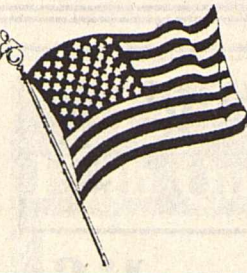


The Brackett News



Telephone users reject ELC issue
See story below

9th year, No. 45

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Briefs ...

Postal Service curtails operations on holidays

The Brackettville Post Office will close at noon on Dec. 24 and Dec. 31. Postmaster Felix Hernandez announced.

"After reviewing the needs of our customers over the last few years, our records indicate that very little activity is conducted after noon on Christmas and New Year's Eve," Hernandez said.

"With this in mind, we would like to allow our employees an opportunity to be with their families earlier on these two very special occasions."

On Dec. 24 and Dec. 31, retail operations will close at noon and mail will not be collected from any collection box after 1 p.m.

Hernandez said the office will return to normal operating hours on Dec. 26, and again on Jan. 2.

"Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to provide our employees and their families with this special time together," he added.

EMS to be discussed

Lee Sweeten of the Texas Department of Health will meet with local officials tomorrow to discuss Kinney County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) system at the city of Brackettville Annex.

Officials from Kinney County, the city of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, and the Brackett Independent School District are expected to be in attendance at the meeting.

Sweeten will discuss a variety of proposals concerning EMS, including one that calls for the formation of an advisory board consisting of representatives from the different entities to guide the program.

Filing opens for primary elections

Filing is underway for local political candidates for March's primary elections. Candidates can file to run for election through Jan. 2.

Applications can be picked up at the county clerk's office at the Kinney County Courthouse and must be filed through the respective party chairman.

Mary Flores is the Democratic Party chairwoman for Kinney County and Ray Melton is the county chairman for the Republican Party.

County positions that will be on the March 10 ballot include county judge, justice of the peace, Precincts 2 and 4 county commissioners, county and district clerk, and county treasurer.

Seargeant, Senne file for county judge

Tommy Seargeant has filed to run for a fourth term as a county judge and his only opposition thus far is the man that served in that capacity during his recent suspension — Herb Senne.

Seargeant filed for the March 10 Democratic primary election last Friday. He is in his 11th year as county judge, serving in three stretches going back to 1971.

Seargeant was not available for comment on Wednesday.

Senne filed to run on Dec. 3, the day Seargeant's suspension was lifted. The county judge was acquitted on charges of theft and abuse of official capacity earlier that week.

Senne said the decision to run

for county judge was an easy one after serving in that capacity.

"I want to see my hometown grow and prosper if at all possible," he said. "I enjoy working with people, both individually and as a group. I also enjoy being involved with people-related challenges and problem solving in general."

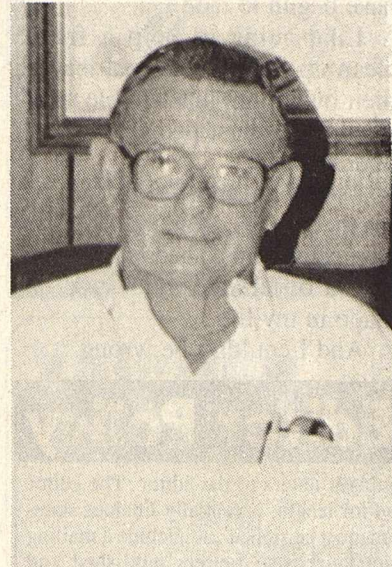
"Working as interim county judge for the last four and a half months gave me a chance to see if I liked it and whether it liked me. The two ends seem to pretty much come together as best I can tell."

During his tenure as interim county judge, Senne was involved with the formation of a regional and county-based water manage-

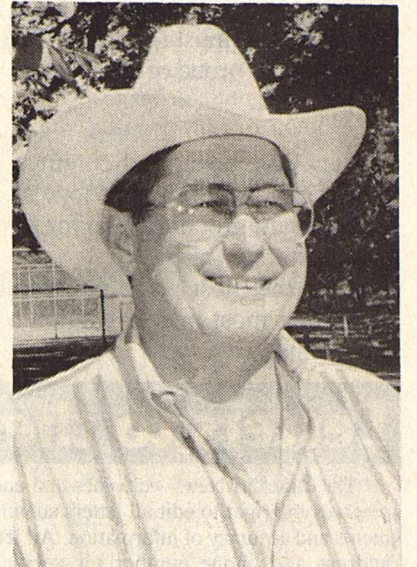
ment planning group, the implementation of a multi-county rainfall enhancement program, and the initiation of restructuring the EMS program.

"Because I believe these activities are worthwhile community development projects, the decision to file for county judge became sort of automatic," Senne said.

Other candidates that have filed on the Democratic ticket for the March 10 primary include: Joe Montalvo, Precinct 2 commissioner; Paul O'Rourke and Bill Bizzell, Precinct 4 commissioner; J.E. Meil and Arnold Pinales, justice of the peace; Dora Sandoval, county clerk; and Janis Floyd, county treasurer.



TOMMY SEARGEANT



HERB SENNE



Kinney County Extension Agent Robert Elledge, kneeling, displays the rifle that will be raffled by the Kinney County 4-H Club. Tickets for the raffle may be purchased at the County Extension office, Davis Hardware, Kinney County Wool and Mohair, or from any 4-H member. Pictured with Elledge are 4-H members Beth Ballew (from left), Michael De Leon, Boyd Brotherton, Tommy Gomez, Dietrich Davis, Mayra Aguirre, Jarred Hobbs, Tony Jamail, Jesse Davis and Tito De Leon.

Local citizens lose month of services because of holidays

Local citizens will lose close to a month of government services because of the high number of holidays observed by the city of Brackettville and Kinney County, officials argued last week.

The Kinney County Commissioners Court approved 18 and one-half holidays for 1998 and the Brackettville City Council agreed to 17 holidays.

The Commissioners Court approved the holidays with little discussion. Officials said the county was lenient with holidays because of the low pay scale.

"Considering the pay structure we have around here, I don't have any problems with it myself," Commissioner Freddie Frerich said.

The City Council, however, had a lengthy discussion on the number of holidays.

"In the past, the city had less holidays than the other entities," City Secretary David Luna said, referring to the county and the appraisal district. "So then we added the days that they were closed to the calendar."

City Councilman J.J. Guidry said, "I think the county has too many holidays also."

The city originally had 18 proposed holidays for the upcoming year.

"With 18 days, you're essentially talking about a month's worth of holidays," Alderman Wes Robinson said. "You're talking about closing the city for a month throughout the year for holidays. That's a little excessive."

Councilman Tino Gomez said he compared the city's holidays to neighboring cities, noting that the city of Del Rio closed for 11 holidays and Uvalde for nine.

"You have to understand that Uvalde is a lot larger," Alderwoman Mary Flores said. "They have more people in and out in customers, and so is Val Verde."

"I think the purposes are the same though," Robinson said.

As discussions continued, Luna interrupted the council and requested that the matter be put to a vote.

"We could be here all night long," Luna said.

Government Holidays

Holidays observed by Kinney County and the city of Brackettville for 1998:

- 1. Jan. 19 Martin Luther King Day
 - 2. Feb. 16 Presidents Day
 - 3. March 2 Texas Independence Day
 - 4. April 10 Good Friday
 - 5. April 20/21 *San Jacinto Day
 - 6. May 25 Memorial Day
 - 7. June 19 Juneteenth
 - 8. July 3 **Independence Day
 - 9. Sept. 7 Labor Day
 - 10. Oct. 12 Columbus Day
 - 11. Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 - 12. Nov. 25 ***Day before Thanksgiving
 - 13. Nov. 26 Thanksgiving
 - 14. Nov. 27 Day after Thanksgiving
 - 15. Dec. 23 **Day before Christmas Eve
 - 16. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 - 17. Dec. 25 Christmas Day
 - 18. Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
 - 19. Jan. 1 New Year's Day
- * County will observe San Jacinto Day on April 20 and the city will observe it on April 21.
** Only county offices will be closed.
*** County offices will be closed a half-day.

Telephone users reject extended local calling

Telephone customers in Kinney County rejected a proposal that would have allowed unlimited calls to Del Rio, Uvalde and Eagle Pass for one monthly charge.

The proposal required 70 percent approval for the expanded local calling (ELC) issue, which had a monthly fee up to \$3.50 per residential telephone line and up to \$7 for every business line.

"The bottom line is the majority did not want it," said City Councilman Tino Gomez, the ELC coordinator for Brackettville. "That's how it stands and we have to live with it."

A total of 1,379 ballots were

ELC results

The following are the results of the Extended Local Calling election, which required 70 percent voter approval to pass, as provided by the Public Utility Commission:

Exchange	For	Against
Del Rio	489	324
Eagle Pass	372	401
Uvalde	441	353

sent by mail to telephone customers in Kinney County and 814, or
■ See TELEPHONE/Page 7

INSIDE

■ Joe Townsend

Many people seem to be tangled in their values system. Many are warped and corrupted in their priorities.

Opinion/Page 2

■ Community Unity

Brackettville will host its Fourth Annual Community Unity on Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. at City Hall.

Community/Page 4

■ Perez earns all-state

Senior Samantha Perez was selected to the Texas Track and Field News' All-State cross country team.

Sports/Page 5

INDEX

- Classifieds10
- Community4
- Deaths4
- Health10
- Lifestyles6-7
- Opinion2-3
- Outdoors5
- Religion9
- Sports5

9th year, No. 45
10 pages

Brackett bands perform annual Christmas concert

By Diane Ward
Contributing Writer

The Brackett High School and Middle School bands presented their annual Christmas concert last Thursday evening at the high school auditorium.

The high school band, under the direction of Hector Jimenez and Roxanne Gonzalez, entertained the audience with a variety of holiday favorites.

"I thought the concert went great," Jimenez said. "The kids sounded super."

"I think the audience really was receptive to the performance. Many of them expressed some very complimentary comments, which I passed on to the band. I think that has been a big incentive for them to get ready for the upcoming UIL concert competition."

After Gonzalez led the middle school band in a demonstration of music fundamentals, the students performed "Jingle Bells."

During the program, Jimenez recognized this year's high school band officers: Alfred Rodriguez,

president; Windy Goodloe, vice president; JoLee Jones, treasurer; Jania Finkenbinder, reporter; and Michael Meyer, seargeant-at-arms.

He then introduced senior band members, including Rodriguez, Goodloe, Jones, Meyer and Amanda Mulvaine.

Jimenez and Gonzalez were presented conductor's batons by Jones and Geoffrey Flores on behalf of the band members in appreciation of their efforts.

Jimenez said he was happy with the turnout at last week's concert.

"We would have loved more participation from our faculty and our own student body," he said. "The kids need to relate what they do to their teachers. I think we had a good crowd."

With the Christmas concert behind them, Jimenez said the band has started focusing its attention to April's concert contest.

"We're going to start preparing immediately," he said. "We have two numbers already identified that are on the prescribed list. It's just a matter of deciding on the third piece."



Director Hector Jimenez, left, and the Brackett high school band performs at the annual Christmas concert last week.
Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

"We will be playing two overtures and a march, which will be our selection."

"We have our practice agenda all lined up." Jimenez said. "We will start preparing for concert

contest in January, as soon as we get back from the Christmas vacation."

But, I could be wrong!

By: Chuck Hall



You light up my life

What a joy kids are. Two of my children were born in the month of December. Their birthdays remind me that they mean so much to me.

I write too much about my kids. I know I do. It must seem like I'm bragging, and proud of them. Well, I guess I am.

They have been, and continue to be, one of the greatest joys in my life. I am proud of them for so many different things.

I feel the most pride for little things that most people wouldn't understand.

Like volunteering to carry our nation's flag during the grand entry at a rodeo.

Like reading letters and stories to an elderly citizen whose eyes have begun to fade.

Like going to help a friend clean up their house and leaving their own room in a terrible mess. (I told you most people wouldn't understand.)

I love 'em mostly just for being themselves. And for what they have caused me to become because of the difference their love has made in my life.

And I couldn't be wrong.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. The editor reserves the right to 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. Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama Sez!



Many people do not leave their footprints on the sands of time, but they leave their skidmarks at the traffic intersections.

The Brackett News

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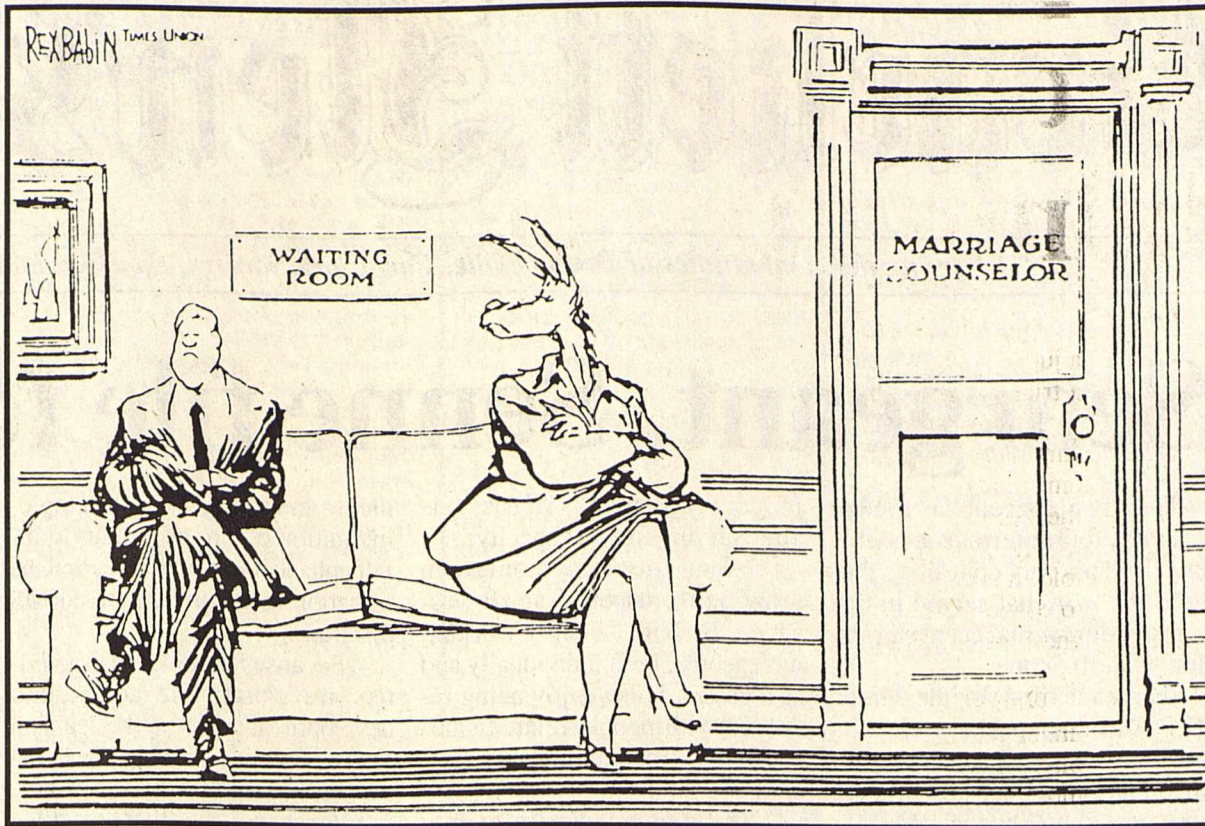
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What happened to morals?

Many people seem to be tangled in their values system. Many are warped and corrupted in their priorities.

To many, it's alright for Henry Cisneros to have several affairs with women other than his wife.

It's alright for him to con the people of San Antonio into using their tax money to build the monstrosity called The Alamodome.

But when he lies on his resume to qualify for a job, some want to hang him out to dry.

The lie hurts no one. He is aligned with the biggest liar to ever inhabit the White House and yet there are those who would bankrupt him and ruin his life and career because he lied.

He didn't embezzle and he didn't steal; he just lied.

I'm not in the Cisneros camp. I think he is a con man supreme.

It still is true that people swallow his lack of character, in violating his wedding vow and paying off his mistress in fine fashion, and then want to crucify him for lying when applying for a political job.

A secretary of agriculture accepts trips and tickets to the Super Bowl and is forced to resign and face criminal prosecution.

Between Us

By Joe Townsend



Bill Clinton and Al Gore solicit and accept money from criminals, foreigners and charlatans, and yet the attorney general will not even appoint a special prosecutor to check it out.

Newt Gingrich became a thorn in the side of the government so they set out to destroy him.

They couldn't convict him of any crime, but to calm the opposition, he foolishly agreed to pay a "fine" of \$350,000.

A ranking Democrat on the committee considering the matter openly and patently committed a felony and the punishment handed out was to resign from his office on the committee.

Braun held a most important position with Clinton. He was under investigation for serious felonies when he was killed in an airplane crash.

Clinton and his cronies tried to paint a halo on him in spite of his errant activities that brought him \$500,000.

The president openly supports and promotes deviant behavior by homosexuals and lesbians while carrying his Bible under his arm and parading as a Baptist when the Bible clearly condemns those who are thus deviant.

The real tragedy is that many people don't care. Their own lack of principle and morals makes the susceptible to being conned into being a party to the chicanery and hypocrisy.

It's tragic how people accept actions that are contrary to the Bible teachings, the law of the land, and moral rights.

The real tragedy is that someday the sky will fall as a result of such corruption.

As sure as night follows day, what goes around comes around. As the Bible says, "As a man soweth that shall he also reap."

This is as true with a nation as with the plantings of the farmer.

Texans favor tax reform

Late last summer, this column included a list of questions seeking readers' opinions about issues currently in the forefront of public debate.

As has been the case in previous years, your answers were overwhelming, and I would like to thank The Brackett News for allowing me to communicate with you this way.

The next several columns will address both the questions asked, and the responses you provided.

The first set of questions I posed to Texans was: "Do you believe that tax reductions should come in the form of an across-the-board reduction in the income tax rate? Or do you support more targeted tax incentives, for example, to encourage savings for college or retirement?"

"If Congress could throw out our current tax system and start fresh, would you favor a consumption tax instead of an income tax? Or a flat tax of 20 percent for everyone? Any other reform?"

Of those responding:
 ■ 74 percent of you supported an across-the-board reduction in the income tax rate;
 ■ 29 percent supported targeted incentives such as savings for college or retirement;
 ■ 57 percent of you favor instituting a consumption tax (sales tax) instead of an income tax; and
 ■ 41 percent of you said you would like to see a flat income tax of 20 percent.

Here are some of the comments on this "taxing" issue:

From Eules: "The simpler the better. I could do without more government paperwork. Each person, business and entity should pay their fair share without loopholes. The government does not need to tell taxpayers what to do with what little they have left after government takes the lion's share. If I want to save or invest, leave me something to do it with."

From Aledo: "We must find a fair way to generate revenues. The only persons who benefitted from the new tax laws are people with children. I do not begrudge them a tax break, but I believe we all would be better served by an across-the-board tax reduction. I favor a flat tax on both earned and investment income and larger exemptions."

From Freeport: "I favor a flat income tax for everyone. Remove all deductions. The tax rate should be a maximum of 20 percent, and a national referendum should be required to change the rate."

From McKinney: "Before a major overhaul of the tax system, the federal government should define the goals and principles of fair taxation; that is, paint the big picture and then enact a law that supports those goals."

CAPITOL COMMENT

U.S. SENATOR
KAY BAILEY HUTCHISON

From Boerne: "Tax incentives for college or retirement savings do not provide any tax relief for me or millions of others. I am 53 years of age. My children have finished their schooling. Boy, I sure could have used some financial relief for education earlier. My local taxes and car insurance keep going up. Where is tax relief for folks in my age group who have footed the bill for many years?"

From Kingwood: "I support a flat tax, with exemptions for home ownership -- all interest, repairs, taxes, association dues, state taxes, county fees, city fees and taxes, all city and federal transportation taxes and fees and all expenses generated from a job, and charitable contributions. I know this sounds like a lot of exemptions, but we are being taxed at extremely high rates by all levels of government."

From Groves: "I worked for 45 years in the Merchant Marines and am retired. I have a bit of Social Security. 80 percent of which is taxed. This was a tax on my wages as they were earned, and it is now being taxed again! It is not right that I pay out 52 percent of my income in total taxes, before I eat and live. This is baloney."

From Waco: "I favor the consumption tax. We produce too little and consume too much. The only way to enforce taxes on productivity is to police them heavily with an intrusive agency such as the IRS. Fear is not the way to run a country, and people should not have to arrange their lives to fit the tax code."

It is clear that Texans are frustrated with the current federal income tax system.

I intend to work for reform and, until we get a total overhaul, one of my priorities will be to repeal the marriage penalty. Our current system punishes people who exchange wedding vows and find that their joint incomes push them into a higher tax bracket.

Our tax system is long-overdue for a revamping. Americans deserve better.

Toys for Tots: Celebrating 50 years of giving

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District

The holiday season emphasizes the values of giving, caring and sharing. It is a time to help those less fortunate than us, especially children. That is what the Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program is all about.

For 50 years, the Toys for Tots campaign has brightened the holidays for millions of children.

Each year, the Marine Corps Reserve collects new, unwrapped toys in collection barrels at various sites, usually local community businesses. They give the toys to the appropriate local groups who distribute them to deserving children.

Through the partnership of the Marine Corps and the community, these children see the true spirit of the season.

The Toys for Tots campaign began in Los Angeles back in 1947.

In its first year, the program collected and distributed more than 6,000 toys in the Los Angeles area. Last year, the program collected and distributed 7.5 million toys nationwide!

Clearly, Toys for Tots is a true success story of giving and community involvement.

We all have the responsibility, as private citizens to help our neighbors in need.

There are many things we all can do to give to someone with less than we have. Whether it is giving to Toys for Tots, donating your time at a local school or community center or buying food for a hungry family, everyone can do something to bring cheers to others.

With all the hustle and bustle surrounding the holidays, it's easy to get caught up in the commercialization of the holiday season.

The true spirit of the season, however, lies behind those glittery packages, shiny ribbons, busy stores and bright lights.

The Marine Corps Reserve's Toys for Tots program is a perfect example of the true spirit of giving.

For 50 years, the Marine Corp's spirit of patriotism, charity and children is an inspiration to us all.

Unsung Hero
By Joe Townsend

A couple came to Brackettville a few years ago. Soon after coming, they bought a business that was almost defunct. By hard work and initiative, they have built an outstanding business.

For a time, it was necessary for her to work outside the business after her day at the business was over. By branching out, this man soon had to hire help. There simply was too much for the two of them to do.

They have as wide a variety of merchandise as anyone I know in their line of business.

If they are faced by a question under the umbrella of their business, they usually know the answer. And when they don't know, they'll find out.

They are the most accommodating to their clientele of any persons I've ever known. They are friendly and just an all-around outstanding couple. Anyone who knows them is blessed.

Surely, Archie and Jill Woodson are Unsung Heroes.

Thank You

I would like to thank everyone who sent flowers, cards and called after my accident in September. Also a special thanks for all the prayers for my recovery. My family and I would like to wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Ray Smallwood

Judicial independence integral to maintaining the rule of law

By Judge William S. Sessions
Contributing Writer

In the media spotlight of high public interest trials, such as the Massachusetts au pair case where all parties issued multiple statements, day in and day out, and people picketed outside the Cambridge courthouse, it is important to remember the true role of the court and the judge who presides over the trial.

The true role of the judge is not to be a caricature in a made-for-television sitcom, where the viewer turns in for entertainment and then clicks to another channel. The true role of a judge is not to be reduced to a 25-second sound bite on the evening news. The true role of a judge is not to be shaped by pressure groups promoting a particular outcome.

Rather, the true role of a trial or appellate judge is to uphold the rule of law and ensure that justice is done. This principle is at the core of our democracy.

This critically serious business requires that a judge protect the rights of all participants in a trial as well as the public interest.

This principle is what has made the American legal system the most copied judicial system model in emerging democracies around the world.

The judicial process requires time to unfold. It is deliberative and thoughtful, designed to ensure that all issues are carefully weighed and considered. It is designed to produce truth.

Without this careful and deliberate process, under the rule of law, the strong fabric that binds Americans together would fray and democracy would be weakened.

Judicial decision making, however, does not occur in a vacuum. Our judicial system is at work in the jury trial process when a jury considers the evidence and arrives at a verdict on the facts.

The system is at work when a judge conducts the trial and reviews the verdict of the

jury in light of the law, and again when the appellate court reviews the decision of the trial court.

The dynamic system of judge, jury and appellate review is what makes America's judicial system so unique and effective.

As the world reacts to the decision of Massachusetts Superior Court Judge Hiller Zobel, Americans should understand that judges' decisions are not determined by the glare of the camera lights, nor as Judge Zobel put it, "by a plebiscite," nor by partisan pressure bought to bear on the jury or the judge.

An independent judiciary is a necessary, vital and irreplaceable constant in the American Democracy, which continues to successfully evolve after more than 200 years.

That's our American system — and it works.

■ *Editor's note: Judge William S. Sessions is the chair of the American Bar Association Special Committee on Judicial Independence.*

Managed-care enrollees need national standards

Horace B. Deets
Contributing Writer

Nearly one half of the U.S. population receives their health care through some type of managed-care program. Managed care, whether you like it or not, is here to stay.

Our challenge, then, is to make sure that it works. That means managed care must be a choice, but not the only choice, and that all managed-care enrollees should be able to count on a basic set of protections in the form of national standards.

Right now, few federal standards apply to private or employer-provided managed care. Moreover, the states apply and enforce their own standards in very different ways. Yet, given the mobile nature of our society, this does not make sense.

The desire for enforceable standards makes sense and so do the standards themselves.

What if we get sick away from home? Do we all get the care we bargained and paid for? Can we count on the same qualities, or on the enforcement of the practices and standards that assure good quality?

I don't see how without national standards.

National standards will probably require a combination of state and federal laws, and a partnership in enforcement. They also should include a comprehensive set of consumer protections. AARP believes some of the most important are:

■ Standards for accessibility and availability of services: treatment should be prompt, readily

available, responsive to the needs of the patient, and ensure continuity of care when plans or providers change.

■ Standards for challenging a plan's decision to deny, reduce, or terminate a requested service: consumers need independent review to assure that such decisions are in their own medical best interests.

■ Standards for quality measurement and assessment: managed-care organizations should have their own internal mechanisms for assessing the quality of their care and also should be reviewed by an external body of health professionals.

In other words, a managed-care organization's success should not be measured only by its financial efficiency and ability to serve many for less, but chiefly by the quality of its care and the health and well-being of its patients.

The desire for enforceable standards makes sense and so do the standards themselves.

We believe such standards are necessary to restore patients' confidence in the health-care system. Consumer confidence is fundamental to the relationship between patient and physician and to the practice of good medicine.

We are not asking any more of managed care than we do of fee-for-service care, but we should not accept any less either.

■ *Editor's note: Horace B. Deets is the AARP executive director.*

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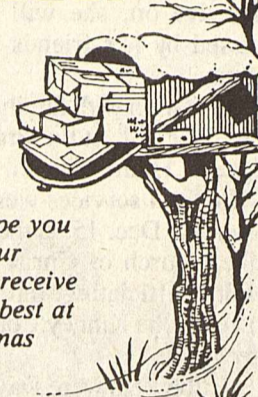
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Obituary

Arline Ruth Sprott McDaniel

Arline Ruth Sprott McDaniel was born to Thomas L. Sprott and Martha Peeler Sprott in Brackettville on Oct. 20, 1910, and fell asleep in Jesus on Dec. 12, 1997, in Del Rio, Texas.

Arline married Chester Hill McDaniel on June 2, 1927. Chester preceded her in death on May 14, 1995.

Arline is survived by her daughter: Carol Ann Laman and husband Johnnie Dee Laman of Katy, Texas; son: Raymond McDaniel and wife Eleanor of Humble, Texas; sister: Ruby Turner of Phoenix, Ariz.; grandchildren: Stephen Laman and wife Melinda, John David Laman and wife Tracy, Linda Jones and husband Randy, and Marla McDaniel; six great-grandchildren: Jennifer and Andrew Jones, and Lauren, Joanna, Evan and Ashley Laman; and numerous nieces and nephews.

Arline attended school in Brackettville where she lived her entire adult life. She was a faithful member of the Brackettville Church of Christ.

Arline was an excellent homemaker and loving supporter of her husband, Chester, who was the barber in Brackettville for over 60 years.

Her first love was her family and being helpful to others, especially her children.

She endeared herself to so many children by providing out-of-town students with their noon lunches for many years, plus baby sitting for a number of school teachers' children.



ARLINE MCDANIEL

She was a faithful servant of her Lord and Master for over 50 years and, while our cherished memories live on, she will be sorely missed by her friends and loved ones.

Visitation with family was Sunday, Dec. 14, at the Brackettville Funeral Home Chapel.

Funeral services were held on Monday, Dec. 15, at the Brackettville Church of Christ with Ray Melton officiating. Interment followed at the Kinney County Cemetery.

Pallbearers were David Sprott, John Jones, Stephen Laman, John David Laman, James Burks, Zack Davis, Lloyd Lee Davis, and Jimmy Bader.

Arrangements were under the direction of the Del Rio Funeral Home, dba Brackettville Funeral Home, 114 North Street.

City employees set to host Community Unity Sunday

Brackettville will host its Fourth Annual Community Unity on Sunday from 6 to 9 p.m. at City Hall.

City Secretary David Luna said the idea was introduced to the Brackettville City Council in efforts to unite the community. The project is organized by the city employees.

"There's people that usually don't visit or see each other through the year," Luna said. "When they meet here on the grounds, if they haven't seen each other for a while, they talk and have a good time."

Luna said he believes this year's event will be better than the three previous years.

"It always gets bigger and better," he said.

"It always gets bigger and better."

City Secretary David Luna

As of Wednesday morning, the city employees had collected \$2,900 in donations from different organizations, businesses and individuals. Luna said he hoped the project would meet its goal of \$3,000 by Wednesday afternoon.

Six choirs, including five local church choirs, will sing Christmas carols at the event, where hot dogs and hot chocolate will be served and toys will be given to the children.



City Secretary David Luna, left, accepts a donation from Margo Lopez-Baker, center, and Joe Hardin of Central Power and Light for Sunday's Community Unity. The project is organized by the city employees. Photo Special to The Brackett News

Data collection complete for 911 services

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council's 911 regional planning services has recently completed the collection of rural addressing data for all areas in the 15,000-square-mile region.

Bill Barnes, director of the 911 Regional Planning Department, said the collection of data was the final piece of the rural addressing puzzle.

"Now we can begin the editing process to insure that the data is current and correct," Barnes said.

Forrest Anderson, 911 coordinator, said, "We are hopeful that we will have map products for each of the nine counties and three of the larger cities by early spring."

The addressing data is the culmination of

almost seven years of work by the Middle Rio Grande Development Council's 911 staff.

Every road and each occupied structure located outside the corporate limits of a city was identified and given a unique address, with the help of the county judges and Commissioners Courts from each of the nine counties in the region.

The nine counties that make up the Middle Rio Grande Development Council service region are Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde, and Zavala.

"Our goal has always been to improve the safety of the public in rural Southwest Texas," Barnes said. "Once we have finished this project, the rural residents of our region will

have better access to emergency services."

The project has been partially funded by the 50-cent 911 fee paid by telephone subscribers within the region.

"The service charge covered about 60 percent of the cost of the project," Barnes said. "We still had to apply to the state for the remaining 40 percent."

"There is still much more to do," he said. "We still have to maintain and upgrade several million dollars worth of 911 call taking equipment within the region."

Anderson said, "There will always be another task, project or undertaking for us to face, but it is nice to have a project with the magnitude of the rural addressing project nearly completed."

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, December 9

8:20 p.m.. A Brackettville man asked for assistance at his residence on Beaumont Street because he was having some trouble with his wife. Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess was dispatched to the scene At 8:35, the sheriff said "everything was OK."

Wednesday, December 10

7:07 p.m.. Officials received a 911 call requesting an ambulance at the Church of Christ. Kinney County EMS personnel were dispatched to the scene.

8:00 p.m.. A woman called 911 to report that her daughter was being choked by her husband. The woman said she was locked in her bathroom at her residence on Bat

Cave and Park Lane. The dispatcher noticed that the call came from a 651 area code. After calling the operator, the dispatcher called the Comal County Sheriff's Department and relayed the report.

Thursday, December 11

3:35 p.m.. Officials from the Real County Sheriff's Department requested assistance in stopping a red GMC pickup on Highway 334 and Highway 55. Officials said the vehicle was stolen in either Real or Uvalde counties. Sheriff Burgess was dispatched to the location but did not see the vehicle.

9:35 p.m.. A railroad detective reported a woman pushing a baby carriage on Highway 90 by Little Perdido, west of Brackettville. Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism was

dispatched to the scene. Chism said the subject was a male with a homemade cart and a duffle bag. The man was turned over to Border Patrol officials.

Friday, December 12

6:05 p.m.. A Brackettville man reported a dead deer at the weather station. Kinney County Game Warden Henry Lutz was notified.

Sunday, December 14

4:13 a.m.. A Brackettville woman called from her cellular phone to report an accident. The woman said her and her husband were coming from Eagle Pass to Brackettville on Highway 131. She said she swerved to avoid hitting a deer and ran into a fence on the side of the highway, eight miles

from the Maverick-Kinney county line. She said there were no injuries but the two back tires were both blown out. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He said the two Brackettville residents were going to get a ride back into town with family members. Officials notified the Maverick County Sheriff's Department about the accident.

7:15 a.m.. A Brackettville man called to report that he had removed a deer from in front of a Kinney County ranch on Highway 90, east of Brackettville.

5:03 p.m.. A Brackettville man said that he saw a man on the ground at the rest area on Highway 90, east of Brackettville. Chief Deputy Sheriff Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene. The subject was a missing person from San Antonio. The man was picked up by his family the next morning.

7:15 p.m.. A Brackettville woman reported that someone had hit a deer on Highway 90, 15 miles east of Brackettville. Chief Deputy Fritter was notified.

Monday, December 15

9:16 a.m.. A Kinney County man requested the game warden's assistance in taking care of a deer that had just been hit by a car and was trying to get up and run. He said the deer was located one mile north of Spofford. The game warden was notified.

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Perez earns all-state honors

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

After completing its first-ever season of cross country competition last month, Brackett High School has had one of its runners earn all-state honors.

Senior Samantha Perez was selected to the Texas Track and Field News' All-State cross country team, which was released last week.

"It was a surprise," Perez said of her recent honors. "I didn't expect it. I was excited about the whole season. It was a great experience."

In her first season, Perez broke the District 30-2A meet record after running the two-mile race in 12:20 at the league competition.

Perez went on to win the gold at the Region IV-2A meet after being clocked at 12:27. At the state competition, she finished in ninth.

"Samantha is very deserving," Brackett cross country coach Julie Bruce said. "She is very dedicated and she has a great work ethic."

"I was real happy when the school decided to add cross country as a sport. I think it provides a lot of benefits for all of the participants."

Samantha Perez

Perez helped the Tigerettes win the District 30-2A team title. The Tigers took second place at the conference meet.

"I was real happy when the school decided to add cross country as a sport," Perez said. "I think it provides a lot of benefits for all of the participants."

Dilley won the District 30-2A boys title. The Wolves had two runners -- Rey Soto and Henry Esqueda -- named to the all-state cross country team.



SAMANTHA PEREZ

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council would like to inform the public that its offices will be closed from December 19, 1997 through January 4, 1998 for Christmas holidays.

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J.V. falls short in consolation championship

EAGLE PASS — The Brackett Tigers' J.V. lost to the hometown Eagles 26-15 Saturday in the consolation finals of the Eagle Pass tournament.

Jacob Mann scored six points to lead the Tigers (1-4). Jacob Hughes and Steven Hagler both had four, and Daniel Hernandez added one.

In the second round, the Tigers edged Crystal City, 43-41.

Hughes finished with 14 points, Hagler scored 10, Mann had eight, Damian Toms scored five, Hernandez had four, and Eric Allen had two.

Brackett opened the tournament with a 44-30 loss to Carrizo Springs.

Mann led the way with 10 points, Hughes scored seven, Toms had four, Allen and Hughes both had three, Hernandez scored two, and Brian Collier added one.

Tigerettes take consolation title

UVALDE — The Brackett Tigerettes edged the La Pryor Lady Bulldogs 38-37 Saturday in the consolation championship at the 38th Annual Southwest Texas Junior College Invitational basketball tournament at La Forge Hall.

La Toya Wright scored 13 points and Patty Lopez had 10 as the Tigerettes evened their overall record at 5-5.

Lindsey Brotherton finished with eight points against La Pryor, Jennifer Ashabanner scored four, Laura Lee Ballew had two, and Hilda Aguirre chipped in one.

Brackett advanced to the consolation finals after routing Asherton, 50-17, in the second round.

Brotherton and Wright both scored 10 against Asherton, Ballew and Lopez had eight apiece, Aguirre and Samantha Payne each scored four, Ashabanner had three, Tricia Robinson scored two, and Stephanie Terrazas made a free throw.

The Tigerettes' only loss in the tournament was a 44-22 decision to the Rocksprings Lady Angoras in the opening round.

Brotherton had eight points against Rocksprings, Lopez scored five, Aguirre had four, Wright scored three, and Ashabanner had two.

Trojans top Tigers for seventh place

UVALDE — The Asherton Trojans built a 47-18 halftime lead en route to a 79-47 win over the Brackett Tigers Saturday in the seventh place final at the 38th Annual Southwest Texas Junior College Invitational basketball tournament at La Forge Hall.

Asherton led 20-11 after the opening stanza and then outscored Brackett 27-7 in the second period to take a 29-point advantage at intermission.

Brent Woelke scored 18 points to pace the Tigers, who are 2-9

on the season.

Demitreus Williams finished the contest with eight points, Luis Guajardo and Phillip Juarez each scored six, Coty Williams had four, Rene Luna and Schiller Hill had two apiece, and Xavier Toms pitched in one.

In the semifinals, Brackett dropped a 53-41 decision to the Leakey Eagles.

Guajardo and Woelke both had 10 points against Leakey, Juarez scored six, Coty Williams and Caleb Crumley had four apiece,

Toms scored three, and Luna and Demitreus Williams both had two.

The Tigers opened the tournament with a 49-30 loss to the Rocksprings Angoras.

Matthew Smallwood was the leading scorer for Brackett with seven points, Guajardo and Hill both had six, Toms and Woelke had three apiece, Luna and Demitreus Williams each scored two, and Juarez added one.

OUTDOORS

Prime hunting prospects may surface in big game awards

AUSTIN — Wildlife officials are predicting outstanding hunting prospects around the state this fall, with above-average range conditions contributing to healthy wildlife populations.

While the optimistic predictions don't guarantee the game animals and hunters will cross paths afield, one way to measure hunter success is through the Texas Parks and Wildlife's (TPW) Texas Big Game Awards program.

The Big Game Awards program was created to recognize the importance of habitat and wildlife population management as essential to the welfare of wildlife resources of Texas.

The program entered its seventh season with the beginning of archery season Sept. 27 and is co-sponsored by TPW, Texas Wildlife Association (TWA), Carter's Country outdoor stores, and Hixon Land and Cattle Company.

Last year's contest drew 1,021 entries, including 619 white-tailed deer, 58 mule deer and 63 pronghorn antelope in the scored entry categories, and another 281 entries in the first big game harvest category.

Eight regional banquets are held each year to honor the top typical and non-typical white-tailed and mule deer, as well as antelope and first big game harvest entries.

The best animals statewide in each category are honored at the TWA annual banquet in San Antonio.

"Judging by current range conditions, there should be plenty of quality animals out there," said Bryan Richards, Texas Big Game Awards coordinator.

"I'd guess there are some really good bucks that were passed

A Little On The Wildlife Side

By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

over last year because the drought kept them from reaching their full potential for antler development. Animals like these could not be produced without the habitat management efforts of landowners and managers, and we could see the fruits of their efforts this year."

The Big Game Awards program not only recognizes landowner management success, but also encourages participation by young and new hunters.

"The game animal doesn't have to be big to qualify," Richards said. "Legally taken animals of either sex are eligible and many first time big game hunters in Texas take does or small bucks that are trophies of the hunting experience."

Richards said he hopes the award makes new hunters aware that they are involved in stewardship of wildlife. He added the award honors a new hunter's role in the management of game animals and hunting.

"Some hunters may have hunted for years before they actually bagged a big game animal," Richards said. "Taking that first animal is a real accomplishment."

"Other hunters may be new to the state and will have harvested their first Texas antelope, mule deer or whitetail this season."

There is no age limit and both young and old hunters who take their first big game animals are eligible.

Entry into the program is wide open to wild-reared native white-

tailed deer, mule deer and pronghorn antelope that are legally harvested in Texas during the current year's hunting season.

The program will recognize the quality of the animal, the hunter, the land manager or owner upon whose property the animal was taken (optional), and hunters harvesting their first big game animal in Texas.

All scoring is based upon Boone & Crockett Club guidelines utilizing net green scores.

Entries must be scored by a Texas Big Game Awards certified scorer. Almost 400 certified scorers are available statewide.

Entry into the ranked listing requires hunters to complete and sign an entry form and certified score sheet. Entries must meet minimum scores for the region of harvest.

Deadline for all entries (scored and first big game harvest) is Feb. 15, 1998.

Eight regions have been established for white-tailed deer, two for mule deer, and three for pronghorn antelope.

Minimum entry scores for white-tailed deer vary with each region, ranging from 125-140 for typical and 140-155 non-typical. Minimum score for mule deer are 145 typical and 160 non-typical. Pronghorn antelope must score at least 70.

For more information, contact TPWD headquarters at 1 (800) 792-1112, (512) 389-4505 or TPWD offices across the state.



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Ford discusses keys to controlling your temper

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

President John Ford addressed the Brackettville Rotary Club last Thursday. He chose a topic that is particularly appropriate for this time of the year.

With all the hectic activities that are clustered into the holiday season, and all the many tasks to be done, it's easy to feel continually stressed.

Then, when something goes wrong, it's also easy to lose your composure. As Ford put it, "Your ears turn red and you're likely to blow."

He decided to share with the club members a way he learned to hold your temper -- be patient and consider the emotions of others before you act.

This is a great remedy, but how does one do it?

First, consider your state of mind when, suddenly, you find your ears getting red, Ford said.

When you are in charge of something, or doing something you think you understand, you feel like an authority. You think you are the one that knows exactly what should be done, but wait a minute.

What about the person with whom you're dealing? They may not see things the same way. What

about their emotions and their feelings?

To work effectively with other people, you have to consider their side of things. You must condition yourself to handle things in a more effective way, and that isn't easy.

Starting from the very center. Who are you? Are you a dictator or are you someone who is more considerate and gets results because the people under you want to do their best?

From the center of your being, think of yourself as a coach -- one who teaches and inspires.

Ford spoke about a man who was a chef. He was in charge of a large staff and responsible to serve such beautiful meals that people would be drawn to the restaurant and want to return.

If you're really good at what you do, you are a perfectionist.

Being a chef is an extremely stressful job. You are surrounded with people who must perform their own task as well as function as a team. Things are constantly changing and emergencies arising.

The chef recounted a time when he had a large number of people due at a certain time for an important occasion and meal.

On the highway leading to the restaurant, however, an accident occurred that made the road impassable. The appointed hour ar-



Rotary Club President John Ford, left, presented an appreciation gift to Bonnie Goulla for her many years of service to the club at last week's meeting.

Photo by Eric McMaster

rived and left with no guests arriving.

When they did get there, it was much later than expected. The intricate timing involved with producing such a meal proved useless.

The chef realized if he allowed this to upset him, he couldn't ef-

fectively cope with it.

Probably the most important lesson he learned when this happened is that he couldn't insist on perfection at this point.

If he sent all the guests away and asked them to return later when he has had time to straighten things up, they'll probably not re-

turn. He must let go the expectations of perfection.

What is more important? The answer was to concentrate on the food and not expect perfection of the little things that made the meal pleasing to the eye.

How does one achieve this kind of capability? Start at the beginning.

It is essential that you, as the one at the top -- the chef -- become the coach.

Before anything else, let your help know what is expected in the job. If you expect perfection, make that clear.

Start at the assistant chefs. Let them talk to those under them, but you need to do this too. The information needed is trickling down. Don't neglect anyone, even the busboy.

When occasions come along that cause tension, take off and go for a walk as soon as you can.

It helps if it is something physical. If you can go play handball or hit some golf balls, that's fine. That's why many executives have small putting greens in their office.

If you're really angry, get it out by whamming a golf ball on the

course or driving range. You can even imagine the ball with a face on it.

Discharging your anger in an effective way is essential. Remember, a temporary change of environment works wonders.

This chef found that if he tried merely to manage the kitchen, that caused him anxiety. He found he felt better if he cooked something.

Create an environment that is peaceful. Even in the hectic restaurant there was a garden area. He and his staff learned to enjoy small pleasures like picking fresh vegetables after work for the following day.

Dealing with differences before they become a large problem is essential. Talk it out.

Has the person who is not performing been informed of what is expected of him or her? This is a crucial factor.

No matter what the situation, interacting with the person, asking for his input, and becoming clear on the requirements is more effective than losing your temper and upsetting everyone.

Anyone will work better and try to please when they've been treated with understanding.

Sorority News

Schroeder hosts Theta Sigma Chapter's Christmas party

Molly Schroeder spent many hours planning and decorating and cooking as she hosted a Christmas party for the Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi on Monday.

Sixteen members arrived at the party with a beautifully wrapped secret sister gift in one hand and a delicious salad in the other.

Schroeder had a beautiful table set in the corner to receive the gifts. It really seemed that Santa had arrived.

The food serving table was soon filled with each member's favorite salad, and Schroeder filled the beautiful punch bowl with her happy holiday punch. Wonderful holiday deserts were served from

a table in the kitchen.

Following the meal, the gifts were given to each member. Luella Gilliland was extremely busy taking pictures of each member as she opened her gift and expressed her surprise to learn who that wonderful secret sister was that gave her gifts all year.

"That is what I call an extremely successful Christmas party, with laughter and good friends gathered to celebrate our friendship and happy holiday spirit," one member said.

All but two members were present at the party. They were out of town.

Beta Sigma Phi honors Gaston

Beta Sigma Phi honored former member Dee Gaston with a luncheon last Friday at Las Moras Inn.

Gaston and her husband, Bob, were residents of Fort Clark Springs for five and one-half years and were active in the community.

Bob was involved in the Men's Golf League and tournament committee, while Dee served as an officer for the Mountain Laurel Garden Club and the Fort Clark Architectural Committee and is

past president of the Theta Sigma chapter of Beta Sigma Phi.

The Gastons now call Carlsbad, N.M., home but still have many friends and fond memories of Fort Clark Springs.

Those attending the luncheon were Bobbie Waddill, Luella Gilliland, Ann Hibler, Pat McKelvy, Molly Schroeder, Pat Parks, Shirley Hadsell, Jan Chism, Dee Curry, Eileen Voracek, Nancy Ferich, Vicki Bell and Jean Land.

WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS

May that jolly old 'gent bring you the most wonderful holiday season ever! Warmest Greetings from:

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Christmas Memories

As we experience the warmth and wonder of this festive season, may all that is Christmas embrace you and yours.

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JORGE & SABRINA RODRIGUEZ & EMPLOYEES

Francis Henry French was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 27, 1857. Deeply impressed from his youth by the stirring deeds and stories told by veterans of the Civil War, he realized his ambition for a military career by entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he graduated 12th from the Class of 1879. He was assigned as 2nd Lt. of "E" Company 19th Infantry and came West. Following service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the regiment moved to Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, where Lt. French was detailed as the Regimental Adjutant. In December of 1882, the 19th Infantry was posted to Fort Clark.

At Fort Clark, on January 1, 1883, Lt. French began diaries, which he faithfully maintained for the next 30 years.

Friday, December 18, 1885

Only one week to Christmas. The mail was late this morning. Sat around in the office and at Capt. Vance's waiting for it. It came about 11 o'clock and brought a letter and bundle of papers from home and two O.B.'s one containing three cases for the General Court. Completed some vouchers which were in one of the O.B.'s and prepared them to be sent to the Chief Quartermaster to complete my accounts as Q.M. at Brown. Orderly reported for duty with the Court. After instructing him went down to the guard house to examine the prisoners. They intend to plead not guilty to most of the charges and will make a lot of work. Had to jump them as they are inclined to be disrespectful. After lunch went over with Farber to "E" Troop to examine witnesses. This Troop has some very insubordinate men and ought to be cleaned out. Went to the guard house afterwards to examine a sentry. Then worked a little on the proceedings, studied French and read Draper until retreat. There was no dress parade today. After dinner took a short walk and then spent the evening at Vernou's playing whist. Read Draper after the whist.

Saturday, December 19, 1885

Mail had nothing for me this morning. Am looking for a letter from Harry Rhoads with bill for Christmas presents. Marched on guard this morning for Kendall who is to take my tour in a day or two. Returned to quarters after guard mounting to change blouses and to get some reading matter. Spent the day in reading the papers from home and Draper's book, going to lunch at noon. Read Draper and dozed until after midnight when Officer of the Day inspected. Sent Christmas cards today by mail to Grandmother, Lizzie, Marie Gorgas and Helen Giddings. Farber very kindly took them over to the post office to have them weighed so as to put the proper stamps on them. These cards came yesterday from San Antonio and were selected by Hewitt who paid for them and sent them up by Mr. Mahon of Brackett.

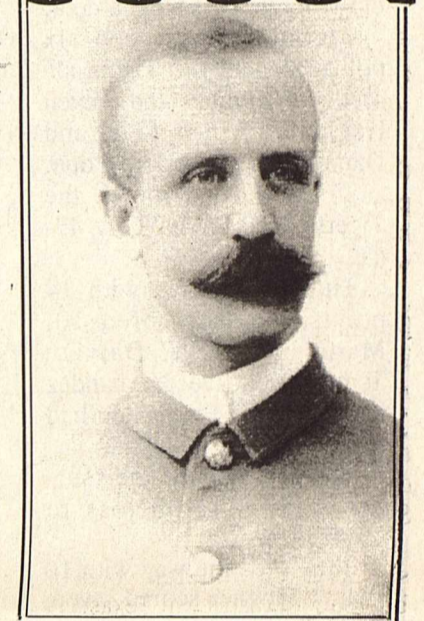
Sunday, December 20, 1885

A letter came this morning from Capt. Hennisee in which he writes that Miss Mamie

FOOTSTEPS ECHO

The Fort Clark Diaries and Letters of Major General Francis Henry French

Courtesy of his descendants



Cummings is engaged to be married to an Engineer officer. Hope she has done well. Cunningham relieved me at guard mounting. Went to the office a while and then shaved and took a bath. Vernou and King came in a while before lunch. After this meal wrote usual letter home and sent Christmas greeting. Then took a long walk to get up an appetite for dinner. Capt. Vance being Officer of the Day, took the calls and excused me. After dinner Kendall came in and sat for a long time talking so that it was impossible to go to church. He is a bright man and a good talker and I always enjoy a chat with him. Read the Bible after he left.

Monday, December 21, 1885

Mail brought a letter from home, a big one, which shows that Mattie was not expected until this week. At ten o'clock the General Court reconvened to try three men of "E" Troop, all of them "plug-uglies" and to be tried for disorderly conduct. Finished one case and the prosecution of the second case when the Court adjourned at three o'clock to meet tomorrow morning at ten. Also had a recess of half an hour at noon for lunch. The scoundrels are fighting hard and making lots of work for me. Before lunch received a telegram from George that Sue had given birth to a daughter and that both were doing well. May God grant her long life and prosperity, and help Sue & George to bring her up in the right way. As soon as the Court adjourned went over to town to send message of congratulations. Went into Capt. Vance's at noon. Wrote on the proceedings after sending the message until retreat. No more dress parades until the New Year. After dinner walked with Mrs. Lyster and Mrs. Gillmore and enjoyed a good talk with the latter. Took the book of French plays to Mrs. Lyster's and she read a little. We want her to join the "Cercle Francais" but she hesitates on account of timidity. She reads fairly well, better a good deal than Dr. Town. Spent the rest of the evening at Capt. Vance's reading the play and then looked on a game of checkers at King's until bedtime. Father and Mother are grandparents for the first time and I an uncle.

Tuesday, December 22, 1885

Mail had nothing but an O.B. for me this morning. After breakfast heard that Dr. Maddox had been killed by Indians in New Mexico and Lt. Cabell, 8th Cav'y. wounded. This is terrible news for Maddox was such a promising

young man and so would have made his mark in his profession. Went into Capt. Vance's to read a letter about this, that he had received from San Antonio. Maddox was so well known and popular here that his death is felt to be a personal loss. Went over to the Library to look over the papers for a while and then planted a little ivy that Kendall got from home. We planted it at both ends of the new building to which it will be a great addition when completed. The Court met at ten o'clock and sat until near half past two, completing the remaining cases. A recess of three quarters of an hour was taken at noon for lunch. Played checkers with King and wrote on proceedings after adjournment, and played a few games of cards with King until retreat. Took a stroll after dinner up the line and made an engagement to escort Mrs. Gillmore to the school entertainment tonight. Went into Mrs. Lyster's to arrange about the meeting of the "Cercle Francais" this evening, but she refused to attend. Towle was there. Think like Capt. Vance that he has influenced her. Shall never ask her to join this or any other club. Just before seven o'clock escorted Mrs. Gillmore over to the Hall, where a very pretty and interesting entertainment was given by the larger children who compose Miss Saunders' school. This lasted until tattoo, when Dr. Town, Capt. Vance and I met at Mrs. Gillmore's and read a little French but spent most of the time looking at some books and papers that came as part of Mrs. Gillmore's Christmas this morning. Enjoyed the evening as usual. Read Draper a while after returning.

Wednesday, December 23, 1885

Mail had nothing for me this morning. After breakfast wrote letter to a London house for a catalogue of travelling bags and then wrote usual letter home. After lunch worked steadily until retreat on proceedings of Court and did not finish the first case. After dinner went into Col. Lyster's to inform him about this so as to avoid a meeting of the Court tomorrow to read over the proceedings as was contemplated. Then took a short walk by myself. Afterwards called on Major and Mrs. Witherell. Have not seen the latter since her return. She is fleshier than I ever saw her before. Then called until tattoo at Gen. Smith's. Mrs. Hall was there part of the time. Asked for Miss Saunders and congratulated her on the successful entertainment. After tattoo

sat in King's house talking and played a few games of chess there with Farber. Read Draper a little before retiring.

Thursday, December 24, 1885

Today like yesterday has been quite warm. No mail again for me this morning. After guard mounting walked over to town to see if my Christmas had come and met the express wagon on its way to the post. Returned and spent the time while waiting for it, playing piquet at Hammond's and over at the office. My Christmas consisted of two packages and was soon opened. The first is a beautiful silk umbrella. The second was a basket containing a beautiful picture by Sue, a study of field daisies, some neckties, gloves, handkerchiefs, photographs of Father, Mary and Kate Freeman, handsome table cover that Lula made me, a card, inkstand and tray from Grandmother, a big fruit cake, boxes of salt tarts, nuts and candy and some apples, altogether a most acceptable basket. The inkstand and tray are of hammered brass and glass and make a beautiful ornament for the table. King and Farber came in to help dispose of some of the eatables after lunch. Played piquet at Hammond's afterwards. Completed the first set of proceedings of the General Court before retreat. In the evening went to a Christmas tree for all the children at the post hall. It was a nice affair and there was a present for every child. Mrs. Morris left before the exercises were over, so escorted her home and then returned to the hall. Went home with Mrs. Hall after the affair and sat there talking until near tattoo. Felt vexed with Hall for the way he treats his wife. He doesn't seem to realize it, but she shows her feelings plainly. She is a noble woman with very fine sensibilities and his remarks hurt her more than she would care to admit. Spent a few minutes before tattoo at Capt. Vance's. After the call read Draper and dozed in the big chair. Assisted at hall in decorating after the piquet and then bought a box of cigars at the Commissary as a present for George my striker.

First United Methodist Church sponsors local Girl Scout troops



Members of Daisy Troop No. 150 are, from left: Lori Schuster, Dulce Rodriguez, Elena Molinar, Stefani Schuster (standing), Bernadette Garza, Elida Molinar, Emily Schuster, Emily Fuentes and Stephanie York. Photo Special to The Brackett News

The First United Methodist Church is sponsoring Daisy Troop No. 152 and Brownie Troop No. 166 this year.

The leaders of the troops are Lori Schuster, Stephanie York, Kathryn Letsinger and Jill Woodson.

The troops began meeting in October and meet once a week in Slator Hall.

At their weekly meetings, the girls learn about themselves, their country, God, and the world.

The members of the two troops officially received their pins and uniforms and participated in a lighting and flag ceremony on Dec. 2.

The girls prepared Slator Hall for their parents and prepared themselves by learning the Girl Scout Promise and their parts in the ceremonies.

All five troops in Brackettville recently completed a community service project together, decorating the Civic Center for the an-



Members of Brownie Troop No. 166 are, bottom row, from left: Lisa Gass, Katie Braesicke, Natalie Aguirre, Miranda Letsinger and Sarah Gonzales. Middle row: Rebecca Mann, Valerie Davis, Stefani Schuster and Bianca Terrazas. Top row: Kathryn Letsinger and Jill Woodson. Photo Special to The Brackett News

nual Thanksgiving meal sponsored by Val Verde Home Nurses. Each of the troops was given a plaque of appreciation by Joe Castro of Val Verde Home Nurses.

Year ends with several school projects

The Brackett School District will end 1997 with some special projects going on.

The rubber has been delivered for the all-weather track. I expect this project to commence this week.

The change in the location on the tennis courts has slowed that project some, but the successful bidder will be in Brackettville this week to look over the new site.

We're also reworking our steel building at the Alternative School site. We're trying to work it into a repair shop for school buses.

We have advertised in our search for an architect for the academic wing at Brackett High School.

We're working each day to insure that our children go to the best school district in Texas.

Christmas Activities

Folks seem to be getting the Christmas Spirit. Last Sunday was a busy day with our church cantata, the Christmas Tour of Homes and the Fort Clark Voices' con-

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

By Taylor Stephenson, BISD Superintendent

cert. On the Christmas Tour, the homes were outstanding this year. Each was unique and had special qualities.

About 125 people from our local area took the time to enjoy the homes. We'll be back next year with another great tour.

The Fort Clark Voices are ably directed by Lynn McNew and accompanied by Cathy Conrey. There are some fine singers in the choir.

The music was fun to do this year. I watched folks' faces during the performance, and they enjoyed what went on. The spirit of Christmas was alive and well at the Post Theater.

The school band concert was another outstanding event. There

were Christmas songs of every type played by this well-rehearsed band.

Thanks Hector Jimenez, Roxanne Gonzalez and band members for a job well done.

A Bit of Fun

As I left the Voices' concert Sunday night, I noticed a dollar bill on the sidewalk.

No one was around, so I knelt to pick up the quick dollar - would be the fastest buck I ever made!

As I reached to pick up the dollar, it moved fast into the darkness.

Then I noticed a couple of youngsters were running as fast as they could with a string tied onto the dollar bill.

The joke was on me. It was refreshing to see this prank that is probably 50 to 100 years old.

It still works! Maybe you have to find a gullible soul before it works. I don't know.

Here's to you boys - I had a good laugh.

Spanish Class

The Spanish class has about 60 interested folks. That's enough for a couple of classes.

So, if you missed this one, maybe next time. We will give more information after the first of the year.

I feel that we will have one session a week on two separate nights. We'll have about 30 in each class.

We'll try to start the second or third week in January. I'll have more later.

That's about it. We're having a good week at BISD. I hope that you are.

Christmas is just a week away. Take a tour and enjoy the great lights of Brackettville.

Telephone users reject ELC plan

Continued from Page 1
59 percent, were returned, according to Linda Hymans of the Public Utility Commission.

"It's a shame it didn't pass," Alderman Wes Robinson said. "It would have been good for the community, and businesses as well."

Of the three exchanges, Del Rio was the closest to passing with a 60.1 percentage approval, including 489 votes for and 324 against.

For Uvalde, 55.5 percent of the vote was in favor, with 441 votes for and 353 against, and only 48.1 percent of the votes favored Eagle Pass, with 372 for and 401 against. Gomez pointed out that 813 out

of the 814 ballots returned voted on the Del Rio exchange, and only 794 customers voted on Eagle Pass and 773 on Uvalde.

"Based on the numbers, I don't think people really understood how it worked," Gomez said. "People should have voted either all yes or all no on the three exchanges. The cost would have stayed the same if only one passed or if all three passed."

Gomez said telephone customers may see the ELC issue again in Kinney County.

"We have to wait 18 months before we can start the petitioning process again," he added.

Thanksgiving Dinner '97

Robert Garza and the staff of Val Verde Home Nurses, Inc. would like to announce the huge success of the Third Annual Kinney County Thanksgiving Dinner. There has been a continuous increase of attendance each year. This year, approximately 450 dinners were either served or delivered to the home-bound during the event, enabling many senior citizens and physically challenged residents to enjoy a full Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings.

Val Verde Home Nurses, Inc. would like to take this opportunity to thank the following merchants for their generous door prize donations and monetary contributions: Burger N Shake, Del Rio Bank & Trust, Fort Clark Springs Restaurant, Gift Box, Jean's Nash Dry Goods, Casual's Plus, Mi Lady's Hair Salon, Old Arbor Restaurant, Pico's, Rich's Restaurant & Club, Rory's Video Review, Shorty's Cafe, Stop N Shop, Sunshine Garden Center, Super S Foods, and the Tumbleweed Pub & Sandwich Shop.

In addition, Val Verde Home Nurses, Inc. would like to acknowledge the following individuals and organizations for helping with table decorations and setting up for the event: Albert Payne, Michael Tharp, three fourth grade classes of Mitte E. Jones Elementary, Daisy Troop No. 150, Brownie Troop No. 162, Brownie Troop No. 166, Junior Brownie Troop No. 165, and Junior Brownie Troop No. 154.

The Kinney County Aging Center and their staff deserve special recognition for their hard work in planning and cooking the meals for the past three years. Staff members and volunteers include Maryn McIntire, Pat Gass, Candy Gonzalez, Felipa Avila, Lydia Resendez, Lee McIntire, and Brenda Gass. Every year, the Kinney County Aging Center goes out of their way to make the event a joy for everyone.

On a final note, we would like to recognize Father Joseph Cashin of St. Mary Magdalene Church, the City of Brackettville, Kinney County Commissioners Court, and the following city and county dignitaries who took time from their busy schedules to contribute: Carmen Berlanga, mayor; David Luna, city manager; Faustino (Lingo) Sandoval, city fire marshal; Dora Elia Sandoval, county and district clerk; Martha P. Hooten, county tax assessor-collector; and Janis Floyd, county treasurer.

Robert Garza and the staff of Val Verde Home Nurses, Inc. would like to thank everyone who celebrated with us, and extend an invitation for those and others to attend next year's dinner. We look forward to serving you again in November 1998.

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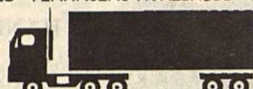
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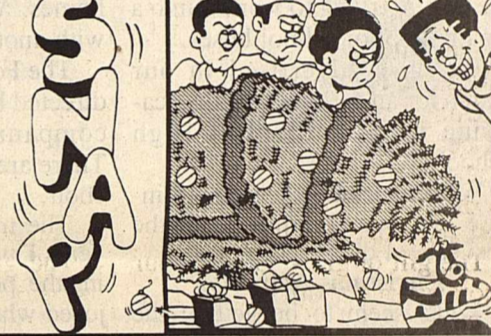
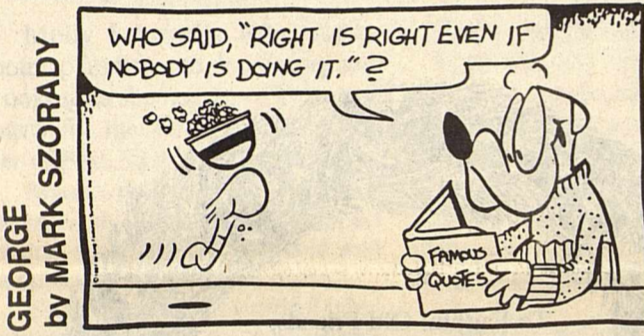
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Super Crossword

- | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| ACROSS | Informally | 90 Dorothy Sayers sleuth | 5 Until now | 44 Outmoded jacket | 77 "Gettysburg" role |
| 1 Cobra's kin | 52 "Xanadu" rockers | 92 Subordinate | 6 Hot air | 45 Yalie | 78 Resided |
| 6 Monsieur Le Pew | 53 Put on | 93 Short jacket | 7 Vacation sensation | 46 Admitted, with "up" | 79 Granola fruit |
| 10 Puppeteer Baird | 54 Conflict sites | 94 Hosp. personnel | 8 Elbow | 47 Correggio subject | 81 Versa lead-in |
| 14 Dregs | 55 "Strangers — Train" | 95 Vassal's allegiance | 9 Browning's bedtime? | 48 Hairpiece | 82 Dreamer's initials |
| 18 Oklahoma natives | 56 Tal — (martial art) | 99 Peck part | 10 Soft-soap | 49 Palindromic preposition | 84 TV term |
| 19 Seldom seen | 57 Beg in a bonfire | 101 Icelandic epic | 11 Muscat native | 56 Roller-coaster unit | 85 Show off |
| 20 NYSE rival | 59 Ernst or Headroom | 105 "Vanity Fair" character | 12 Taylor of "Daddy Dearest" | 88 Zones | 89 Sweep and scour |
| 21 Plastic alternative | 60 Stroke's implement | 107 Fix one's wagon | 13 Make budget cuts? | 91 Rolls | 93 Custodian of a sort |
| 23 Eric Stanley Gardner sleuth | 62 Patriotic org. | 112 John Dickson Carr sleuth | 14 Ubiquitous songbird | 95 Witches | 96 Excludes |
| 25 Agatha Christie | 63 Temper | 114 Mickey Spillane sleuth | 15 Public official | 97 Euripidean tragedy | 98 On guard |
| 27 Beseeched | 64 Herman Cyril McNeille | 116 Miley Spillane sleuth | 16 Increased Hills | 99 Have one's doubts | 100 Dark |
| 28 Good place for a dip? | 69 Maestro Lorin Low digit | 115 Unyielding | 17 Free-for-all | 102 "That felt good!" | 103 Thyroid or pituitary |
| 29 Ms. Sorkin (Initials) | 72 Coupe group? | 117 "Moon — Miami" colleague | 22 Cleave | 104 Actress Anouk | 107 Bank of France? |
| 30 Working hard | 73 Nighties | 118 Must-haves | 24 Actress Zetterling | 108 Gets by, with "out" | 109 "Right on!" |
| 31 Hilarious Hardy | 76 Krebs' sleuth | 119 HS ordeals | 26 San —, Calif. singer | 110 Mack and Kennedy | 111 Highland tongue |
| 32 Exchanged | 77 Ford model | 120 Eight bits | 28 "Crazy" sleuth | 113 Super, for short | 114 Storm |
| 33 Impresario Hurok | 78 Banned pesticide | 121 Ms. Myerson | 31 1970 World's Fair site | | |
| 36 Dog star? | 80 Word of cheer | 122 Lummoxlite | 33 "Get outta here!" | | |
| 39 Corporate VIP | 83 Ages | | 34 Butler's belle | | |
| 40 Earl Derr Biggers sleuth | 84 Center of gravity? | | 35 Paint type | | |
| 44 Rex Stout sleuth | 85 Nail a gnat | | 37 Harmony | | |
| 50 Allowance | 86 Silverware city | | 38 Steer clear of scholar? | | |
| 51 Salad vegetable, | 87 Ross Macdonald sleuth | | 39 — Tin Tin Walker | | |
| | | | 42 Mauna — | | |
| | | | 43 Shoe sections | | |

MAGIC MAZE

— SAW

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Band	Coping	Gang	Musical
Bow	Crosscut	Hack	Rip
Buzz	Crown	Hand	Scroll
Circular	Fret	Jig	

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You are in somewhat of a rut on the job and need to find ways to stimulate your creativity. A family member doesn't comprehend your views. Tend to domestic concerns this weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unexpected household expense catches you by surprise, but it's a minor one. Someone you deal with this week is unsympathetic and crude. Warmth and understanding rule this weekend in romance.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) An inconsiderate friend has you cooling your heels as you wait for this person early in the week. Don't let this interfere with all your plans for the week. The situation improves as time goes on.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) No matter how hard you try, delays and mix-ups are the order of the week. Try not to let too much frustration build up. Chalk this up to "just one of those weeks."

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Despite all your efforts, your hands are tied in a particular work situation. By the same token, another project goes smoothly. A co-worker pitches in to help.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Your misgivings about a friendship are warranted, but try not to be too judgmental. In romance, it's a time of heightened rapport and understanding. A financial delay occurs later in the week.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Someone unexpectedly does a favor for you at work. Advice received is so contradictory, you find you must rely on your own thoughts. Tune your inner ear to your intuition this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to



November 21) Indecision and uncertainty mark the early part of the week. Some find that children bring unexpected responsibilities. Special joy comes through artistic endeavors this weekend.

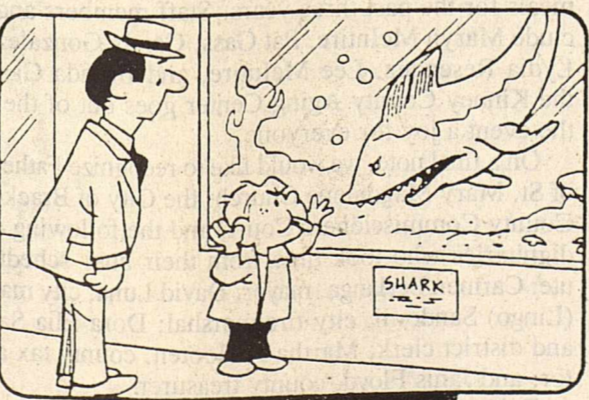
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You are called upon to shoulder additional responsibilities on the home front. A family member doesn't see eye to eye with you about one of your plans. The weekend is made special by a romantic outing.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) If you continue to worry so over trivialities, you're liable to develop permanent frown lines. Lighten up and try to gain perspective. A minor delay could cause you to go into a tailspin.

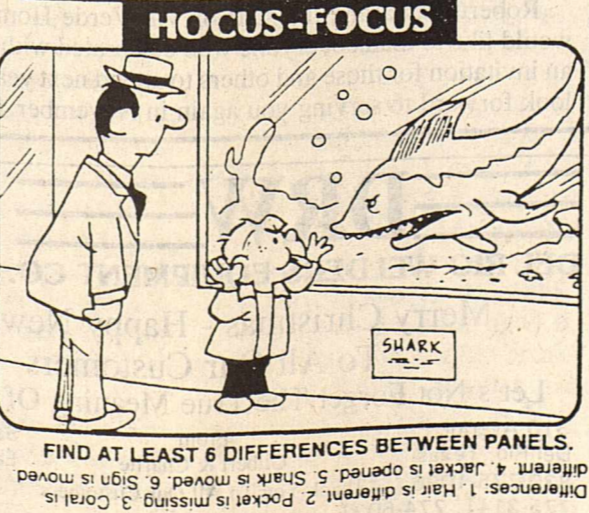
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You spend much of your week trying to make plans for a special get-together with a friend. Unfortunately, your schedules are not in sync. At work, help comes from an unexpected source.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Avoid a tendency to sell yourself short. You derive more pleasure from friendships than business. A close friend in particular is thoughtful and giving.

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HOCUS-FOCUS



FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.

Differences: 1. Hair is different. 2. Pocket is missing. 3. Coral is different. 4. Jacket is opened. 5. Shark is moved. 6. Sign is moved.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 18	Carol Benefield	Dec. 21	Shelley McDaniel
Dec. 18	Darwin Crane	Dec. 22	Arabala Abrego
Dec. 18	Darla Fuller	Dec. 22	Evelyn Estes
Dec. 18	Joe Sandoval	Dec. 22	Don Hood
Dec. 18	Jessica Taylor	Dec. 22	Richard Pena
Dec. 19	Charles Endris	Dec. 23	Victor Abrego
Dec. 19	Lois Endris	Dec. 23	Johnie Beard
Dec. 19	Enemencia Starzel	Dec. 23	Sergio Cardenas
Dec. 19	Roger Workman	Dec. 23	Diana Flores
Dec. 20	Jean Hood	Dec. 23	Daniel Molinar
Dec. 20	Juan Reyes	Dec. 23	Elena Molinar
Dec. 20	Darlene Shahan	Dec. 23	Elidia Molinar
Dec. 20	Julia Terrazas	Dec. 24	Tom Beatty
Dec. 21	Clay Hunt III	Dec. 24	Sam Ferguson

The real costs of Christmas

When we begin to count the cost of Christmas, we usually count the costs of presents, travel, and food, among other things.

These costs are dwarfed in all reality to the real costs of Christmas.

The costs of the first Christmas are astounding. It cost Mary and Joseph a 76-mile journey on foot to go from Nazareth to Bethlehem.

It was a very difficult time for Mary, who was expecting the birth of Jesus.

It cost the inconvenience of Mary giving birth in a cave meant to shelter animals. It cost the baby Jesus the ruggedness being placed in a manger for his first bed.

Later it was to cost Mary and Joseph and the baby to flee 200 miles to exile in Egypt.



Frontier Baptist Church
Rev. Joe Townsend, Pastor

That first Christmas cost many parents the death of their sons, 2 years old and younger, when the king ordered the slaughter.

This first Christmas cost the shepherds their complacency. As they watched their flocks in the hills outside Bethlehem, the night calm was shattered by the song of angels telling them that Jesus had been born.

They left their flocks unattended and went into the city and there found the baby Jesus.

They went forth to tell the people of the event only to be humiliated by scorn and unbelief.

It cost the wisemen, the magis, about a 2-year journey by camel caravan to come see "He that is born King of the Jews."

It cost them expensive gifts for this little boy king. It caused them to flee for their lives to return home.

This Christmas cost the apostles and the early church ridicule and persecution, and for many, death.

This Christmas cost God his only begotten son who was to die over a cross.

In searching the universe, God found none able to pay for sin so

he sent his son. This cost Jesus castigation, ignomy, anguish and death.

This tremendous cost was not too high if it means a gift of love with every exchange of gifts.

It is too costly if all it means is tinsel. It is too costly if all it means is profits in commerce.

In all reality, though, it was not too costly.

It means, "The Joys of the World." It means forgiveness of sin for all who trust Jesus as savior. It means "peace among men."

It really means singing in the heart.

There will be another message of the Christmas season in worship Sunday at Frontier Baptist Church at 11 p.m. Come and worship and be blessed.

First United Methodist Church



Rev. Sheree Harris, Pastor

Children to present program at Sunday's worship service

Amid the glitter and tinsel, the bells and jingles, and the ribbon and bows, it's sometimes difficult even for Christians to keep Christ in Christmas — but we are doing it at First Methodist!

Next Sunday, at our regular 11 a.m. worship service, the children in our church will present a program, "A Birthday Party for Jesus."

Each child has been asked to bring a present for the baby Jesus and will tell why he or she wants to give that particular gift to Jesus.

Some of the most profound theological statements ever have been uttered on similar occasions by just such "theologians."

After the children's program, we will continue worship with a traditional service of lessons and carols. We will tell and sing the prophesy and story of the Nativity.

We will conclude our worship with the children's sermon, which will be a continuation of Jesus' birthday party, complete with balloons, cake and candles. We will retire to our fellowship hall to feast and celebrate.

Sunday promises to be a great day because at the center of it will be Christ, our great savior.

I pray for you a most blessed Christmas and invite you to join us for the celebration of Jesus' birthday.

Gateway Ministries
Pastor Charolette Corey



St. John's Baptist Church
Pastor Wm. P. Adams, Sr.
210-563-2582

We cannot outgive God, who has given us so many gifts

We cannot outgive God who has given us so many gifts:

The gift of redemption from sin by Jesus' gift of shed blood.

The gift of eternal life through Jesus' death and resurrection.

The gift of riches by his becoming poor in our place.

The gift of divine health in him because he took on himself all the curses of sickness and diseases.

The gift of his loving word written in our hearts so that we know it even before we understand it.

The gift of wisdom to better understand the workings and will of God and to make the right choices.

The gift of discernment to know the difference between what is of God and what is of the devil.

The gift of grace to cover our ignorance and shortcomings.

The gift of mercy, allowing us time to be raised out of the gutter when we've fallen into it.

The gift of prophecy to speak the things of God so that we are

not surprised about his plans.

The gift of interpretation to understand the spoken word of God as he continues to speak to us.

The gift of teachers to teach us the will and way of God and how to relate those things to the world we live in.

The gift of encouragers to keep us going when our minds, wills and emotions have been beaten down.

The gift of ministers that show us how to fellowship with an unconditionally loving God, and how to walk in the power of his word.

The gift of administrators to rule over us, causing us to keep good stewardship over God's blessings.

The gift of exhortors, to encourage us to reach higher and holier, so we do not grow stagnant.

Get in on the gift giving!

Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Readings from St. Luke

And there were in the same country shepherds abiding in the field, keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, lo, the angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for, behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, ly-

ing in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host praising God, and saying,

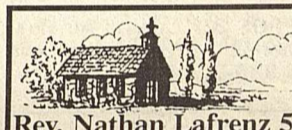
Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men. St. Luke 2:8-14

Praise God!

There will be a Christmas program on Friday at 7 p.m. Everyone is invited.

There will also be Christmas services on Christmas Day from 10 to 11 a.m. Come out and let's praise God for Jesus!

Merry Christmas to all.



Rev. Nathan Lafrenz 563-2047

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Celebrate the arrival of the Light

The Celts called this time of year, when the days are shortest, the Winter Solstice. They would celebrate this time with huge bonfires.

The Romans would celebrate a feast called the feast of the unconquered sun.

We Christians celebrate the arrival of God's unconquered son, the birth of our Lord Jesus Christ.

We will soon light our fourth Advent candle to symbolize the Light of Christ entering into our dark world.

We need the Light of Christ to illuminate and transform the darkness in which we live.

We see Christmas lights in our homes, on our streets, and in stores and malls all around. Yet, strangely those lights frequently do not lighten the darkness of our lives.

Whether it is physical pain or emotional suffering, whether it is a loss of a loved one or loss of independence, for many the glitz and glitter, the bright lights simply do not illuminate the shadows in our lives.

Only Christ's peace and truth can transform the darkness that reigns in our lives.

Come and worship with Our Redeemer Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal this Christmas Eve at 6 p.m. Join with us as we celebrate the arrival of the Light of this world.

OLD FASHIONED COUNTRY CHRISTMAS

Church of The Ascension, Episcopal, Montell, Texas

5:00 pm Sunday, December 21, 1997

The parishioners of the Church of The Ascension, Episcopal, Cordially invite the public to join with us in celebrating an "Old Fashioned Country Christmas", the evening of Dec. 21, 1997, at 5:00 pm.

The fabulous, one-of-a-kind, 100 year old Tiffany Stained Glass Window will be on view to those attending the annual event. A priceless heritage, a gift from the John Jacob Astor family, is humbly and gratefully the property of this famous old country church.

*** Program ***

Regular Evening Church Service

Christmas Pageant and Music

Refreshments in Parish Hall

following Services.

We will be delighted to Welcome You.

Church of the Ascension, Episcopal,

Dr. William Triplett

Eugenio Bricio, M.D
Cardiology

Board Certified in Internal Medicine

612 Bedell Ave.
Suite E.
Del Rio, Texas 78840
Tel: (830)-768-0267

Mon., Tues., Wed., Fri.
9:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m.
Thurs.
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

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VAL VERDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER
801 Bedell Ave.
Del Rio, Texas



1998 January 1998						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 New Year's Day Closed	2	3
4	5 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	6 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	7 Dr. B.S.Mittler Cardiologist	8 Dr. S.J. Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	9	10
11	12 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	13 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	14	15 Dr. R. Evans Ophthalmologist	16 Dr. David Dean Neuro Surgeon	17
18	19 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist	20 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	21 Dr. B.S.Mittler Cardiologist	22 Dr. S.J. Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. H. Komet/ Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose, & Throat	23	24
25	26 Dr. R. Hernandez Ophthalmologist Dr. C. S. Pipkin Dr. P. T. Geibel Spinal Surgeons	27 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	28 Dr. S. Miller Dermatologist	29 Dr. R. Evans Ophthalmologist	30 Dr. D. Dean Neuro Surgeon	31

To schedule an appointment with any of the above physicians call (830) 703-1730.

All physicians see patients at the Val Verde Regional Medical Center, 801 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas (new wing of the hospital). Easy access through South entrance of the building.

BRACKETTVILLE FUNERAL HOME

114 North Street Phone 563-9600

Pre-arranged Funerals

Pre-need Counselors
Jan Saunders of Brackettville
and
Leon Humphreys of Del Rio

ADOPTION

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

ADOPTION: A BABY is our dream. Happily married. We can help each other! Legal/expenses. Call Rita/Andrew. 1-800-474-9975. We're eager to hear from you.

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

LOCAL CANDY ROUTE. 30 vending machines. Earn apx. \$800/day. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-VEND. Multi-Vend, Inc.

DRIVERS WANTED

\$\$\$1,000\$ SIGN-ON BONUS. PFT/Roberson, CX/Roberson's looking for flatbed and van semi-drivers. Up to 30-31¢/mile to start. Need Class A CDL, 1 year OTR. 1-800-473-5581. EOE/mf.

\$\$\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS\$\$\$ Driver OTR * Great benefits * 95% no touch freight * Minimum 23 years old * At least 6 months experience * Dallas Carriers 1-800-727-4374 * EOE.

DRIVER - FLATBED EXPERIENCE pays. Up to \$48K. More experience = more pay. Great benefits + profit sharing. 3 years OTR + 1 year flatbed required. Combined Transport. 1-800-637-4407.

DRIVER - OTR - GIVE us 5 minutes! We'll give you a reason to quit reading the classifieds. 28-36 cpm, based on experience. *New Kenworths, *\$40 tarp pay *Full benefits. 1-800-635-8669 Ext. T1107.

DRIVER OTR TOP miles. Top pay. Leader in miles for five years running. \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced drivers. Call Covenant Transport, 1-800-441-4394 for experienced drivers and owner operator teams. 1-800-338-4394 graduate students.

DRIVER- PLENTY of Texas freight! Up to 31¢/mile, plus brand new Century-Class condos arriving weekly! Great O/O program, too! CalArk International. 1-888-4CALARK. EOE.

DRIVERS - FLATBED 48 state OTR. Assigned new conventionals, competitive pay, benefits. \$1,000 sign on bonus, rider program, flexible time off. Call Roadrunner Trucking 1-800-876-7784.

FREE TRAINING & FIRST year income \$30K - Stevens Transport - OTR truck drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

DRIVERS WANTED

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS HAS great opportunity for your driving future! Free tractor trailer training. No contract, no gimmicks. For more details call 1-800-999-4944.

RAPID FREIGHT OF Texas is seeking OTR drivers. Minimum 1 year verifiable experience, Class A CDL with HazMat required. Call recruiting 1-800-299-7274 ext. 21 or ext. 41.

EMPLOYMENT

NATIONAL COMPANY LOOKING for Sales Representatives to cover East Texas. Willing to travel Monday - Friday. Commission position. Company average pays \$670/week. Call Keli 1-800-225-6368.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

\$\$\$BAD CREDIT? OVER due bills? You can consolidate your bills! Have one low monthly payment! Same day approval available! Call now! Debt Management 1-800-366-9698, Ext. 119.

DEBT CONSOLIDATION\$. CUT monthly payments up to 30-50%. Reduce interest. Stop collection calls. Avoid bankruptcy free confidential help NCCS non-profit, licensed/bonded. 1-800-955-0412. (TPP)

PERSONAL LOANS UP to \$5,000. Unsecured credit cards and debt consolidation. Credit problems OK. Madison Financial. 1-800-247-5125 ext 104. (Free satellite dish with every application.)

FOR SALE

1988 TOYOTA TERCEL, runs good, \$950.00 563-9128

BRAND NEW ADMIRAL 21.6 cu. ft. side by side refrigerator with ice maker and water dispenser, \$800. Also Kenmore washer and dryer, \$200. (830) 563-5125 or 563-9144.

MARY KAY COSMETICS, Alana Flurry 563-9435. Evenings/Weekends. Complimentary facials, products etc...

PRESSURE CLEANERS - HONDA 2800-PSI \$729; 3500-PSI \$799; 4000-PSI \$899; 4200-PSI \$949. Warranty. Free catalog. Call toll-free 24 hours: 1-800-886-6486.

LIVESTOCK/PETS

THERE IS A BIG difference in liquid wormers. All new Happy Jack LIQUI-VICT releases active ingredients more effectively. At farm and feed stores. (Visit www.happyjackinc.com)

HELP WANTED

THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Development Council is accepting applications for the position of LAN Manager. This position will manage multiple Local Area Networks (LAN) within a nine county area, some independent LAN (NetWare 4.1 bindery) and a Wide Area Network (WAN)(NetWare 4.11 NDS); performs needed LAN repairs on site, corrects server backup and anti virus protection failures; troubleshoots problems of LAN connectivity; conducts periodic formal LAN performance reviews and periodic virus protection scans on workstations; provides help-desk support for end-users; performs WAN management duties or other related duties as assigned by IS Director. Bachelors degree in computer science or related field, 2+ years experience supporting and maintaining Novell 4.X level with 50+ users. CNA desired at the NetWare 4.X level. Direct work experience may be substituted on a 2:1 ratio for each college year (30 credit hours). Must have working knowledge of MS-DOS 6.22, Windows (3.1, 3.11, 95, and NT), Perfect Office or MS Office, NetWare 4.X level and networking technologies; and be willing to work odd hours. Requires in-region and out-of-region travel with current drivers license and proof of insurance for vehicle. The salary range is \$24,195 - \$30,144. All qualified persons interested in applying for this position must submit a resume, application, and copies of transcripts to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834, attention Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Executive Director of Administration. Deadline for this position is January 5, 1998 at 5:00 p.m. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities.

LEGAL SERVICES

FEN-PHEN/ REDUX DIET drug lawsuits. Heart valve or other injuries free evaluation. Johnathan Juhon Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Law. Texas Board of Legal Specialization. 1-800-833-9121.

MEDICAL

DIABETIC SUPPLIES AS seen on TV! With Medicare or health insurance, you may be able to receive diabetic supplies at a greatly reduced cost. 1-800-590-4217.

REAL ESTATE

O'Rourke Realty

Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
210-563-2713
FCS Memberships & Rentals Available

New on the market, picture perfect, professionally decorated, 2 bed, 1 bath, town house. Little maintenance with Mex. tile patio. Corner lot, wrought iron fence. Affords magnificent view of Las Moras Creek on 3 sides. All furniture and membership included. \$50,000.

14x80 2 bed, 2 full baths, mobile home in Unit 15. Surrounded on 2 sides by large common area. Utility shed 14x17. Hollywood bath off the master bedroom. Attractive, comfortable, low price.

2 bed, 2 bath, home on golf course, perfect surroundings, located near creek and clubhouse. By appointment only.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of EDNA BLACK, Deceased, were issued on December 12, 1997, in Cause No. 925, pending in the County Court of Kinney County, Texas, to: Teresa Black. The residence of the Independent Executor is 3906 Buena Vista #15, Dallas, Dallas County, Texas 75204; the post office address is: TERESA BLACK, Independent Executor c/o: TULLY SHAHAN, Attorney at Law, 401 South Ann Street, Post Office Box 367, Brackettville, Texas 78832. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. DATED the 15 day of December, 1997. TULLY SHAHAN, Attorney at Law, Post Office Box 367, 401 South Ann, Brackettville, Texas 78832. Telephone: 830/563-2462. Facsimile: 830/563-9240. /s/TULLY SHAHAN Attorney for the Estate State Bar No.: 18087500

MOBILE HOMES

ABANDONED BY OWNERS must liquidate this month 1996 Clayton Alamo 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Many extras call 1-830-768-0299.

BANK REPOS 3/2 Central Air/Heat. Any reasonable offer will be considered 1-830-775-6765

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO

P.O. Box 1035
Brackettville, TX 78832
210-563-2446
Molly Ardrey - Broker

Two lots in unit 37 for motor home or RV. One has 20x40 pad and all utilities.

Cozy town house in Benito Juarez Plaza. Perfect for a couple.

5 to 20ac parcels on 2804. Several with availability of city water.

Mobile home on 2 lots in Unit 15. Furnished. Only \$14,000. (2 bdrm)

3 bdrm, 2 bth 28x71 mobile home in unit 15. \$15,000.

DEBBIE TRANT

MELISSA DAVIS



830-563-2997

104 A-E Spring

LOCKHART REAL ESTATE

Very nice 3 bed, 2 bath rock home in central location. 600+ sq.ft. partitioned addition. Wood stove, CHA, whole house fan, 2 garage stall. Home & yard almost maintenance free.

Bargain price on 2 bed, 1 1/2 bath mobile home, large screen patio, unit 3. Just \$10,000.

House & 4 lots in town, only \$12,000.

Extra nice 3 bed, 2 bath mobile home on 2 lots, metal-over roof, carport, large screened patio, fenced yard, storage shed, sprinkler system. \$35,000.

MOBILE HOMES

NEW 16X80 3/2 Central Air and Heat. Carpet over plywood subflooring, refrigerator and stove. No payment until February 1998 WAC call 1-888-611-7711.

NUEVA 16X80 3/2 aire central, refrigerador, con carpeta, \$27,579 solo \$500 enganche! 240 pagos de \$302.90 12.75 WAC. Llaman al 1-888-611-7711

TIRED OF SAN ANTONIO bait and switch adv? If you are interested in the best honest deal on a new 3/2 CA/H Single/Doublewide. Shop Del Rio call 1-888-611-7711.

REAL ESTATE

131 ACRES SOUTHWEST of Rocksprings, rugged/scenic, great hunting/recreational land. Only \$270/acre, owner terms. 1-830-257-5572.

BUILD THE BEST! Paul Harvey says Tri-Steel Homes are stronger safer, better. Build your future on the strength of steel. 1-888-TRI-STEEL. for free packet.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

BRACKETT INDEPENDENT SCHOOL District is soliciting proposals for architectural services for an academic building at Brackett High School. Interested parties may request proposal forms from: Taylor Stephenson, Superintendent, P.O. Box 586, 400 Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas 78832. (830) 563-2491, ext. 100.

TRAVEL

NEW ZEALAND/AUSTRALIA in a motor home. Spring time specials. Contact Adventure New Zealand/Australia Motor Home Rentals. www.adventure-nz.com. Call toll free 1-888-278-5494.

HIRING ORIENTATION FOR OTR TRACTOR TRAILER DRIVERS

WHEN: Monday, January 5, 1997, from 8 am - 4 pm

WHERE: Best Western Motel, Eagle Pass, TX

Salem Carriers, Inc., is the hottest growing truckload carrier in the Southeast, TX area. ... If your 1997 wasn't what you wanted, your 1998 could be great!!!!

SO....

If you live within a 75 mile radius of Eagle Pass, TX, and are a graduate of an accredited tractor trailer driving school or have over 6 months verifiable OTR tractor trailer experience, good work history and driving record, then you need to get your application started now!!!!

HERE'S HOW!!

- * Go by our Eagle Pass, TX terminal on Hwy 57 at any time
- * Call 1-800-709-2536, and we'll be happy to mail you one

*****WE OFFER*****

- * Our new pay package
- * Excellent pay, benefits, Christmas bonus, Safety bonus and more
- * Excellent home time
- * Run TX to the Carolinas, Florida and other locations
- * All dry van loads, mostly drop and hook

DON'T DELAY!!

In order to attend our orientation, you must be completely processed by Wednesday, December 31, 1997. This includes application process, road test, physical, drug scan and criminal record check. We look forward to meeting you. Equal employment opportunity.

PUBLIC AUCTION

ABANDONED MOTOR VEHICLES BY KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THE FOLLOWING VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AT PUBLIC AUCTION SEIZED AND FORFEITED VEHICLES

DATE: DECEMBER 20, 1997
TIME: 10:00 A.M.
LOCATION: SOUTHWEST SERVICE COMPANY
HWY. 90 EAST
BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS 78832

1. 1985 PLYM 2D VIN#1P3BP21CXFG296606
2. 1985 DODG 2D VIN#1B3BD21C9FG317035
3. 1982 CHEV 4D VIN#1G1AN69HXCK115159
4. 1990 GEO 2D VIN#J81RF2363L7509993
5. 1989 GEO 4D VIN#1Y1SK5165KZ000458
6. 1979 DODG PK VIN#B21JE9K337464
7. 1988 FORD 4D VIN#2FAPP36X1JB187674
8. 1985 CHEV PK VIN#1GCD14H9F5158381
9. 1987 MAZD 2D VIN#JM1BF232H0546942
10. 1974 CHEV 2D VIN#1Q87H4N176766
11. 1980 OLDS 4D VIN#3X69RAM159670
12. 1985 FORD UT VIN#1FMCU14SXFUUA11717
13. 1987 OLDS 4D VIN#1G3HN5431HW373921
14. 1984 FORD 4D VIN#1FABP22R8EK110193
15. 1984 OLDS 2D VIN#1G3AR47A0ER379746

TERMS OF SALE: CASH / CASHIER'S CHECK / MONEY ORDER VEHICLES WILL BE SOLD AS IS WITH NO GUARANTEES OF ANY KIND

FOR INFORMATION : CONTACT KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE
SGT. D'ANN CLARK
(830) 563-2788

SIGNED THIS 11TH DAY OF DECEMBER 1997
L.K. BURGESS
SHERIFF OF KINNEY COUNTY
BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS

HEALTH

Knee arthroscopy: "Tiny" surgery, big results

By Dr. Gloria G. Box
Contributing Writer

Pioneered by orthopaedic surgeons with an interest in sports medicine, arthroscopy of the knee was among the first of the truly revolutionary developments in modern surgery.

Literally, hundreds of surgical procedures that used to require a large open incision can now be performed using far less invasive methods.

Arthroscopic surgeries allow the surgeon to look inside the body with special instruments that permit the surgeon to remove damaged tissues and bone with much less risk of infection than with open surgery.

Arthroscopy can be used for the treatment of injuries to the menisci (rubbery shock absorbers of the knee) or cruciate ligaments (criss-crossed stabilizers of the knee), and has even been used successfully in the treatment of the early stages of osteoarthritis of the knee.

Prior to the introduction of arthroscopic surgery, knee cartilage injuries that would not heal on their own could only be treated using open surgery. This required a long recovery period and an extended hospital stay.

Before arthroscopic surgery, any significant cartilage tear was usually treated with complete or nearly complete removal of the

meniscus. However, with the meniscus removed, the knee loses its normal lubricating and shock-absorbing mechanisms which can lead to an arthritic reaction in the area of cartilage removal.

The initial breakthrough of arthroscopic surgery, and its continuing refinement, has made it possible to remove only the areas of cartilage that have been torn, leaving the major portion intact.

In some instances, it is now possible to repair a fresh tear using arthroscopic techniques without having to remove any of the torn cartilage. This means that hundreds of thousands of high school, college and adult athletes are now able to lead active lives following arthroscopy, without the rapid deterioration of bone in the joint that often followed complete removal of the meniscus.

However, even for those adults with arthritic knees (who may or may not have had a meniscus removed in a prior surgery) arthroscopic surgery can often be used to delay the need for a total knee replacement.

Prior to surgery, a proper medical diagnosis is required. Often, the orthopaedic surgeon can listen to the patient's description of his or her symptoms (how long the knee has been hurting or how an injury occurred), perform a thorough physical examination (occasionally X-rays may be indicated),

and can make a preliminary diagnosis.

If arthroscopic surgery is necessary, a scope is inserted through a tiny incision about the width of a pencil. A second tiny incision is made so that the knee can be irrigated with fluid during the procedure.

A specially designed surgical tool is inserted through a third or occasionally even a fourth tiny incision. The scope contains a brilliant but ultra-low-heat fiberoptic lighting system that makes it possible to see the inside of the joint by viewing that joint space on a television monitor.

The light provided by the scope is so bright that, with the appropriate equipment, it is possible to videotape arthroscopic surgery and obtain color photographs.

The surgical instrument is first

used to remove loose particles, including bone or cartilage fragments.

Then any portion of the meniscal tissue or loose articular cartilage that could cause the joint to lock up may be trimmed off and suctioned out to ensure knee function that is closed with just one stitch each, so the fact that one has had arthroscopic surgery is hardly noticeable.

All this may be accomplished without a hospital stay in most cases. With the better long-term prognosis, lower risk of infection, and shorter recovery period, arthroscopic surgery represents a truly remarkable combination of technology and medicine.

■ *Editor's note: Dr. Gloria G. Box is an orthopedic specialist at the Uvalde Bone and Joint Clinic.*

Answers to Super Crossword

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	
37	M	A	M	B	A	P	E	P	E	C	O	R	I	A
46	P	E	R	R	I	M	A	R	O	N	A	M	B	E
51	N	I	T	R	E	A	T	E	D	C	O	N	E	
68	S	O	L	L	A	S	S	I	E	G	E	O		
	C	H	A	R	L	I	E	H	A	N	N	E	R	O
	N	A	T	I	O	N	G	U	T	E	L	O	W	E
	A	R	E	N	A	S	G	N	A	C	H	I	K	I
	M	A	X	O	A	R	O	A	R	A	N	N	E	
	M	A	Z	E	L	T	O	G	R	I	M	O	N	D
	E	R	L	L	I	S	T	O	D	O	T	H	U	R
	L	E	W	A	R	C	H	E	R	S	W	A	T	
	H	O	M	E	L	L	O	R	L	E	R	O	M	A
	A	M	E	L	T	A	O	N	I	T	M	I	K	E
	S	T	E	R	N	A	R	T	H	S	M	A	M	E
	S	A	T	S	A	R	T	H	S	O	V	E	R	

City OKs holidays

Continued from Page 1
Robinson motioned to approve the holidays as presented with the exception of Dec. 30 and Guidry seconded the motion "based on the consensus of the council."

The motion passed 3-1 with Robinson, Guidry and Gomez voting in favor and Tencha Pena objecting.

"I'm in favor for all of them as they are listed," Pena said.

Flores abstained, adding, "I would like to see it stay the way it is."

Attention Residents of Kinney County
you now have a choice in Fireworks
Low Prices - Best Selection
At "Mr. G's"
3 miles west at the
Old Five Palms Motel Office, Next to Shorty's
Open Dec. 20th thru Jan. 1st
563-5125
Look for the Lights!!!!