

The Brackett News



Texans urged to help track Hummingbirds
See below

17th year, No. 11

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

EARLY VOTING

As of press time, City Hall officials report 14 votes cast on the first day of early voting.

At the school district, 8 votes were cast in central office.

Early voting continues until Tuesday, May 3 until the end of the business day.

In the city election, Place 1 candidates includes Tully Welch, Camilo Cruz Jr. and Charles Bushart. Place 3 candidates are Mary V. Flores and Anita M. Ertle.

In the school board race, it's Pam Hale and Jeff Duncan.

BRIEFS

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.

Church in need

The First Baptist Church asks the community to save 1/2 gallon round ice cream cartons, large baby wipe boxes, powered drink containers with plastic lids, small coffee cans. These items will be used for Vacation Bible School, July 18-22. You may drop them by the church Monday-Thursday from 10:00 - 3:00.

Free Glaucoma Screening offered

April 28 from 10 am - 4 pm at United Medical Centers located at 202 James St. For more information, please call (830) 563-2434.

Cattle and Goat Marketing Workshop

A workshop will be held at the Southwest Livestock Exchange in Uvalde, Texas from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. Friday, May 6. The cost of the workshop is \$5, meal included.

In order to have an adequate food supply, please RSVP by May 4, at Uvalde County Farm Bureau, 830-278-9181 or the Kinney County Extension Office 563-2442.

Sponsors are Kinney - Val Verde County Farm Bureau, Uvalde County Farm Bureau, Texas Farm Bureau and Southwest Livestock Exchange, Inc.

INSIDE

Scanlan

It's amazing how much one can learn by paying attention to the insights of other people — especially those persons who have studied, and investigated, and checked out pertinent information and facts with regard to the history and ancient documents supporting what we now know as the Bible (The "Old Testament" and the "New Testament")

Religion / Page 7

Shanae

It seems like only yesterday I was a free woman. Free to wonder the hallways, talk to my friends and even free to look out the window. But the place I now sit holds none of those liberties I once took for granted.

Opinion / Page 2

Vada

I believe it's time to share a few hints and thoughts with you. Maybe something new or forgotten will be among the rambling. So settle down with your cup of coffee and scissors and let us get started.

Community / Page 3

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Laughlin Air Show

Brackett News Photos by Pam Hale

Above: Brackettville's "Bubba" Pettett, Brittany Hale, Carol Pettett, Harmony Pettett, and Haley Hale are caught enjoying one of the many planes on display during the air show held at Laughlin Air Force Base Saturday. Left: The United States Air Force Thunderbirds put on a spectacular show for all viewers, young and old.



Las Moras Organization plans Cinco de Mayo celebration May 7

The Las Moras Hispanic Organization is hosting its Cinco de Mayo celebrations on Saturday, May 7 at the Kinney County Civic Center.

To participate in the parade contact Robert Aguirre at 563-9559. The parade begins at the Brackett Academy, down Ann Street to the civic center.

To be part of the entertainment program, contact Alma

Gutierrez at 563-2280.

To have a food booth, call Ruben Martinez at 563-9103.

For Little Miss/Mister pageant call Lorenza Gutierrez at 563-2036.

This contest is open to Kinney County Residents.

To be in the talent show contact Catherine Martinez at 563-2425 or Diana Gutierrez at 563-2878.

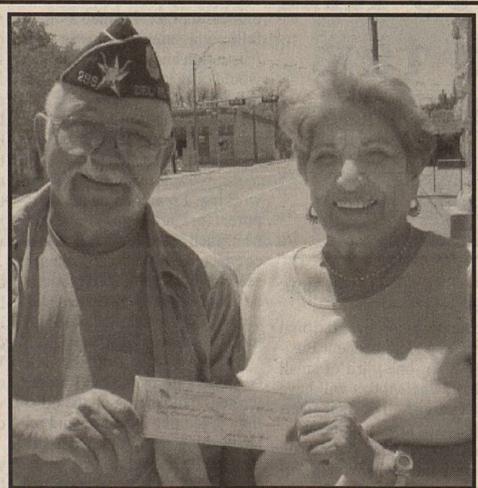
Old Quarry hosts wine and cheese party

The Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts will host the annual Wine and Cheese Party, and installation of officers, Sunday, April 24, 2005, 4 p.m. in the lobby of the Administration/Member Services Building on Fort Clark Springs.

Officers to be installed for the 2005-2006 season are Mary

Petrosky, President; Gil Raymer, First Vice-President; JoAnn Werner, Second Vice-President; Rosie Mattingly, Secretary; and Tom McNew, Treasurer.

Anyone who has ever attended an Old Quarry production is considered a member of the Old Quarry Society and all are invited to attend.



DONATION

Brackett News Photo by Gus Garcia

Vice President of American Legion Post 298 Ron Wylie, left, presents a donation to Mary Martin, volunteer with the local Operation Graduation. Operation Graduation is a drug and alcohol-free celebration honoring graduating seniors the night of their graduation. For more information to donate or volunteer contact Martin at 563-2239.

Council looking to sublet swimming pool for summer

City losing 65 percent of water before it hits meters

The Brackettville City Council is looking at the possibility of subletting the city swimming pool.

The pool, under the auspice of the city of Brackettville has not been operated for the last two years.

According to City Secretary Bonnie Mayes, council member Matt Bland was approached by "someone who wanted to sublet the pool." She also noted that she fielded "several" phone calls in regards to the pool.

At the last city council meeting, Mayes recommended the sublet of the pool from June 1 to Aug. 15, 2005.

"I came up with the idea to sublet the pool. We lease that pool from the county. I called Judge (Herb) Senne," Mayes said. "He said he would call Mr. Shahan and ask him if that was possible. He said 'sure'."

The lease would have to be amended.

I propose that we would have to repaint the pool again. Mayes noted the person who sublet's the pool would be responsible.

The City would still hold the liability, Mayes explained.

"I recommend we sublet the pool the month of June, July and close it mid-August," Mayes said. "Basically two and half months."

Council member Tully Welch made the motion directing Mayes to begin the process of subletting the pool. Council member Tipps made the second, the motion passed unanimously.

Attending the council were Mayor Joe N. Garza, council

members Tomas Gomez, Bland, Welch and Tipps.

Mayor Pro-Tem Francisca Garza was absent.

The council also approved an evaluation form for all city employees. Gomez made the motion while Tipps made the second and it passed unanimously.

The council also approved a personnel policy. Mayes had been working on revamping the new personnel policy for a few months now.

The council also took no action yet on the city's loss of water currently being pumped for consumption by the residents of Brackettville.

Garza noted that according to studies, the city is losing approximately 65 percent of its water before it gets to the meters.

"The issue that we are going to be faced with in the near future is the sale of water," Garza said. "As I understand it, we pump the water and we are losing 65 percent of the water before it gets to the households."

"I think the city needs to look at the loss of water we are suffering. We need to address this issue immediately," Garza said.

"I ask that Paul Edwards be here, but he could not be here tonight."

He is aware of our situations. He is a consultant and in my discussion with him, he informed me there are grants available."

Garza hinted at hiring Edwards to find the grants for the city to replace its water lines.

Garza also noted that to replace the city's waterlines, it

would cost about 2.5 million dollars.

"I just wanted to make the council aware of the situation," Garza said. "I know we need to correct this situation. But tonight I just wanted to make the council aware of the situation."

There was no action taken on the council.

There was no action taken on the bidding process for the Solid Waste Collection and Disposal service.

But the council did take action on a resolution in support of groundwater districts.

The three point resolution says the city supports Authorization of the Val Verde County Underground Water Conservation District; Maintenance of Full regulatory authority of the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District and; sustained prohibition against the export of Edwards Aquifer waters from Medina and/or Uvalde Counties via pipeline.

"We've been asked to consider this," Garza said. Tipps made the motion and Gomez made the second, the motion passed unanimously.

Bland noted the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department has been reinstated by the state. Garza read the reinstatement of charter for the record.

The department had lost their charter, but the charter has been reinstated by the state.

Garza thanked Bland for taking the initiative to continue the work with the volunteer fire department.



IN RECOGNITION

Photo by Wes Robinson

Clifford Cavander, Deputy Grand Master for local Masonic District, center presented two recognition awards to Joe York, right for 40 years of membership to the Masonic Lodge and a 50 year award to Joe Strow, left. York is joined with his wife Mary Sam, far right while Strow is joined by his wife Elaine, far left.

Early voting underway for city and school board

City of Brackettville elections are set.

Early voting began Wednesday at city hall.

Early voting continues until Tuesday, May 3.

Place 1 and 3 on the city council are up for grabs. Place 1 incumbent Tully Welch signed up, hoping for a reelection nod.

Challengers for Welch include Camilo Cruz Jr. and Charles Bushart.

In place three, incumbent Tomas Gomez Jr., did not sign up for reelection. So, the new place will be occupied by either

Mary V. Flores or Anita M. Ertle, both of whom signed up for the May 7 election.

For place 1, the names on the ballot will appear as follows:

Camilo Cruz Jr., Charles Bushart and Tully Welch

For the place 3 election, Anita Ertle will be first on the ballot followed by Mary V. Flores.

Early voting continues during regular business hours at city hall.

Election day is Saturday, May 7 from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.

The Brackett Independent School District Board of Trust-

ees will hold a general election for two 3-year trustee positions, and one 2-year position at the May 7 Brackett school board election.

Candidates for the May 7 election include incumbents Ronnie Hobbs and Henry Lutz. Pam Hale will challenge candidate Jeffrey Duncan for the 2-year position.

Early voting by personal appearance will be conducted each weekday, at the Central Office, 400 Ann Street, between the hours of 8 a.m. and 4 p.m., ending May 3, 2005.

Texans urged to help track hummingbirds

AUSTIN, Texas — For many Texans, the unique opportunity to view some of the 18 species of hummingbirds found in Texas is only as far away as the backyard. Now, experts are asking backyard birders to join a citizen effort to study hummers, plus offering tips to attract the tiny birds.

During the spring and summer months, the hummingbirds' nesting season, many Texans put feeders in the yard to attract birds. For those friends of the hummingbird, that time of year is here.

"Everyone loves hummingbirds," said Mark Klym, Texas

Parks and Wildlife Department's Texas Hummingbird Roundup coordinator. "The best way to see more of them is to develop a habitat in your own garden."

Texans wanting to help the hummingbirds out can provide food through plants and insects, shelter consisting of a thick growth of native brush or trees, and reliable drinking and bathing water.

Although most Texans choose to feed the birds during the nesting season and the fall migration season, many of the birds can be found here year-round.

"There is no reason to ever take a feeder down in Texas,"

Klym said. "If you decide not to feed through the winter months though, you need to have the feeders back in place by mid-to late February."

This winter, multiple species were documented in many different locations throughout the state. Seven species were sighted in Houston between November and February, the most in the state, and both Austin and San Antonio each recorded six species.

As neighbors to more species of the hummingbird than any other state, Texans have the opportunity to help study the dainty birds. Texas Hummingbird



Roundup allows residents to assist TPWD study the birds' feed-

ing patterns, behavior, range and distribution.

The program provides participants with a kit that includes a survey form and "A Quick Reference Guide to Texas Hummingbirds" booklet, with information on Texas' species of hummingbird, how to clean and maintain feeders, and suggestions on additional plants for the garden.

For more information about the Texas Hummingbird Roundup, call (512) 389-4644 or visit the Web site.

On the Net: www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hummingbirds

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Open letter to citizens of Kinney County

Recently all of the citizens of the City of Brackettville received a letter asking them to "do the math" regarding a new Senate Bill, presented by Senator Madla, that would transfer our water management to the Edwards Aquifer Authority.

The Edwards Aquifer Authority charges a \$38.00 per acre foot management fee for each acre foot of water. With the City of Brackettville currently using an average of 600 acre feet of water, and 845 residential homes, that would mean that the average monthly increase for all City of Brackettville residents would be \$2.12.

If the City of Brackettville expanded, and their water usage increased from 600 acre feet of water, then the City of Brackettville, and we as residents, would have to pay \$2,600 per acre foot of water. That would mean an additional increase of \$3.08 per month, per resident, per additional acre foot of water that the City of Brackettville used.

If we don't go with the Edwards Aquifer Authority and remain with our current water board, then we are faced with hard to deny allegations of mis-

management.

A prime example was our water board's decision to grant a family company of one of its own board members 149% and 212% of the water their own water consultant recommended, while other applicants went away with less than 50%.

The solution? First, contact Senator Madla's office and state that the City of Brackettville, a non-permit holder, needs to have the same protection allotted permit holders in SB 1857. Why were we left out?

Second, if there are allegations against our water board, then a Congressional investigation should be ordered. The results of that investigation should put to rest any and all allegations. If they acted appropriately, then those who are unhappy will have to accept the judgment of the investigative committee.

If, however, there have been acts of partiality and mismanagement, then let those who committed those acts be held accountable so that as a community we can go forward.

We, the residents of the City of Brackettville, need to unite to protect our rights.

Silk Waters Mooney

From the middle

Most residents of Kinney County have not been actively involved in the current disagreement over water.

Now however, one of the groups is attempting to take the local voters out of the mix. Since both sides have demonstrated a serious inability to address this issue fairly, perhaps it is time for the middle man to chime in.

Most of us have grown tired of the constant bickering and name calling that has been the hallmark of both groups.

The basic problem can be solved in one meeting, but will require a certain amount of intelligence, honesty and integrity.

In the past, except during times of severe drought, water has been available to everyone in Kinney County.

So here's my suggestion for the Middle: if you have documented a certain amount of water usage for your operation, you should be allocated 100 percent. Not 200 percent, not 41 percent, but 100 percent!

This will immediately guarantee everyone involved enough water necessary to conduct their business.

There are those who, no mat-

ter what they say, wish to sell their water to outside interests. Water usage of each farm and ranch should be closely monitored for the next three years, and at the end of that time a final average should be calculated.

The rancher and farmer who wishes to cease operations can then sell that particular amount, but will never be allowed a pumping increase.

During the dry times, which we all know will come, the amount pumped will be reduced the same amount from each farm, ranch and sales well to ensure water availability for all.

All this will be predicated on the honesty and integrity of those doing the calculations and should be completed out in the open, for all to see.

This appears to be fair and equitable method of using the water resources available to all of us, so let's tell the state to butt out of our business.

It's time to see if the people of Kinney County are smart enough and honest enough to self govern!

This is my view from the Middle...

Ned Sitzes

April is the month of

April 2005 is...I haven't done one of these for a long time, so here goes.

Month of the Young Child (Are there OLD children? What am I missing here?)

National Grilled Cheese Sandwich Month (How many grilled cheese sandwiches can you eat in a month?)

National Smile Month (My mouth hurts just thinking about smiling for 31 days.)

National Soft Pretzel Month (When is hard pretzel month?)

Egg Salad Week (4/1-4/7) (Why do grilled cheese sandwiches get a whole month?)

National Blue Ribbon Week (4/1-4/7) (Somebody please explain this to me.)

National Sleep Awareness Week (4/1-4/7) (Can I be asleep and aware at the same time?)

National Alcohol Screening Day (4/4) (Why do we want to screen alcohol?)

National Week of the Ocean (4/7-4/13) (Exactly what am I supposed to do?)

Chicken Little Awards (4/8) (OK, why not?)



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

International Feng Shui Awareness Day (4/8) (Who/what/where is this?)

International Teens Against Zits (4/12) (Are teens FOR zits?)

Families Laughing Through Stories Week (4/15-4/21) (Nuff said)

National Credit Education Week (4/15-4/19) (My credit could use some education.)

National Coin Week (4/21-4/27) (Got any coins?)

Earth Day (4/22) (Coins get a week but the earth gets 1 day?)

Sky Awareness Week (4/21-4/27) (Sky awareness??)

TV Turnoff Week (4/22-4/28) (Shouldn't turn-on week come first?)

National Honesty Day (4/30) (Sure, turn off the TV for a week, be honest one day.)

It's time to kill the death tax

In America we get a certificate when we're born, a license when we marry, and a bill when we die. As unfair as it is, the federal government actually taxes us when we die - and it's not a cheap bill. In fact, it's so expensive to die in this country that the loved ones we leave behind pay a huge price.

Not only do our loved ones have to deal with funeral arrangements, memorial services and comforting each other through a tough time, they have to deal with the IRS, which is hovering in the wings ready to take a bite out of what many hard working Americans leave behind.

This is not a tax that only wealthy Americans have to deal with. The death tax hits farmers, ranchers and small business owners especially hard.

When it comes to farms and ranches, assets are often tied up in land that has been passed down through the family for generations.

Not a lot of people have thousands of dollars in their bank accounts to pay off the death taxes.

Often times families have to sell off part or all of their land just to pay the taxes. This is causing the demise of the American farm and ranch. The death tax is simply un-American.

The fact that we are so heavily taxed when we die is unjust, cruel and extremely insulting.

After all, part of the American dream is to make life better for our children and grandchildren.

But because of the way the current tax laws are written, leaving our children a farm, ranch



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

or family business is very difficult, if not impossible.

According to the National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB), one-third of small business owners today will have to sell a part or all of their firms to pay estate taxes, more commonly referred to as the "death tax." Half of those who must liquidate to settle with the IRS will have to eliminate 30 or more jobs.

Last week the House of Representatives voted again to end the death tax.

It's now in the hands of the Senate - and they must act! Texas is lucky to have two Senators who are working hard to kill this burdensome tax, but it takes more than two.

Repealing this tax will make it easier for people to pass their businesses and farms down to their children and grandchildren - a cherished part of the American dream. No one should have to meet the undertaker and the IRS on the same day.

It's time to bury the federal death tax.

The winners will be consumers, small businesses, family farms and loving families all over the country who have enough to think about when there is a death in their household.

Paying Uncle Sam should not be part of the grieving process.

My life in the BHS big house



Yo Shanae

Shanae Simmons

Her nostrils fill with the faint aroma of dust and the old BO of former prisoners. Lifting her hand to her head, she tousles her hair in an effort to relinquish some of the built up, newly acquired pressure. Staring into the deep black that surrounds her, she listens as guards pace the hall, occasionally capturing sounds of distant cries from unknown faces. "If only..." she thinks to herself. "If only..."

It seems like only yesterday I was a free woman. Free to wonder the hallways, talk to my friends and even free to look out the window. But the place I now sit holds none of those liberties I once took for granted.

You see, I am now chained in a place where every friend is missed and every window is covered. I am in a place where every prisoner is bound in her own dark black cubicle, with penciled in obscenities on its walls, and where aromas are far from pleasant. I am in the dreaded ISS, or what outsiders call "In School Suspension".

Now some reading may be caught in a slight case of stupor (especially if you are my grandmother who does not currently know of my location). You may now be asking yourself, "Shanae, how did she reach this place of imprisonment? Is she really a secret juvenile delinquent, living the hard life with a massive list of tardies, gum chewing offenses and crimes involving spit wad hurling?" And to those questions I must answer no. I am a new-timer, according to my comrades in the slammer, a criminal green to the ways of the big-timers. But some may say that mine was a crime of passion.

It all began in the library, a place where most find themselves victims. I had been sitting innocently enough in my prep class (where I worked on scholarships and school work), when I decided to call my future college to ask them some questions. The counselor and I were to do the deed after school, but I had nothing to do, and decided that it wouldn't be too bad.

Our teacher was absent, but I new she wouldn't mind me using the phone, because she had in the past. I walked over, picked it up, and began to dial. What I didn't realize was that there needed to be a special code for the phone for long distance phone calls. So after discovering this unpleasant fact, I fumed a bit. A fellow classmate of mine saw my frustration and offered a key that would only lead to trouble... her cell phone.

Pulling it out of her bag, she handed it to me. I thanked her repeatedly and began to dial once more. Now the number was not working. I searched on my computer for more numbers, and tried each, but they were all disconnected. Finally after much searching, I found the right number, and began to call when suddenly I lost service (you think my luck is bad now, just wait).

Shoeless, I ran outside and began to call again, glorified by the sound of ringing on the other line. Listening intently, and after pushing many buttons as requested by the automated voice, I heard the real live voice I had been trying to reach for what seemed like hours. It was the voice of a university assistant.

I was explaining my situation about how I was having problem with housing and certain financial situations, when suddenly my arch nemesis arrived... the librarian. Walking briskly, with a look of pure malicious pleasure, she found me, her next victim. She was no amateur when it came to

sending kids to the slammer and she was ready for another kill. Immediately she began to question the situation, from my absence of shoes, to the cell phone in hand. Trying to explain to both people (the one in front and the one at hand) I found myself in quite the pickle.

I told her I was talking to the university I planned to attend next year, and that I would surely be homeless. My over-dramatizing did not better the situation, it merely fueled the fire. She continued to tell me to get off the phone, but I couldn't let go. I explained how the counselor and I had already talked about it, and that I was taking care of it during my prep time. Suddenly, images of her striking the fear into small children and even her coworkers overwhelmed me, and I decided to stand tall.

"This is a very important phone call and this is, my class period to do this," I said in the most inelegant manner. "I am almost finished." She stared dumbfounded as this barefooted, bum-looking student finally, though not in the most attractive way, stood up to her. Completely flabbergasted, she stomped off into the building.

A thrill pumped through my being, one of victory for every bug she had squashed, every little kid she had made cry, and every late fee she had handed out. I had a newfound confidence as I finished my phone call. After settling all business straight, I walked back into the building towards my class, when suddenly I was stopped.

"Shanae!" she yelled from across the library. "Give me the cell phone!"

"But it-t-t, isn't mine," I said cowering once more, my confidence fleeing.

"I don't care whose it is, hand it over!"

And that is why I now sit imprisoned, along with my sweet-hearted classmate who was simply being generous. You see, after me having lost the phone, she tried recovering it which led to a bigger fiasco, which led to me going to the assistant principal, which led to an informal conference with all parties, which led the next week to my incarceration. My sentence is placed at a long two days, while my friend has one. I asked the principal, through tear-filled eyes, to relinquish my friend from her sentence, and place it over my own head, but my efforts were in vain.

So here we sit, in separated cubicles in a mess I created. I have to admit, though the view isn't grand, this is the most productive I have been in ages. Without all the distractions of the outside world, I have become very efficient, bored, but efficient none-the-less.

If only I would have just waited until after school to call, I would not be in this predicament now, but I guess that if you do the crime you must pay the time.

So with that, I will end this lengthy article with a few pieces of advice, always wear your shoes, don't get confident too quickly, and patience is definitely a virtue.

As written by Shanae Simmons within the confines of the Brackett I.S.D. penitentiary.

Big Mama Sez!



No camel route is long with good company.

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.

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The Brackett News

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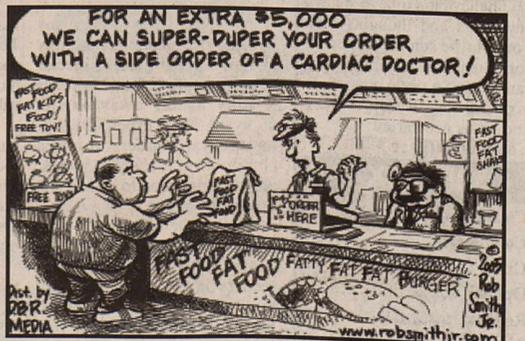
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Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of The Brackett News will gladly be



Do you have something to say about an issue? Write a letter to the editor today!

Shared hints and thoughts

I believe it's time to share a few hints and thoughts with you. Maybe something new or forgotten will be among the rambling. So settle down with your cup of coffee and scissors and let us get started.

Lazy Banana Creme Pie
Bake 8 in. ready made graham cracker pie crust as directed on package.

While crust is cooling, slice two ripe bananas in approximately 3/8 inch thick slices. Set aside.

When crust is cooled, mix one large (1.5 oz.) package vanilla instant pudding according to directions for pie filling and add 1/2 tsp. banana flavoring.

Pour half of pudding into cooled pie shell, layer sliced bananas on top, covering completely; top with remaining pudding. Chill for at least one hour and top with whipped topping for serving.

Pumped Raisins
If your raisins are dried out, tough or gummy, put new life in them. Take about 1 or 1 1/2 cup of raisins and put them in a saucepan with 2 jiggers (app. 2oz.) of sweet liquor - i.e. sherry, brandy, dark rum, amaretto or maybe a jigger each of two kinds - 2 or 3 tsp. of sugar and enough water to just barely cover the raisins.

Put on very high heat and bring to a rolling boil for only



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

a few seconds. Remove from heat. Cover with a tight lid and let cool in pan. Raisins will be plump and flavorful.

You can use these in oatmeal or anything else that calls for raisins.

They are excellent to drain when cool and add to 1 pound of shredded carrots, add mayonnaise for a delicious carrot and raisin salad.

Potpourri
Vinegar brought to a boil in a new frying pan will prevent food from sticking.

Once an onion is cut in half, rub the left-over side with butter and it will keep fresh longer. Shaving cream can be used to clean upholstery in emergencies.

To clean and shine copper pots, rub with worcestershire sauce or catsup. The tarnish will disappear.

When heating a canned ham, do not remove lid. Instead puncture holes in lid and add some liquid smoke before baking as usual.

When grapes worry, they wrinkle and turn into raisins.

Co-ops coping with highest-ever gas, diesel prices

By George Stuteville
As printed in Electric Co-op Today Magazine April 8, 2005. (Reprinted with permission)

Conservation, cleverness, practicality are strategies co-ops use to keep handle on the gas pump.

With a barrel of oil topping \$60 - its highest price ever, and en route to what some observers believe could be \$100 a barrel - co-ops across the nation are coping by conserving, working smarter and seeking alternatives.

Consider Rio Grande Electric Co-op, Brackettville, Texas, which serves a territory larger than the state of West Virginia.

The late March spike of four cents in the price of gasoline and diesel can quickly turn into an outlay of tens of thousands of dollars for its fuel-thirsty fleet of co-op vehicles.

Rio Grande's vast district is served by six offices. "Travel is not only time-consuming, but has become a very expensive proposition," said Director of Operations Clinton Brown.

As a result, he said, the co-op operations department will rely more and more on Web-based videoconferencing for operational and safety department meetings.

At Hoosier Energy, concerns about the high cost of fuel have forced Phil Johnson, manager of the Bloomington, Ind., G&T's (generation & transmission) power delivery services, to make some adjustments. "We're trying to carefully plan our line and substation projects so we take the minimum number of vehicles that we need to a job site," Johnson

said. "We try to take no more vehicles than we need. If we have a big substation job, we'll leave the big trucks there at the site and hire a guard to watch them. It's less expensive than buying fuel."

Ed Karas, manager of purchasing and contracts at Hoosier, noted that fuel-related credit card charges, which averaged \$12,000 to \$13,000 a month last year, are up to about \$22,000 - about a 70 percent escalation.

The same thing has happened across the nation over the last year. Oil prices are now 67 percent higher, according to the Department of Energy. Gasoline demand is up about 2 percent from a year ago. As Electric Co-op Today went to press, the average retail price of unleaded regular gasoline hovered at \$2.38 a gallon, according to the Energy Department, with some areas seeing prices of \$2.38. Prices for diesel fuel were about \$2.25 per gallon, with spot prices spiking to \$2.75 on the coasts.

At Florida Keys Electric Co-op, District Manager Ernie Neubauer said the co-op won't be affected much by increasing gasoline prices. The Tavernier-based co-op serves 30,000 members on about 150 miles of line.

And there is nothing he can do about the escalating diesel prices except pay. "We have a diesel generating plant of about 23 MWS that we use for peak loads, power outages.

"There is nothing we can do to cut back there. Service can't be compromised."

Wade Hensel, general manager of Brown Count REA, Sleepy Eye, Minn., puts it like this: "We're all captives here," he said. "We are not about to do

anything that would compromise We'll just deal with it." reliability. So, the increase is He added that he has not had going to affect our overall costs. to take any unusual steps. Yet.

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KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, April 11
4:28 p.m., A woman stated a man kept driving her house and yelling profanity at her. Deputy Ramon Gutierrez was notified.

7:24 p.m., A Border Patrol agent reported a stranded motorist about 7 miles west of the Cline check point. Trooper Tully Welch was dispatched.

Tuesday, April 12
12:01 a.m., A woman reported two individuals in her vehicle in her back yard. She called back stating the person's names. Deputy Ron Ring was notified.

Wednesday, April 13
8:27 a.m., A man reported a bundle on Highway 131. Deputy Gutierrez was notified.

Thursday, April 14
7:05 a.m., A man stated he had hit a deer on Highway 90 before you get to the Cline check point. The man just wanted to report it and he was going to pick up a blue form.

11:13 a.m., An anonymous caller reported an 18 wheeler was spilling gas on Highway 277 towards Del Rio. Del Rio police department was advised.

6:20 p.m., A man reported a two year old child wandering around the neighborhood of Gove and Thomas Street. The man stated that no one knew who the child belonged to. Deputy Ring was dispatched. Deputy Ring later reported the parents came after he arrived at the location. The child evidently wandered away from the home.

7:48 p.m., An anonymous caller stated that construction work was being done on Highway 277 without lights or flaggers and there was going to be an accident. Deputy Donald

Page was dispatched and talked with the workers. He was told that people were driving around the barricades.

Saturday, April 16
12:41 a.m., Santos Manual Limon, 31, of Del Rio was arrested by Game Warden Huebner for driving while intoxicated. Limon was later released after posting a \$1,500.00 bond.

2:20 p.m., Raul Mata, 32, of Brackettville, was arrested by Trooper Ashley for driving with an invalid license. Mata was still being held when this report was made.

8:26 p.m., A woman reported a suspicious vehicle parked at the entrance of the Kinney County Estates. Deputy Ring was advised. The vehicle belonged to a person

who was breaking in a horse.

8:32 p.m., A woman requested a deputy's assistance in regards to a snake being inside her house. Deputy Ring was advised. Deputy Ring reported it to be a rattlesnake. A city employee was notified of the situation.

9:54 p.m., A man stated that his wife had locked him out of his barn. He also stated that he didn't want it to escalate that he just wanted to take a shower. Deputy Ring was informed.

Sunday, April 17
9:29 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a reckless driver in a white Ford F-150. Trooper Tony Ashley was advised. Trooper Ashley stopped the vehicle and everything was fine.

To the Voters of Brackettville:

I would like to thank you for your support throughout the past year. I feel that the city has made positive progress despite all the hardships that we were dealt. There are many more challenges that lie ahead that must be addressed by the present and future council.

I again ask for your support and vote in re-electing me to the city council. Early voting is April 20 to May 3 at City Hall. Election Day is May 7 at City Hall.

Thank you - Tully D. Welch

Pd. pol. ad by Tully Welch, PO Box 111, Brackettville, Texas 78832



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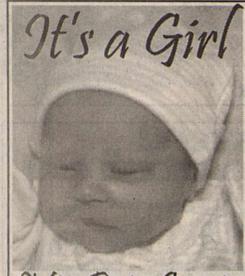
King co-authors legislation for vets

Rep. Tracy O. King (D-Batesville) co-authored House Bill 1074 that will allow high school diplomas to be awarded to certain Texas veterans who did not finish high school. House Bill 1074, which will allow surviving Korean and Vietnam Veter-

ans who did not graduate from high school to receive their high school diplomas, passed the Texas House of Representatives on Thursday. Veterans who received an honorable discharge from the armed services are eligible for the honorary diplomas. State law currently allows veterans of World War II to receive these types of diplomas.

"I am pleased that members of the Texas House of Representatives have recognized the distinguished service of Texas veterans with the passage of this bill," said Rep. King. "It underscores the value and importance of education, and honors the commitment of our servicemen who interrupted their education to serve our country."

If you need additional information regarding this issue please contact Representative King's Capitol Office at (512) 463-0194 or the District Office in Eagle Pass, Texas at (830) 773-0860.



It's a Girl
Mia Rain Garcia
March 21, 2005, 3:15 p.m.
5 pounds, 10 ounces, 18 inches
Mayra & Michael Garcia

The Kindergarten classes of Mrs. Conoly, Mrs. Blake and Miss Blore went on a walking field trip on April 8th to visit the Casa Verde Garden Center owned and operated by Judy and Steve Crosby.

The children enjoyed their visit and received instructions and hands on experience with planting seeds from our County Extension Agent Robert Elledge and secretary Carol Pettett. Mr. Elledge talked to the children about the different parts of a plant and presented the children with a booklet to graph their plant growth.

Mrs. Crosby talked to the children about the various plants she had in her garden center and the children really enjoyed the fragrant smell of the herbs. We also visited the unusual Kapok Tree that was



Kinder-Gardeners

Courtesy Photo by Martha Novel

Kindergarten students enjoying the field trip to the Casa Verde Garden Center last Friday while County Agent Robert Elledge spoke about plants.

covered with thick spines around its trunk. This tree is usually found in the Rainforests of South America.

The children are maintaining their bean plants in the class-

room.

They will be measuring their growth and will make a graph from their results.

Please don't forget Earth Day on April 22nd.

Abbott urges congress to protect federal crime victim funding from budget cuts

AUSTIN - Texas Attorney General Greg Abbott announced he has joined attorneys general from every other state in urging Congress not to make proposed cuts of more than \$1.2 billion from the federal Crime Victims Fund - a fund that provides direct assistance to victims of violent crimes in Texas and across the country.

Attorney General Abbott and the other attorneys general wrote in a letter to congressional leaders that a proposal to remove \$1.27 billion from the Crime

Victims Fund for fiscal year 2006 "would have a devastating impact on our ability to support victims of crime." The appeal to Congress coincided with National Crime Victims' Rights Week, April 10-16.

"Funding to assist crime victims is too important for us to simply let it wither away," Abbott said. "Just as I am working with the Legislature here at home to protect victim assistance funding, I am also standing with other state attorneys general in urging Congress to protect vital federal funding that helps victims in Texas and throughout the United States."

The attorneys general asked Congress to protect funding for vital crime victim services and assure the future availability of these monies to the Crime Victims Fund.

Although the Administration's proposed budget includes crime victims funding of \$650 million for fiscal year 2006, all other monies remaining in the fund and any new monies collected in fiscal year 2006 would be eliminated. As a result, starting in 2007, there would be no money

readily available for state victim assistance programs, crime victim compensation grants, or for federal personnel who provide victim services.

The Texas Attorney General's office received \$42 million in federal crime victims funding for assistance provided last year to Texas crime victims. The federal Crime Victims Fund was created by the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (VOCA). VOCA funds come entirely from collections from federal criminal fines, forfeitures and special assessments - not from taxpayers. Through grants to state victim compensation programs, victims of violent crimes throughout the country have been able to get help for medical care, mental health counseling, funeral and burial expenses, and other vital services.

Some 4,400 local programs depend on VOCA assistance grants to provide necessary services to nearly 4 million victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, drunk driving, elder abuse and robberies, as well as families of homicide victims and other victims of crime.

Ninety-one new DPS troopers graduate

The Texas Department of Public Safety graduated 91 new troopers who will soon report to duty stations across the state.

Texas Railroad Commissioner Michael Williams was the keynote speaker and addressed the graduates.

"Today, you realize the fulfillment of your dream to take on the critical role of keeping Texans safe," Williams said.

You have completed a challenging training program and are well-prepared to protect the public safety. You are the men and women Texans will look to for help, for protection and for upholding the law.

Today you have accepted a career with many responsibilities.

Thank you for your commitment to keep our families safe.

And thank you for your dedication to protecting all Texans."

The troopers began the six-month training academy in October.

Instruction covered more than 100 subjects, including counterterrorism, traffic and criminal law, arrest and control procedures, accident reconstruction, first aid and Spanish.

They also received extensive use of force, communication skills, firearms, driving, criminal interdiction, cultural diversity and physical fitness training.

"Our graduates today will act as the first line of defense for the citizens of Texas against criminals of all sorts—from drunk drivers to terrorists," said Col. Thomas A. Davis Jr., director of the DPS.

In about three weeks, the troopers will move to their new duty stations.

They will spend the first six months in on-the-job training with a senior trooper.

DPS is currently accepting applications for the next trooper academy. Interested applicants can call the toll-free line, 1-866-TXTROOP (898-7667).

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Spring has sprung throughout the Heritage Trail Regions

AUSTIN, Texas -- In Texas, wildflowers are a passion and their dazzling display is a feast for the eyes.

The Lone Star state is home to more than 5,000 species of wildflowers dotting roadsides and blanketing fields.

Sprinkles of yellow buttercups, red Indian paintbrushes,

pink ladies and seas of bluebonnets are everywhere.

Spring is the ideal time to explore your local area's heritage while enjoying the spectacular show of wildflowers along the way.

Enjoy these Texas treats by exploring the Texas Historical Commission's (THC) heritage regions. Each heritage region has its own unique palette of wildflowers to enjoy.

The Texas Brazos Heritage Trail Region is colored with fire wheels, the Texas Forts Trail Region is canvassed with Indian paintbrushes and the Texas Forest Trail Region with dazzling dogwoods and wild azaleas.

Yellow buttercups color the Texas Independence Trail Region and magnificent Mexican hats are found in the Texas Lakes Trail Region.

The heritage regions are all part of the THC's regional tour-

ism initiative, the Texas Heritage Trails Program.

The program encourages people to venture out and rediscover the state's historic and cultural wonders.

This successful program capitalizes on the economic impact of heritage tourism -- a \$40 billion a year industry.

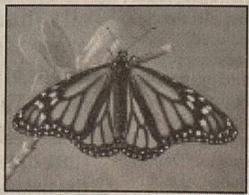
For free heritage trail brochures call 866/276-6219 or visit the website www.thc.state.tx.us/travel.

For additional information on Texas travel events and vacation destinations, visit TravelTex.com or for a free Texas State Travel Guide call 1-800-888-TEX (1-800-888-8839).

The Texas Historical Commission is the state agency for historic preservation.

The agency administers a variety of programs to preserve the archeological, historical and cultural resources of Texas.

Happy Birthday Big Girl
Love Always, Ampo Garcia & Mia Rain Garcia



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Tigers are Regional bound Tigerette softball reach playoffs

The Tiger team performed well at the Area meet in Harper last Thursday considering all things aside.

The Tigers placed fourth overall with first place being Calvert with only 9.5 points ahead.

In the field events, Tillman Davis and Cody Edwards both competed in the triple jump. Edwards jumped 39' 1 1/2" on his last jump of the day moving him into second place. T. Davis came up with a 39' 1 1/4" jump on his last jump giving him third place.

Brand Wylie competed with an injury and took fourth place in the pole vault.

Rolando Ortiz placed third in the shot put with a 43'1" throw and John Moore also placed third in the discus with a 127'8" throw.

In the running events, Tres Rueda finished with an impressive first place in the 110 meter hurdles with a time of 15.44.

Rueda also placed second in the 300 meter hurdles with a time of 41.8 and Robert Davis finished with a time of 43.09 taking fourth place.

Edwards ran a 23.4 second 200 meter dash placing fourth.

The 400 meter relay team (R. Davis, Edwards, Noe Talamantes and Cesar Cortez) took fourth place finishing with a time of 45.25.



Tres Rueda (top) and Cody Edwards both qualified for Regionals in all events they competed in.

The Tigers were headed to Fredricksburg tomorrow, April 22, but have decided to skip the meet and allow the team to rest and heal for the Regional meet. The meet will be held in Brenham next Friday and Saturday, April 29 and 30.

The Tigerettes clinched a playoff berth last Tuesday with a win over LaPryor 16-0.

The Tigerettes finished in second place behind D'Hanis. The Tigerettes will match up with District 30-A Champions, Flatonia. The date, time, and site have not yet been set.

The Tigerettes will play Natalia, April 26 in Natalia, for a warm up game.

Leading the Tigerettes offensively are Lisa Morgan, Emily Valenzuela and Julie Castillo who are all hitting over .500 for dis-

trict. Kara Yeager is leading the charge on the rubber with 60 strikeouts and only 15 walks in district play.

The young team consists of one senior, one junior, seven sophomores and six freshmen.

They include: Senior Danielle Moore; Junior Dana Bonner;

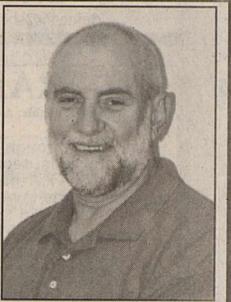
Sophomore Allison Del Bosque, Lola Cano, Lisa Morgan, Jessica Siegel, Nadine Terrezas, Emily Valenzuela and Kara Yeager; Freshman Julie Castillo, Erica Rodriguez, Evelyn Rojas, Chaito Sanchez, Bianca Stewart and Jolisa Wright.

Their record is 13-9 overall and 5-3 in district.



Freshman Julie Castillo has a batting average of .500 in district play. The Tigerette Softball team heads into the playoff this week. The Tigerettes took the runner-up spot and face 30-A Champs Flatonia.

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Tigerettes take second in area track

The Varisty Tigerettes took runner up place at the Area Track meet held in Harper last week.

Their total team score was 108 with Falls City taking first with 130, Harper taking third with 83 points, Center Point with 62, Rocksprings 62 and Round-Top Carmine with 55.

In the field events, Courtney Frerich started the day with a first place in the high jump finishing out at 5'2". Bailee Allen started with a fifth place in discus with a throw of 83'4".

In the running events, the 400 relay team (Anolda Watkins, Rachel Swinson, Vanessa Williams and Brandy Smith) took fourth place with a time of 52.57.

The 800 relay team (Watkins, Daphne Hunt, Williams, and Bianca Stewart) also took fourth with a time of 1:52.4.

But the 1600 relay team (Stewart, Hunt, Frerich and Swinson) had a time of 4:20.1 taking second place.

In the high hurdles B. Smith took third place with a time of 17.81 while Allen came up on top taking first place with a time of 17.05.

Frerich took another first place in the intermediate hurdles with a time of 48.7.

Juliann Ashabranner ran a 12:36.03, 3200 meter run taking first place while Gabby Schroeder finished with a time of 13:05.89 and fourth place.

Ashabranner and Schroeder also ran in the 1600 meter run with Ashabranner finishing second (5:48.6) and Schroeder finishing fifth (6:01.3).

In the 800 meter run, Hunt took the third place medal with a time of 2:35.4.

Swinson took the silver medal in the 400 meter run with a time of 59.6.

Regional qualifiers are Juliann Ashabranner, Courtney Frerich, Vanessa Williams, Rachel Swinson, Brandy Smith, Bailee Allen, Daphne Hunt, Anolda Watkins, Bianca Stewart and

Gabby Schroeder.

The top 4 in each event will advance on to the Regional meet held in Brenham on April 29 and 30.

After Regionals, only the top 2 in each event will advance on to State which is held in Austin on May 13 and 14.

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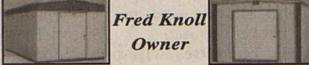
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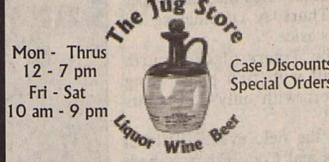
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
 1 Of the congregation
 5 Edible bird
 10 Conceal
 14 Square column
 15 Right
 16 Start of Mongolia's capital
 17 Pastry decorator
 18 Laundress' problem
 19 Opposite of wacky
 20 Interval of relief
 22 Trace
 24 Sugar: suf.
 25 Seed covering
 26 Entice
 29 Monogram for Adial
 30 Wall covering
 34 Oven
 35 One of two body parts
 36 Lettuce-like part
 37 Lunch order
 38 Gave money in ad-
 vance
 40 Word with cent or chance
 41 Pore over again
 43 Light metal
 44 Arcile sight
 45 Decorate
 46 Directed
 47 A la
 48 Eyed
 49 amorously
 50 Common
 51 Collects
 54 Chair materials
 58 Indira's garb
 59 Exposed to the public
 61 Intestinal parts
 62 Belgrade resident
 63 Blackmore heroine
 64 Poems addressed to people or things
 65 Comfort
 66 Derisive look
 67 Signals assent
 DOWN
 1 Feline home
 2 Ending for allow or annoy
 3 Residents of: suf.
 4 Garage's alternative
 5 Brahman or Sudra
 6 Gambling term
 7 Tournament for Trevino or Nicklaus: abbr.
 8 Black or green items
 9 Hawaiian geese
 10 Sandwich spread
 11 Jai
 12 Used the vocal chords
 13 Call-thigh connection
 21 Suffix for stic or critic
 23 Platform
 25 Lured
 26 Reptile
 27 Forced someone to go, as to court
 28 Lone Star State athlete
 29 "How ___ you?"
 31 More mature
 32 Turn away
 33 Suit material
 35 Difficult, to a cockney
 36 German one
 38 Feelings of hunger
 39 First
 42 Causing disintegration
 44 Strong defense
 46 Injury
 47 Kitty
 49 Pencil parts
 50 Heron or flamingo
 51 South African fox
 52 Evil: Lat.
 53 Parseghian & others
 54 M.
 55 Descartes
 56 Requirment
 57 Back talk
 60 Fish eggs

ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions— forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?
 Today's Category: Words (of 2 or more letters) in "Old MacDonald"

E	U	B	E	R	E	H	T	H	P	C	H
S	V	K	O	N	G	O	L	D	I	M	E
D	D	E	G	H	H	R	D	N	A	B	R
U	M	N	R	C	S	H	C	B	C	N	E
K	O	G	O	Y	V	E	D	B	W	A	S
C	O	W	G	W	O	I	N	K	N	J	
D	S	I	H	F	N	H	G	G	D	D	H
G	N	H	N	A	G	G	E	O	H	Q	G
H	D	E	L	R	H	N	T	R	U	G	D
T	G	D	I	M	N	B	C	A	E	H	H
I	C	G	H	G	M	M	C	X	H	X	A
W	V	P	I	G	H	K	H	C	X	T	D

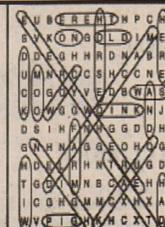
1. Oink
2.
3.
4.
5.
6.
7.
8.
9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
16.
17.
18.
19.
20.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

 Apr. 21.....Louis Baur
 Apr. 21.....Timmy Garcia
 Apr. 21.....Severo Martinez
 Apr. 21.....Hector Pena
 Apr. 22.....Debra Bauntello
 Apr. 22.....Cody Edwards
 Apr. 23.....Adam Caton
 Apr. 23.....Sara Gonzales
 Apr. 23.....Norma Sandoval
 Apr. 24.....Mirza Clarke
 Apr. 24.....Angie Gass
 Apr. 24.....Patrick Gass
 Apr. 24.....Madison Luce
 Apr. 26.....Haley Hale
 Apr. 26.....LaVohn Payne

Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. And	11. Neigh
2. Cow	12. Oink
3. Duck	13. Old
4. Everywhere	14. On
5. Farm	15. Pig
6. Had	16. Quack
7. Here	17. That
8. Horse	18. There
9. MacDonald	19. Was
10. Moo	20. With



HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You can't control people's actions. Thus, go about your own business at work and ignore that naysaying co-worker. Ultimately, you're the one who triumphs.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Generally, your judgment is good this week. However, some stress comes into play midweek. Try to maintain your composure.
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make some time this week to be with loved ones. You'll be surprised at what you've been missing. Later in the week, higher-ups are in a disagreeable mood, so steer clear.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You need to find an activity that stirs your creative juices. Fortunately, a friend has the answer. You'll both be off to an exciting adventure.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You allow someone at work to work your nerves this week. However, this is just the reaction this person wants from you. Do your best to ignore the shenanigans.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Your mate needs some TLC from you this week. A word of encouragement is fine. However, how about a night on the town over the weekend?
LEO (July 23 to August 22) You need to be careful with money this week. You could make an impulse purchase that's out of your reach. Think before you spend.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're usually a pretty practical person. However, this week, you're tempted to listen to rumors at work. It's best not to believe anything for which there is no proof.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) A personal problem weighs heavily on your mind this week. Instead of bottling this up, share your concerns with a trusted friend. This person just could have the answers you need.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) An exciting social invitation comes your way this week. Make sure you have the proper attire for the event. On the job front, pay more attention to details.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You express yourself quite well this week. You may not win any converts to your side, but at least, people understand where you're coming from.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's not a good idea to keep secrets from your mate. It's an even worse idea to brood about something. Open up those lines of communication.
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It's a fool that won't learn from his mistakes

Rick spent a sleepless night. He couldn't get his mind off Amy. He groaned in pain from his injured hand. He felt guilty for trying to hurt Joe. All his thoughts seemed to boil together into one smoldering caldron of emotion. For Amy he felt love and hate, irreconcilable opposites. For Joe he felt dislike alternated with a kind of friendship he couldn't explain. For himself he felt an old self-loathing that seemed to project onto everyone else and feed his anger.

The wakeup bell rang all too soon. Rick tumbled out of bed forgetting his injury. A curse issued from his mouth as he reached for the bedpost with the broken hand. From outside, a guard spoke commandingly. "Warden wants to see you after breakfast Richardson."

A guard opened the warden's door and motioned for Rick to step inside. He walked to the front of a big desk and waited, holding his cap to his side with his injured hand up. The warden looked up and motioned. "Sit'own Richardson. Be with ya in a minute."

The warden stacked some papers, leaned back in his chair then looked at Rick and smiled. "How'd ya mess up the hand, Richardson?" He asked.

"It was an accident Sir," Rick responded.

"What kind of accident?" The



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

warden asked. "Who'd ya take a swing at?"

Rick was silent. The warden stood up, walked around the desk and looked down in Rick's face. "I know your kind Richardson. Ya wear yer feelins on yer shoulder an ya got a short fuse. Doesn't take much to set ya off, does it?"

Rick was uncomfortable but knew he would be a fool to react. "I swung at Joe Sir," He blurted out. "It was a real dumb thing to do and it won't happen again."

The warden returned to his chair behind the desk. "Ya sound sincere. Richardson," The warden said. "I'll write ya up this time. I hope ya've learned a lesson."

"Yes Sir," Rick said as he turned to leave.

"Oh, and one more thing," The warden said. "It's a fool that doesn't learn from 'is mistakes (Proverbs 15:5). When ya tried to hurt Joe, ya only hurt yourself. Somebody's watchin over Joe." The warden laughed. "He's got a guardian angel or somethin."

Who has all the truth? And will we ever get there?

It's amazing how much one can learn by paying attention to the insights of other people — especially those persons who have studied, and investigated, and checked out pertinent information and facts with regard to the history and ancient documents supporting what we now know as the Bible (The "Old Testament" and the "New Testament"). As one of these scholars (Stephen Doyle, OFM) observed: Our Bible was meant not only to "Comfort the afflicted but also to afflict the comfortable." This same Scholar offered this second insight:

"The Bible Was Not Meant To Give Us Information, Or To Satisfy Our Curiosity, but to invite us to take a look at our own behavior and see how it matches up with God's expectation of those who have chosen to follow His lead (this last is not a quote but my own interpretation of what he stated).

How about this for an insight! Have you noticed what the Author of the Gospel of John wrote (01/12): "... but to all who received him, who believed in his



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

name, he gave the power to become (my emphasis) children of God." The New Jerusalem Bible Version translates the original Greek thusly: "But to those who did accept him, He gave power to become sons of God,

Question: Are we there yet? If not, how and when? Take a look at this, from the Acts of the Apostles (2:42,44-45) "They devoted themselves to the apostles' teachings and fellowship, to the breaking of the bread and the prayers . . . All who believed were together and had all things in common; they would sell their goods and distribute their proceeds to all, as any had need . . ." QUESTION: Do we people of Kinney County fit this description of people who are on the way "To become children of God?" Think about it!

Three days

Recently my wife and I were invited to watch the filming of a food show. We took our two small grandchildren, (ages 2 and almost 4) and decided to make a long weekend of it. It was being filmed downtown in a major city. It was a learning experience (and enjoyable) for all.

One thing I kept hearing from the oldest, "I need go potty". From the youngest, "I need my tractor". He has a little toy tractor that he carries around in his pocket. "My blanket" is what I heard the youngest one say at bedtime. "Read me a story" and "Read it again" from the oldest and if I mispronounced a word or left something out I was promptly corrected. They had to learn not to go off, (out of our sight) on their own and to hold on to our hands when we were walking.



Jerry Davenport

Brother J.

They also had to learn good manners or proper behavior, (actually it is nothing more than what they are being taught at home). As I thought about that weekend it reminded me of the Christian life. It is one thing to accept Christ it is another to learn to obey, (Deuteronomy 27:10) and grow up (1 Corinthians 13:1-11) to live the way God wants us to. It is probably the largest missing ingredient in Christianity today, (1 Corinthians 3:1-5). See you in Church next Sunday.

OBITUARIES

Brenda Kaye York Butler

January 14, 1959 - April 16, 2005

Brenda Kaye York Butler passed away at home on April 16, 2005.

Kaye was born in Uvalde and raised near Brackettville. She was a 23 year resident of Austin, where she was employed by the Texas Workforce Commission.

A graduate of Brackettville High School, Angelo State University, and the T.C.U. Ranch School, Kaye was a Kinney County landowner proud of her ranching heritage.

Kaye was a member of the Westlake United Methodist Church and the Eastern Star. Her greatest love was for her husband and children.

She was a loving and devoted wife and mother.

Kaye is survived by her husband of 19 years, Robert Butler, a son Will, and a daughter Leah Rose, her father Joe York Jr. and a brother Bob York; brother-in-law Philip Butler and wife Katie; sister-in-law Linda Marek and husband Don; sister-in-law Carol Watson and husband Kim; sister-in-law Betty Motal and husband Leon; many beloved nieces and nephews including Jessica



and Mentie York of Rockdale and Asa York of Brackettville; aunts Wynell York Coates of Brackettville and Margaret Ward of San Antonio; uncle Dr. Kirby McGraw of Arkansas; and many other aunts, uncles, and cousins who loved her and who will miss her dearly.

Kaye was preceded in death by her mother, Rose Ann McGraw York and her brother Joey York III.

Pallbearers: Phillip Butler, Alex Fambro, Jesus Hidalgo, Christopher Seargeant, David Winters, Louis "Tex" Vestring, Steve Vestring, and Asa York.

Funeral services were Wednesday, April 20, at 2:30 p.m., First United Methodist Church in Brackettville.

Interment to follow at Brackettville Masonic Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home, Del Rio, Texas.

Buster S. Bradley

August 20, 1910 - April 17, 2005

Buster S. Bradley passed away April 17, 2005 in Thayer, Missouri, where he had lived for a few years. He was born Aug. 20, 1910, in Snyder, Texas to Ivy Sylvester Everett Bradley and Jessie Ellis Bradley.

Buster started his adult years living in Amarillo, where he worked various jobs. It was there that he met his first wife, Daisy Ethel Roberts, with whom they had four children. They moved temporarily to Robert Lee, Texas where he drove an ambulance, a truck and worked as a mechanic.

In 1941 at the start of World War II, the family moved to San Antonio where Buster gained employment at Kelly Field. There he worked in Flight Test as an Aircraft mechanic and Flight Engineer. He was a supervisor in Electronics Branch upon

his retirement in the early 1970's.

His last ten years in Texas were spent living in Fort Clark Springs at Brackettville.

Buster is predeceased by his parents, his brother, sister and four wives. He is also predeceased by three of his children, one step son and one grandson. He is survived by one son Carl (C.L.) Bradley and wife Marilyn of Myrtle, Missouri, one step son Richard Hersey of San Antonio, a step sister Doris Lambert of Channing, Texas. Six grandchildren, twenty-one great grandchildren, eight great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews.

Funeral services will be at Mission Parks South in San Antonio at 9 a.m., Friday, April 22. An interment will follow at San Fernando No. 2 Cemetery.

Lutheran women meet

The monthly business meeting of the Lutheran Women of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church was held Monday at the Parish Hall. Chairman Ruth Spencer presented birthstone angel pins to the past chairman, Gertie Trautwein and Luella Gilliland in recognition of their excellent leadership. New officers for the organization are Ruth Spencer and Mary Jane Olson, co-chairmen and Barbara Miller will serve as secretary-treasurer.

Cindy Anderson had volunteered to purchase two complete

Easter Dinner grocery supplies for the organization. Prior to Easter, Pastor Nathan Lafrenz delivered these supplies to two families in Brackettville. They were very appreciative in receiving these gifts of food from the Lutheran Women Organization.

Cindy Anderson then read a spiritual message. Coffee was served by Elaine Ladeau. Meeting closed with the Lord's Prayer. Lutheran Women's next scheduled meeting will be held at the Parish Hall on Monday, May 16, at 11 a.m.

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Rose of Sharon

I am the Rose of Sharon, and the Lily of the Valleys. As the Lily among thorns, so is my love among the daughters.

As the apple tree among the trees of the wood, so is my beloved among the sons. I sat down under the shadow with great delight, and his fruit was sweet to my taste.



St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

Song of Solomon 2:1-3. Praise God!



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

Sunday School: 10:10 AM
Sunday Worship: 11:00 AM

Wednesday Bible Study: 11:00 AM
Wednesday Healing Service: 12:10 PM

Wednesday Study Series: 7:00 PM
The Purpose Driven Life

Reverend Nathan Lafrenz 563-9607

First Baptist Church (SBC)

Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245

Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.

Evening Service 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

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& 10:30 Worship

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A/CDL SOLO and team, Owner/Operators and company drivers! Several runs to choose from. Orientations in Del Rio. Call National Distributors Leasing, 1-877-334-9677, www.ndsin.com.

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS of proposed Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Contracts. Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. Construction/Maintenance/Building Facilities Contract(s). Dist/Div: Laredo, Contract 0922-00-034 for Thermoplastic re-striping in Webb County, etc will be opened on May 10, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 16257. State Office, Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone: 512-416-2540. Dist/Div Office(s), Laredo District, District Engineer, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043. Phone: 956-712-7400. Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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Answers to Crossword Puzzle

LAIC CAPON MASK
ANTA ANGLE ULAN
ICER STAIN SANE
RESPIRE VESTIGE
OSE TESTA
CHARM AES ARRAS
OAST ARM ENOLVE
BUT PREPAID PERG
REREAD TIN BERG
ADORN LED CARTE
OILED WAS
AMASSES RATTANS
SART AIRED ILEA
BLAY DOONE ODES
EASE SNEER NODIS

Ken Barnett Real Estate

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830-563-2446

- #202 McLain, 3br, 2 bath.
- Bubba's Beverage Barn (55x83), 208 Military Drive. \$210,000.00.
- Unit 3, lot 66, 3 br/2ba, enclosed porch, multi-car carport, storage room - \$27,500.00.
- Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.
- Unit 15 Ft. Clark Springs: 2 br/2 bath Mobile - Roof cover, Carport, Golf Cart Shed, Fully furnished \$34,500.00.
- 4.53 Acres off 19 Pepper Lane, Del Rio.
- Masters Condo #1204 - Carport, all furniture and appliances.
- Unit 35, Block B, Lot 27-28, Mobile home - 2 br/2bath.
- Unit 25, Lot 5 Oak Lane - Nice 3 bedroom, 2 bath/porch.

Have Buyers - Need Listings! Ken Barnett - Marcus Tidwell - Pat Owens - Melissa Davis

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REQUEST FOR BIDS

BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL District is selling by sealed bid 2 surplus commercial mowers: 1 Cushman Mower, 13 years old, and 1 Gravely Mower, 8 years old. Also for sale by bid is a 1993 Plymouth Acclaim Car. Vehicles may be viewed at the BIRD Bus Barn, 704 N. Ann Street, during regular business hours. Specifications may be picked up at the Central Office, 400 N. Ann Street, or by contacting Superintendent Bobby Templeton, 830/563-2491. All bids are to be submitted in a sealed envelope with specified mower or vehicle printed clearly on the outside of the envelope. All mowers and vehicle to be sold "AS IS." Bids will be opened in the Central Office, Tuesday, April 26, 2005, at 10:00 a.m. Brackett ISD reserves the right to reject any and all bids.

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WANT TO BUY 500 to 1000 acres hunting property in Brackettville, Uvalde or Camp Wood area. Call Jim, Monday thru Friday. 8am - 4pm. 281-354-2515.

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<p>2005 F-150 SUPERCAB</p> <p>• 4.6L V-8 • Automatic • Air Conditioning • AM/FM/CD • ABS Brakes • Cloth Bench Seating</p> <p>MSRP \$24645 Rebate \$2500 FMCCS \$1000 DR FLM Disc \$3650 YOU SAVE \$7150</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$17495</p>	<p>2005 EXPLORER XLS</p> <p>• 4.0L SOHC V-6 • Automatic Transmission • Air Conditioning • AM/FM/CD • Speed Control • Advance Trac</p> <p>MSRP \$27490 Rebate \$2500 FMCCS \$1000 DR FLM Disc \$2705 YOU SAVE \$7795</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$19695</p>	<p>2005 F-150 S/C XLT</p> <p>• 4.6L V-8 • Automatic Trans • AM/FM/CD • 17" Alloy Wheels • Cruise • Keyless Entry</p> <p>MSRP \$28185 Rebate \$2500 FMCCS \$1000 DR FLM Disc \$3650 YOU SAVE \$7190</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$20995</p>
<p>2005 SUPERCREW XLT</p> <p>• 4.6L V8 • Automatic Trans • AM/FM/CD • 17" Alloy Wheels • Running Boards • Two-Tone Paint</p> <p>Total Vehicle \$31745 Ford Disc \$1180 MSRP \$30985 Rebate \$3000 FMCCS \$1000 YOU SAVE \$4090</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$23995</p>	<p>2005 EXPEDITION EDDIE BAUER</p> <p>• 5.4L SOHC V-8 • Leather Seating • 6 Disc CD • Dual A/C • Running Boards • 17" Aluminum Wheels</p> <p>MSRP \$32705 Rebate \$2500 FMCCS \$1000 Bonus Cash \$1500 DR FLM Disc \$5710 YOU SAVE \$10710</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$28995</p>	<p>2005 F-250 CREW CAB XLT</p> <p>• 5.4L V-8 • Automatic Transmission • AM/FM/Cass/CD • T-Tow • Running Boards • Lid. Slip</p> <p>MSRP \$32735 Rebate \$3000 DR FLM Disc \$5240 YOU SAVE \$7740</p> <p>SALE PRICE \$31495</p>

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