

The Brackett News

Templeton discusses school safety issues
See story, Page 6

15 year, No. 25

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

City cuts debt by 36 percent

Mayor abandons idea of loan

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

The City of Brackettville has cut its debts by 36 percent, according to Mayor Carmen Berlanga.

The mayor made the announcement during this month's City Council meeting. The city has decreased its debt from \$220,239.99 to \$140,565.85.

"We've been working very hard on paying our indebtedness," Berlanga said. "In six weeks, we have really put a dent into our indebtedness. The money is coming in and I'm paying bills as it comes in."

The city still owes \$61,034.60 to West Gas, \$27,200 for Texas Municipal League insurance, \$15,393.66 to Central Power and Light, \$11,815.54 to Waste Management, \$9,959.16 to general accounts, \$7,737.89 in federal taxes and \$7,425 for retirement benefits. Total cash assets are \$9,211.76.

City officials were once considering a \$204,766.44 loan from the Bank & Trust, but apparently have abandoned the idea.

"We're not even approaching a loan because we have been

CITY DEBT

Following are debts owed by the City of Brackettville as presented by Mayor Carmen Berlanga:

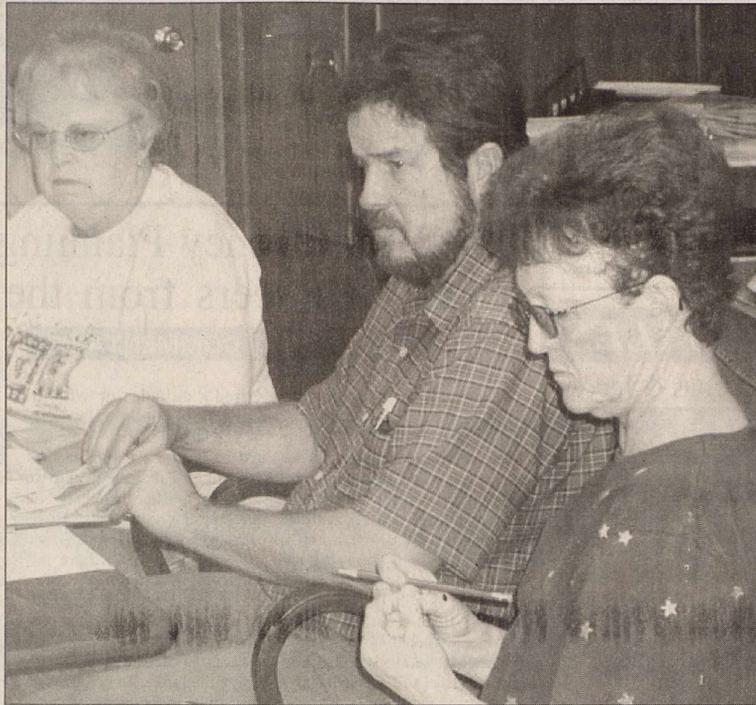
West Texas Gas	.\$61,034.60
TML Insurance\$27,200
CPL\$15,393.66
Waste Mang\$11,815.54
Gen. Accounts\$9,959.16
Federal Taxes\$7,737.89
Retirement\$7,425
Total debt\$140,565.85

very fortunate in paying out this kind of money," Berlanga said. "If we can pay West Texas Gas \$22,000 in six weeks, they're not bothering us."

Berlanga has been running the day-to-day operations of the city since the council fired David Luna as city manager last month. The mayor has also asked the council to make more contributions to the operations of the city.

"I need help," Berlanga said. I asked the council to volunteer on particular subjects. Mary Flores is inventory and personnel policy. Alderman (Tomas) Gomez is overseeing the brush area. I asked Chica (Garza) to

See MAYOR/Page 4



Talking about budgets

Gene Slate (from left), Tim Ward and Anita Ertle are serving on a four-person committee assisting in the preparation of the city budget for Brackettville.

Photo by J.J. Guidry

Council opens budget talks

Brackettville city officials opened budget talks Tuesday with a four-person committee appointed by Mayor Carmen Berlanga. The committee is made up of Anita Ertle, Gene Slate, Leroy Slubar and Tim Ward.

Ward told officials the committee is offering ideas to "generate some thought and bring some clarity in your minds."

The city is facing debts of \$140,565.85, and Ward said the first area that may need to be addressed is cuts in employees.

"Payroll is nearly two-thirds of your budget," he said. "And, unfortunately, when you go to look at cutting, you're going to realize that you're not going to have a whole lot of room without pointing to that and making adjustments."

The mayor said the city's salary expenses have already decreased with the reduction of employees from 15 to nine.

"We had \$409,000 in salaries, but we have bumped that down to about \$210,000," she said.

Berlanga added that the budget would have to include a salary for a new city secretary.

Former maintenance supervisor loses lawsuit against Fort Clark Springs

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

A contract that was not approved by the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors and another contract that could not be found in the association's files didn't seem to help Russell Williams.

Judge John Ford denied Williams' claim for \$2,355 in compensation after his contract as temporary supervisor of the Fort Clark Springs' maintenance department was terminated.

Ford ruled against Williams in Thursday's trial, but opted not to award the association \$1,800 for attorney fees for defense of the lawsuit.

"With all of the contractors working around the fort, I cannot imagine the board not approving the contracts," Ford said. "Even with a clause for 30 days notice, that does not necessarily mean 30 days pay."

Williams worked for almost a year before his contract as a temporary supervisor was terminated on April 9 by Tom Saylor, president of the Board of Directors.

"A contract was never ap-

proved by the board," said Pat Ellis, the association's attorney. "Even if you assume it was valid, there is no way to determine the amount of money to be paid. It certainly doesn't provide that he would get an average amount of pay — it doesn't say anything about compensation."

Williams presented a contract to the court that stipulated either party had to give 30 days notice before terminating the contract. Fort Clark officials argued that the only contract on file at the association's offices did not include that stipulation.

"I signed this contract in good faith," Williams said. "I worked under the perception that this contract was in effect. If the rules of the association were violated, that shouldn't affect me. I thought it was proper and legal."

"I just feel like I should have had the option to work the additional 30 days or be paid for those days," he added.

Williams and Maggie Banner Kerr, former general manager, signed the original contract on the morning of May 17, 2002. Kerr testified that a second con-

tract was signed that afternoon which included the 30-day clause on the advice of attorney Haygood Guley.

"I was never aware of any other contract," said Genell Hobbs, the association's executive secretary. "We searched our files and the computer in Mrs. Kerr's office, and we could not locate a copy of the second contract."

Ellis questioned Kerr's authority to sign a contract without approval from the board of directors.

She claimed she could make any purchase under \$1,500 without the board's approval, but Ellis argued that the total cost of contract labor was over that amount.

"All contracts were supposed to be approved by the board," former board member Mona Miller said in her testimony. "Mrs. Kerr told the board she was hiring these people temporarily until the maintenance department could be restaffed."

"I've never seen the contract. The board was made aware of the contract, but it was never approved by the board. Maggie



Tom Saylor, board president, and Fort Clark Springs were successful in their defense last week in a lawsuit by Russell Williams, former temporary supervisor of the maintenance department.

Some local citizens may have choice for mail delivery

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

Some Brackettville residents may soon have the opportunity to have their mail delivered.

The City Council is considering an ordinance allowing mail boxes to be placed in the city's right of ways.

According to Lionel Juarez, the local postmaster, the U.S. Postal Service is required to provide one free form of delivery to all of its customers.

Because a rural route was established several years ago between the Post Offices in Brackettville and Rocksprings, citizens that live within one block of the route have to pay for a Post Office box because the city has no ordinance allowing mail boxes to be placed in the city's right of ways.

Annual costs are \$24 for a small box, \$36 for a medium box and \$66 for a large box.

"Any customer beyond these

boundaries will be offered a no-fee Post Office box — one no-fee Post Office box per physical address," Juarez said.

"Any customer whose physical location is outside of the geographic delivery zip code boundaries must pay for a Post Office box. What that means, basically, if you're outside 78832, like Spofford is 78877, you have to pay for your box."

If the ordinance is passed, citizens whose residences are located within one block of the rural route and within the city limits of Brackettville, will have the option of erecting a mail box. The rural route runs from the Brackettville Post Office to the intersection of Spring and Ann Street, and then north, all the way to Rocksprings.

"This would be their form of free delivery, but they could rent a Post Office box for a fee," Juarez said. "These rural-type boxes would be on side streets, See CITY COUNCIL/Page 4

INSIDE

Wes Robinson

Well, it's that time of year once again — budget season, when elected officials of the local taxing entities decide how to spend your money. Opinion/Page 2

Chuck Hall

As I travel, I always notice a sign near the beginning of each town. "Reduced speed ahead." What does that mean? Lifestyles/Page 6

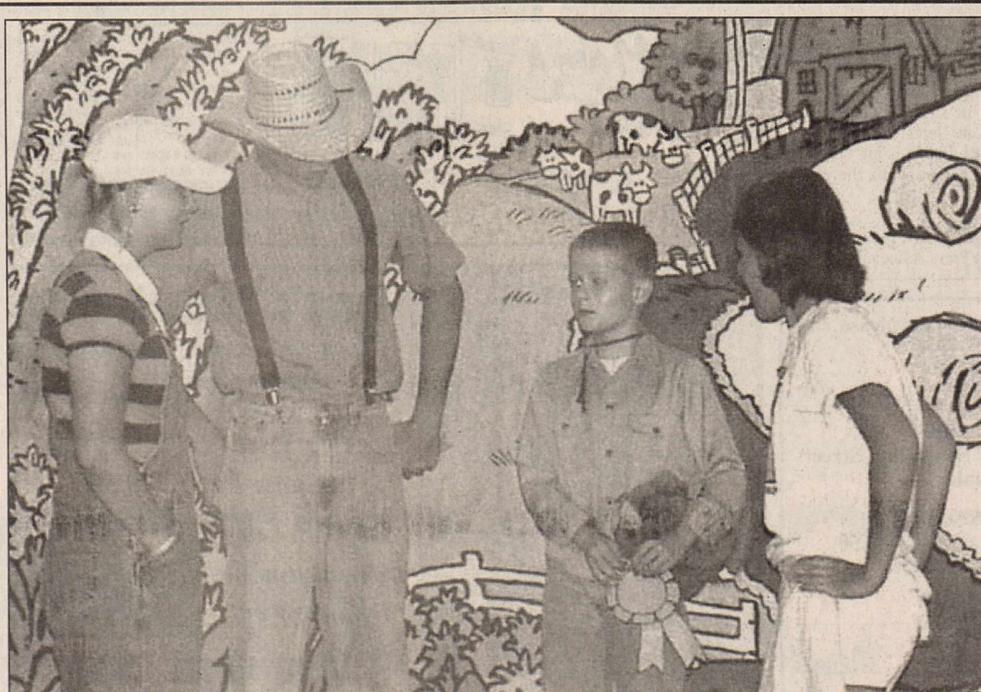
Henry Lutz

Whether it's negotiating a hunting lease or just getting access to a neighbor's ranch, the issue of liability can sometimes be an obstacle. Outdoors/Page 7

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Vacation Bible School

Sarah Rose (from left), Brandon Kluzek, Josh Smith and Robin Peavyhouse perform in a play last week during the annual Vacation Bible School at First Baptist Church in Brackettville.

Photo by Kathy Wilson

BHS hosts registration Aug. 13-14

Brackett High School students will register on Wednesday and Thursday, Aug. 13-14, in the auditorium.

Seniors and juniors will register from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m. on Wednesday. Sophomores and freshmen will register on Thursday from 8:30 a.m. to noon and 1 to 2:30 p.m.

New students to the district may register on Thursday, Aug. 14, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m. Students will need to bring a copy of their last report card, a current copy of their transcript, and a copy of their shot records.

If a student cannot come to register before school starts and does not have a schedule on the first day of school, they are asked to report to the auditorium at 8 a.m. on Aug. 18.

"We are all looking forward to the start of the new school year," said John Paul Schuster, principal of Brackett High School. "The entire staff is looking forward to a good year. It will be nice to see the students return to school."

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Why is it Berlanga's fault?

My question is why are people blaming Mayor Berlanga for David Luna's mismanagement of the city's money?

Yes, she has made a mistake, but she wasn't the only one. As far as I know, she forgot more than anybody will ever know.

She is very smart. She is working very hard to pay off the city's dept. Brackettville is in debt \$200,000. And it wasn't Mayor Berlanga's fault.

We all need to help get it back. Our City Council is doing a good job of it.

I've been reading newspapers and people need to stop putting her down. It has gone so far that she wanted to step down as mayor.

Cheyenne Billings
 ■ *Editor's note: Cheyenne Billings is the 11-year-old granddaughter of Tootsie Herndon of Spofford.*

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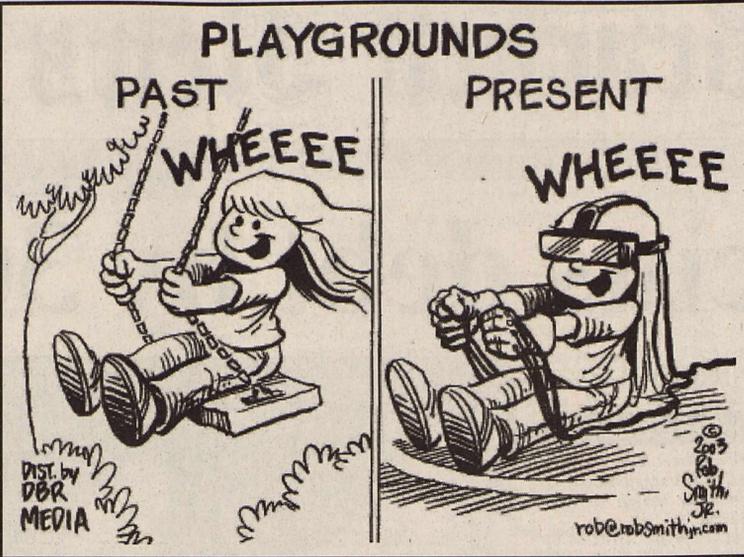
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Local Emergency Planning Committee needs volunteers from the community

By JAMES C. REESMAN
Special to The Brackett News

COMMENTARY

I attended high school from 1952 to 1956. MAD magazine made its appearance during those years. Suddenly, a whole generation was introduced to the toothy grin of Alfred E. Newman and his often quoted attitude towards life, "What, me worry?"

His philosophy seems to have had a lasting impact. MAD magazine is still being printed and now three generations seem to have adopted his carefree and somewhat hedonistic attitude toward life and toward each other.

What follows is a test to see if you agree with Alfred about one aspect of community life, disaster services and recovery:

1. I don't need to worry about a disaster. They will take care of me. Fill in what you wish for them — the American Red Cross, Kinney County EMS, the Sheriff's Office, my family, my neighbors.

2. I don't worry about disasters. There hasn't been a major flood here in 50 years, or a tornado, or a fire, or the accidental spilling of hazardous chemicals. It will never happen in my lifetime.

3. I don't worry about disasters. What do you think I pay taxes for? The government is responsible for handling disasters.

4. I don't worry about disasters. If one occurs, I will volunteer to help then. I don't know what I can do, but someone will be there to tell me and I'll do it. Besides, I don't have time to go to meetings or training sessions. I'm too busy.

Well, how did you score? Do you agree with one or two of

Alfred's attitudes or with all four?

The fact is, there is some factual basis for accepting each of the attitudes indicated, and we all accept most of them based on our community actions. However, when disaster strikes, we will each find that we are initially very much alone.

There are two aspects in disaster preparedness — personal and community.

Your Local Emergency Planning Committee, in conjunction with city and county government, and the director of EMS has put together a master plan to help them prepare for disasters. It has been distributed to the city government, the county judge, the fire department, the Sheriff's Office, and to each of the other agencies which have a role to play in a disaster.

It is a good plan, and has been approved by the state. In fact, Kinney County was one of the first counties in Texas to have its disaster plan approved and it has been copied or is being copied by other counties.

Now it is time to get the community involved. In coming articles, I will discuss exactly what we need from each of you, starting with what you and your family can do to improve your comfort and survival in the event that a disaster does occur in Kinney County.

Later I will discuss the people power needed to man the planned community operations center, which is included in the plan, the role that churches and fraternal organizations can play in improving our survivability and recovery, and a discussion

of just what we can expect in the way of outside help if a disaster does occur.

Our most immediate need is people who will become involved with the Local Emergency Planning Committee and learn what the plans are and accept responsibility for filling some personnel slots in the event of emergency.

Soon afterward, we are going to need people who are willing to take first aid and CPR training from the American Red Cross so that they may help our local clinic personnel and our EMS crews.

We need to organize some teams of men with chain saws and possibly heavy machinery to quickly respond to downed trees. We need to identify any HAM radio operators in the county and get them involved. And yes, we may need help raising funds for specific equipment that is not covered in the government grants that we are already beginning to receive.

You may be willing to do any of the above, but until we know who you are and how to contact you, we can't organize and plan your participation when a disaster does come.

If you are willing to get involved, contact me, James C. Reesman, at 563-3381. Or call our new EMS director, Steve Burch, at 563-9090.

The next meeting of the Kinney County LEPC will be Aug. 25 at the EMS building at 6:30 p.m. Come and check us out. Let us know that you at least are willing to prepare for a disaster before it happens.

■ *Editor's note: James C. Reesman is the acting director of the Kinney County Local Emergency Planning Committee.*



Between Us

Wes Robinson

It's budget time for elected reps

Well, it's that time of year once again — budget season, when elected officials of the local taxing entities decide how they're going to spend your money.

Having been on the City Council and currently on the Appraisal District board, I can tell you the budgeting process is often a pain in the neck. Disension over how the money should be spent inevitably arises. However, as a citizen, it presents you a golden opportunity to grade your local officials' monetary acumen.

The process usually begins with workshops. The workshops are open to the public. Unfortunately, most of these are held during the day, so unless you work for yourself or are retired, it's hard to attend.

If you can attend, you'll learn a lot about how that governmental entity is run. You'll also learn a great deal about the department heads and the governing boards.

With a few exceptions, most of the entities will provide you with copies of their proposed budgets. Many will also allow you to ask questions. However, a workshop really isn't the time or place for the public to ask questions or make comments. If you do, it's a good idea to keep it extremely brief.

After a budget has been worked up, an entity sets a public hearing. This is your chance to tell your officials how you feel about the proposed budget, what you might like to see changed, or whether you'd like them to vote for or against it. In my opinion, this is where one of the main problems with the process occurs.

By the time members of a governing body have met during numerous workshops, they've already made up their minds. If only a few people show up at the hearing and make comments, they will be thanked by the officials, then the officials will go right along and do what they intended to anyway.

That's why these public hearings need to be well attended by the public. It's a little harder to brush you off when you show up in force.

One of the things I've seen in these hearings is officials declining to answer questions posed by the public. I've heard them say, "This is your opportunity to make public comment, not our opportunity to answer questions."

I say, "Bull..." Well, I can't say that.

Let's put it another way. I believe elected officials are obligated to answer your questions concerning budgets. They're accountable for the money and they're accountable to you for the way it's being spent.

Even if you never attend a workshop, you should attend the public hearings. You'll hear some citizens speak that know what their talking about and some that don't, but more especially, you'll see how your elected officials react and respond to the public.

Regardless of the outcome, the experience should lead you to a more informed decision the next time you enter the voting booth.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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USS San Antonio christened

This summer I had the privilege of christening the Navy's newest ship, the USS San Antonio. It is the most high-tech, advanced amphibious ship ever built, and appropriately named for the city of the battle of the Alamo.

Naming a ship is serious business. The name the ship carries will be recorded in the annals of our proud naval history.

Names like the Constellation, Abraham Lincoln, Kitty Hawk or Enterprise ring with the valor of their crews who defend our freedom wherever it is threatened. Those ships fought with distinction in Operation Iraqi Freedom. In the next two years, the officers and crew of the USS San Antonio will be able to stake their claim to a place in naval history as well.

San Antonio boasts an undeniably strong military tradition. It is home to more major defense installations than any other metropolitan city in our country and more than 65,000 military retirees.

And while most Americans recognize San Antonio as a city

of charm and grace, Texans know it as the site of the battle that became the rallying cry for our heroic struggle for independence from Mexico in 1836: "Remember the Alamo."

From the Alamo came the famous letter that Col. William Travis wrote which embodies honor on the battlefield. Here is an excerpt of that letter:

"To the people of Texas and all Americans in the world: I am besieged by a thousand or more of the Mexicans under Santa Anna. I have sustained a continual bombardment and cannonade for 24 hours and have not lost a man. The enemy has demanded surrender at discretion, otherwise the garrison will be put to the sword if the fort is taken. I have answered the demand with a cannon shot and our flag still waves proudly from our walls. I shall never surrender or retreat."

Can you think of any words more in keeping with the motto "Semper Fidelis?"

Such stubborn courage is the heritage the USS San Antonio will take when it sets sail with



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

U.S. Marines and sailors aboard. I am honored to sponsor the ship that bears the proud name of San Antonio. Taller than the Tower of the Americas and able to carry up to 800 troops, the ship is the first of a projected 12 new amphibious assault ships in this new class. The succeeding 11 ships will be named for other cities, but they will all be known as part of the "San Antonio class."

Its war fighting capabilities include a state-of-the-art command and control suite, substantially increased vehicle lift capacity and a large flight deck.

The primary task of the USS San Antonio, which will be commissioned in 2005, is to ferry troops and weapons on short notice. It can carry five V-22 Ospreys on the upper deck and

landing craft air cushion vessels carrying tanks and armored trucks on the lower deck.

Navy officials bill the San Antonio as a pioneer in force protection. Its cutting-edge Shipboard Wide Area Network, SWAN, identifies and analyzes threats, then orders a weapons system on the ship — or another U.S. vessel — to fire on the target. It is also the Navy's first stealth ship, using fewer angles from protruding pieces of steel and high-tech twin masts to reduce its radar signature.

The christening culminated when I shattered a bottle of Cap*Rock sparkling Texas wine across the new ship's bow, a time-honored Naval tradition.

Whatever adventures lie ahead for the USS San Antonio and its crews, we know they will serve with the same distinction that their forebearers did in the city for which the ship is forever named. With the spirit of the Alamo and the name of a great Texas city, the USS San Antonio will be prepared to sail into harms way when it sets course to defend our freedoms.

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Booster Club hosts golf tournament

The Brackett Athletic Booster Club is hosting a golf tournament on Aug. 2 at Fort Clark Springs. The entry fee is \$30 each for a four-person scramble, mulligans are \$5 each with a maximum of two. Lunch, beverages and door prizes are included. Carts will be available. For more information or to register for the tournament, call Candy Hobbs at 563-2591 or 563-5236.

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- 2003 GMC Envoy 21,611 miles SN 5059
- 2003 Chevrolet Suburban 17,519 miles SN 4996
- 2003 Chevrolet Suburban 18,627 miles SN 5030
- 2002 Chevy Cavalier 33,630 miles SN31263A
- 2002 Chevy Silverado Ext. Cab 20,238 miles SN 5047
- 2002 Chevy Cavalier 24,711 miles SN 5026
- 2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 16,838 miles SN 5065
- 2002 GMC Yukon XL 53,914 miles SN70633A
- 2002 Chevrolet Silverado 26,232 miles SN 5062
- 2002 Chevrolet Trailblazer 44,917 miles SN 5054
- 2002 Pontiac Bonneville 25,643 miles SN 4941
- 2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab 6,716 miles SN 4963
- 2002 Pontiac Bonneville 10,949 miles SN 4991
- 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe 37,317 miles SN 5028
- 2002 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab 27,450 miles SN 5031
- 2002 Chevy Silverado Sportside Ext 33,331 miles SN 5034
- 2002 Chevy Avalanche 31,021 miles SN31783A
- 2002 Buick LeSabre 28,120 miles SN 4937

- 2001 Chevrolet Silverado C3500 63,626 miles SN32233A
- 2001 Chevrolet Prizm 22,575 miles SN 4969
- 2001 Ford Ranger 37,248 miles SN30193A
- 2001 Pontiac Aztek 35,249 miles SN 5064
- 2001 GMC Yukon XL 50,181 miles SN70713A
- 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Crew 46,024 miles SN70743A
- 2001 Chevrolet Prizm 22,575 miles SN 4969
- 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab 30,311 miles SN 4981
- 2001 GMC Sierra 1500 25,956 miles SN 5010
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- 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab 19,812 miles SN70563A
- 2000 GMC Jimmy 43,539 miles SN 5073
- 2000 Chevrolet C3500 35,878 miles SN32213A
- 2000 Buick LeSabre 27,710 miles SN31933C
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- 2000 Chevrolet Venture V6 42,051 miles SN 5070
- 2000 Chevrolet Prizm 34,762 miles SN 5067
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- 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 47,347 miles SN 5058
- 2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 33,780 miles SN 5014
- 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 Pickup 34,178 miles SN 5056
- 2000 Buick LeSabre 35,210 miles SN 4985
- 2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 39,832 miles SN 5005
- 2000 Chevrolet Suburban 42,120 miles SN30633A
- 2000 Chevrolet Silverado C1500 28,734 miles SN 5023
- 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 Pickup 33,243 miles SN 5052
- 1999 Isuzu Rodeo 40,941 miles SN 5072
- 1999 Chevrolet Lumina 35,861 miles SN11443A
- 1999 Pontiac Sunfire 36,764 miles SN 5063
- 1998 Buick LeSabre 75,640 miles SN 4948A

★SUV of the Week★

2001 Pontiac Aztek



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• Pwr Locks & Windows
• AM/FM/CD • Cruise/Tilt
• Aluminum Wheels
• Climate Control
SN # 5064
\$2500 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.
\$11,995 OR **\$189⁷²** Per Mo.
Plus TT&L

(A) Sale Price = \$15,555, \$2000 down + TT&L @ 6.5% for 66 mos. W.A.C.
(B) MSRP = \$21,055, Regency Disc = \$1000, GM Rebate = \$3000, GM Bonus Cash = \$500, GM Loyalty Rebate = \$1000 - to qualified buyers, see dealer for details

(C) Sale Price = \$31,935, \$2500 down + TT&L @ 6.5% for 72 mos. W.A.C.
(D) MSRP = \$40,435, Regency Disc = \$3000, GM Rebate = \$3000, Diesel Engine Rebate = \$1000, GM Bonus Cash = \$500, GM Loyalty Rebate = \$1000 - to qualified buyers, see dealer for details

(E) Sale Price = \$17,995, \$2000 down + TT&L @ 6.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.
(F) Sale Price = \$12,995, \$2000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.
(G) Sale Price = \$11,495, \$2000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.
(H) Sale Price = \$5,995, \$1000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.

(I) Sale Price = \$7,495, \$2000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.
(J) Sale Price = \$23,995, \$3000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 72 mos. W.A.C.
(K) Sale Price = \$13,995, \$3000 down + TT&L @ 7.5% for 60 mos. W.A.C.



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SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, July 21
 3:37 p.m., A Bubba's Beverage Barn employee reported that a man in a gray car, with a back seat full of clothes, drove off without paying. The vehicle was headed east on Highway 90. Border Patrol agents at the Cline checkpoint were notified.

Tuesday, July 22
 8:07 a.m., A man reported that his radar detector was stolen from his residence.
 5 p.m., Jose Muzquiz, 52, of San Antonio was arrested by DPS Trooper Marcos Hernandez for assault causing bodily injury. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Wednesday, July 23
 5:58 p.m., A man said he was having problems with his juvenile step-son at his residence on E. First Street. He said the boy was violent and was trashing the house.

Thursday, July 24
 9:56 p.m., A woman asked that a deputy notify a local man that his son was in jail in Bandera.

Friday, July 25
 9:20 a.m., A U.S. Post Office employee said a man was hanging around the building, looking in the windows and harassing the customers.
 6:15 p.m., A Super S Foods employee requested assistance with a disturbance at the store. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene. The employee said a man became loud and belligerent when she told him the store would not cash a check from Houston.
 7:55 p.m., A woman came into the Sheriff's Office and requested assistance because her sister had abused her children.
 8:52 p.m., A Val Verde Sheriff's Office employee reported a sport bike driving reckless at a high rate of speed on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

Saturday, July 26
 9:08 p.m., A woman reported that kids were riding their bikes in front of cars in the middle of the road on Ann Street.
 9:14 p.m., A man reported loose cattle on Highway 334.

Sunday, July 27
 12:53 p.m., Jose Luis Ramirez, 37, of Mexico was arrested by Deputy Manuel Pena on an outstanding warrant for sexual assault. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.
 2:37 p.m., A man reported a dog problem and asked to speak with a deputy.
 6:30 p.m., A man reported that he had locked his keys inside his vehicle in Unit 1 of Fort Clark Springs.

Monday, July 28
 1:02 a.m., A man requested assistance on Sweeney Street in front of the water tower. He would not say what the problem was, but said it involved a 10-year-old kid.
 2:12 a.m., A man reported four kids walking towards the new gym on Ann Street, knocking down trash cans.

Seven Kinney County shooters compete in 4-H Shooting Sports championships

Seven shooters from Kinney County 4-H Shooting Sports competed in the 2003 Texas State 4-H Shooting Sports Games and Rifle Championship this past week in San Antonio. The event ran from Wednesday through Saturday with shooters attending from all over the state. Kinney County Shooters competed in three-position small-bore, smallbore silhouette, air pistol target and air pistol silhouette.

Justin Calk shot his personal best score in the three-position match, which earned him third high individual shooter, only six points behind first place. Daphne Hunt placed fifth, Anolda Watkins was seventh and Seth Frerich finished 12th in the junior championship three-position match.

Emily and Bryan Calk shot their personal bests, placing ninth and 11th, respectively, in the pre-junior three-position match. Beau Watkins shot in the senior three-position match, giving Kinney County representation in all age groups.

The following day, Kinney County shooters competed in the smallbore metallic sight silhouette match.

Hunt won the junior event, earning a first-place plaque, and Frerich's shooting earned him a second-place plaque in that event. Watkins took first-place honors in the senior smallbore



State competitors
 Winners in The Texas State 4-H Shooting Sports Games include Justin Calk (from left), Emily Calk, Seth Frerich, Bryan Calk and Daphne Hunt. Not pictured: Beau Watkins and Anolda Watkins.

Photo Special to The Brackett News

metallic sight silhouette match. Kinney County shooters also competed in air pistol target competition and air pistol silhouette competition while in San Antonio. The competition ended Kinney County's 4-H Shooting Sports year. All individuals who completed the shooting sports project, as well as those involved in any 4-H shooting competition, will be recognized at the 4-H Awards Banquet on Aug. 14.

Mayor: City cuts its debt by 36 percent

Continued from Page 1
 help me with the budget. I asked Bonnie Wardlaw to help me with the financial reports. I asked Johnny Samaniego to oversee the vehicles, the back hoes, the shredders, the mowers and things of that type." The City Council previously agreed to hire Hardin and Newsome, certified public accountants from Del Rio, to perform financial services for the city.

"What is the auditor doing if Bonnie is going to do the financial reports? Aren't we paying an auditor now?" Lydia Tipps

asked the mayor at the council meeting. Berlanga replied: "Yes, but we still have to gather our figures to provide to the auditor. "It was cancelled. They couldn't do it because they work. The auditor and CPA have picked up the bank stubs, and the auditor has set up her program to do the audit. Then, the CPA today came and took the bank stubs to start working on the financial reports." Former council member Wes Robinson volunteered to assist the city two months ago. "I was told that you didn't

need my help with the financial statements and that you would get the auditor to do it," Robinson said. "Then it got assigned to Alderwoman Wardlaw. Now it's back in the accountant's hands where we're paying for the service so that doesn't seem to add up." "At the time that I was asking for volunteers, the CPA was working on setting up our audit," the mayor said. "I was pressured into getting those four months of the fiscal year to try to get the loan from the bank, so I needed help on financial reports."

"A former employee (Ginger Dodson) and I worked on that. We worked many afternoons to crunch figures. When Mr. Robinson offered his help, we accepted it. Two days later, the CPA said she was ready to come down. In the meantime, we still had to crunch figures to try to get the four fiscal months that they want. That's when I asked for the council's help. It's done now. The CPA has the figures," Berlanga added. The City Council held a budget workshop on Tuesday and has another scheduled at 2 this afternoon at City Hall.

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PUBLIC NOTICE
 BRIEF EXPLANATORY STATEMENTS OF PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS
 SPECIAL ELECTION
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2003

PROPOSITION 1 (HJR 68, Section 1)
 HJR 68, Section 1 would authorize the Veterans' Land Board to use excess receipts in the Veterans' Land and Veterans' Housing Assistance funds for payment of revenue bonds, and use excess assets in those funds to provide veterans homes.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the Veterans' Land Board to use assets in certain veterans' land and veterans' housing assistance funds to provide veterans homes for the aged or infirm and to make principal, interest, and bond enhancement payments on revenue bonds."

PROPOSITION 2 (HJR 51)
 HJR 51 would expand from six months to two years the period in which the former owner of a mineral interest that was sold for unpaid property taxes may buy back the mineral interest.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to establish a two-year period for the redemption of a mineral interest sold for unpaid ad valorem taxes at a tax sale."

PROPOSITION 3 (HJR 55)
 HJR 55 would authorize the legislature to exempt from taxation land owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that will be used to expand or construct a place of religious worship that yields no revenue.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation property owned by a religious organization that is leased for use as a school or that is owned with the intent of expanding or constructing a religious facility."

PROPOSITION 4 (SJR 30)
 SJR 30 would authorize the legislature to allow conservation and reclamation districts to use taxes to develop and finance certain parks and recreation facilities. Also, the amendment would authorize the legislature to allow local elections for the issuance of bonds to improve and maintain parks and recreational facilities in the Tarrant Regional Water District or a conservation and reclamation district located in whole or in part in Bastrop, Bexar, Brazoria, Fort Bend, Galveston, Harris, Montgomery, Tarrant, Travis, Waller or Williamson County.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot

as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the provision of parks and recreational facilities by certain conservation and reclamation districts."

PROPOSITION 5 (SJR 25)
 SJR 25 would authorize the legislature to exempt from all property taxes certain tangible personal property, which could include a travel trailer not substantially affixed to real estate and not used as a residential dwelling.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to authorize the legislature to exempt from ad valorem taxation travel trailers not held or used for the production of income."

PROPOSITION 6 (HJR 23)
 HJR 23 would authorize a qualified homeowner to refinance a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment permitting refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage."

PROPOSITION 7 (HJR 44)
 HJR 44 would reduce the number of persons who make up the jury in a district court criminal misdemeanor case from twelve to six.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a six-person jury in a district court misdemeanor trial."

PROPOSITION 8 (HJR 62)
 HJR 62 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies to state and local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 18 applies only to local political subdivisions.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to take office without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 9 (HJR 68, Section 2)
 HJR 68, Section 2 would redefine the composition of the permanent and available

school funds by requiring during the next two fiscal years, and authorizing thereafter, annual distributions to the available school fund of a percentage of any increase in the value of the permanent school fund's total investment assets.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment relating to the use of income and appreciation of the permanent school fund."

PROPOSITION 10 (HJR 61)
 HJR 61 would authorize municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment, supplies, or materials to the Texas Forest Service, which would be authorized to distribute based on need the equipment to rural volunteer fire departments.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing municipalities to donate surplus fire-fighting equipment or supplies for the benefit of rural volunteer fire departments."

PROPOSITION 11 (HJR 85)
 HJR 85 would authorize the legislature to regulate the operation of wineries in Texas, regardless of whether a winery is located in an area in which the sale of wine has been authorized by local option election.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "A constitutional amendment to allow the legislature to enact laws authorizing and governing the operation of wineries in this state."

PROPOSITION 12 (HJR 3)
 HJR 3 would immediately authorize the Legislature to limit non-economic damages assessed against a provider of medical or health care and, after January 1, 2005, to limit awards in all other types of cases.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment concerning civil lawsuits against doctors and health care providers, and other actions, authorizing the legislature to determine limitations on non-economic damages."

PROPOSITION 13 (HJR 16)
 HJR 16 would authorize a county, city, town, and junior college district to freeze property taxes on a residential homestead of a person who is disabled or aged 65 or older.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit counties, cities and towns, and junior college districts to establish an ad valorem tax freeze on residence homesteads of the disabled and of the elderly and their spouses."

PROPOSITION 14 (HJR 28)
 HJR 28 would authorize the Texas Department of Transportation to issue notes or borrow money to fund highway improvement projects. The terms of the notes or loans may not exceed two years.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment providing for authorization of the issuing of notes or the borrowing of money on a short-term basis by a state transportation agency for transportation related projects, and the issuance of bonds and other public securities secured by the state highway fund."

PROPOSITION 15 (HJR 54)
 HJR 54 would prohibit a local retirement system and the political subdivision that finances the retirement system from reducing or otherwise impairing certain accrued benefits under the local retirement system.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The Constitutional amendment providing that certain benefits under certain local public retirement systems may not be reduced or impaired."

PROPOSITION 16 (SJR 42)
 SJR 42 would amend the Texas Constitution to allow home equity lines of credit and allow refinancing of a home equity loan with a reverse mortgage loan.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing a home equity line of credit, providing for administrative interpretation of home equity lending law, and otherwise relating to the making, refinancing, repayment, and enforcement of home equity loans."

PROPOSITION 17 (HJR 21)
 HJR 21 would prohibit an increase in school property taxes on residence homesteads of disabled persons.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to prohibit an increase in the total amount of school district ad valorem taxes that may be imposed on the residence homestead of a disabled person."

PROPOSITION 18 (HJR 59)
 HJR 59 would authorize the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office and the election is required by the Texas Constitution. This proposition applies only to local political subdivisions, whereas Proposition 8 applies to state and local political subdivisions.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the legislature to permit a person to assume an office of a political subdivision without an election if the person is the only candidate to qualify in an election for that office."

PROPOSITION 19 (SJR 45)
 SJR 45 would repeal the legislature's authority to create rural fire prevention districts. Effective September 1, 2003, all existing rural fire prevention districts will convert to emergency services districts.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to repeal the authority of the legislature to provide for the creation of rural fire prevention districts."

PROPOSITION 20 (SJR 55)
 SJR 55 would authorize the issuance of general obligation bonds in a total amount not to exceed \$250 million that will be used to provide loans for economic development projects that benefit defense-related communities in Texas.
 The proposed amendment will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the issuance of general obligation bonds or notes not to exceed \$250 million payable from the general revenues of the state to provide loans to defense-related communities, that will be repaid by the defense-related community, for economic development projects, including projects that enhance the military value of military installations."

PROPOSITION 21 (SJR 19)
 SJR 19 would authorize current and retired faculty members of a public institution of higher education to receive compensation for service as a member of the governing body of a water district.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment to permit a current or retired faculty member of a public college or university to receive compensation for service on the governing body of a water district."

PROPOSITION 22 (HJR 84)
 HJR 84 would authorize the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to serve on behalf of a state, district, or local public officer who is called into active military duty for longer than 30 days.
 The proposition will appear on the ballot as follows: "The constitutional amendment authorizing the appointment of a temporary replacement officer to fill a vacancy created when a public officer enters active duty in the United States armed forces."

Estos son los informes explicatorios sobre las enmiendas propuestas a la constitución que aparecerán en la boleta el 13 de septiembre de 2003. Si usted no ha recibido una copia de los informes en español, podrá obtener una gratis llamando al 1/800/252/8683 o escribiendo al Secretario de Estado, P.O. Box 12060, Austin, TX 78711.

PUBLISHED BY SECRETARY OF STATE GWYN SHEA

City Council considers mail box ordinance

Continued from Page 1
 from Spring Street it would be north and from Ann Street it would be east. The side streets would be utilized for the safety of the highway contract carrier's safety. We will not do door-to-door and we will not do curbside.
 "If the city allows rural boxes to be erected, they will be placed by the customer, according to the United States Postal Services regulations," he added. Mail on the rural route is delivered only three days a week on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays.
 "It's a tri-route, so if you happen to want to get your mail on Tuesday or Thursday or Saturday, you wouldn't be allowed to," Juarez said. "With a Post Office box, you can get it six days a week."

Mayor Carmen Berlanga opposed the proposed ordinance. "I would rather pay for my Post Office box," she said. "I recommend this council votes against it."
 Wes Robinson, a former alderman, pointed out that the council's decision should not be based on personal preference. "It's not whether you want a box or you want to use a Post Office box, it's whether or not you give the citizens that live along that route the option of not having to pay for a Post Office box," he told the mayor. Juarez was asked why the issue wasn't brought before the council when the rural route was established, and he said he had discussed it with David Luna, former city manager.
 "This has been going on for years," he said. "I've been here for four years, and she's been coming here since before then." Council members Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez Jr., Johnny Samaniego and Bonnie Wardlaw voted to table the ordinance in order to get input from the citizens it would affect. It is expected to be on the agenda during the August meeting.
 "They've already been notified," Juarez said. "They've known about it for at least three years so it's not anything new."



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BROWN DISC.....\$1169

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\$13,536*

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REBATE\$1500
BROWN DISC.....\$900

#2887

\$21,154*

1.9% APR

2003 Altima 2.5 S



MSRP\$19943
BROWN DISC.....\$1254

#2843

\$18,689*

2003 MURANO SL

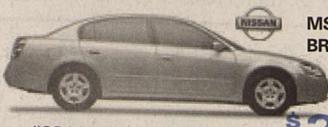


MSRP\$30485
BROWN DISC.....\$1000

#2627

\$29,485*

2003 Altima 3.5 SE



MSRP\$24438
BROWN DISC.....\$1400

#2814

\$23,072*

2003 Sentra SER



MSRP\$16867
REBATE\$1000
BROWN DISC.....\$1368

#2378

\$14,499*

2003 Frontier CrewCab



MSRP\$19656
REBATE\$1500
BROWN DISC.....\$1100

#2453

\$17,056*

2003 350Z Touring

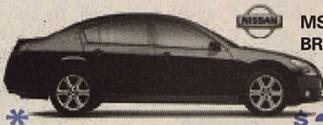


MSRP\$34784
BROWN DISC.....\$1500

#2974

\$33,284*

2004 Maxima 3.5 SE



MSRP\$28650
BROWN DISC.....\$1500

#2921

\$27,150*

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BROWN DISC.....\$3500
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BROWN DISC.....\$2200
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2003 YUKON SLE



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BROWN DISC.....\$1350
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$14,357

0% APR ON GM'S

2003 ALERO GX SEDAN



MSRP\$18870
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$926
OLDS LOYALTY...\$1000
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$13,194

2003 CENTURY



#2296

MSRP\$22510
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$1490
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$17,270

2003 ENVOY



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REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$1880
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$27,965

2003 BRAVADA



Oldsmobile

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REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$3777
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$25,943

2003 SONOMA



#2958

MSRP\$15405
REBATE\$4000
BROWN DISC.....\$700
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$9,955

2003 GRANDE AM SE



#2903

PONTIAC DRIVING EXCITEMENT

MSRP\$19100
REBATE\$3000
BROWN DISC.....\$1400
MILITARY DISC...\$750

\$13,950

2003 VIBE GT



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PONTIAC DRIVING EXCITEMENT

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REBATE\$2000
BROWN DISC.....\$700
MILITARY DISC...\$750

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2239A	2002 GMC 3500 Dually	\$24,995
2636A	2001 GMC 2500 HD Crew Cab	\$31,995
P7294A	2001 Chev. Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$23,900
2773A	2003 GMC 2500 HD Crew Cab	\$25,000
P7333AA	2002 Chev. Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$25,000
2340A	2002 GMC 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$24,995
2663C	2002 Chev. Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$24,995
2856A	2001 GMC Sierra 2500 HD Crew Cab	\$26,995
2855A	2001 Chev. Silverado 2500 HD Crew Cab	\$26,995
2682A	2001 Chev. Silverado Ext Cab	\$20,000
P7199	2001 GMC Sierra 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$22,150

2689A	2003 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$22,995
2929A	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$18,595
P7262A	2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$19,595
2539A	2003 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$22,995
2580B	2001 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$17,995

TRUCKS

2751A	2001 GMC Sierra	\$17,500
2023A	2000 GMC Sierra 1500	\$19,595
2309A	2001 GMC Sierra 1500	\$18,800
2490A	2003 Dodge D150 Ext. Cab 4X4	\$28,395
P7269	1997 Ford F-350 Crew Cab	\$12,795
2497A	2000 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab	\$16,695
P7307A	2002 GMC Sierra Ext. Cab 4X4	\$23,995
2817A	2001 Silverado 1500 HD Crew Cab	\$23,995
P7329	2002 C3500 Crew Cab Dually 4X4	\$30,000
2845A	2000 GMC Sierra	\$11,995
P7242A	2001 Dodge Ram 1500	\$12,995
2557A	2002 Silverado Ext. Cab	\$20,995

SUV'S

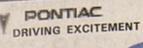
P7309	1997 Chevrolet Blazer LS	\$9,500
2556A	2002 GMC Yukon	\$26,500
2798A	2000 Chevrolet Suburban	\$22,995
P7325	2003 Ford Explorer	\$23,995

CARS

1865A	2001 Cadillac STS	\$25,495
P7252	2003 Cadillac Deville	\$33,195
P7281	2003 Cadillac Deville	\$28,595
P7287	2001 Nissan Altima	\$12,000
2473B	1998 Lincoln Mark 8	\$15,995
2679A	2001 Dodge Neon	\$8,995
P7331	2003 Buick LaSabre	\$17,995
2816A	2001 Oldsmobile Aurora	\$16,995
2774A	2000 Volvo S-80	\$24,995
2749A	2000 Nissan Altima	\$10,995

VANS

2880A	2001 Olds Silhouette Premier	\$16,995
2168A	2000 Chevrolet Venture	\$11,995



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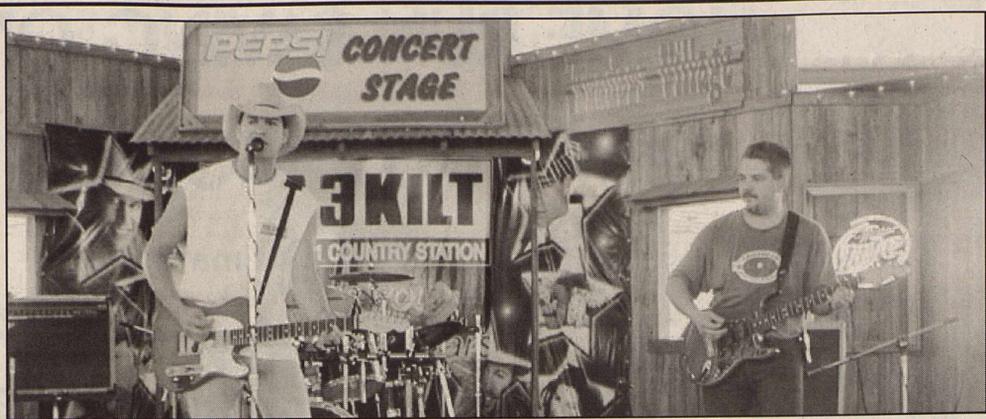
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*Artwork for illustration purposes only

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Thank You
 We would like to extend a sincere than you to everyone who has kept our Dad, Armando Aguirre, in their prayers. We appreciate your thoughtfulness!
Sincerely, Mando, Chuy & Norma Aguirre, Alma Gutierrez & Families.
 A benefit B.B.Q is scheduled for Sunday, Aug. 3rd at 11:30 a.m. in front of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church

Back to School Back To School
 School Supplies
 Now available at KB Dollar Store
 103 West Spring St.
 Classroom school packs include everything you need. While supplies last!
Back to School Back To School



Putting on a show
 Wild riE's Heath Childs (left) of Del Rio and Wes Robinson of Brackettville perform at KILT's Texas Roadhouse Band Search Saturday in Houston. The group was one of four finalists in the contest.

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Templeton discusses school safety

By FRANCES McMASTER
 Contributing Writer
 Brackett ISD Superintendent Bobby Templeton discussed school safety at last week's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting at Las Moras Restaurant.
 For about three years, Templeton has been gathering information for his doctoral dissertation from comparative studies on school safety and discipline, pulling out data that will signify trends. In this way, he said the future can be predicted.
 Of prime concern in the United States is the amount of violence occurring in today's schools. Templeton hastened to reassure his audience that Brackettville schools are safe, but he said that violence is prevalent in all urban area schools.
 To illustrate the problem, he brought forth a cache of weapons confiscated during one year from seventh and eighth grade students in a typical urban school.
 He passed around knives of different sizes and shapes, and

an object that looked exactly like a gun and would have fooled any observer. From a distance, it could easily have been mistaken as a gun. He also displayed a small knife made to look like a cross hanging from a chain necklace. Some girls had used it to cut their arms and share blood in a satanic-like ritual.
 Templeton shared some statistics with his audience, many of which were a surprise.
 He stated that comparative statistics reveal that nationally, violence is the second-leading cause of death in young people from 15 to 24 years old. In a typical year 45,000 students and 40,000 teachers are assaulted, and 500 guns are confiscated in the United States.
 Last year in Texas schools, 17,000 youngsters were caught in incidences associated with the sale of marijuana, including 5,000 from elementary schools. In addition, 5,000 were caught with cigarettes, which means use of drugs was approximately three times more prevalent than

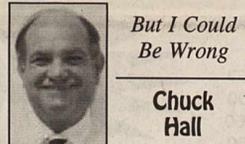
cigarettes.
 Templeton remarked that more males than females carry weapons, but the number of females carrying them is rising.
 On a questionnaire given nationally, high school students were asked if they had had a drink of alcohol in the last 30 days, and 51 percent said yes.
 In the United States, 25 children die every two days as a result of violence.
 "By next week, when we meet again, 84 children will have lost their lives," Templeton said.
 The superintendent said 99 percent of deaths occur away from school. They take place more often in the home, in shopping malls, in churches and on vacation. Statistically speaking, the safest is home, but schools, school grounds and an area of 300 yards around schools are supervised, and this means they are relatively safe.
 "It is supervision that counts," Templeton said.
 From the years 1979 to 2001, 90,000 children were killed by gunfire, more than those killed

by cancer, pneumonia and AIDS combined.
 Deaths from gunfire is 25 percent higher in the United States than in the next largest industrialized nation. There are 135,000 guns present in American schools any given day.
 Templeton reminded his audience that statistics can prove boring if one thinks only in terms of numbers, but when one thinks of the life of a child and the loss a family suffers at a child's death, the statistics take on a lot of meaning.
 "It is important that we look at this in order to recognize the immensity of the problem and the need to take action to make the environment safe," Templeton said. "Trouble will always exist. One must try to manage it, and strive for safety."
 Templeton gave these statistics during a test given to the audience. The member with the most correct answers won a prize — a baseball cap with a large B for Brackettville on the crown. Ella Chambers won the prize.

Reduced speed ahead?

As I travel, I always notice a sign near the beginning of each town. "Reduced speed ahead."
 What does that mean? I know what it means, but is the verbage correct? Is verbage even correct? "Reduced" speed? I interpret that to mean that something has already happened. Past tense.
 OK, if it's already occurred, why do I need to know? What can I do about it? Can I change it?
 Shouldn't the sign read: "Reduce speed ahead?" Or "Reduced speed zone ahead?" Maybe even just "Slow down fool."
 It means that I need to be aware of the fact that I am going to have to reduce the speed of my vehicle in the near future. Why am I told that?
 The Texas Department of Transportation continues to post signs warning of the speed limit.
 Do I really need to be told that there are signs ahead to watch for? Does this indicate that not all highway signs need to be heeded? Are there some

not worth reading?
 Perhaps I should be posted of that fact, too. "Meaningless sign ahead." Maybe I should also be warned: "Warning signs ahead, warning of warning signs ahead, warning of warning signs ahead."
 Why not just post the speed limit, and I'll slow down? Or if I don't, give me a ticket.
 I am sure of one thing. There are too many signs in my life. Too many things for me to read. How can I focus on driving when I have to read all of the advertisement signs and warning signs?
 But if TxDOT should take some of them down, I'm sure the lawsuits would quickly follow.
 But I could be wrong.



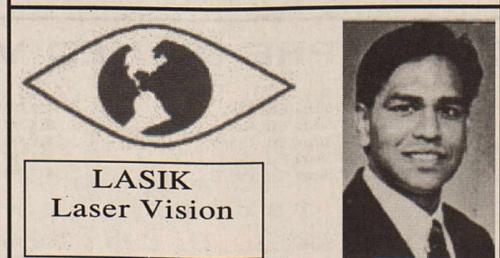
But I Could Be Wrong
Chuck Hall

Quick-fix ideas help satisfy a sweet tooth

The new school year will soon be starting, making for busier days that have fewer hours.
 Here's some quick-fix ideas for the fast running cooks to produce treats for the sweet tooth using everyone's favorite — peanut butter.
Simplest Peanut Butter Cookies
 Here's what we need: 1 cup of peanut butter, one egg and 1 cup of sugar.
 Preheat oven to 350 degrees and combine all ingredients, mixing well.
 Drop by teaspoons onto non-stick cookie sheet. Bake eight to 10 minutes or until brown.
 Cool on cookie sheet for one minute, then place on wire rack to cool completely. Makes 1 to 1 1/2 dozen.
Quick Cookies

Goodies From G.G.
Vada Baldree
 We need one 7-ounce jar of marshmallow creme, 1/2 cup of confectioner's sugar, 1 cup of crunchy peanut butter.
 Pre-Heat oven to 350 degrees and mix all ingredients together well.
 Shape into small balls using about a 1-teaspoon mixture for each.
 Place on ungreased cookie sheet and flatten slightly. Bake for 10 minutes.
 Cool on cookie sheet one minute, then transfer to wire rack to cool completely. Makes 1 to 1 1/2 dozen.

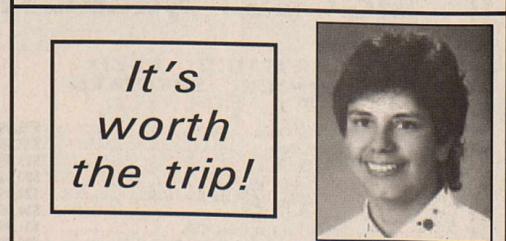
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Law offers landowners relief against liability of hunting

Whether it's negotiating a deer or dove hunting lease or just getting access to a neighbor's ranch, the issue of liability can sometimes be an obstacle. But it doesn't have to be.

According to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, those concerns may be based more in perception than reality.

Current law actually provides some liability protection for landowners who lease land to others for recreational purposes, including hunting. However, a recent survey showed many Texas landowners are unaware of liability limits put in place by state lawmakers.

The law considers anyone whom a landowner gives permission to use his property for recreation, including fee-paying



A Little on the Wildlife Side

Henry Lutz

within a certain framework.

A new amendment to the law, House Bill 408 passed by the 78th Texas Legislature, increases the allowable recreational use fee income from four times to 20 times the total ad valorem tax assessed on the premises during the previous year.

Landowners are required to purchase liability insurance coverage equal to the caps and those premiums are often included in a lease fee.

Landowners can also use waivers, or legal documents signed by guests, intended to release the landowner from liability.

Waivers must meet certain criteria to be valid. Before using a waiver, landowners should consult with an attorney.

hunters, school children, mountain bikers or bird watchers, as a recreational guest.

Under this definition, landowners are not required to issue warnings about dangerous conditions on their property, inspect their property or make repairs to dangerous conditions.

The law does not exempt landowners from all liability, but does provide a cap for any claim as long as the income derived from recreational use fees falls

Notice of Public Hearing on Kinney County Appraisal District Budget

The Kinney County Appraisal District will hold a public hearing on a proposed budget for the 2004 fiscal year.

The public hearing will be held on August 14, 2003 at 5:30 P.M. in the Appraisal District Office, 412 South Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas.

A summary of the appraisal district budget follows:

The total amount of the proposed budget. **\$179,345.⁸⁹**

The total amount of increased over current year's budget. **\$12,073.³⁰**

The number of employees compensated under the proposed budget. **3**

The number of employees compensated under the current budget. **3**

The appraisal district is supported solely by payments from local taxing units served by the appraisal district.

If approved by the appraisal district board of directors at the public hearing, this proposed budget will take effect automatically unless disapproved by the governing bodies of the county, school district, and cities served by the appraisal district.

A copy of the proposed budget is available for public inspection in the office of each of these governing bodies. A copy is also available for public inspection at the appraisal district office.

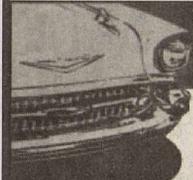
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Email kcad@rionet.org



Gustavo Rodriguez Owner/Manager & Jose H. Morin

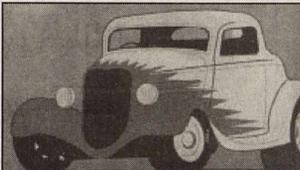
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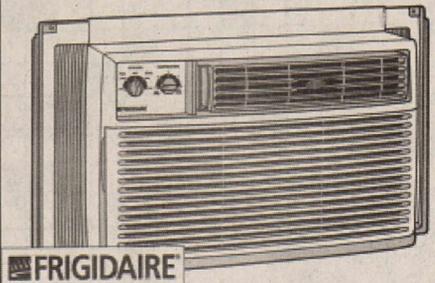
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- ACROSS**
1 Infant's ailment
6 French priest
10 Member of a Hindu sect
14 Amphitheater
15 Wild animal
16 Egyptian queen
17 Littlest
18 Emanation
19 Part of President Arthur's name
20 "Sunny and warm" or "Cloudy and cool"
22 Comfort
24 Not well-done
25 In the pink
26 Fight
28 Name for a tie
30 Ring great
31 One with Hansen's disease
33 Harpoon
37 Exigency
39 Lured
41 Fill
42 Curvas
44 Less loony
46 Black or Red
47 Silent Night
49 Bug
51 Harms
54 Saga
55 Remains
56 Curtain rod concealers
60 By ___; from memory
61 Cards
63 Holy scroll
64 U-__
65 1 of 7 capital sins
66 Jagged
67 Editor's note
68 Ending for Nan or Ann
69 Used a sharp tool
DOWN
1 Young animal
2 Cookie
3 Play king
4 Put in
5 Derisive shout
6 Humiliate
7 Struggle
8 Keep out
9 Obliterated
10 Items on a seafood platter
11 ___ ease; uncomfortable
12 Stacy
13 Toast topper
21 Spinning
23 Items used in pairs
25 Long-legged bird
26 Cause of distress
27 Potent potables
28 Neckwear
29 Part of a bicycle
32 Foreign currency
34 Direction
35 Fits to ___
36 Stem
38 In a state of moral decline
40 Asian nation
43 Cook's herb
45 Connects
48 Realtor's transaction
50 Feminine title
51 Throwing game
52 Nearly
53 British bishop's item
54 Sample
56 Chest covering
57 Boast
58 Relaxation
59 Got rid of
62 Use a knife

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
14 15 16
17 18 19
20 21 22 23
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31 32 33 34 35 36
37 38 39 40 41
42 43 44 45 46
47 48 49 50
51 52 53 54
55 56 57 58 59
60 61 62 63
64 65 66
67 68 69

ROARING TWENTIES

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

Today's Category: **OLD TESTAMENT BOOKS**

M	B	O	J	S	U	D	O	X	E	M	E	1. Psalms
D	L	O	D	M	I	C	A	H	D	Y	Z	2.
S	E	E	I	H	C	A	L	A	M	P	R	3.
L	D	H	V	A	U	H	S	O	J	S	A	4.
S	S	T	I	D	S	N	O	D	A	S		5.
R	E	I	D	U	T	O	D	M	D	L	B	6.
E	G	H	S	S	R	I	A	S	E	M	R	7.
B	D	D	A	E	D	D	C	I	A	S	E	8.
M	U	B	T	I	N	J	K	U	E	J	V	9.
U	J	U	D	D	A	E	S	D	S	V	O	10.
N	E	S	B	C	Z	S	G	W	O	B	R	11.
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- | | |
|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| July 31.....Maria Terrazas | August 4.....Peggy McKeen |
| July 31.....Ruben Terrazas | August 4.....Dustin Slubar |
| July 31.....Theresa Terrazas | August 4.....Rina Villarreal |
| August 1.....Leslie Meyer | August 5.....Tellis Boutwell |
| August 1.....Antonio Rubio | August 5.....Irma Garcia |
| August 3.....Carl Robe | August 5.....Bob Burkepile |
| August 4.....Mary Flores | August 6.....Sylvia Canty |

Roaring Twenties Solution:

- | | |
|----------------|---------------|
| 1. Amos | 11. Joel |
| 2. Daniel | 12. Joshua |
| 3. Deuteronomy | 13. Judges |
| 4. Exodus | 14. Leviticus |
| 5. Ezekiel | 15. Malachi |
| 6. Ezra | 16. Micah |
| 7. Genesis | 17. Numbers |
| 8. Hosea | 18. Proverbs |
| 9. Isaiah | 19. Psalms |
| 10. Job | 20. Ruth |

Grid showing the solution for the Roaring Twenties puzzle with words circled.

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You're tempted to give into grouchiness this week. However, ask yourself if things are really so bad. Once you have that answer, your mood improves.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're brimming with enthusiasm over a new work project. It suits your skills quite well. By week's end, you're exhausted but satisfied with your progress.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) A social obligation should be fulfilled. Although you're tempted to bow out, don't. You just may meet someone quite interesting.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You don't like to take no for an answer. Pressing so hard, though, only has the opposite outcome. Lighten up, and you eventually get what you want.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) A close friend has some disheartening news. If you talk this through, you can both come to a mutually satisfactory conclusion. This weekend, puttering around the house clears your mind.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Distractions abound this week. Despite this, you have the ability to focus well. Later in the week, a financial matter takes precedence.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You're itching to get away from it all. While it would be nice, it's not the best time. You'll just have to wait until things settle down.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're hopping mad when a co-worker questions your veracity on a certain matter. You don't have to prove yourself. Let the person making the accusation come up with the goods.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're back on track this week, both at home and at work. As a result, you accomplish much. Feel free to just kick back over the weekend.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You need to exercise patience this week. Flying about willy-nilly won't get things done. Use a more measured approach.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) This week, you allow an upcoming social event to get in the way of your concentration. Get a grip on this. If not, you could find yourself putting in some extra hours at work.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A minor setback is just that - minor. Where a friend is concerned, let bygones be bygones. This person didn't intentionally offend you.

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Christians live the 'good life'

With the many retirees and the Winter Texans in the area, it isn't too surprising that the phrase "living the good life" crops up in conversation.

It means different things to different people. For some it means great golfing weather and a long drive that generally lands near the green. For others it means time to see grandchildren or long visits with family. For others it is the freedom to do nothing unless they choose to do so, financial freedom and personal independence.

I would guess "living the good life" has as many definitions as readers of this column.

Of course, living the good life has its price and its responsibilities, too.

We have to spend an enormous amount of time fussing and primping in elaborate self-care rituals designed to improve our appearance. People look at us askance if we don't fix our hair, apply our make-up, exercise our bodies, wash and perfume our bodies at least daily, array ourselves with costly apparel, and put on elaborate jewelry.

We comfort ourselves by sitting down to eat at sumptuous tables notable not only for their

excessive portions, but also by the remainder left at the end of the meal.

At least we have the pleasures of the TV, where we can sit and adore sports heroes and music makers and movies and television actors, all of whose great contribution to society makes us feel good.

I suspect that sometimes we get so caught up in our own good lives and good times we forget that there are many whose lives have not experienced the blessings we have.

We have many in Kinney County who live in poverty. Some are poor in money, others are poor in spirit.

I have concern for those in our county whose physical needs are unmet, but by God's grace these are relatively few. The larger epidemic of impoverishment is spiritual.

Living the good life can mean more than freedom from hard work and financial duress. It can also mean working hard and long to achieve the satisfaction that comes from knowing your children will be well dressed for school and will have all the school supplies they need.

The good life can mean sweat



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

on your brow and worn fingers and tired bones that testifies to the love you have for your family.

The fatigue you feel at night can be part of the good life, too — fatigue from helping the widow or orphan, fatigue from cooking or washing or cleaning.

The Bible says that sometimes the things we think are valuable can actually be robbing us blind.

John 10:10 says that Jesus came to give us life more abundantly. If your idea of abundant living means physical pleasures and escape from this world, I'd suggest you need to raise your sites a bit higher.

Jesus didn't live the "good life." Jesus went without a home (Matthew 8:20) and spent his ministry helping others by explaining God's word and living a life of example. He healed the sick and fed the poor. His disciples did likewise.

Acts 3:6 shows us that Peter and John were poor men without silver and gold. Paul was a prisoner for many years who refused the opportunity to escape because it would drive his warden to suicide (Acts 16:25-30).

These men didn't live the good life in our modern sense — yet every Christian would testify that these men lived life well, serving God and experiencing in due course the fullness of His love.

If chasing pleasure has you worn-out and unsatisfied, there is a solution and a better life.

Jesus says: "Come to me, all who are weary and heavy-laden, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)

Maybe it's time to put down the TV remote and pick up the Bible. Maybe the time has come for you to stop trying to live the good life and start living more abundantly.

A group of Christians who have begun this process in their own lives is as close as your Christian church.

At the First Methodist Church we begin our worship this Sunday at 10:45 a.m. Come join us as we redefine what living the good life is all about!

Commandments set standards for human behavior

"We all make mistakes. I don't think we have the right to force moral issues on our children," Serena quipped. "They need to make their own decisions and learn from their mistakes. It's normal for them to experiment with alcohol, sex and even drugs."

Josefa listened thoughtfully to her friend and said, "You're right. We've made our own mistakes."

"And there's a certain amount of experimentation that goes on with teen-agers. But I disagree with you that we have to stand by and let it go on without teaching them what's right and what's wrong," she said.

Serena reacted defensively:



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

"Look, you're getting into morality issues. Don't go there. Everybody has his personal idea of right and wrong. You can't decide what's right or wrong for someone else, and that includes your kids."

"That's the problem we have in our culture right now," Josefa said. "Everybody wants to do the right and wrong for themselves."

"Long ago a wise man said that when someone defines what is right and wrong in his own mind, the end of it leads to death and destruction. (Proverbs 14:12).

"There is someone much higher than humanity and He has given us a moral code called the Ten Commandments that have stood the test of human behavior for thousands of years."

"That may be fine for you, but as for me, those Commandments don't fit the times we live in," Serena shot back. "God, whoever he is, understands that modern life requires his so-called commandments to be updated."

Josefina could feel anger rising in her heart. She determined to be loving and calm.

"Serena, you would do well to follow the Commandments yourself and be diligent in teaching your children to do the same," she said.

"Long ago a very wise man said that an untamed colt will turn out stubborn and a child left to his own decisions will become unruly. He will become a terror to you and bring you grief in your old age." (Sirach 30:7-13)

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

Our choices determine where we will spend eternity

God is not suddenly out of tune with the times. He is our Creator and created time. He created man to worship and glorify Him. He created mankind to willingly love Him and in return God gave mankind dominion over all the earth. (Genesis 1:26-31, Matthew 5:16)

Loving God is not something that is suddenly out of style. His word is not out of style because it is not "politically correct."

Man may change, but there is no shadow of turning in God. He is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow. He has created eternity and our choices determine where we will spend eternity. (James 1:17-18, Hebrews

13:8)

Choosing Jesus as our Lord and Savior places you eternally in heaven with him. Choosing to reject him places you eternally in the lake of fire and brimstone with Satan and all his minions. (Revelation 19:20, John 5:28-29) No matter what country you live in, you have this freedom of choice. Thank God we still live in a country that allows us freedom of worship, but even that is gradually being encroached upon.

Man has tampered with God's word, twisting it and calling good evil and calling evil good. (Isaiah 5:20-21) If ever there was a time to pray and speak out



Gateway Ministries

Bob & Charolette Corey

against the warping of the principles our country was based upon, now is the time.

Contact your senators, representatives and all those who have authority over our laws. Pray that Godly men and women of righteousness be placed in authority and then support them.

If God is not first and foremost in your heart, if you are

not willing to stand up for what is right, you will have to stand for what is wrong. If you embrace what God calls evil now, you will be married to it later. (Romans 12:9, Ephesians 5:14-17, 6:11-18)

Now is the time for all the good word of God to sprout up inside you and bloom forth in victory through the truth of God's word. (Hebrews 10:22-24, Matthew 13:23, John 12:26-32)

Read the end of The Book. No matter what anyone else tries to tell you, you win! (Revelations 19-22) We pray for the peace of Jerusalem (Psalms 122:6). Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

St. John's hosts camp meetings

St. John's Missionary Baptist Church will host camp meetings on Aug. 4-16, every evening at 7. Acts 17:30 ... repent!

"Be loved if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another. No man hath seen God at anytime. If we love one another, God dwelleth in us, and his love is perfected in us."

"Hereby know we that we dwell in him and he in us, because he hath given us of his spirit. And we have seen and do testify that the Father sent the Son to be the Saviour of the World. Whosoever shall confess that Jesus is the Son of God. God dwelleth in him, and he in God."



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

"And we have known and believed the love that God hath to us. God is love: and he that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God, and God in him. Here in is our love made perfect that we may have boldness in the day of judgment: because as he is, so are we in this world." (1 John 4:11-17) Glory!

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DO YOU WANT TO BE SAVED?

Only one time, in the entire Bible, is the question asked. "What must I do to be saved?" (Acts 16:30). In the next verse (Acts 16:31) the question is answered, "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved, and thy house."

Remember:
 Hell's Hot
 Life's Short
 Death's Sure
 Eternity's Long
 and, "There Ain't No Exits In Hell."

NO MAN KNOWS, HOW SOON IT IS TOO LATE

"Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord thy God in vain; for the Lord will not hold him guiltless that taketh His Name in vain." Exodus 20:7

Any way that you use God's Name, the Lord's Name, Jesus' Name, other than in a Holy manner, is taking His Name in vain.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life." John 3:16

Acts 2:21 and Romans 10:13 indicate that, "whosoever shall call upon the name of the Lord shall be saved." In the next verse, Romans 10:14 it says, "How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed?" Believing precedes calling upon the name of the Lord. Jesus Himself said in John 14:6 "I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." God reaffirms this truth in 1 Timothy 2:5 saying "For there is one God, and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus." When someone says "repeat this prayer after me to be saved" it is making people feel like they have to "do" something to be saved, other than believing. If someone is asked to say a prayer to be saved, the person who says the prayer is still on his way to hell, after repeating the prayer, if he hasn't believed in his heart. Nowhere in the Bible is it found that a person has to pray a prayer to be saved. God does not hear a prayer unless you go to God in the name of Jesus Christ, **The Only Mediator between God and man.** Jesus Christ is not your Mediator unless he is your Lord and Savior. So according to God, the steps are, first, you believe in Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior. By believing as Acts 16:31 indicates, you are saved! Acts 16:30,31 is the only time in the Bible where the question is asked, "what must I do to be saved?" God answering through Paul said, **Believe** on the Lord Jesus Christ, and thou shalt be saved." By being saved, Jesus Christ is your Lord, Savior, and Mediator between God and yourself. Now you can pray to God, because you have the Mediator, Jesus Christ.

I believe that when a person "prays" to God, without being saved, his prayer goes no higher than the ceiling, and God probably says, "Who do you think you are, to think that you can come to Me, without coming to Me in the only possible way that I have set out in My Word? For you come to Me, through My Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ, the One and Only Mediator between you and Me." You don't just pull Jesus Christ out of the air, and say today I want You to get me to God, be my go between for God! It doesn't work that way. Jesus Christ is either your Lord and Savior, making Him your Mediator, or, if Jesus Christ is not your Lord and Savior, He is not your Mediator. I believe it is very important to stress that you are saved by believing only. John 3:16, probably the most quoted verse in the Bible, says that, "whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." Again, this passage clearly prescribes believing, not repeating a prayer. In John 3:4, Nicodemus asks Jesus, "How can a man be born when he is old? Can he enter the second time into his mother's womb and be born?" He was asking this in regard to Jesus' statement in John 3:3, that a man needs to be born again. Jesus; answer in John 3:5 and following is "Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God." Nowhere does Jesus say, pray to be saved, it is **always believe.**

Years ago, I heard Dr. Donald Grey Barnhouse say "I'm deeply offended when I hear a prayer that does not end with the idea that God must be approached only through the Name and the Being of the Lord Jesus Christ." Ephesians 1:13 says "In whom (Christ) ye also trusted, after that ye heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation: in whom also after that ye believed, ye were sealed with that Holy Spirit of promise." Romans 10:9 tells us "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." For with the heart man believeth (first) unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession (next) is made unto salvation." How many people have gone to hell or are going to hell by putting their trust in the ungodly "pray the sinners prayer" or "repeat this prayer after me", instead of believing John 3:36: "He that believeth on the Son hath everlasting life: and he that believeth not the Son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth on him."

Luke 23:39-43 tell us "And one of the malefactors which were hanged railed on him, saying, If thou be Christ, save thyself and us. But the other answering rebuked him, saying, Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation? And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds: but this man hath done nothing amiss. And he said unto Jesus, Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, Today shalt thou be with me in paradise." In these verses in Luke, we see that a man was saved by believing only. The malefactor did not, and was not instructed by Jesus, to pray, to receive salvation. He said unto Jesus, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom. And Jesus said unto him, Verily I say unto thee, today shalt thou be with me in paradise." **You don't fool Jesus. Jesus knew that this man believed** in Him; that this man believed that this Jesus that he was talking with was the Lord, The Messiah, the Only Begotten Son of God, the Savior, and in believing, the man was saved. Now if you think that you have to pray first, repeat first, or anything first, before believing, why did Jesus tell him "today thou shalt be with Me in paradise?" Or if there is a need to do for anything to go along with believing, why didn't Jesus tell him what that was? Jesus doesn't make mistakes! God's Word is true. You don't (really you can't), add to or take away from God's Word, and it be true. Just leave His Word alone, and do what God said, believe. Psalm 119:89 "For ever, O Lord, thy word is settled in heaven." Revelations 22:18,19 "For I testify unto every man that heareth the words of the prophecy of this book, If any man shall add unto these things, God shall add unto him the plagues that are written in this book: And if any man shall take away from the words of the book of this prophecy, God shall take away his part out of the book of life, and out of the holy city, and from the things which are written in this book." Take your Bible and check the references that we contained herein—nothing added to and nothing taken away; and when you hear "the plan of salvation" from anyone, get your Bible out and see if it is God speaking or "someone's" idea. I can't see "ten steps" to salvation, I can see only one step: believe. The malefactor on the cross had but one step, and he took it. You, I, we all have "one step," believe. Please take it, and believe in the Lord Jesus Christ for your salvation.

1 All Scripture references are from The King James Version, (Cambridge: Cambridge) 1769.

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