are able to wipe us out, then they can wipe you out, too. So I'm absolutely for the resolution, Hood added."

A third member of the KCGCD Smith spoke. "I went to the Korean War, the Vietnam War and I thought we were fighting

for what the majority rules in a vote. It's quite apparent that in this election, the citizens want a water district."

"There could be some senators sitting in Austin saying "Kinney County, we don't care what you want, you're going to do what we say. To me, that's my biggest objection."

The resolution reads that the KCGCD was formed to manage the groundwater resources of Kinney County, and has elected public officials to oversee the management of the groundwater resources of Kinney County.

And reads that the officials have diligently worked to bal-

ance all issues, recharge, spring and stream flow, and are currently issuing pumping permits.

The resolution also reads that The Kinney County commissioners Court believes the management of the Edwards Trinity Aquifer is best left in the control of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District. It goes on to read that the Kinney County Commissioners court opposes the dissolving of the Kinney County Groundwater District and placement of the groundwater resources of Kinney County under the jurisdiction of the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

# Learn more about 211 at information presentation

Middle Rio Grande Development Council is inviting local agencies and the general public to attend a presentation Friday, March 18 at the Kinney County Nutrition Center, 408 South Ann Street, at 1:30 p.m.

The presentation will provide valuable information on the statewide 211 program and the

Area Agency on Aging, and how the services are available to serve Kinney County and the surrounding areas.

The Middle Rio Grande 211 provides comprehensive health and human services information and referral for nine counties.

The greatest asset is convenience.

Dial 211 and get information on accessing available services anywhere in the nine county area.

211 is now statewide and the primary goal is to connect people and services.

Join us for the 211 presentation and learn how it can help you and your community.

# Tejano Music Industry Awards tonight in Del Rio

Del Rio invites area residents to help celebrate the Silver Anniversary of the Tejano Music Awards. The Texas Talent Musicians Association (TTMA) is hosting the Tejano Music Industry Awards tonight at 7 p.m. in the Del Rio Civic Center.

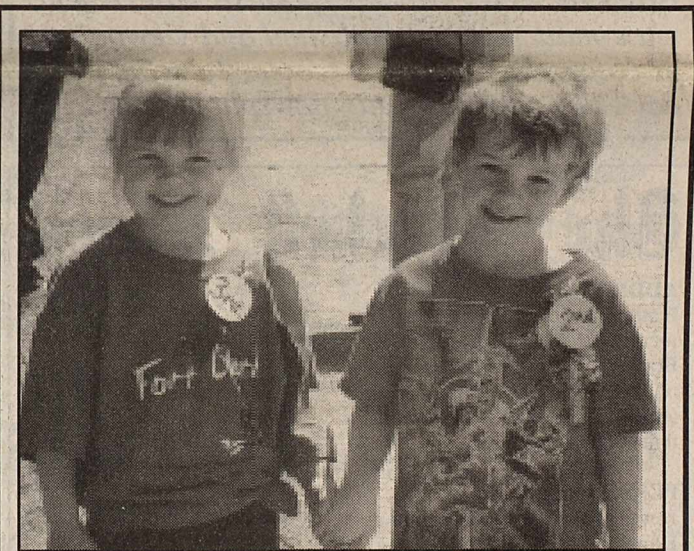
The event starts at 7 p.m., tickets are \$10. The 25th Anniversary celebration of the

Tejano Music Industry Awards will serve to honor and recognize the talents over the past year of Tejano musicians, songwriters and artists. Only their own peers vote on the industry awards.

Awards presentations and performances continue till about

10:30 p.m. followed by a dance. Scheduled to perform are Shelly Lares, Jay Perez, La Fuerza, K1, La Trazion, Marcos Orozco and Quatro por Quatro.

Saturday night, the Tejano stars shine at the Lucky Eagle Kickapoo Casino in Eagle Pass. For more information go to www.tejanomusicawards.com



Terrific Two-some

Photo by Pam Hale

Kaili Price (left) and Ayme Bruce enjoy the activities offered for the young at the Ft. Clark Spring's Festival. Kaili took 1st in the sack race and 3rd in the Ball Toss. Ayme was happy with 2nd place in both the sack race and Ball Toss. (For more festival photos, see page 4.)

# Kinney County group seeking EAA protection

Adam Yanelli  
Uvalde Leader-News  
Managing Editor

• *Editor's Note: This article was reprinted with permission from the Uvalde Leader-News.*

There are two sides to every story, and a group of Kinney County landowners said Thursday that they need the Edwards Aquifer Authority to help save their water.

Jim and Jennifer McDaniel, Melanie Jones, Jewel Robinson and Tony Frerich made their way to Uvalde Thursday afternoon to state their cases regarding why the EAA should dissolve the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District.

"We want a good water district, but we don't have one," Jones said Thursday.

"Since our water district started off, they have never listened to the people or the public. We asked them not to create rules until they had the science, but they did anyway."

The crux of the matter, the group said, is that after the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District hired a consultant to determine how much water each landowner could

claim, the board then drastically lowered the amount for these individuals.

Jones said a group of Kinney County landowners running for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board on a "Save Our Water" ticket, and their supporters, got all or most of the water they claimed.

"But anyone that openly opposed this group got very little," Jones said.

Jim and Jennifer McDaniel are one of the only families in Kinney County still deriving their income from farming.

"Our area out there, called Pinto Valley, has been in production for more than 50 years," Jennifer McDaniel said. "Our wells are proven wells."

Jim McDaniel said Thursday that when the hearing process started, he gave all of his electric bills and other information to Steve Walthour, an EAA employee and the consultant hired by the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District.

Jim McDaniel said that after he applied for 4,404 acre-feet of water, Walthour recommended 3,112.

"Mr. Walthour said to me 'I've never seen so much evidence,'" Jim said.

The problem, the McDaniels

said, is that the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board only granted them 1,308 acre-feet.

Jewel Robinson said the issue comes down to who you are and whom you know.

"The bottom line is there is one family and a few of their friends that control the board," she said.

Jennifer McDaniel said that seeking inclusion in the EAA is not something the group considered lightly. "We were always fearful of the EAA coming in," she said. "But after what we have been through, it seems like the only way."

Darlene Shahan, general manager of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District, said Friday that the members of the board decided the amount of water to be permitted and that Walthour was hired only to gather the information from the applicants and present it to the board.

"The burden of proof is always on the applicant," she said. "Walthour's estimates were based on what he was told."

She said the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board sat through 256 hours of testimony in 19 hearings.

"It's their job to take that evi-

dence and decide what is credible," she said.

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board consists of Don Hood, president; Chuck Hall, vice president; Tootsie Herndon, secretary-treasurer; Beth Ann Smith, Pct. 1; Cecil Smith, Pct. 2; Christopher Ring, Pct. 3; and Duke Meek, Fort Clark Springs at-large.

In a letter delivered to The Uvalde Leader-News, Beth Ann Smith said she disagrees with other board members.

"When the board voted to grant existing and historic use permits, I agreed with the recommendations of Steve Walthour, the expert our board hired from the EAA to evaluate permits," the letter stated.

"Walthour's recommendations were supported by evidence, and the motions made by board members do not appear to be. When I tried to find out the particular evidence that they relied on, in every instance they refused to engage in any discussion."

"They obviously had their minds made up ahead of time and were carrying out some agenda other than applying the evidence to the district's rules."

Shahan said the Kinney

County Groundwater Conservation District set their cap at 69,800 acre-feet, based on recharge data from the Texas Water Development Board indicating that amount of annual recharge.

"In permitting, you also have to consider discharge from the Las Moras, Pinto and Mud springs. And you have to take into account the usage by the city of Brackettville, the city of Spofford and Fort Clark Springs. Then there are the more than 400 existing exempt wells."

She added that to date, the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District has approved permits totaling 26,989.48 acre-feet.

Shahan stressed that according to the Texas Water Development Board Region J 50-year plan, the most water ever reported being pumped in a single year is just more than 15,000 acre-feet.

"What happens when you have a drought and no recharge is going in?"

She added that the main reason for opposition to inclusion in the EAA is that, according to the state legislature, the preferred way of managing groundwater is through local boards.

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## LETTER TO THE EDITOR

To all our friends and supporters who believe in us, this is a great big thank you for the magnificent party you gave John and I at Mimi's on Wednesday, March 9. It is very heart warming and indeed an honor to have so many people acknowledge our efforts on behalf of the entire Fort. Everything we did was for the benefit of the whole Fort, and not for any specific restricted group. The real credit for all that we have accomplished in the past two years of coming from \$150,000 dollars in debt to more than \$100,000 cushion in the bank goes to the dedicated, loyal and hard working employees that we were so privileged to work with. Through their efforts, the Fort looks and smells better.

We asked them to help us cut expenses and they really came through, if it wasn't for safety or security of the members, or if it wouldn't make us any money we did not spend any money on it. No matter what it was.

One of the first lessons I learned in the military is that if you take care of your people they will take care of you. If we accomplished anything it is because we have a really great staff and we need to do more for them.

Another lesson I learned years ago is that with authority comes responsibility. If you are not willing to accept the responsibility and be held accountable do not then aspire to authority. It was a great honor to have served you.

This is an open letter of thanks because the last time I wrote a personal letter to friends and supporters, someone who I had not included in my group of friends thought it would be great fun to copy it and spread it around to the general population. So this is an open letter of thanks to my friends for your support.

For you others I hope you have a great life.

Best wishes,  
Tom Saylor

Big Mama  
Sez!



Most of us have never  
lived in normal times.

## 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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## Amending the Texas GI Bill for next generation, a good idea

By Steve Walker  
Contributing Writer

While Texas takes great pride in supporting its veterans, unfortunately many veterans are unaware of an educational benefit they earned.

Over the years, relatively few Texas veterans have taken full advantage of the tuition-free Hazelwood-Hinson Act that was passed by the Texas Legislature in 1971.

The Texas Hazelwood Act, is the state's version of the Federal G.I. Bill.

The bi-partisan bill was passed to ensure Texas veterans an additional opportunity to continue their higher education when their federal benefits expired.

According to the bill, "Texas Veterans no longer entitled to educational benefits under the VA, are eligible for assistance under the Hazelwood Act, if they are not eligible for any other federal financial aid. Hazelwood waives tuition and fees for the Texas Veteran

thereby allowing him/her to complete his/her education at a relatively low cost. Under the Hazelwood Act, a Texas Veteran is one who served 180 days of consecutive active duty, whose DD-214 shows Texas as his/her Home of Record and who received an Honorable Discharge."

Since many Texas colleges or universities don't promote the Hazelwood Act and military recruiters don't fully explain the benefits of the Hazelwood Act to inductees, only a small number of Texas veterans have taken advantage of the program.

The Hazelwood Act applies only to service people who were inducted into the Armed Forces in Texas.

To date, only four other states offer additional veteran's education benefits for its residents.

This past year, the Bexar County Coalition of Veterans, approved a proposal that would allow the Act to address veterans who have not used the Hazelwood Act to pass their unused benefits on to a child.

Currently any offspring of a veteran killed in the line of duty is eligible for the same educational benefits.

Senator Leticia van de Putte, Chair of the Military Installations and Veterans Affairs Committee for the State recently conducted hearings across the state to elicit input on the feasibility of amending the Act.

Retired Generals, college admissions representatives and numerous veterans testified before the panel.

Currently there are ongoing hearings discussing Hazelwood bills.

Van de Putte has filed Senate Bill 774 which incorporates the Coalition's proposal to amend the Act to allow veterans to waive their benefits for one of their children.

She has introduced three other bills to include: SB 101 to monitor/track those who use the Hazelwood. SB 932 redefines who is a "Texas Veteran," and SB582 establishes long term Texans the ability to pass their unused benefits to their children.

Unlike the federal G.I. Bill that issues veterans monthly payments to pay tuition costs at any institute of higher learning, the Hazelwood Act only allows veterans to register for a maximum of 150 college hours at a state school, tuition-free.

The veteran is also responsible for book costs.

In the past, institutions of higher learning administered the Hazelwood Act independently without any coordination with other institutions.

There is currently no oversight of the program. SB101 addresses that problem.

Everyone is urged to contact their state representative and state senator and tell them to vote to amend the Hazelwood Act.

Let's continue to honor our veterans by offering limited tuition-free education for the next generation of veterans.

•Editor's Note: Steve Walker, a Viet Nam veteran, currently serves as the Chairman of the Bexar County Coalition of Veterans in San Antonio.

## Women have helped make Texas Great

Women's History Month is a perfect time to reflect on those strong women who contributed so much to Texas, starting with the Lone Star Republic's early days.

Mary Austin Holley was Stephen F. Austin's first cousin. She noted that early Texas women were a breed apart. She once observed, "It is not uncommon for ladies to mount their mustangs and hunt with their husbands, to ride long distances on horseback to attend a ball with their silk dresses in their saddlebags.

Hardy vigorous constitutions, free spirits and spontaneous gaiety are thus induced and continue a rich legacy to their children who, it is to be hoped, will sufficiently value the blessing not to squander it away in the eager search for the luxury and refinement of polite life."

Thomas Rusk, the first senator to hold my seat, and a close friend of fellow senator Sam Houston, wrote about the women and their contribution during the War for Independence.

His wife Mary had helped oversee the calm evacuation of Nacogdoches by the women and children left behind after the men had gone off to war.

They feared the Mexican Army and their Indian allies might be on the way, so the women took their children east-

ward in an exodus, remembered as the "Runaway Scrape."

Rusk wrote: "The men of Texas deserved much credit, but more was due to women.

Armed men facing a foe could not but be brave, but the women with their little children around them without means of defense or power to resist, faced danger and death with unflinching courage."

My great-great-grandmother, Anna Maria Taylor, and four of her children made that arduous escape through harsh weather.

Their children perished from illness during the ordeal, but after the Taylors returned to Nacogdoches, they raised nine more.

Since those days, Texan women have continued to display the grit and strength of character those pioneers passed on to their children.

Oveta Culp Hobby, mother of long-serving former Lieutenant Governor Bill Hobby, came up with the plan during World War II to recruit and train women to fill jobs in our military so that men would be freed up for combat.

General George C. Marshall backed the formation of the Women's Army Auxiliary Corps, known popularly as the WACs.

At first, the list of jobs women were expected to fill was only



Capitol  
Comment

Kay Bailey  
Hutchison

54. By war's end, that list had expanded to 239.

Oveta did not want to head the WACs, but was prevailed upon to do her duty. At first, she found herself a one-woman recruiting drive for the organization, traveling from city to city giving speeches urging women to join.

Because she became the first American woman to become a commissioned officer, she had to design her own uniform.

She carried an iron with her to press it each night when she made her pitch in various towns and cities throughout the country.

She later became the first woman to receive the Distinguished Service Medal, our nation's highest non-combat award.

Her leadership continued after the war. She insisted that Armed Forces Day celebrations in Houston would be open to everyone, regardless of race.

Later, her leadership skills were tapped by President Eisenhower, who named her to

head the new Department of Health, Education and Welfare as a cabinet secretary. When she passed away in 1995, she left a media empire, a loving family and a legacy built on hard work.

One of those legacies is me. After I graduated from the University of Texas Law School, I could not find a law firm willing to hire me.

I decided to try journalism instead, and applied for a television reporter job with KPRC TV in Houston.

There were no women television reporters in Houston at that time, but the news director and station manager went to Mrs. Hobby, who said it would be a great idea to have a woman with a law degree as one of her reporters.

That was my start. I owe her a great deal.

Today Texas women serve in Congress, in the state legislature, as scientists, teachers, business leaders and artists.

Even more important, many Texas women have embraced motherhood and have taken on the difficult job of raising the next generation.

My only hope is that all of us who are raising children will succeed in instilling the Texas virtues of independence, strength of character and love of our state that we received from our parents.

## Internships provide great experience

Students, what are you doing this summer?

How does becoming an expert on the U.S. Capitol in Washington, D.C. and helping out your neighbors in Texas sound?

Well, each summer, my congressional office hosts college interns from the 23rd Congressional District. Although summer may seem far away for some students, now is the time to consider applying for a summer internship.

Internships, whether in a congressional office or another workplace, provide young people with invaluable practical

experience. I understand there are quite a few questions that go along with an internship, so let me begin by answering some basic questions about an internship in my office.

First, what does a congressional intern do? As you might imagine, a congressional office handles a wide range of issues.

For example, in Washington, a selected intern could expect to do anything from researching bills at the Library of Congress, showing folks from home around the U.S. Capitol or attending a congressional hearing.

Interns in Texas offices help solve problems that my constitu-



Weekly  
Report

Henry  
Bonilla

ents may have. Whether it's in Washington or Texas, every intern plays an important role serving constituents.

Second, who should apply? College students who want to be a part of their government in action. Of course, interns must be able to communicate effectively orally and in writing. Still, the

most important quality you can bring to an internship, or any job for that matter, is eagerness and a willingness to learn.

That's the "what" and "who", now for the "when, where and how". Interested applicants should send a resume to one of my offices by May 1, 2005.

The offices are located in Washington, D.C., San Antonio, Alpine, Laredo and Del Rio. Anyone wanting to head up to Washington should contact me as soon as possible, because housing on Capitol Hill can fill up very early. I look forward to hearing from you soon!

## Fiesta Gala celebrates, honors Tom and John

Deserved accolades were showered on Tom Saylor, John Dixon and Fort Clark employees at a "Fiesta Gala" on the evening of March 9.

The FCS restaurant, "Mimi's" was closed for the private Mexican buffet, open bar, and music by Mario Fraga's band and vocalist for 155 guests.

Poems written by Dana Harris and Ida May Cain were read praising Tom and John followed by many testimonial expressions

of gratitude for the honorees and given by appreciative FCS members.

The fact that Tom Saylor and John Dixon through their business acumen and experience were able to lift the Fort's finances from red to black and justly earning the esteem of thankful members.

Also, their respect for the employees promoted their pride and loyalty in restoring normalcy to the Fort's daily rou-

tine.

Since Tom and John are moving away, the vacancy of two talented and dedicated "Board Members" prods the reality of FCS's loss.

The FCS employees expressed their gratefulness over the fact that these gentlemen made you feel that they were working with you and shared the same goal of once more making FCS a paradise to behold and a place of rest and peace.

Colorful Mexican fiesta decorations were inside as well as on the outside veranda and patio. The weather was delightful and perfect for dancing.

The aggregate Fort Clark Spring membership of the Fiesta hosts totals more than 200 years, indicating their common bond of holding dear the traditions of Ft. Clark.

Many Kudos go to Tom, John and the FCS employees, they deserve it!

The Brackett News  
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 GM DISC \$500  
 MSRP \$23820  
 REBATE \$2000  
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#4118  
  
**05 GMC Yukon XL**  
**\$34,695**  
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**04 GMC Denali**  
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MSRP \$50360  
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#4388  
  
**05 Cadillac Escalade**  
**\$50,295**  
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MSRP \$53715  
 BROWN DISC \$3420

#3581  
  
**04 GMC Envoy XUV SIT**  
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MSRP \$39160  
 BROWN DISC \$9004

#4256  
  
**05 GMC Sierra Crew Cab**  
**\$26,695**  
 SAVE \$5600  
SRP \$32295  
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#4547  
  
**05 GMC Canyon Ext Cab**  
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 SAVE \$3370  
MSRP \$24065  
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#4405  
  
**05 Pontiac Vibe**  
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4667A 2004 CHEVROLET SILVERADO EXT CAB .23995	4583B 1999 MERCURY GRAND MARQUIS .....9995	3160A 2003 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN .....27995
4773A 2003 CHEVROLET S10 EXT CAB .....13995	4499A 2003 TOYOTA SOLARA SLE V6 .....17995	4497A 2004 CHEVROLET TAHOE .....28495
4696A 2003 FORD F150 CREW CAB .....20995	P7707 2004 BUICK CENTURY .....14495	P7695 2004 GMC ENVOY .....20995
4096A 2002 DODGE RAM 1500 EXT CAB .....16995	P7688A 1997 BUICK LASABRE .....4995	P7703 2004 GMC ENVOY .....20995
P7715 2004 FORD F250 CREW CAB XLT .....25995	3528A 2003 CADILLAC DEVILLE .....23995	4737A 2005 CADILLAC ESCALADE .....47995
4315A 2002 CHEVROLET SILVERADO CC .....19995	4529A 2002 PONTIAC BONNEVILLE SLE .....14700	P7704A 2002 JEEP LIBERTY .....14295
4729A 1994 FORD F-150 .....6495	4179A 2001 OLDSMOBILE AURORA .....14995	3986A 2004 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN .....25995
4614A 1999 FORD F150 .....10995	P7712 2004 PONTIAC GRAND AM .....14995	4316A 2002 GMC YUKON XL .....24995
4561A 2004 NISSAN TITAN CREW CAB .....25995	P7713 2004 OLDSMOBILE ALERO .....13995	P7706 2005 CADILLAC SRX .....33795
P7701 2003 CHEVROLET SILVERADO EXT CAB .19995	P7711 2004 CHEVROLET IMPALA .....15995	3768A 2001 NISSAN PATHFINDER .....13495
	P7710 2004 PONTIAC GRAND AM .....14795	P7692 2005 CADILLAC ESCALADE .....45995
	4360A 2002 NISSAN ALTIMA .....14995	4076A 2004 GMC YUKON XL .....31995
		3157A 2003 GMC YUKON XL .....25995
		P7685 2001 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN .....22995
		P7717 2003 GMC YUKON SLE .....25995
		4811A 2002 CHEVROLET SUBURBAN Z71 .....25295
		P7702 2003 FORD WINDSTAR MINIVAN .....14995

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 MSRP.....\$38920  
 Brown Disc.....\$3225  
 Rebate.....\$2500  
**\$33,195\***  
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**2004 NISSAN MAXIMA**  
 MSRP.....\$30470  
 Brown Disc.....\$2075  
 Rebate.....\$1750  
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 #3975, 2991

**2004 Nissan Titan SE C.C.**  
 MSRP.....\$30810  
 Brown Disc.....\$2515  
 Rebate.....\$2000  
**\$25,795\***  
 #4132, 3802

**2005 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab**  
 MSRP.....\$22860  
 Rebate.....\$865  
**\$21,995\***  
 #4731, #4757

**2005 Nissan Sentra - SE**  
 Nissan Price.....\$18230  
 PKG Savings.....\$1500  
 MSRP.....\$16730  
 Brown Disc.....\$635  
 Rebate.....\$2000  
**\$21,460\***  
 #4820, #4866

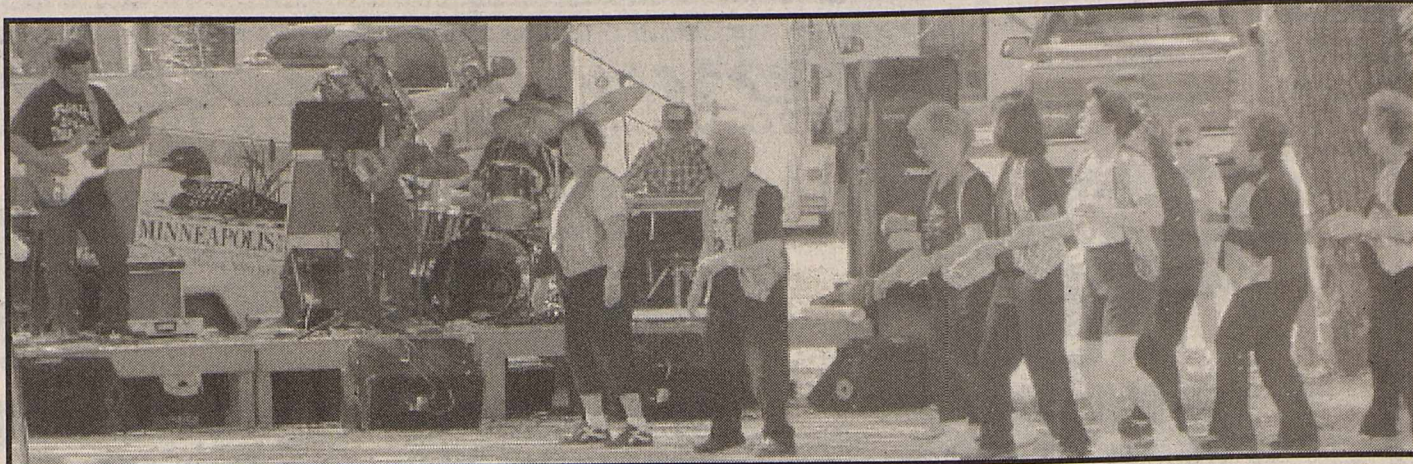
**2004 Nissan Xterra**  
 MSRP.....\$22950  
 Rebate.....\$2400  
 Brown Disc.....\$1205  
**\$19,345\***  
 #4673, #4710

**2004 Nissan Frontier Crew Cab**  
 MSRP.....\$22670  
 Rebate.....\$2500  
 Brown Disc.....\$1175  
**\$18,995\***  
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**2004 Nissan Quest**  
 MSRP.....\$30820  
 Rebate.....\$2500  
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**\$26,195\***  
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\* 1.0 APR in Lieu Of Rebate W.A.C. This ad supercedes previous ads.

# Fort Clark Days is fun for everyone



Activities during the festival included entertainment from The Golden Girls (above), motorcycle show (below), car show, 5K run (Left: Kelsey Bruce took 1st place in her age division), arts and crafts, cowboy poetry, music, gun shooting, and gunfights. Among the activities were many enthusiasts dressed in costume.

The Brackett News Photos by Pam Hale



One of the activities were the comical mini skits performed by several locals: (below) Pat Melancon, whose character was eventually shot down; (left) Danielle Moore and Michael Stephenson, played a young couple planning to get married against her father's wishes.

**Happy 2nd Birthday**  
March 21, 2005

**Anya Rea'Sha Robinson**  
We love you! Papa, Grandie, Mom, Dad, Dorothy, Shante, Justin, Solisa, Earl and other relatives.

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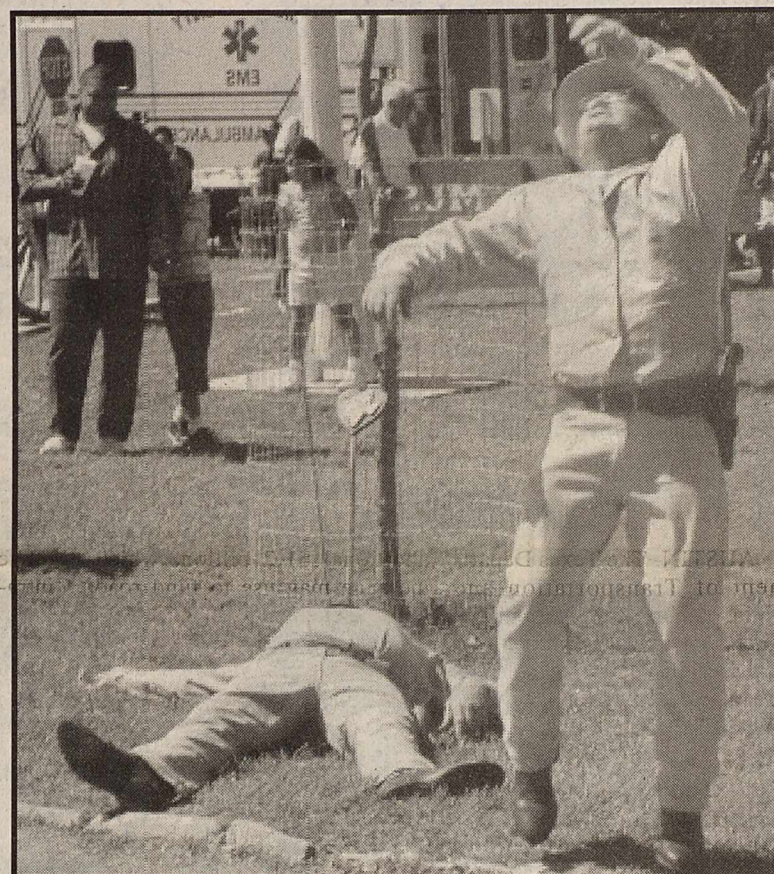
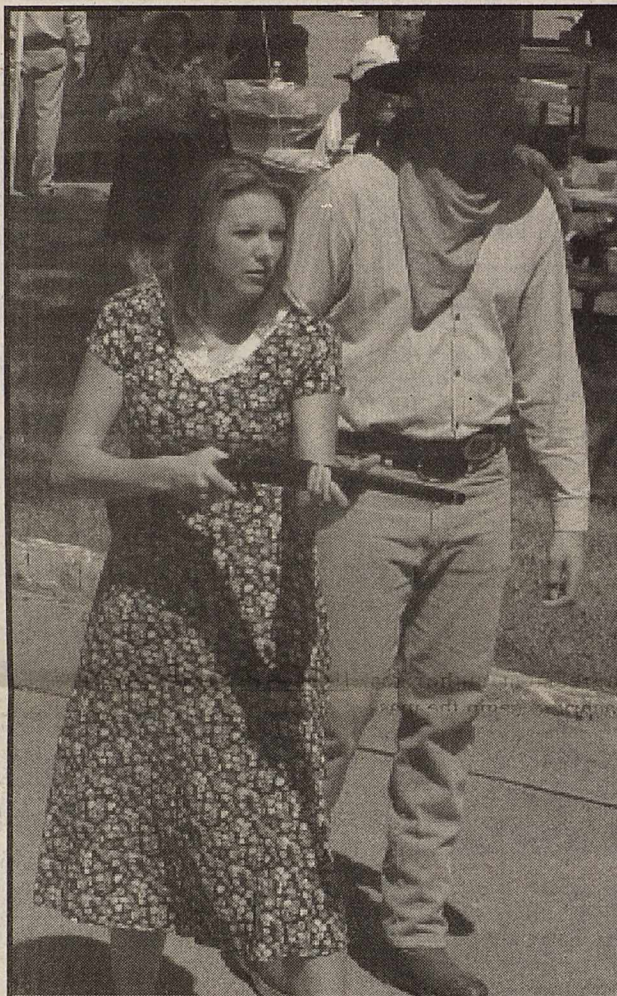
2205 Ave. F - Plaza Del Sol Mall 775-3122  
\$2.50 All Shows before 6pm \$2.50 Seniors & Children \$4.50 Adults  
Sat. & Sunday show times. No late show on Sunday

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**THE WEDDING DATE (PG13)** No Passes 1001 320 540 800 1030

**ICE PRINCESS (G)** 1150 215 440 705 925  
**HOSTAGE (R)** No Passes 1200 230 510 745 1020  
**ROBOTS (PG)** No Passes 1215 235 455 715 940  
**THE PACIFIER (PG)** 1130 200 430 700 930  
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**KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT**

**Monday, March 7**  
7:53 a.m., An anonymous caller reported a deer caught in a fence on Highway 674. Game Warden Henry Lutz was informed.

7:05 p.m., A man requested to speak with a deputy concerning phone calls. Deputy Donald Page was notified.

7:25 p.m., A U.S. Border Patrol reported a lady had called and stated that someone was knocking at her back door. Deputy Page was informed of the situation.

**Tuesday, March 8**  
2:16 a.m., A woman stated she thought she had seen someone inside her residence and needed a deputy. Deputy Kenneth Freitag responded.

6:30 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a loose calf on Highway 90 west. The owner was notified.

9:20 p.m., A man stated that his daughter had not returned home.

**Wednesday, March 9**  
10:50 a.m., Daniel Layman, 19, of Louland, Colo. was arrested by Deputy Ramon Gutierrez for a warrant out of Colorado. Layman was still being held when the report was made.

3:45 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a one car accident on Highway 277 South. Deputy Ron Ring and Trooper Tony Ashley were dispatched to the location.

8:00 p.m., A man reported a deer with a broken leg near the Detention Center on Highway 131. Game Warden Lutz was notified.

8:25 p.m., Uvalde Police department received a call from the Border Patrol in regards to a Tahoe they had stopped at the Cline check point. The juveniles were in the vehicle had been reported missing out of Colorado. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched.

**Thursday, March 10**  
6:30 a.m., A woman stated she did not want a man at her residence anymore that she was tired of him. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was advised of the situation.

12:56 p.m., An employee of a local business requested a deputy. Deputy Ron Ring was advised.

**Friday, March 11**  
5:10 p.m., An alarm was sounding at the local bank. Deputy Ring and Manuel Pena were advised.

**Saturday, March 12**  
1:05 a.m., An employee of a local business reported a fight and needed assistance. Trooper Tony Ashley responded to the call.

10:20 a.m., A man stated he and his family had been threatened and needed to speak with a deputy. No one was available at the time. Deputy Pena was later advised.

12:00 p.m., A man reported a 4-wheeler going south on Ann street driving at a high rate of speed. Deputy Pena was advised and reported later the 4-wheeler was already parked at home.

1:11 p.m., A Border Patrol agent at the Cline check point stated they had a young man with marijuana on him. Deputy Pena was advised.

4:00 p.m., Christopher Martinez, 17, of Midland, Texas, was arrested by Deputy Pena for possession of marijuana. Martinez was later released after posting a \$1,500 bond.

10:10 p.m., A Border Patrol agent requested a deputy in regards to a possible intoxicated driver at the Cline Check point. Deputy Freitag was dispatched.

11:45 p.m., Brian Dee Thomas, 21, of Abilene, Texas was arrested by Deputy Freitag for possession of marijuana and public intoxication. Thomas was still being held when the report was made.

**Sunday, March 13**  
1:25 p.m., An employee of a local business requested a deputy in regards to a shoplifter. Deputy Pena was advised of the situation.

4:47 p.m., An owner of a local business stated he had a vagrant at his business and wanted him removed. Deputy Pena was notified.

6:51 p.m., A woman reported a vehicle rollover in Uvalde County on Highway 90. Trooper Ashley, Uvalde Police department and EMS were dispatched.

8:03 p.m., Recieved a call from the Uvalde Police Department concerning a possible intoxicated driver in a silver car. Trooper Ashley was dispatched.

11:30 p.m., A woman reported her husband driving recklessly and wanted to get him off the highway. Deputy Freitag was advised.

**Monday, March 14**  
7:02 a.m., A man reported his brother's rottweiler had broken it's chain and was loose somewhere in town. He also stated the dog was very vicious. He was advised to report it to the city.

**MONUMENTS**

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Tigerette Tennis

Photo by Pam Hale

Shadine Gum, left, watches Timmeka Simmons during practice recently. The Tiger and Tigerette Tennis teams are back on the courts Thursday, March 24 in Knippa.

# Tiger tracks in LaPryor

In the JV Division Kaden Berg placed third in the long jump and sixth in the 200 meter dash. Isreal DeHoyos placed third in the discus.

In the Varsity Division, John Moore placed fifth in the discus, Tillman Davis took fourth in the triple jump. In the 200 meter

dash, Cody Edwards placed third while Noe Talamantes placed sixth. Talamantes took fifth place and Edwards sixth in the 100 meter dash. Tre Rueda placed third in the 110 high hurdles and fourth in the 300 hurdles.

The 400 meter relay team

consisting of Edwards, Talamantes, Fermin Villanueva and Gumaro Martinez took third place to round up the placings for the Tigers.

The Tigers had 42.5 points overall taking the team to eighth place at the LaPryor Track meet held on Thursday, March 3.

# Tigerettes take fourth at Crystal City meet

The Tigerette Tracksters took fourth place in last week's Crystal City meet.

Taking first was Laredo Nixon with 132 points, Laredo Martin with 97; Carrizo Springs with 96 points, Brackett with 91 points; Crystal City with 53 points and Runge with 45 points.

Individually, the team of Anolda Watkins, Daphne Hunt, Courtney Frerich and Bianca Stewart took second place in the 800 relay with a time of 1:54.3.

In the 1600 Relay, Stewart, Hunt, Frerich and Watkins took second place with a time of 4:27.9.

In the 3200 m, Juliann Ashabranner took third place with 12:54.3, while Gabby Schroeder took fourth with a time of 13:45.2.

In the High Hurdles, Bailee Allen won sixth place with a time of 18.8 and Hunt took first place in the 800 meter with a time of 2:32.6

In the 400 meter, Stewart took second with a time of 64.3.

In the intermediate hurdles, Frerich took first place with

50.4 seconds and Allen took sixth with 56.1 seconds.

In the 200 meter, Watkins took third with a time of 28.5 seconds.

In the 1600 meter, Ashabranner and Schroeder took fourth and sixth, respectively with times of 6:09.6 and 6:20.2.

In the shot put Allen took

sixth place with a distance of 27 feet, four inches.

In the High Jump, Frerich tied for second place with a distance of 5 feet even.

In the junior varsity division, Lauren Cornelius took third in the 400 meter with a time of 7.4 and took fifth place in the 200 m with a time of 31.9

# Cubettes fare well in LaPryor

The 8th grade Cubettes track team brought home second place from the La Pryor meet.

In the 400 relay, the team of Ashley Resendez, Katie Braesicke, Becca Mann and Brook Gose won fourth place with a time of 57.6 seconds.

In the 800 relay, Gose, Braesicke, Harmony Pettett and Samantha Moore won first place with a time of 2:02.0. In the 1600 relay, Resendez, Braesicke, Gose and Moore won second place with a time of 4:46.3.

In the 2400 m event, Pettett won first place with a time of 10:22.7; Jessica Garza took sixth place in the 800 m with a time of 3:05 while Resendez took fifth place in the 400 m with a time of 74.7. Moore won sixth place in the 200 m relay with a time of 30.4

In the 1600 m, Pettett took second place with a time of 6:26.3 while Bianca Martinez took third in the shot put with a distance of 24 feet, 11 inches.

In the discus, Martinez took sixth with a distance of 63 feet and three and half inches.

In the triple jump, Pettett took fifth place with a distance of 27 feet.

In the long jump, Moore won first place with Gose taking fifth place.

Moore took fifth place in the high jump with a height of 3 feet 10 inches.

The Seventh grade Cubettes took fifth place in the LaPryor track meet.

In the 1600 relay, the team of Cheyene Billings, Lela Molinar, Miranda Salmon and Nena Molinar took third with a time of 5:11.5.

In the 2400 m, Brianna Escamilla took third with a time of 10:50.4.

In the high hurdles, N. Molinar won first place with a time of 19.5.

In the 800 m, L. Molinar took second with a time of 2:53.6 and Salmon took fifth with 3:01.3.

In the 400 m, L. Molinar took fifth with a time of 74.5.

In the Intermediate hurdles, N. Molinar took fifth place with a time of 62.5.

Escamilla took second in the 1600 m with a time of 6:54.5.

In the shot put, Ivy Garcia took fourth with a distance of 25 feet.

L. Molinar took fifth in the long jump with 11 feet, and 11.25 inches.

In the high jump, third place went to Billings with a distance of 4 feet.

# Texas moving to provide congestion relief to I-35

Public-private partnership formed for Trans-Texas Corridor

AUSTIN - The Texas Department of Transportation and Cintra-Zachry - an international group of engineering, construction and financial firms - today formalized a partnership to develop TTC-35, the first element of the Trans-Texas Corridor from Oklahoma to Mexico.

The agreement allows the state to take advantage of private sector innovation and resources in the development of TTC-35 to reduce congestion, improve safety and address long-term mobility needs in the Interstate 35 corridor.

"This partnership brings private investment - billions of dollars in private investment - to provide congestion relief to I-35," said Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission. "Private sector funding will help put transportation improvements on the ground sooner."

Cintra-Zachry is proposing to invest \$7.2 billion to help build TTC-35. The first phase of their proposal calls for building a \$6 billion toll road between Dallas and San Antonio by 2010. In exchange for building and operating it as a toll facility, the consortium will pay the state an

additional \$1.2 billion, which the state may use to fund road improvements or high-speed and commuter rail projects along the I-35 or TTC-35 corridors.

"We at Cintra and Grupo Ferrovial are delighted to play a role in helping Governor Perry and TxDOT bring billions of investment dollars to Texas and create new jobs for Texans," said Rafael del Pino, executive chairman of Grupo Ferrovial, Cintra's parent company. "In fact, we consider this to be a major Texas jobs producer, because estimates show this project will create more than 140,000 direct and indirect Texas jobs."

The comprehensive development agreement was signed at a ceremony in Austin by Michael Behrens, TxDOT's executive director, Rafael del Pino, and David Zachry, CEO of Zachry Construction.

"Zachry has been a long time supporter of identifying processes to deliver highway projects better, faster and cheaper for the state," said Zachry. "We believe the Trans Texas Corridor will accomplish that and serve as a model for future expansion of the state's highway system."

The agreement authorizes Cintra-Zachry to begin the master development and financial plan. This plan will guide the development of a new system of roads, rail and utilities.

The plan will include a project list, implementation schedule and funding options.

For each project identified, the consortium will develop a conceptual design plan, preliminary cost estimates, toll feasibility studies and a plan for complying with environmental requirements.

The master plan will be updated regularly to account for environmental, financial and other factors.

The agreement authorizes a \$3.5 million planning effort. It does not set the alignment for TTC-35, authorize construction, set toll rates, determine who gets the tolls, or eliminate competition for future services.

No final alignment for TTC-35 has been selected. The environmental study.

This first phase is expected to be completed by Spring 2006. Additional environmental studies are required to determine the final route alignment before construction can begin.

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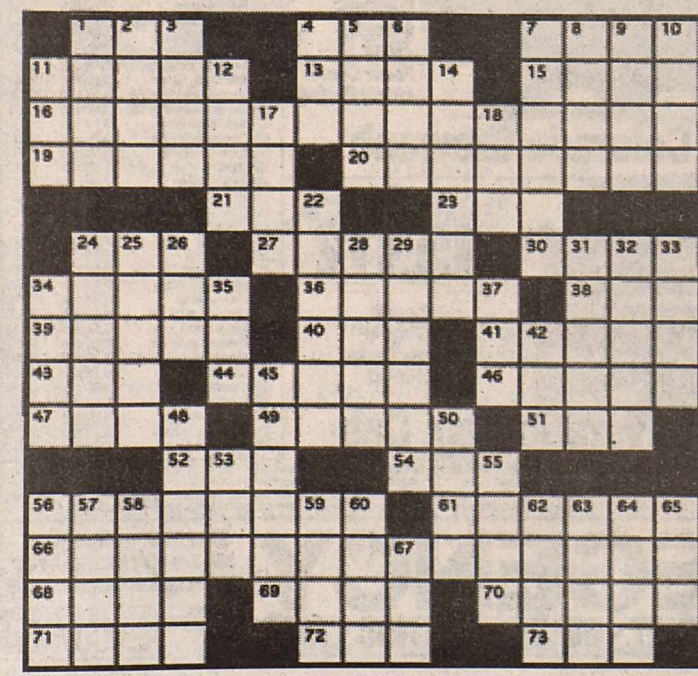
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ACROSS  
1 Mountain peak  
4 Eighty-three-and-a-half dozen, in old Rome  
7 Early period  
11 "... heart skipped ..."  
13 Italian town  
15 Like meringue  
16 Popular 1986 film  
19 Spring celebration  
20 Recently arising  
21 Patriotic org.  
23 Scottish one  
24 Front porch item  
27 Type of palm  
30 Unhealthy sound  
34 Unreasonably zealous  
36 Sign of life  
38 Nothing  
39 Shady spot  
40 Santa \_\_\_\_\_  
41 Narratives  
43 One with foliage  
44 Playing card  
46 42 Down part  
47 Kids  
49 Unpopular high-schoolers  
51 Retrain syllable  
52 Normal state  
54 Heavy imbibor  
56 Uninhabited  
61 Literary device  
66 Long-running Broadway play  
68 Eur. language  
69 This: Sp.  
70 Implements  
71 Soaks  
72 Afternoon event  
73 Ill  
DOWN  
1 Magician's opener  
2 Summer babies  
3 Covenant vine  
4 French calendar page  
5 \_\_\_\_\_ Royale National Park  
6 Thing or poet  
7 Hazard  
8 \_\_\_\_\_-de-camp  
9 Treestop singer  
10 Yeltsin's refusal  
11 \_\_\_\_\_ of hearts  
12 Extremity tips  
14 Principles  
17 Blah  
18 Coffee dispenser  
22 Do \_\_\_\_\_ roadwork  
24 \_\_\_\_\_ Thomas  
25 Man of the cloth  
28 Madre's brother  
28 Grand adjuster  
29 Animals with twisted horns  
31 One of 7 Deadly Sins  
32 Tropical vine  
33 In addition  
34 Simplest of watercraft  
35 Prescribers: abbr.  
37 Suffix for murder or poet  
42 One of 5 in "Hamlet"  
45 Infuriate  
48 Goes bad  
50 Average  
53 Potable  
55 Tight  
56 Speaker's place  
57 With: pref.  
58 Ginger \_\_\_\_\_  
59 Examination  
60 Ending for Paul or Nan  
62 Run  
63 Mr. \_\_\_\_\_ Stravinsky  
64 Reign  
65 English letters  
67 Cheer



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 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: MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

A grid of letters for the Boaring Twenties puzzle. The letters are: F I D D L E P O L L E C, G O B O E T U B A Y L H, U S U G L U V J H A U B, I H S K G L H I R G F C, T O C G U F G I O I H B, A R X H S L N S F L A X, R N U B H E E E B S I C, D U A D M T V G L S O B N, O N A I P S I O E R A H, S S B S S E O O C G N A, R A T I S N T D L A J R, P I C C O L O H B N O P. To the right of the grid is a list of 20 numbered blanks for the answers.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Mar. 17..... Jason Smith  
Mar. 18..... Emma Schiester  
Mar. 18..... Charles Warren  
Mar. 19..... Ray Ashabranner  
Mar. 20..... Nathan Brinker  
Mar. 20..... Jo Entrikin  
Mar. 20..... Virginia Smith  
Mar. 21..... Justin Coates  
Mar. 21..... Mary Lue Gonzalez  
Mar. 23..... Jonathan Rios  
Mar. 21..... Irene Mata  
Mar. 21..... Michael Mellor  
Mar. 22..... Gerald Anderson  
Mar. 22..... Camille Neil  
Mar. 22..... Celia Ramon  
Mar. 22..... Gene Slate  
Mar. 23..... Patricia Gass  
Mar. 23..... Johnny Gomez  
Mar. 23..... Nicole Mata

Boaring Twenties Solution:

A list of 20 musical instruments: 1. Banjo, 2. Bassoon, 3. Cello, 4. Clarinet, 5. Fiddle, 6. Fife, 7. Flute, 8. Guitar, 9. Harp, 10. Horn, 11. Oboe, 12. Organ, 13. Piano, 14. Piccolo, 15. Sitar, 16. Trumpet, 17. Tuba, 18. Ukulele, 19. Viol, 20. Violin. To the right is a small grid showing the words circled in the puzzle.

FLOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You make a poor impression on friends and family this week. For some reason, they find you overbearing right now. Back down a bit and soften your approach. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You dig in your heels this week and insist things go your way. Frankly, that's not very attractive. Tact and diplomacy will serve you better. ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You could be asked to go that extra mile this week at work. Be sure you're able to handle the job. This is a big test for you in the long run. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're on quite the roll this week at work. Everything you touch works out magically. At home, though, it's a different story, so be patient. GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Don't give in to temptation this week where credit matters are concerned. You could easily get in over your head. In relationships, remember that compromise is always best. CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're going to have to resist the urge to give advice this week. Yes, it would be on the mark. However, not everyone will appreciate your words of wisdom. LEO (July 23 to August 22) Exercise restraint this week when dealing with those in authority at work. You could say something flippanantly that would be misinterpreted. Later in the week, romance is favored. VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A friend who normally agrees with you won't this week. Don't let that throw you. By week's end, you're happily on the same page again. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's a good week to tie up some loose ends at work. You've been procrastinating over certain things for too long. Bigwigs are watching. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Ease up a bit this week on colleagues. You get more done if you stop pushing your weight around. Others will be more inclined to cooperate. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Guard against impatience this week. You'll also have an unfortunate tendency to fly off the handle. Get to the heart of what's bugging you to get back on a more even keel. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You'll feel very hurried and rushed this week. Calm down and prioritize. Even if you don't accomplish everything, you'll find you've done enough by the end of the week to keep you sane.

OBITUARY

Anna Lee Ricks

Anna Lee Ricks, age 85, entered into rest March 10, 2005 in Del Rio, Texas. She was born August 25, 1919 in Wilsonville, Alabama.

She is preceded in death by her husband Thomas Ricks; grandsons Jeffery and Cody Ricks; parents Walter Bennet and Kate West.

She is survived by her sons Gerald David Ricks and wife Holly; Kenneth Lee Ricks and wife Clara; Ronald Lynn Ricks and wife Pamela.

Visitation was Saturday, March 12, Sunset Memorial Oaks Chapel, 114 North St., Brackettville, Texas.

Funeral Service were Sunday, March 13, at Methodist Church in Brackettville, Texas. Interment followed at Kinney County Cemetery.

In Lieu of flowers memorials can be made to First United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 93, Brackettville, TX 78832 or



Jeffery and Cody Ricks Memorial Scholarship at La Coste National Bank, 15956 South Frnt, La Coste, TX 78039. Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, 2020 Bedell Ave, Del Rio, Texas 78840 (830) 778-2020

Patricia L. Spohnholtz

Patricia L. Spohnholtz passed away on Sunday, March 13, 2005. She was born on July 2, 1939.

A memorial service will be held on Thursday, March 24, 1 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Brackettville.

The different stories of two similar men

He was born in the Mideast. He has brown eyes, brown hair and olive colored skin.

He is from a royal family and very wealthy.

He has no scars or outstanding marks.

He is a leader and has a large group of followers.

He is thought to be living in a cave in a remote part of the world.

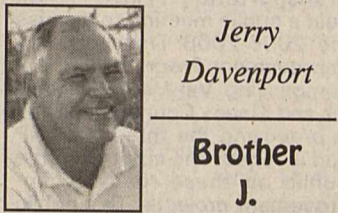
He has a goal and has been successful at it.

He has purposed in his heart to bring harm and misery to many many people. He has killed men, women and children.

He has also wounded and maimed many others and killed their loved ones, makes no difference to him.

He has led or financed or trained people that have killed in many parts of the world.

His name is Usama Bin Laden. Another man was born in the Mideast but many years



Jerry Davenport Brother J.

earlier He had brown hair, brown eyes, and olive colored skin.

Noticeable scars, on both hands and both feet and his side. He was a leader but only of a small band of twelve.

He helped people by giving sight to the blind, healing the sick, and giving new life to the dead.

His main purpose in life was to save the world from its sin, (John 1:29& 3:17).

He said he came to seek and save the lost, (1 Timothy 1:15).

He was successful but it cost him his life, His name is Jesus.

See you in Church next Sunday.

Where lies the 'political' truth

This is the Religion Page of our local Newspaper.

I say Thanks for the ownership and editorial staff of the Brackett News for making this possible. This particular offering represents a three-week absence from this page of reflections from the Catholic Community.

To use an old expression, "Sorry About that!" And following this paragraph, here comes a current reflection.

Given the trend in this nation if ours via groups of lawyers, such as the "Americans for Separation of Church and State" (whatever their acronym might

be), that other group dedicated, committed, and on the verge of being fanatical to their cause of "No public display of the historical foundations of this nation of ours" (I believe this group is known as the "ACLU"), "People for the American Way" (Who decides what the "American Way" really is), it might be good to read, and listen to another perspective.

It comes to us by way of "Opinion Letters", "View point", by Allen Sears (The NCR = "The National Catholic Review"): "The Establishment Clause of the U.S. Constitution says that the federal government



St. Mary Magdalene Church Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

"Shall not establish" (my emphasis) a particular state religion. It does not (again, my emphasis) say that the government cannot recognize religion, or the important role it plays in our history and culture, nor was it meant to trump the Free Exercise Clause. And it certainly was never meant to be twisted

into the club The Americans United for the Separation of Church and State (Acronym?), People for the American Way (Acronym?), and ACLU, now wield in their efforts to stamp out all public memory of and acknowledgments of Christianity's historical significance from the public square".

How do these three groups: No. 1: The Americans United for the Separation of Church and State,

No. 2: People for the American Way, and

No. 3: ACLU — enjoy such clout with the courts? Do you readers have any answers?

From your good words, you'll have good things

It had been a month since Rick had arrived at prison. Each day brought monotony and deepening discontent.

His nerves were raw and his temper flared at the least provocation.

Rick was growing to hate the "big man" who was the leader of one of the prison gangs.

A couple of the gang members often attempted to goad Rick into a fight.

Although he boiled with anger inside, Rick knew he couldn't afford to get into trouble.

Rick had decided that he would play the prison game and be a model prisoner. He knew it was the only way to shorten his time. But it was difficult to reconcile the outer self he was determined to be with the inner self that was controlled by rage. Sooner or later he knew his rage would boil over and be his undoing.

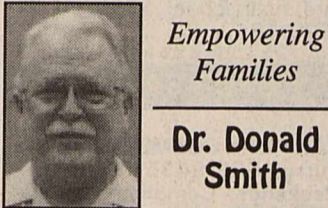
Hoping to find an outlet, Rick signed up to work on the prison farm. Perhaps he thought, the physical labor would be his outlet for the high levels of energy resulting from his rage.

It would also keep him away from the gang.

Joe was also increasingly difficult to be around.

Rick couldn't understand how Joe could be so happy.

It was something Rick found attractive and yet he resented the peace Joe seemed to have.



Empowering Families Dr. Donald Smith

He and Joe were exact opposites.

Joe's goodness seemed to shine a light on all the evil in Rick's life.

It wasn't an "in your face" kind of thing. It was more of a quiet expression but without words.

There was an unseen power in Joe's life that Rick could feel. Joe reminded him of his grandfather.

The prison farm gave Rick lots of time to think. Sometimes uninvited memories of his grandfather would pop into his mind.

Rick looked down the rows of cabbage he was tending.

He smiled as he thought of Grandpa's garden.

"Grandpa, why do you work so hard?"

"Listen carefully Ricky."

Ricky lifted his little face expectantly.

"Always speak well of the soil and the plants and of God who created them. From your good words you'll have good things."

The work you put into your garden will come back to reward you with an abundance of good produce (Proverbs 12:14).

That rock was Christ

More over, Brethren I would not that ye should be ignorant, how that all our fathers were under the cloud, and all passed through the sea.

And were all baptized unto Moses in the cloud and in the sea; And did all eat the same spiritual meat; And did all drink the same spiritual drink; For they drank of that spiritual rock that followed them: And that rock was Christ. But with many of them as they also lusted, they were overthrown in the wilderness.



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

Now these things were our examples, to the intent we should not lust after evil things, as they also lusted. 1 Corinthians 10: 1-6. Praise God!

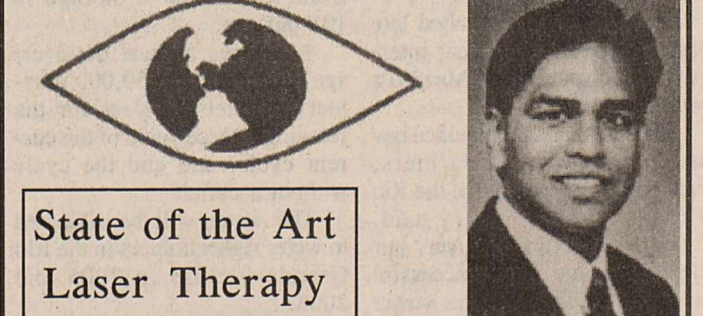
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The mystery of Suffering

The mystery of suffering has long been a challenge for man to understand.

He has wrestled with the question of suffering from the time Adam heard the words, "By the sweat of your brow shall you get bread to eat."

Some of the greatest minds in history have come into close quarters with the most illusive opponent . . . Plato, Aristotle, St. Thomas Aquinas, and many others.

Yet it remains a mystery, one which each man must face in his own way and in his own time. It is an opponent with many faces, illness, rejection, disaster, hunger.

The perennial question "why" presents itself in an intimate way to each generation. When suffering seizes upon a man, it can push him to his very limits. Arguably one of the most acquainted with suffering was the holy man Job.

His grief is made so vivid as we read his plaint, "Perish the day on which I was born, the night when they said, "the child is a boy!" may that day be darkness, let it not occur among the days of the year nor enter the count of the months.

Why did I not perish at birth, come forth from the womb and expire? I have no peace or ease, I have no rest." Many have felt the same abandonment, asked

the same questions, yet it lingers on suffering visits again. Then the sun rises and the toil continues.

The picture is dark indeed, especially for those with little understanding. But the light has shown in the darkness. Christ has illuminated the mystery of suffering. By his wounds we have been healed. Suffering has a redemptive quality.

As a man, Jesus suffered so greatly he could not be recognized as a man.

As God, he suffered perfectly in knowledge and humility. Because of this his suffering was greater than any gone before or any to come.

Although it remains a mystery for us, we can take a great consolation knowing that our suffering is a participation in the saving work of Jesus.

In the sufferings of our flesh we complete what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is the Church. We become one in union with the Passion of Christ. The wisdom of suffering . . . the plan of God. Easy to speak of, yet so difficult to enter into oneness with that reality.

For man, it is impossible, but with God all things are possible. His grace is sufficient for us. his power is made perfect in our weakness.

When we become one with



Postcard Home Brother Henry Clay Hunt III

Christ in his suffering, we also become one with him in His resurrection. This is the key to the mystery of suffering.

This is hope. Yet even with this knowledge, to embrace the cross as Christ did is too much for mere man to handle.

That is why our Lord gave us himself in the Eucharist. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him."

This is how we can say, "It is no longer I who live but Christ who lives within me." And when we are with Christ, who can stand against us? He rules over all things for he has conquered even death. Therefore in him we can say, "O death, where is your victory? Death where is your sting?"

This was the wisdom of the saints. This is how they come to transcend the mystery of suffering, how they were able to endure so much.

They drank deeply from the cup of salvation, the precious Blood of Christ, and thus received a wisdom that far sur-

passes the wisdom of the world.

In this light, suffering in a sense becomes joy. Still, it is a dark valley through which one has to pass. A place where knowledge must give way to encounter, a difference that can be compared to night and day . . . a leap that stretches a great chasm.

When I think of this, my heart grows faint, a weakness seizes my limbs, and fear threatens to overwhelm my security.

Who knows when disaster may strike? Who knows when calamity will come? Who knows when the foundation you were so sure of will crumble beneath you? This is why I go to the Woman of suffering. I study at the school of the Woman of Humility.

I sit at the feet of the Woman of the Eucharist and I watch the way she moves. I am attentive to her skill and I commend myself always to the safety of her Immaculate Heart.

I know the enemy is lurking that death and suffering stalks as if to find a lamb who has strayed from the flock. But the Mother of all Shepherds keeps a close watch. Death and Suffering bow to her and though they may embrace me, they must gently return me unto her arms. . . for she is my mother.

Then as a good mother, she brings me to the Father.

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**Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

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 CROCODILEUNDEE  
 EASTER EMERGENT  
 SAR ANE  
 MAT BETEL RALE  
 RABID PULSE NIL  
 ARBOR ANA SAGAS  
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**2BR, 1 BATH** in town, big fence yard, near school. \$350 month. 563-9161.

**FOR SALE**

**MARY KAY COSMETICS,** Alana Flurry, 563-9435. Evenings/Weekends, Complimentary facials, products, etc. www.marykay.com/flurry.

**MOBILE HOME - LOCATED** at Fort Clark Springs. 3 bedroom, 1 bathroom, Central air/heat, covered patio, carport, 2 storage sheds, lot included with small membership fee. Asking \$7000.00. (830) 774-4423 or (830) 703-9268.

**FREE 4-ROOM DIRECTV** system includes standard installation! 3 months FREE 50+ Premium Channels. Access to over 225 channels! Limited time offer. S&H. Restrictions apply. 1-800-264-3458.

**POOLS! POOLS! WAREHOUSE** liquidation on new, leftover 2004 pools! 31'x19' with sundeck, fence, filter, ladders ONLY \$995! 100% financing! Installation extra. Homeowners! Call us! 1-888-697-6655, limited area.

**SPA/HOT TUB** 7ft. model, digital controls, back, neck and leg jets, stainless steel heater, 4hp, mood light, beautiful cedar cabinet, warranty, can deliver, \$1,695. 1-832-721-2198.

**GARAGE SALES**

**TWO FAMILY GARAGE Sale,** 591 Ft. Clark Rd., Fri. 18th - Sat. 19th. 8:00 - 2:00.

**O'Rourke Realty**

Paul & Elsa O'Rourke

(830) 563-2713

**2-Story, 2 bed, 2 baths** townhouse. Enclosed front patio.

**2-Story, 2 bed, 2 baths** townhouse. Attractive floor plan, staircase leads to loft bedroom.

**Unit 32 - 3 bed, 2 baths** mobile home in great condition. Metal roof extends to 3-car carport and on to 16x24 workshop with plumbing. Wide cement driveway. Two lots, many Oak trees. Fenced. Price reduced from \$65,000 to \$55,000.

**In Brackettville - Small cottage.** Living room, 2 bed. 1 bath. \$25,000.

orourke@the-i.net  
www.orourke Realty.net

**HOME BUILDERS**

**BUILD YOUR NEW 3 bedroom,** 2 bath custom home on your land today! 100% financing and low payments. United-Bilt Homes. 1-800-756-2506, UBH.com

**INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING**

**ARE YOU WANTING** to go to school and stay at home? Earn you Associate Degree at PCI - Online in business and computers. 1-800-655-5554, www.pci-online.edu.

**LEARN TO OPERATE** heavy equipment! Four week training for bulldozer, backhoes, excavators and more! No experience needed! Job placement and in-house financing available. 1-866-280-5836.

**POSTAL POSITIONS AVAIL-** ABLE!! Federal, state and local. \$14.00-\$48.00+/hr. No experience necessary. Paid training and full benefits. Entry levels. Call seven days for information. 1-888-826-2513, Ext. 555, Advantage Techniques.

**MISCELLANEOUS**

**WHY PAY SBC** for a technician to set up your DSL? Sign up with your local SBC DSL representative and we will set it up for free. We also handle all types of computer repairs. Doctor Computer. 563-3443.

**Sell your unwanted items in the classifieds!**

**Ken Barnett Real Estate**

P.O. Box 1035  
103 W. Spring St.  
Brackettville, TX 78832  
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
  - Acres - 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

**LAS MORAS REALTY**

DEBBIE TRANT / BARBARA VOSS

830-563-2997  
104 A-E Spring

**NEW LISTING - Spacious 2BR, 2B** home in "The Oaks", with fireplace, studio & shed. Beautiful setting overlooking Las Moras Creek.

**Perfect Winter Home - Nice 1BR, 1B** mobile home, large screened porch, selling furnished. Only \$17,995.00

**Charming 1BR townhome,** living room opens out to private patio & garden area.

**UNIT 14 - Covered RV lot,** backs up to green belt. \$10,000.

**Ranches and small acreage available.**

View listings: www.realestatetxkinneycounty.com

**Tejas Properties**

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

**Have Buyers - Need Ranches!**

We have sold 18 ranches in the last year and our inventory is drastically LOW! Give us a call today. Prices are at record highs.

www.Tejas-Properties.com

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

**THE TEXAS DEPARTMENT** of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting to discuss the 2006-2008 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) encompassing Val Verde, Maverick and Kinney Counties. TxDOT is proposing the three year TIP and is requesting input from the public on these roadway improvement projects. This public meeting will be held at Maude Mae Kirchner Elementary School located at 1st and Crockett Street in Quemando, Texas. The meeting will begin at 6:00 p.m. on March 30, 2005. Please note the viewing of exhibits will begin at 5:30 p.m. prior to the public meeting. If you have any question or comments please contact Melissa D. Montemayor, District Transportation Administrator at (956) 712-7456.

**REAL ESTATE**

**A BARGAIN 100 acres -** \$37,900. Trophy whitetails. Rolling hills and draws, great access. Abundant turkey, quail, small game. More available. E-Z terms. Texas Land and Ranches, 1-866-899-5263.

**DESTIN, FL, EDGEWATER** Beach Condos 1, 2 and 3 bedroom beachfront, 3 pools. Spa, fitness, kids play area. FREE beach umbrella and chairs, edgewaterbeach.com, 1-800-822-4929.

**Rummage Sale**

First United Methodist Church will hold its annual rummage sale on Friday, March 18, beginning at 8AM in Slaton Hall, 210 James Street, and continuing until noon Saturday. Included in the sale are several computers, men's suits and a wide variety of household items.

**Kinney County group speaks out**

Continued from Page 1  
 She added that Kinney County would have no representation on the EAA board, and that current EAA rules would

not grant exemptions to municipalities as the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District rules do.

line prohibition that is in place for Uvalde County," she said. "Without that prohibition, that leaves us out on our own." Other than their membership

in the Texas Alliance of Groundwater Districts the district does not have a lobbyist under contract to fight any pending legislation, she said.

**Perry: Mexico agrees to pay Texas entire water debt**  
*New agreement between U.S. and Mexico also ensures future deliveries*

**MISSION - Gov. Rick Perry** announced that Mexico agreed to pay off its entire water debt to Texas by September, under terms of an agreement reached between the United States and Mexico.

The agreement, reached late last week, ends a 12-year international dispute over Mexico's water debt.

"We are here to announce tremendous news for farmers, ranchers and residents of the Rio Grande Valley," Perry said. "The 12 year wait is over, our diplomacy has been successful and every drop of the water owed you by Mexico is on the way."

Mexico currently owes Texas approximately 733,000 acre feet of water under terms of the 1944 Water Sharing Treaty.

At one point, Mexico's water debt had reached 1.5 million acre feet.

"This is not only great news for the people of the Rio Grande Valley, it is a historic day for all of Texas, the United States and Mexico, because it marks the end of a contentious issue that has clouded our friendship for too long and marks the beginning of a new era of cooperation," Perry told a group of farmers, ranchers and business-

men and women.

The new agreement calls for Mexico to:

- Transfer water from the Amistad and Falcon reservoirs to Texas, raising U.S. reserves from 95 percent of storage to 103 percent.
- Deliver at least the average minimum of 350,000 acre-feet of water per year for the remaining three years of the current cycle, and end the cycle without a deficit.

The water will be allocated to water rights holders in the Rio Grande for use in 2005 and 2006.

"These transfers will ensure that Texas growers have the water they need in time for the planting season and give our farmers, their families and employees some much needed peace of mind," Perry said.

"And not only will Mexico's existing water debt be totally paid off in short order, but South Texas farmers and ranchers can also expect consistency and certainty in future water deliveries." The United States and Mexico have agreed to continue to work together to clarify and formalize key provisions in the 1944 treaty, including determining how both countries will define conditions under which wa-

ter transfers can be modified, such as in the case of extraordinary drought conditions.

Additionally, the United States will continue to receive one-third of the water arriving in the Rio Grande from six Mexican tributaries specified in the 1944 Water Treaty.

The new agreement also calls for Mexico and the United States to meet annually to review basin conditions, develop firm water delivery plans for the next cycle year, and work cooperatively on drought management strategies that can benefit both countries.

"These efforts will increase transparency and accountability, and help ensure that both sides live up to their obligations consistently in the future - not just when Mother Nature is generous," Perry added.

The agreement is the culmination of more than two years of determined, quiet diplomacy by state and federal officials working with Mexican officials to reach an agreement that will benefit citizens on both sides of



Gov. Rick Perry

the border.

Perry and Mexican President Vicente Fox met in Austin for face-to-face discussions on the water debt in November 2003, at which time Perry proposed that Mexico could repay its water debt by using water available in other Mexican reservoirs than Falcon and Amistad.

Perry also traveled to Mexico for further discussions with President Fox in June 2004, and he has met on several occasions with the Mexican border governors to discuss the water debt.

At Perry's direction, the Texas Commission of Environmental Quality and the Texas Watermaster have worked consistently with the International Boundary and Water Commission to help Mexico recognize its obligation to the 1944 Treaty.

"Today the relationship between Texas and Mexico is stronger than ever because we have kept the lines of communication open and talked as friends - even on this most contentious of issues," Perry said.

The agreement we have announced today sends a strong message that we will continue to pursue a common path to that future - together as friends and neighbors."

**New laws take aim at campaign signs**

Texans take pride in their beautiful, scenic state. They also like to boast about its nationally renowned highway system.

During campaign season, the landscape blooms with a different flower - the political sign. On private property, they are a thing of beauty.

On public lands, they are illegal.

Here's the scoop on how to keep Texas beautiful.

"We are extremely happy that our community has become an active voice this campaign season," TxDOT Laredo District Engineer Luis A. Ramirez said. "And while we encourage everyone to make their opinions heard, we want the community to be conscious of the state laws while they do so."

How to keep your campaign signs legal:

- Do not place campaign signs on or within any public right of way as State law specifically prohibits this. This includes trees, telephone poles, traffic signs, and other objects on the right of way. Signs in violation will be removed by TxDOT employees, a county sheriff, or a constable, depending upon the jurisdiction.

If you are thinking of placing a sign inside of incorporated city limits, make sure to check with the city because the signs may be subject to a local ordinance.

What you can legally do:  
 Place a campaign sign on private property with the owner's permission along all highways in Texas.

The signs must be made of lightweight material and can be up to 50 square feet in size.

Signs may be placed as early as 90 days before an election, but no earlier.

Signs must be removed within 10 days after the election.

Under Texas law, it is a class C misdemeanor to place any sign on a state highway right of way.

It is also illegal to place a sign, even off state right of way, along most major federal highways in the state without a license or permit.

The fine for violating these laws can be as much as \$1,000 per sign per day. "We hope that the public abides by these laws this campaign season," Ramirez said. "These laws help save lives by limiting the number of distractions and obstacles along our Texas roads."