

The Brackett News

Jones Elementary students compete at UIL competition
See Story below

17th year, No. 49

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

BRIEFS

Library hours

The Kinney County library's winter hours are Monday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Tuesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Wednesday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Thursday 10 a.m. to 6 p.m., Friday 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The library is closed on Sunday. You may reach the county librarian at (830) 563-2884 or visit them on-line at www.brackettville.lib.tx.us

School Holiday

BISD students will be out of school Friday, Jan. 13, for the Kinney County Stockshow and on Monday, Jan 16, no classes will be held in celebration of the Martin Luther King Jr. Holiday.

Department of Public Safety local office hours

The Brackettville driver's license office hours are 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. to 4 p.m., the first and third Thursdays of each month. The office is located upstairs at the county courthouse.

School Board

BISD Board of Trustees will meet on Tuesday, Jan. 17, at the central office.

City closed Monday

The City of Brackettville and the city collection site will be closed on Monday Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Bank closed Monday

The Bank and Trust will be closed on Monday Jan. 16 in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

County offices closed Monday

All offices at the Kinney County courthouse will be closed on Monday in observance of Martin Luther King Day.

Important Notice to FCSA members

There will be a meeting to discuss the proposed development of greenbelt area along Fort Clark road at 6:30 p.m., Monday, Jan 16 in the Fort Clark board room.

Arts council meets

Meeting time for the Kinney County Arts Council is scheduled Monday, Jan. 16 at 5:30 p.m. at FCSA's Adult Center. Members and interested parties are urged to attend. Preparations are being made for a KCAC presentation by Colleen Mallette, a comic opera singer, to perform at FCSA's Post Theater on Feb 25 at 7:30 p.m.

Pennington rules against water district

District required to issue permits and refund groundwater use fees

Last Friday District Judge Mickey Pennington granted a motion for partial summary judgment against the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District.

The lawsuit, filed in July by numerous permit applicants, was a result of the district failing to issue permits within the time frame required by law, the district's attempt to charge applicants for attorney and expert fees incurred during permit hearings and the way the district has assessed groundwater production fees.

Pennington granted plaintiffs all relief in full as requested by their motion for summary judgment, which included several items.

The key effects of Pennington's ruling are:

- The district's assessment and collection of production fees, also referred to as groundwater use fees, based on the amount claimed in an application is illegal because the KCGCD exceeded its statutory authority. Therefore, plaintiffs

are entitled to reimbursement of fees unlawfully assessed dating back to 2003.

- KCGCD's assessment of "hearing costs" to recover the district's attorneys' and expert consultants' fees, incurred during the plaintiffs' and other applicants permit hearings, was in excess of the authority granted to the district by its enabling legislation or Chapter 36 of the

Texas Water Code.

- The district failed to timely issue permits to plaintiffs and all similarly situated permit applicants. The district must issue those permits.

- The district must reimburse plaintiffs their attorney fees and costs associated with their motion for summary judgment.

"The current ruling may be appealed by the district. How-

ever, the nature of and extent of the court's ruling is a significant victory for landowner's property rights in Kinney County," said Ed McCarthy, attorney for some of the landowner plaintiffs.

According to McCarthy, "many of the plaintiffs supported the creation of the district because they believed in the benefits of groundwater regulation" ■ See Ruling/Page 3

Linebacker aids Sheriff's department in purchase of new vehicles

In a special meeting on Dec. 27, Kinney County Commissioners approved the purchase of four new Chevy Tahoes from Classic Chevrolet in Beaumont, totalling \$144,819.75.

The new vehicles will be used by Sheriff's Department deputies to provide security and support federal initiatives and agencies along the international border located in southwest Kinney County.

The funds to pay for the vehicles stems from a recent \$367,500 Operation Linebacker grant.

Sixteen border counties equally divided six million dollars asked for by the Texas Border Sheriffs Coalition and granted by Gov. Rick Perry last fall to provide extra security along the Texas-Mexico border.

Locally, Linebacker funds employ 6 deputies that strictly work the border seven days a week, 24 hours a day.

"County residents need to know that the Linebacker money

is being used as it was intended," said Kinney County Sheriff L.K. Buddy Burgess.

Burgess also stated that he expects this border security plan to continue and funding to increase over time.

During the public comment portion of the special meeting, County Clerk Dora Sandoval requested permission to hire a temporary employee to assist her with daily operations while one of her clerks is out on maternity leave. This item will be placed on the court's next agenda.

Other discussions included the free use of the Civic Center by the Volunteer Fire Department.

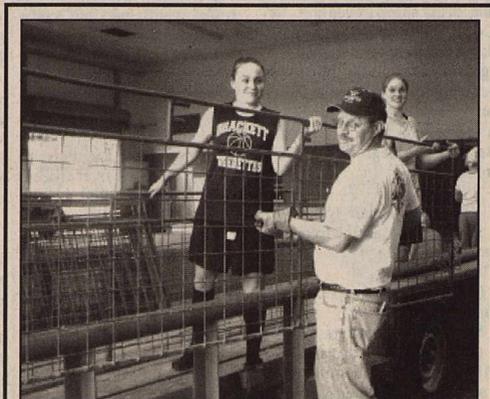
The court decided that the Fire Department would have to go through the regular rental process and pay the regular deposits, but would later be reimbursed if they could provide the necessary paperwork to show that the funds raised were deposited into the City of Brackettville account.

County livestock show this weekend

The 51st Annual Kinney County livestock show will be held on Jan. 13 and 14 at the Civic Center.

Events begin Friday with weigh in of all market animals from 7 a.m. - 12 noon. Stock show classes begin with rabbits at 2 p.m., steers at 4 p.m., meat goat and doe kid at 4:30 p.m., commercial ewe lambs at 5:30 p.m., and swine at 6 p.m. On Saturday, showing market lambs at 8:00 a.m. and meat goats at 9:30 a.m. The barbecue will start at noon, and following at 1:30 p.m. will be the stock show awards. The livestock premium sale will begin after the awards at 2 p.m.

There is an approximate total number of 222 entries and 66 exhibitors, with 60 lambs, 61 goats, 34 meat goat does, 23 rabbits, 7 steers, 10 pigs, and 117 breeding sheep.



Getting ready Photo by Leigh Volcsko
From left: Summer Allen, Brad Coe and Bailee Allen unloading panels in preparation for the annual county livestock show.

Lee arraigns Ford, Ramirez

Luna needs more time to hire an attorney

David Luna plead not guilty to three counts of theft by a public servant in the 63rd Judicial District Court last Friday.

Appearing without the representation of an attorney, Luna plead not guilty and proceeded to inform Judge Tom Lee that he was working on hiring an attorney. His formal arraignment was delayed and is set to be rescheduled.

Luna, former City Manager of Brackettville, was indicted by the Kinney County grand jury for three counts of theft by a public servant in Dec., 2005.

The first indictment of Theft by a Public Servant in the amount of \$1,500 to \$20,000 is a felony punishable by two to ten years in a state jail facility and a fine of up to \$10,000.

The second and third indictments were for unlawfully appropriating funds of \$20,000 or more but less than \$100,000 and each offense is punishable by two to twenty years in a state jail facility and a fine of up to

\$10,000.

Luna was arrested and released from the Kinney County Jail after securing a total bail of \$25,000.

In the same court, former Justice of the Peace John Ford III, accompanied by his attorney, Scott McCrum, also plead not guilty to theft by a public servant and fabricating physical evidence.

Ford, under investigation by the Texas Rangers and district attorney's office since Oct. of last year, was indicted for intentionally and knowingly, unlawfully appropriating funds of \$1,500 or more but less than \$20,000 without the effective consent of the owner (Kinney County).

The former JP was also indicted for presenting or documenting a money order with knowledge of its falsity and with intent to affect the course and outcome of an official proceeding.

Ford was also arrested and detained at the Kinney County

Jail until he posted bail in the amount of \$10,000, on Dec. 19. Ford is scheduled to defend himself in a trial by jury on Feb. 13.

The offense of fabricating physical evidence is a third degree felony punishable by two to ten years in a state jail facility and a fine of up to \$10,000. Ford was justice of the peace for seven years, but was recently suspended by the state commission on judicial conduct following the indictments. Ford did not seek re-election.

Linda Ramirez, indicted in Oct. of last year on two counts of theft by check, was also arraigned by Lee last week.

Ramirez was originally scheduled to be arraigned in Dec., 2005, but did not appear due to health-related reasons. Ramirez was represented by attorney David Ortiz and plead not guilty to the charges of theft by check, totaling more than \$3200. A jury trial is set for Feb. 13, at 9 a.m.



Continental Traveler Photo by Leigh Volcsko
Cyclist Heidi Domeisen pauses at the five-points traffic signal in town as she prepares to embark on her journey back to North Carolina. Domeisen has been traveling full-time on her three-wheeled recumbent bike for the last two years, mostly following the Artic-Atlantic and Continental Divides.

Local elementary students place at UIL academic contest

Jones Elementary traveled to Rocksprings on Saturday, Dec. 10 to a UIL event.

In fourth grade Art, Hannah Johnson placed second, Nadia Rodriguez placed fourth, Wyatt Blake placed fifth, Jose Falcon placed sixth and Demetrick Crowder placed eighth.

Second grade Creative Writing, Marley Koontz placed second and Emma Palmer placed fifth, also participating was Elle Johnson and Kate Frerich.

In fifth grade Dictionary Skills participants were, Daniel Falcon and Vanerick Domenech.

Fifth grade Listening, second place winner was Selina Gerardo and fifth place winner was Brook Brown. Rolando Gutierrez also participated.

In sixth grade Listening, second place was Brittany Hale and third place was Lauren Duncan.

In fifth grade Maps, Graphs, and Charts first place winner was Ryan Clark. Marissa Villarreal placed sixth, and Daylon Miller placed eighth.

In sixth grade Mathematics, Jared Shirkey placed first and Nevada Payne placed sixth.

In third grade Music Memory, Blake Duncan won first place, second place winner was Davis Wade, third place was Yazmine White, fourth place was Martin Guzman, sixth place

was Nevada Payne.

Sixth grade Social Studies, both Brittany Hale and Lauren Duncan placed second.

In third grade Spelling, Blake Duncan placed fifth and Maddie Frerich placed ninth.

In fourth grade Spelling, first place winner was Shelby Schuster, second place winner was Nadia Rodriguez, sixth place winner was Hannah Johnson. Marisol Gomez also participated.

In fifth grade spelling, Meghan Flores placed fifth and Austin Pettett placed sixth, also participating was Ryan Clark and Marissa Villarreal.

In second grade Storytelling, Emma Palmer placed second, Elle Johnson placed third, Walt Ashley placed sixth and also participating was Gage Brown.

In third grade Storytelling, Joaquin Solis placed third, also participating was Zachary Bowers, Peyton Bonner, and Blake Duncan.

UIL Coaches and Events
Second grade Creative Writing coach was Mrs. Plunk, second and third grade Storytelling coach was Mrs. Voyles, third and fourth grade Spelling coach was Mrs. Perry, third and fourth grade Music Writing was Mrs. Burks, third and fourth grade Art Memory was Mrs. Perry, Fifth and sixth grade Ready Writing

was Mrs. Melancon, fifth and sixth grade Spelling was Mrs. Melancon, fourth grade Oral Reading was Mrs. Childress, fifth and sixth grade Oral Reading was Mrs. Bowers, fourth, fifth and sixth grade Number

Sense was Mrs. Bruce, fifth and sixth grade Dictionary Skills was Mrs. Melancon, fifth and sixth grade Maps, Graphs and Charts was Mrs. Rose and sixth grade Mathematics was Mrs. Allen.

The elementary principal, Alma Gutierrez said, "I would like to recognize the students for their efforts and to thank the coaches and teachers for all of their hard work."



Elementary UIL Photo Special to The Brackett News
More than 35 Jones Elementary School students and teachers participate in the annual UIL event held in Rocksprings.

LIFESTYLES

Easy pot luck ideas

Here's a couple of ideas for pot lucks. The chicken dish does take a little time to organize, but fun to serve. If stored well, it could be frozen up to 4 weeks in the freezer.



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

Chicken Shells

2-2½ cups cooked chicken, cubed
1 can cream of chicken soup
1 box jumbo shells
1 cup mayonnaise (no substitutes)
1 box chicken stuffing
1 cup mozzarella cheese, shredded
Cook shells minus 2 minutes from directions on package. Drain; do not rinse. Lay shells on waxed paper; separate shells carefully and cover loosely with additional waxed paper.

Cook dressing according to package. Place cream of chicken soup in bottom of 9 x 13 inch baking dish; spread evenly.

Combine mayonnaise, cooked chicken and stuffing, using serving spoon or fingers, fill cooled shells and place in casserole dish. Sprinkle mozzarella over shells.

Bake at 350 degrees for 30-45 minutes.

Chocolate Eclair Cake

2 small boxes instant french vanilla pudding
3½ cups milk
1 (8 oz) carton whipped topping, thawed
1 box graham crackers
1 can milk chocolate icing
Mix pudding with milk on low speed for 2 minutes. Add whipped topping and continue mixing on low speed until well blended.

Butter the bottom of a 9 x 13 inch pan. Line the bottom of pan with a layer of graham crackers. Spread half of the pudding mixture over crackers. Repeat with another layer of crackers and pudding. Top all with final layer of crackers.

Refrigerate for at least two hours until set. When set, spread icing over all and refrigerate until ready to serve.

Overnight Breakfast Cake

24-27 Frozen dinner rolls
1 stick butter or margarine, melted

1 pkg. vanilla pudding, cook and serve kind
½ cup brown sugar
½ cup chopped pecans

Prepare the night before serving. Place frozen rolls in well buttered bundt pan. Mix pudding, brown sugar and nuts in bowl. Then sprinkle over frozen rolls. Pour melted butter evenly on top of rolls. Place pan, covered with a dishtowel in a cool place to thaw and rise overnight. I have tried the refrigerator, but the rolls did not thaw completely.

Just be careful not to place it in an area that is warm or hot. In the morning, bake 30 minutes at 350 degrees.

Immediately after baking turn over on a cake plate. Cool slightly and serve.



A Texas Gem is a Model for National Renewal

This Thursday and Friday, Houston hosts the third annual conference of The Academy of Medicine, Engineering and Science of Texas, known as TAMEST. Academy members are Texans who have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering or the Institute of Medicine in recognition of their academic and research achievements. TAMEST is helping to shape the future of Texas and the United States.

Since the birth of our republic, Texans have shown a bold, pioneering spirit that has led to great growth and innovation. Today, many of the world's most remarkable minds are doing their groundbreaking work right here in the Lone Star State. TAMEST acts as a lens to focus that innovation, maximizing the fruits of the exciting new research being done by our doctors, scientists and engineers.

Houston is a perfect setting for the conference because this city has led so many bold strides taken by Texas and the United States over the years, and it is the nexus for much scientific work today. Houston was the command center for the United States' leap into outer space, and it will be the focus of our launch into nano-space. By supporting Rice University, the University of Houston, the University of Texas MD Anderson Cancer Center and Baylor College of Medicine, the leaders of Houston have made research excellence and growth a major priority.

As part of a long-range plan to strengthen our economy, I began working to move Texas to the forefront of research in the United States. In 2002, I

helped establish the Strategic Partnership for Research in Nanotechnology (SPRING) to foster nanotechnology research. SPRING is a collaborative effort between Texas universities and the military to create stronger, lighter materials. In 2003, I directed my attention to the creation of TAMEST to encourage our best researchers from various disciplines to become familiar with work done in our Texas institutions and combine their efforts to master bigger projects. In 2004, Houston leaders conceived the Alliance for NanoHealth, which applies nanotechnology to the treatment and cure of disease. That same year, the National Biocontainment Laboratory was launched at UT Medical Branch in Galveston, the first Biosafety Level 4 Laboratory on a university campus in the country.

At the TAMEST conference, engineers are presenting their impressive work on the latest advances in fuel-cell technology. Scientists are sharing their insights on cutting-edge research in plasma physics, creating new avenues for further innovation. And physicians, such as the pre-eminent Dr. Michael DeBakey, are elaborating on their successes in medicine, providing a fertile climate for others to join their work and suggest new possibilities for additional research.

TAMEST and our other research initiatives have been a great success. In 1998, Texas was ranked fifth nationally in federal research expenditures with \$908 million.

Since that time, Texas has moved up to a strong third. Last year, expenditures rose to over \$1.5 billion. Since the advent of our initiatives, important



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

funding has been drawn to Texas: \$37.5 million for SPRING over the last four years, \$10.4 million for the Alliance for NanoHealth from 2004 to 2006 and \$158 million for the National Biocontainment Laboratory. MD Anderson receives more research funding from the National Cancer Institute than any other medical center in America.

TAMEST should not be just a Texas initiative; instead, it should become the first step in a broader American agenda to redouble our efforts in the hard sciences. America's leadership in scientific research is responsible for its economic success since World War II, but our edge has begun to erode.

In 1975, the U.S. conferred 59 percent of the world's doctorates; now it confers just 41 percent. During the same time, China has increased the number of doctorates its students earn from near zero to 12 percent. India has also become competitive, training large numbers of engineers who speak English and often are willing to work for one-fifth the salary of their U.S. counterparts. Our recent trend has been in the wrong direction.

This new year, 2006, is the time for us to start reversing that trend. TAMEST is a gem for Texas and should be our model for the renewal of American leadership in science, engineering and medicine.

Judge Alito: Excellence, Education, & Experience

By Gina Parker
Contributing Writer

This week conservative and liberal forces will collide in the battle to confirm Judge Samuel Alito, Jr. to the U.S. Supreme Court. Interest groups across the country had long ago begun the assault by both condemning and praising Judge Alito's past and by speculating worst-case scenarios about his future.

But Americans need only to take a small step back to see Judge Alito's impressive level of education and experience to see exactly why he is not only a great judicial nominee, but also why he will be an outstanding U.S. Supreme Court Justice.

Judge Alito began his legal career at Yale Law School after graduating from Princeton University. Following graduation, he began clerking for the Third Court of Appeals, where he later sat as a judge when appointed by President George H. W. Bush in 1990.

Between clerking and being unanimously confirmed by the U.S. Senate to sit on the Third Court of Appeals, Judge Alito served as Assistant to the Solicitor General, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, and the U.S. Attorney for the District of New Jersey.

From arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court to authoring hundreds of opinions, Judge Alito has gained the respect of his peers and has now received the highest rating given by the American Bar Association for his professional stature and integrity - "Well Qualified."

As Senator Frank Lautenberg (D-New Jersey) stated, "You can't ignore that there's an abundance of talent in this individual."

Even Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, whom Judge Alito has been nominated to replace, did not reach such a pinnacle, being rated only as "Qualified" in the category of professional competence.

As Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-Tennessee) noted, "Judge Alito is unquestionably well-qualified to serve on our nation's highest court."

But what is Judge Alito's judicial philosophy? As our Constitutional rights are eroded case by case with the almighty judicial pen, will Judge Alito stand up for our rights and give the people a voice again?

From unrestricted abortion to the threat of losing our private property, Americans need a justice that will not legislate from the bench, but will uphold the Constitutional values the Founding Fathers envisioned and worked so diligently to protect.

As the White House has noted, Judge Alito has a record as a federal judge who strictly interprets the law, makes his rulings based on the application of existing laws and facts of the case before him, and does not legislate from the bench or create new policies based upon personal opinion.

With accolades from colleagues, nods from political powerhouses, and a lengthy paper trail of legal opinions, Judge Alito is poised to be confirmed as the next Justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His educational background, work experience, and well-reasoned judicial opinions should give faith to all Americans that he will not only respect the law of the land, but also be mindful of the Founding Fathers' intent as they drafted the greatest governing document in the history of the

Balance between security and travel

WASHINGTON—U.S. Sen. John Cornyn, Chairman of the Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee, made the following statement regarding a new border task force announced on Friday in Laredo by Secretary of Homeland Security Michael Chertoff:

"Improving security along our borders is one of the top priorities facing our nation today. So I'm encouraged by this latest move by DHS and I'll continue working with Secretary Chertoff and other federal officials to ensure that balance is maintained between increasing security and promoting legal commerce, trade and tourism. It's critical that our Texas communities along the border aren't negatively impacted by these new measures and I'll work to make sure that doesn't happen."

Secretary Chertoff announced the creation of new Border Enforcement and Security Task Forces, as part of the Department's Secure Border Initiative aimed at increasing control over our borders. These task forces will be nationally-integrated teams specifically directed at cross-border criminal activity.

The Border Enforcement and Security Task Forces build on the Department's experiences fighting violent cross-border crime in Laredo during Operation Black Jack. Operation Black Jack has been a focused effort to coordinate Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Customs and Border Protection, DEA, FBI, Bureau of Alcohol Tobacco and Firearms, U.S. Marshals, and other state and local law enforcement agencies, with significant support from the United States Attorney's Office and the District Attorney's Office.

Sen. Cornyn recently met with Chertoff to discuss the need for more resources on the border, particularly in Laredo.

In addition, U.S. Attorney General Alberto Gonzales sent a Violent Crime Impact Team to Laredo last year to address the violence on the border. The move followed a request by Cornyn to Gonzales to reallocate law enforcement resources to the Laredo area until the untenable situation is resolved.

Sen. Cornyn introduced the Comprehensive Enforcement and Immigration Reform Act, S.1438, in July to dramatically strengthen enforcement, bolster border security, and comprehensively reform our immigration laws. Cornyn also introduced narco-terror legislation specifically to address the cause of the Nuevo Laredo violence.

Big Mama Sez!



Be spontaneous with compliments today

The Brackett News

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SUBSCRIPTION:
Subscriptions and change of address should be sent to: The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Be sure to give both old and new address when requesting change.

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USPS 003987
Published weekly on Thursday by The Brackett News. Entered as Second Class Matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.

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Edward Jones
MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING

Ruling requires district to reimburse attorney fees, issue permits and refund production fees

Continued from Page 1
 and wanted local regulation of groundwater. The plaintiffs were disappointed in the way the current Board chose to implement its enabling legislation and authority under Chapter 36 of the water code.

"We are thankful that Judge Pennington saw through the arguments of the district and ruled in favor of fairness, due process and the property rights of the landowners of Kinney County," he added.

"It's a set back for this district and all groundwater districts," said Rick Lowerre, attorney for the KCGCD, when asked about Friday's ruling.

"It will have a fiscal impact on all groundwater districts that collect fees. It has implications

for taxpayers in Kinney County and in other districts across the state," Lowerre added.

Contrary to allegations by the district and its legal counsel, McCarthy made it clear that the lawsuit and ruling were not an attempt to dismantle groundwater districts or change groundwater regulations.

"There was never an effort to 'bankrupt' the district, nor any claim that groundwater districts cannot regulate groundwater or charge fees authorized by statute, or that the state's regulation of groundwater is unlawful. To the contrary, my clients believe that groundwater districts, properly run and managed, are an important part of effective groundwater regulation," said McCarthy.

"Districts must follow the rule of law and treat the private property rights of landowners with the utmost care and consideration. The vast majority of groundwater districts in the state follow the law. Unfortunately, landowners have not found this to be the case in Kinney County," he added.

Last week the district released its 2005 annual audit which says the district's current deficit is \$54,489. The district's audit also list liabilities of \$278,592 which include \$217,816 due to the district's former law firm Lloyd Gosselink.

The amounts to be refunded to the plaintiffs will put the district into an even larger deficit. Included in the district's assets is an account receivable of

\$147,863 for legal and consulting expenses the district has billed to permit applicants. Due to the ruling by the court the district can no longer collect most of those fees. Once refunds for production fees, attorney's fees, court cost and interest are added the district's deficit will rise even further.

These developments paint a bleaker financial image than the news release the district issued on Jan. 4, 2006. In that release, the district's General Manager Darlene Shaham claims, "The audit does prove that the district is financially healthy."

"It shows that the District had a positive cash flow last year. It shows good prospects of paying off all short and long-term liabilities by the end of 2006 or

2007, before the district is required to complete its payments. That could allow the district to lower taxes in the future," added Shaham.

The district is also being audited by the Texas state auditor's office. The audit was requested

by State Representative Tracy King and State Senator Ken Armbrister during the last legislative session. Officials from the state auditor's office have already gathered information from the district but have not yet issued a report.

SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, Jan. 2

11:09 a.m., A woman and Border Patrol reported a grass fire in Kinney County, 2 miles south on HWY 693.

12:57 p.m., Sentry Security reported an alarm sounding at a ranch on HWY 90. Deputy Karl Chism reported that the building was secure.

5:53 p.m., A woman reported smoke out on Las Moras road. Deputy Chism was informed of the situation and was to speak with the patrolman out on HWY 3348. Deputy Chism later stated that everything was ok.

Tuesday, Jan. 3

8:14 p.m., A woman reported a red truck driving recklessly on HWY 90 east near the radar site. Deputy Kenneth Freitag was notified of the situation.

Wednesday, Jan. 4

3:30 p.m., A resident on east Second Street reported her water was off. The city employee on call was notified.

6:08 p.m., A man reported the water was off at his residence on east Second Street. The city employee on call was notified.

Thursday, Jan. 5

1:47 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported a suspicious man standing on a picnic table in front of her house. Deputy Freitag was dispatched but found no one at the location.

10:45 a.m.,

Armando Hernandez, 44, of Brackettville was arrested on a warrant from Wichita, Kansas for possession of stolen property by Deputy Karl Chism. Hernandez was released the same day after posting \$1,000 bond.

Friday, Jan. 6

10:37 p.m., A local woman reported receiving harassing phone calls from a woman. Deputy Freitag was dispatched to her residence.

Saturday, Jan. 7

1:45 p.m., Sentry Alarm Company reported an alarm going off at the Brackett High School Library. Deputy Chism was informed of the situation and was enroute to the location.

4:00 p.m., A man reported goats were loose along HWY 90. The owner was notified.

5:01 p.m.,

A woman reported

that some kids were throwing rocks at cars at the corner of Ann and Veltman. Deputy Chism was informed of the situation and was enroute. Deputy Chism later stated that the kids were throwing rubber rockets.

7:09 p.m., A woman reported that a tow truck was driving recklessly and weaving in and out of traffic. Trooper Virgil Verdusco was informed of the situation and was enroute.

10:33 p.m., Val Verde county sheriff's office reported a possible drunk driver entering Kinney County east bound on HWY 90. Suspect was in a white Ford van. Deputy Ramon Gutierrez was dispatched to the area but was unable to locate the vehicle.

Sunday, Jan. 8

12:34 a.m., A 911 caller reported that someone was knocking on her window. Deputy

Gutierrez was dispatched to the location.

2:43 a.m., A woman reported that she could hear a loud and strange noise coming from the area of her home. Deputy Gutierrez advised the woman that it was a large dog overturning trash cans.

11:59 a.m., A man reported a white truck and two men standing next to a fire close to his property.

7:17 p.m., A man called in and ask for a deputy at his residence to tell a woman to get out.

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 Johnny S. Fritter & Family

Narce D. Villarreal

 Narce Villarreal has filed with democratic county chair, Mary Flores for a place on the ballot for Justice of the peace.
 Born in 1970, a resident of Kinney county for 30 years. Has a Brackett High School education. Villarreal is married to Jorge Villarreal and has 3 children, Jorge Jr., Vanessa and Luis Angel.
 My hard work, dedication and honesty as a person has gained the respect of my superiors. Currently holding a position at the Justice of the Peace office as DPS Secretary/Court Clerk. I have 5 years experience and am a Certified, Justice of the Peace Court Clerk through the Texas Justice Court Training center and the Texas State University. Has a clear understanding of the duties an responsibilities of the Justice of the Peace. I hold a strong desire for the people of this community and will serve with justice and fairness. A capable person who is ready to be challenged and uphold due process. Someone who will be available for you wholeheartedly!
 pd. pol. adv. pd. for by Narce Villarreal, PO Box 1996, Brackettville, Tx.

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JV girls win first district game

The junior varsity Tigerettes defeated the Lady Angoras 39-23, on Jan. 6 in their first district game of the season. "They played very aggressively for not having played in several weeks," said coach B. Shroeder. "We did a good job of working our offense, just had tough luck at times with shots not falling our way," Coach Shroeder continued. The girls that saw action in Friday's game were: Jesse Jones, Bianca Terrazas, Nadine Terrazas, Chaito Sanchez, Sam Moore, Summer Allen, Meghann Davis, Haley Harris, Natalie Aguirre, Bianca Martinez and Whitney Gum. The junior Tigerettes will play again today at home against Harper at 5 p.m.

8th grade girls lose tourney

The Brackett eighth grade girls basketball team were defeated twice last Saturday in the Nueces Canyon Tournament. The girls fell to Nueces Canyon, 26-16 and later to Rocksprings, 27-24. Ivy Garcia led the team, scoring 15 points. Nydia Talamantes topped the game with six steals, the leading defender. The leading rebounder was Elidia Molinar with six rebounds. The 8th graders will play again at Knippa on Jan. 14.

January is Texas School Board Recognition Month



2005-2006 BISD Board of Trustees
 From left: Mark Frerich, Board President Henry Lutz, Board Vice-President Sondra Meil, Ronnie Hobbs, Board Secretary Sara Terrazas, Jeffrey Duncan, Tony Ashley and Superintendent Paula Renken. Courtesy Photo by Kathy Kluzek

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ATTENTION
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Important Meeting

There will be a meeting to discuss the proposed development of greenbelt area along Fort Clark Road. What is in the best interest of Fort Clark? Your attendance is imperative! **Monday, Jan 16 at 6:30 pm** in the Fort Clark Board Room

BISD rated Academically Acceptable

Brackett ISD was rated academically acceptable and received Gold performance acknowledgments in recommended high school program (class of 2004), and TAAS/TASP equivalency (class of 2004). Individually, Jones Elementary was rated Academically acceptable in 2005. Brackett Jr. High was recognized for accountability and also commended on writing. Brackett High School was rated academically acceptable, and also had Gold Performance Acknowledgments in: recommended high school program (class of 2004), TAAS/TASP

Fort Clark Couples Golf

A total of twenty-four couples participated in Fort Clark's weekly couples Golf Scramble on Jan. 5. Two teams tied for first place. The first team included Hoagy Nelson, Pat Nelson, Shirley Clahoun and T.J. Calhoun. Jim Brown, Ann Malin, Dwight Gilliland and Luella Gilliland all played on the second team. Both teams had a score of 40.5 once the team's handicap was deducted. Nancy Stone, B. Stone, Pat Alexson and Charlie Alexson placed second with a score of 42, once the handicap was deducted. The third place was Mylo Unruh, Dale Unruh, Ray Darling and Barb Miller also with a score of 42. The fourth place team included Dick Ebert, Lynn Ebert, Ruth Spencer and Ken Spencer with a score of 42.5. "This was a mighty tough week for the golfers, but what can you expect with the temperatures in the high seventies?" said Recreation Director Debbie Isaacs. "You could not ask for better golfing conditions and what a great way to spend an afternoon but with friends and neighbors," Isaacs concluded.

8th grade boys take third at tourney

The Brackett eighth grade boys basketball team took third place in the Nueces Canyon tournament on Saturday. John Gray was the high scorer of both games with seven points against Rocksprings and 15 points against Nueces Canyon. Other players seeing action on the road included Charles Conoly, Ramon Gutierrez, Jay Proulx, Shawn Davis, Cody Kirkland, Danny Molinar, Isaac Talamantes, Adam Pinales, Jeff Sitgreaves, Guy Rigby, Chris Blake, Cody Clark and Gerardo Pacheco.



John Gray
 Photo by Allison Taylor
 John Gray led the Cubs in points scored at the Nueces Canyon Tournament last Saturday.

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Thank you

To The Brackett News for the front page picture and article. To the many friends that expressed their congratulations to us on our day. To Father Quang and Deacon Bader at Church for our special Mass and kind words of encouragement. To the folks at Mimi's Restaurant for the wonderful food and good service and friends that joined us in our celebration. And most of all to our God for giving us these many years together and for this beautiful Fort Clark to live in.

Roland and Rosalie Boypsen

AEIS Public Hearing Scheduled
Tuesday, January 17, 2006
5:45 p.m., Admin. Central Office

The Brackett ISD will hold a public hearing to explain the Academic Excellence Indicator System of Texas (AEIS). The AEIS report is generated annually for the District by the State to offer comparison of local performance to state averages in the areas of TAKS scores and student attendance.

The meeting will be conducted in a public hearing format. Members of the district's administrative team will present AEIS information and test results from the state. All patrons of the Brackett ISD are invited to attend this hearing, and encouraged to ask questions.

Board of Trustees monthly meeting to follow at 6:00 p.m.

Varsity Girls fall to Rocksprings in district game of the season

The Tigerettes were defeated at home by the Rocksprings Lady Angoras last Friday with the score of 49-35. The game started off slow into the third quarter with a score of 39-20. Finally in the fourth quarter, the girls picked up and scored 15 points but still fell behind. Ashley Castillo led the score board with nine points. Bailee Allen scored seven points. Daphne Hunt scored five points. Julie Castillo scored four points. Timmeke Simmons scored four points. Lola Cano scored three points and Emily Valenzuela scored three points. Earlier in the week, Coach Creel took the varsity girls to Utopia where they swept the Lady Buffs away, 40-26. The first half started off hot, with an ending score of 29-14. Valenzuela led the game with 15 points, while A. Castillo was right behind her with 11 points. Cano scored six points. J. Castillo scored four points. Hunt and Simmons each scored two points. Their next game will be tomorrow in Brackett against Harper.

Keep your nose clean and you won't be back

The last ten days were the slowest days in the two years Rick spent in prison. The day finally came. At exactly twelve O'clock noon Donovan's voice boomed into the cell. "Git yer things an let's go Richardson. There's a van waitin fer ya."

Donovan ushered him to the front door. The two men shook hands. "Me an the men in the bible study'll be praying fer ya. Keep yer nose clean an ya won't be back here."

Rick nodded in affirmation



Empowering Families
Dr. Donald Smith

and climbed into the van with four other inmates on the same journey. He looked at them one by one and smiled.

They all joked about leaving and what the world on the out-

side would be like. As Rick looked into each man's eyes and shared the light moments, he couldn't help but remember Old Joe's Book of Life and Book of Death.

"Which of these men will make it on the outside?" he questioned to himself.

At the halfway house, the men were shown to their individual sleeping rooms. Families had been advised ahead of time to bring street clothes. These were neatly hung in the closet. Rick looked at what was there. Amy had done a good job picking him some things to wear. She had also hung a picture of her and the kids on the wall opposite the bed where he could see them.

Rick's feelings were mixed. He wanted to smile but the picture reminded him of the hard

work that was ahead before his face could be part of the picture. He thought about moving it but decided he needed that reminder every morning when he got up and every night when he went to bed. It would keep him going.

Rick unpacked what he brought from prison and laid everything out on the bed. To one side he put the things Old Joe had given him. Looking around he decided that a chest of drawers would be a good place for them. Very gently he picked up the Book of Life and the Book of Death and put them in the bottom drawer. Then he picked up Old Joe's Bible, the little bottle of oil, and the crucifix. Reverently he arranged them on top of the chest. A voice from the door mentioned the orientation meeting downstairs.

Mr. & Mrs. Jon Lamers



Duquesa & Jon Elliot

Duquesa Hunt of Brackettville and Jon Lamers of Bloomington, Minnesota were united in Holy Matrimony Saturday, December 31.

Duquesa Susana Hunt of Brackettville and Jon Elliot Lamers of Bloomington, Minnesota were united in the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony at 2p.m., Saturday, December 31, in St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Brackettville, Texas.

Celebrant was Father Tom Showalter, uncle of the groom, Altar server and reader of the Sacred Scripture was Henry Clay Hunt, III, brother of the bride.

The bride is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. H.C. Hunt, Jr. of Brackettville. She is the granddaughter of the late Mr. and Mrs. Buddy Thurman of Rocksprings, Texas and

Doris Hunt of Boerne, Texas and Clay Hunt, Sr. of Brackettville, Texas.

The groom is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Gary Serdar of Bloomington, Minnesota and Mr. Ron Lamers of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota. He is the grandson of Mr. Arnold Lamers of Brooklyn Center, Minnesota and the late Selma Lamers, Mr. and Mrs. Don Showalter of Bloomington, Minnesota, and Mr. and Mrs. Bob Serdar of Waukegan, Illinois.

The bride was escorted by her father H.C. Hunt, Jr. She chose an ivory satin, floor length gown with lace overlay accented with pearls and beading, designed by Maggie Sottero Couture. Her double-layered veil was fingertip length and enhanced with pearls and beads.

Maid of Honor was Daphne Hunt, sister of the bride. Best man was Paul Lamers, brother of the groom.

Bridesmaids were Rachelle Lamers, sister of the groom, April Bohuslav, Rachel Pollock, and Kateri Reyes, college friends of the bride.

Ashtyn Hunt, niece and Goddaughter of the bride and Hannah Showalter, cousin and Goddaughter of the groom were flower girls. Ring bearer was Brinx Hunt, nephew of the bride.

Serving as groomsmen were Michael Lamers, brother of the groom, Geoffrey Serdar, brother of the groom, John Kunz, friend of the groom, and Jeffrey Showalter, cousin of the groom.

Ushers were Sam Hunt, brother of the bride, Lee Davis, cousin of the bride, and Levi Duncan, friend of the bride. Registering guest were Mr. and Mrs. Jesse Flores, Godparents in

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Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone?

Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent?

If ye then, being evil know how to give good gifts unto your



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Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

children, how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him.

St. Matthew 7:7-11
Praise The Lord!

I love my new belt

The old one had long since worn out, but a good friend said he could make me a new one. I picked it up just before Christmas and boy was it pretty! It was even better than I had imagined.

When I went to pay for it He said, "Merry Christmas, it's a gift to you." I was so proud of the belt that I wore it to town.

In town someone saw my new belt and made fun of it. I felt so bad because I was so proud of my new gift. That incident made me realize something about Christianity. People who do not know Christ Jesus as their personal Lord and savior may not realize how important or how much we love Him. They may make fun of Christians and mock them. They may even talk bad about or use Jesus' name in bad ways.

I love my new belt and very much appreciate the one who made it for me. I also enjoy my salvation, (forgiveness of my sins) and my new relationship (II Corinthians 5:17) to God, which Christ Jesus gave me when He died on the cross.



Jerry Davenport
Brother J.

I am not ashamed to wear my new belt just as I will hold my head high (Romans 1:16) even if they mock my Jesus and remove His name from our land (Luke 9:26; Galatians 6:7).

See you in Church next Sunday.

Baptism of the bride. Offertory gift bearers were Mr. and Mrs. Lloyd Lee Davis, Confirmation sponsor of the bride.

Providing music was Laverne Schafer, Rachelle and Renee Lamers, Julia and Emma Johnson, and Molly Annala.

The couple left from the church in a decorated wagon, filled with their wedding party. A reception was held at the old restaurant on Fort Clark Springs. A traditional Mexican food meal was served followed by an evening of dancing. Great musicians who are all friends of the bride and her family provided live music.

After honeymooning for a few days in the Texas Hill Country, the couple traveled to Bloomington, Minnesota. There they were honored with a Mass and blessing of their marriage.

The bridal couple will reside in Santa Marinella, Italy where Jon will continue his studies in Theology. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this new journey together.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE
ACROSS: 1 Open-pierced item, 4 Sorority letter, 7 Old map abbr., 11 Mixtures, 13 Bet, 15 Taboo, 16 Horse racing terms, 19 Value, 20 Things-mejigs, 21 Four-legged animal, 23 Youth group: abbr., 24 Discobey God, 27 Plant part, 30 Boone and name-sakes, 34 California athlete, 36 Every-body's button, 38 Resort city, for
DOWN: 39 Perpendicular to a ship's keel, 40 Color, 41 Recipe direction, 43 Singing syllable, 44 Direct, 46 Group of political intriguers, 47 Part of a ship, 49 Pull away violently, 51 Oxygen or hydrogen, 52 I love: Lat., 54 Nourish oneself, 56 Greatly impressed, 61 Apartment, often, 66 Horse racing event, 68 Place, 69 Long ago, 70 Beam, 71 Shortly, 72 Watch, 73 Uncover, to a poet
31 Boxer's milieu, 32 Hair rinses, 33 Scotch accompaniment, 34 Trail, 35 Els' followers, 37 Presidential monogram, 42 Bring something heavy, 45 Like most streets, 48 Small, furry animal, 50 Novel estate, 53 Pasture sound, 56 Turner and Kennedy, 58 Mountain in Thessaly, 57 Concelled, 58 Within: pref., 59 Son of Seth, 60 Dreadful, 62 Captain, 63 Journey, 64 Skilled, 65 Caustic, 67 4 Across, in English

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

Today's Category: FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
A P P L E Y H S A U Q S
C C O R A N G E A B G J
O G A L I M E N G R H N
R R G U P E A G I O E J
N A H C L N D H Y C K F
D P C A A I T U T C N I
T E V B S O F A E O D G
O D B B M S R L M L H D
R G N A D I G E O I C P
R H T G N D L G Z W A E
A O S E Q H C H S D E A
C H E R R Y V M U L P R
1. Pea
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20.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Jan. 13.....Donna Smith Jan. 15.....Gloria Benacci
Jan. 14...Demetrio Gonzalez Jan. 15...Juanita Talamantes
Jan. 14.....Ramon Gutierrez Jan. 16.....Stoney Burks
Jan. 14.....Veronica Rivas Jan. 16.....Nancy O'Brien
Jan. 17.....Agnes Camp

Roaring Twenties solution:
1. Apple 11. Lemon
2. Banana 12. Lime
3. Broccoli 13. Nectarine
4. Cabbage 14. Orange
5. Carrot 15. Pea
6. Cauliflower 16. Peach
7. Cherry 17. Pear
8. Corn 18. Plum
9. Fig 19. Squash
10. Grape 20. Tomato

ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a week of mixed news for you. Some of it is good concerning finances. Personally, though, you have issues to sort out with loved ones.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone you're trying to reach proves to be quite elusive this week. Be persistent. You won't succeed at work unless you can get this person's input.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Listen closely to what others are telling you. You need to discern who's telling the truth and who isn't. Those being deceptive have a hidden agenda.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Avoid making impulsive decisions this week. While you're generally a person of action, sometimes, you just need to lay back and think things over. This weekend, you're in tune with what people want.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) While money matters seem to be picking up, not all the news is favorable. Identify those problem areas so you can address them properly. Over the weekend, sharing with family members is the key to happiness.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Try not to be so suspicious of others' motives, particularly where romance is concerned. Not everyone has an angle. Once you learn this, your love life improves.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You need some direction on a complicated work project. Don't hesitate to seek help and ask questions. It won't weaken your standing with those in authority.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Seize the opportunity which arises this week at work. Since you're in bigwigs' good graces, you'll be able to make the changes you want in the workplace. Later, a personal decision needs to be made.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Try not to push a romantic interest too hard. This person doesn't deal well with pressure. If you back off, you'll achieve the end result you really desire.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You chafe a bit at a close friend's neediness. You are correct to feel that you can't always be the one riding to the rescue. However, you can point this person in the right direction.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're on the same wavelength with loved ones. As a result, communication goes well. At work, though, you're getting mixed messages which you'll have to straighten out.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) In general, it's a good week for you, both personally and professionally. Your energy is high and your outlook optimistic. Over the weekend, a home repair needs your attention.
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ADOPTIONS

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

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Six Pastures - 725 +/- AC, 1170 +/- AC, 950 +/- AC, 440 +/- AC, 650 +/- AC, 525 +/- AC priced to sell. Owner financing available.

Jones Mobile - Unit 31, 3BR, 2B, Carport, double roof, porch, fully furnished and fenced yard. \$40,000

Commercial Property 199 W. Spring St. Good Rental Location Call 563-2446



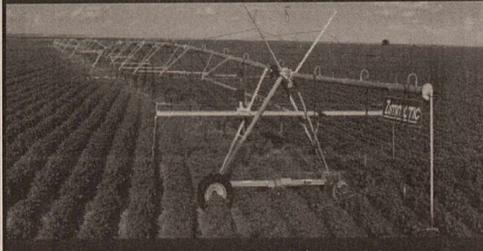
Unit 7, Fort Clark Springs, Lots 17 & 18. 4BR, 2B, fenced yard and carport. \$66,000.

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Many of these fees have not been adjusted in twenty-three years. This will not affect the kWh rate or fuel cost adjustment portions of your bill.

Informational meetings will be held:
Brackettville: Tuesday, January 24, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at RGEC's office, located at the intersection of Hwy. 90 and U.S. 131, Brackettville, Texas.

Fort Stockton: Thursday, January 26, 2006, 7:00 p.m., at RGEC's office, located at 301 N. Ellyson Blvd., Fort Stockton, Texas.

All interested RGEC members are invited to attend.

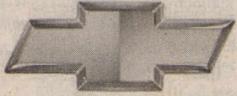
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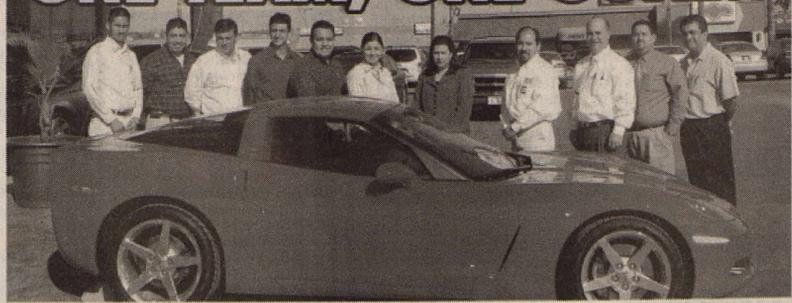
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Rebate\$500
B. Chevy Disc\$1044

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Rebate\$2000
B. Chevy Disc\$1766

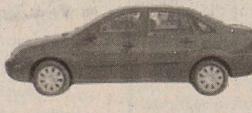
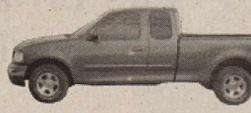
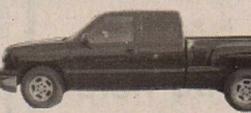
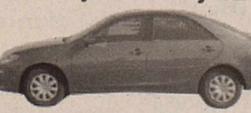
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