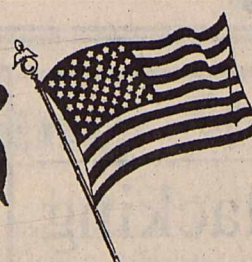


The Brackett News



Tigerettes battle alumni tonight
See story, Page 5

11th year, No. 47

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Briefs ...

SBA Economic Injury Disaster Loans made available to businesses

WASHINGTON, D.C. — The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) has announced that businesses depending on farmers and ranchers in some Texas counties can apply for low interest Economic Injury Disaster Loans.

The loans are meant to help businesses having problems paying their bills because of decreased sales to farmers and ranchers.

Between Jan. 1 and July 31 of this year, parts of Texas suffered from excessive rain, hail, insect infestation and excessive heat.

The loan can help an eligible business meet installments on a long-term debt, accounts payable and overhead expenses that would have been met had the disaster not occurred. Refinancing of long-term debt, however, is not eligible under this program.

Loans may be approved for up to \$1.5 million for actual disaster-related financial needs of the business. Interest rates are 4 percent and terms may extend to 30 years, depending upon the repayment ability of the individual applicant.

To qualify, businesses must be small by SBA's size standard. Businesses who have met their financial needs through other sources are not eligible.

The deadline for filing an application is July 3, 2000. Interested business owners may call the SBA at 1-800-366-6303 or TDD at 1-817-267-4688 for the hearing impaired.

Agents seize 413.04 pounds of marijuana

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Eagle Pass Station seized 220.6 pounds of marijuana last Thursday.

Agents performing linewatch duties at approximately 9:20 a.m. Thursday, nine miles east of the Eagle Pass Port of Entry, discovered eight burlap bags hidden underneath a pile of dead grass.

The marijuana, valued at \$176,480, was turned over to the Multi-Agency Drug Task Force in Eagle Pass.

Later Thursday, the Carrizo Springs Station received a call from the Dimmit County Sheriff's Department. A narcotics detection team was needed to check out a vehicle stopped for a traffic violation. The canine team located 192.44 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$153,952, concealed in the side panels of the vehicle.



Round and round

Jones Elementary School students enjoyed a sunny afternoon at the school's playground earlier this week. Brackett students return to school on Tuesday, following the Christmas and New Year's holiday break.

Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Republican primary leadership in question

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

Even though there has been more emphasis on the Democratic Party, there is a Republican Party in Kinney County.

Ray Melton, local resident and pastor of the Church of Christ, is the elected chairperson for the local Republican Party.

Melton has served as the chairperson for the last two years. When asked if he would be the chairperson for the upcoming primary election, he said he wasn't sure.

"As of right now, I'm trying to get another young lady to take it because I live so far from town and it's very difficult to get in town to do those things," Melton said. "She's suppose to let me know in the next few days."

Both parties will have candidates that will be running on the state and national level. But when it comes to local government and the positions up for election, more

persons are signing up on the Democratic ticket.

"Most people who run for local offices won't run as a republican, so what I do, I try to encourage people to run. In the local staff most people are looking for a job and they're not really caught up in all of it," Melton said.

No one has contacted Melton wanting to run for any local office under the Republican Party ticket.

"I'm not going to get out and hustle people in our little community to run against the democrats just because they're democrats," said Melton.

"Nobody has done a better job and worked harder for me than Dora Sandoval, and she runs as a democrat. She is beyond fair with me, she is extraordinary helpful and has gone really out of her way to help me. And just to run somebody at her to get a republican in there is not my goal," he added.

See PARTY/Page 4

Appraisal District approves \$11,000 in funding for personnel, computers

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

A total of \$11,000 was allocated from the budget fund reserve and applied to the Kinney County Appraisal District's current budget to provide \$7,000 for biennial reappraisal personnel and \$4,000 for the purchase of two workstations for the staff.

The budget amendments were approved by the Appraisal District's Board of Directors Dec. 9 at a special meeting.

Currently, \$14,000 is budgeted for a biennial reappraisal. With the approved amendment, the contract between Mick Mikulenska and the district was increased to \$21,000.

"All of this augmentation money (funding) came out of a reserve that we have, that is for just about anything, unexpected lawsuits and stuff like that," explained Bill Haenn, office manager of the Appraisal District.

Mikulenska was contracted by the board to assist with appraisals for one year. All property in the state of Texas should be reappraised every three years.

"There is property on Fort Clark Springs that hasn't been reappraised since 1981," said Haenn.

"The course I just took will award me a class two status, (which is) a appraiser/assessor/collector and that's the same as Joyce Fuentes was," said Haenn. "She never took the class three test, she postponed it and postponed it and never took it."

Haenn has five years from the date of application to obtain a class three status.

"I was given a retroactive date of 18 months because of my background," he said.

With Haenn being employed for six months now, combined with the 18-month allowance, he has two years of experience towards obtaining his class three status.

Members of the supporting office staff have registered with the board of Tax Professional Examiners and are class one collectors. Gene Slate is a tax collector/analyst/auditor and Liz Luna is a tax collector/research analyst/records clerk.

"When they completed course one, they will be class two status and if we could send one of them to school every month they could be class four collectors by the end of the year," said Haenn. "But we just can't afford that, it's very expensive to send somebody to school. I just went to Austin and it cost \$1,000."

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INSIDE

Steven R. LaMascus

I just read a treatise by Paul Harvey that is probably the most accurate, thought-provoking piece I have ever read.
Opinion/Page 2

Chuck Hall

I am trying to find just the right words to express my feelings as we near the end of this year, decade, century, and millennium.
Lifestyles/Page 4

Tigers advance

The Brackett Tigers split a pair of games Monday to advance to the consolation finals of the Rocksprings tournament.
Sports/Page 5

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IN THE REARVIEW MIRROR Detention center tops local stories of 1999

The top three stories in Kinney County this year deal with construction projects, but the top story may have received more attention because of lack of construction.

Kinney County's future detention center was the biggest story of the year, according to the poll of *The Brackett News* staff.

The Top 10 stories:

1. DETENTION CENTER: CiviGenics broke ground on a 500-plus bed detention facility in Kinney County in September, but construction has been delayed because of financing.

"We've been told that the financing is in place, but we haven't received anything in writing," said County Judge Herb Senne. "We hope to hear something after the first of the year."

"Until I see the facility built, it's not a done deal, as far as I'm concerned," he said. "I'm optimistic. I think it will all come to-

gether, it's just a matter of time."

The facility will be located approximately three miles south of Brackettville on Highway 131. The site sits on an estimated 65-acre track formerly owned by Joe York Jr.

The detention center is expected to employ 100 people with an annual payroll of about \$2.1 million, according to Bob Prince, a marketing director with CiviGenics.

2. NEW HIGH SCHOOL: The Brackett School District began the school year in August with a new high school building.

School started on Aug. 16 with a few glitches in the new building, according to Don Sims, principal at Brackett High School.

The air conditioning in the new building did not work for most of the morning. There were also

See CONSTRUCTION/Page 4



Construction awaits financing

Construction of a new detention facility in Kinney County is awaiting financing through CiviGenics. Ground has been broken for the project, and officials hope construction will begin sometime within the next few months.
Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Editorial

Ethical standards lacking in decision about holidays

Recently, a state official said it was unethical to pay Kinney County employees time and a half for working on holidays, and that they should receive double time.

But what is really unethical is the number of holidays provided to city and county employees.

Webster's New World Dictionary defines ethical as "conforming to the standards of conduct of a given profession or group."

City of Brackettville and Kinney County officials are certainly not conforming to the standards set forth by the state of Texas, or the United States for that matter.

Earlier this month, the Brackettville City Council and the Kinney County Commissioners Court adopted a schedule of 17 holidays for the year 2000. This differs drastically from the number of holidays granted at the state and national levels.

At the state level, Texas Department of Transportation

workers receive nine holidays during the current fiscal year, in addition to some minimal-staff holidays and optional holidays, such as Yom Kipper for Jewish employees. And on the national level, U.S. Post Office employees will have 11 paid holiday during 2000.

The county's top official recently polled the employees concerning the holiday schedule. If ethics were involved, local businesses would have been polled so that the county could conform to the standards of the community.

In essence, local citizens are losing over three weeks of government services because of the ridiculous number of holidays granted by our elected representatives.

It is time for local authorities to start conforming to the standards set by society. These socialistic policies must come to an end and we, as responsible citizens, should demand that ethics be restored in local politics.



It is time to sharpen our Biblical swords and attack

The way I see it!
By Steven R. LaMascus

I just read a treatise by Paul Harvey that is probably the most accurate, thought-provoking piece I have ever read. In its clarity it is startlingly clairvoyant. I would like to share a bit of it with you now. The following is from an article entitled, "If I Were the Devil."

"I would gain control of the most powerful nation in the world;

"I would dupe entire states into relying on gambling for their state revenue;

"I would convince people that character is not an issue when it comes to leadership;

"I would cheapen human life as much as possible so that the life of animals are more valued than human beings;

"I would take God out of the schools, where even the mention of His name was grounds for a lawsuit;

"I would get control of the media, so that every night I could pollute the mind of every family member for my agenda; I would attack the family, the backbone of any nation.

"I would compel people to express their most depraved fantasies on canvas and movie screens, and I would call it art;

"I would persuade people that the church is irrelevant and out of date, and the Bible is for the naive;

"I would dull the minds of Christians, and make them believe that prayer is not important, and that faithfulness and obedience are optional;"

There is much more and all of it is so cogent and so true and so frightening. It is without doubt an exact statement of the plan of Satan. Mr. Harvey ends his prophecy with: "I guess I would leave things pretty much the way they are."

I feel that this article is gospel, a revelation of Jesus Christ, as told to Paul Harvey. He has put into words the most dangerous things in America today.

It makes me wonder, if so many people see the things I see, the death watch beetles in the soul of

the United States, why then do we continue down the certain path to eventual destruction when all we need to do is return to the Golden Days of Yesterday when right was right, wrong was wrong, and everyone knew the difference?

Why do we ignore the symptoms of societal disease and pretend that everything is just hunkydory when in reality we are seeing the first signs of the death of a great nation?

Like Paul Harvey, I can see no other explanation except the direct work of Satan. It is illogical to believe that a nation founded on the wonderfully powerful concepts that this one was would in such a short time be reduced to the level of depravity of ancient Babylon without immensely powerful, supernatural, outside influences.

We are acceptant of abortion, divorce, gambling, prostitution, idolatry, black magic, witchcraft, divination, euthanasia, Satanism, homosexuality, dishonesty, fornication, adultery, and only God knows what other depraved and Satanic concepts and actions. This serves only one purpose: The destruction of a once Godly and righteous nation.

There is no other reasonable explanation. I have pondered the question until my head hurt and found no logical reason for the direction taken by this nation except satanic control.

The United States is possessed. We have been invaded by an unseen enemy and we slept through the whole thing.

Now, however, is the time for a counter-attack. We are stronger. We are braver. We are RIGHT, and right does indeed make might! Evil cannot stand in the face of God. Now is the time to sharpen our Biblical swords, don our Godly armor, and attack the Enemy wherever we find him. Will you join me? If so please pray with me now.

Dearest Heavenly Father, I beg you, give me the strength to fight the good fight; give me the courage to fearlessly declare Your gospel at every opportunity, and the will to expose evil wherever I find it. If it is Your will, Father, heal this nation. In the name of Your Son and my Savior, Jesus Christ, I ask it.

George has been gone for 200 years

Submitted by
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Time to remember an American Patriot. This month marks the 200th anniversary of the death of George Washington. If you didn't know that, you're not alone.

This farmer, fighter, and father of our country has vanished from history's spotlight during the past 20 years or so. You see, some people who make their living studying and writing about history think that the only way anyone will notice what they write is by writing something different from what everyone else believes. Sometimes, that means trashing the reputation of men and women that school children always learned were great Americans.

In the book "United States History," Washington is described as "a man of ordinary talents ... not completely successful as a military man nor as a President."

Evidently, defeating one of the world's most powerful armies and holding a young country together no longer wins the points it used to.

Consider this story: 223 years ago, George Washington was camped out with his men in Pennsylvania, enduring a brutal winter. Since the Declaration of Independence was signed and his army formed, Gen. Washington had watched its numbers fall from about 16,000 to just under 3,000 men, most of whom came and went at will. And worse, enlistments for nearly the whole army were to expire in just a few days. They were badly clothed and equipped, seldom paid and poorly fed. Needless to say, many of them wanted to quit and go home, especially at Christmas time.

On Christmas day, his troops said their prayers, celebrated the birth of Christ and marched through a blinding snowstorm in the dead of night to the Delaware River. It was bitterly cold, snow mixed with sleet, but they crossed the river and pressed onward to Trenton, where they surprised and swiftly defeated a garrison of English-backed mercenaries.

Gen. Washington's bold attack paid off. The victory on that snowy morning started a snowball effect throughout the colonies that brought a renewed sense of patriotism and hope for our young republic.

We know the rest of the story. The colonies won, and went on to write a Constitution and elect George Washington president.

Without Washington, it's likely that today our country would be governed by kings and queens, and our 50 states would be split into several different nations.

This holiday season, and every season, let's make a point of telling our children why they are lucky to live in a country where they can celebrate religious holidays and traditions freely, where the Constitution guarantees our right to free speech, as well as our right to peaceably assemble. And then let's tell them about the man who, more than 200 years ago, made it possible.

Letter to the Editor

Don't forget to count your blessings

Living in Brackettville is truly a blessing. We have often discussed this in our family ... but more often recently. On Monday, Dec. 13, our regular routine lives came to an abrupt halt.

When John was injured while trying to move around bales to save them from a grass fire — all those details of busy lives that are so important suddenly ceased to exist.

We have been blessed! John is up and around and back to work, though sore and still suffering some effects of his ordeal.

The community we live in responded with help, love and many offers of even more help.

When this catastrophic event occurred in our lives, blessings that we had taken for granted suddenly became clear. When we needed help it came quickly. Prayers, compassion and well wishes flowed around us in a comforting stream.

The Volunteer Fire Department did a superb job, working tirelessly into the evening hours to keep the fire from spreading further.

They responded quickly to the call for help and could not have done a better job.

Neighbors, friends and community acquaintances called, sent cards and most especially prayed. We will always believe without the Lord's intervention John would not be up and around today.

Close friends even brought food to the house and visited with John while he recuperated.

While we look forward to the new millennium, don't forget to count your blessings. You probably have many more than you realize.

Thank You Brackettville and Kinney County for being a blessing to us. May the Lord bless each and everyone of you richly.

The John Jones Family

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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Survey to help all Texans

Submitted by
Senator Kay Baily Hutchison

A Senate colleague of mine who hails from a small state once asked me how many Texans there are. I thought about this for a moment, then answered "not enough."

Representing almost 20 million Texans is a great opportunity. But no matter how many of you I meet during my trips across our great state, I am always reminded that I can't visit with each of you.

So I hope you will complete the following survey questions on some key domestic issues facing our state and nation today. Your answers will help me better represent you and your families back in Washington. As always, I am grateful for this newspaper in printing the survey.

1. Last year, Congress passed a \$792 billion tax relief plan that President Clinton vetoed even though it also safeguarded the Social Security Trust Fund and paid down the national debt by \$130 billion.

Tax relief is going to be an important topic in Congress' upcoming session. But because of our commitment to protect Social Security, we cannot eliminate all the taxes we should.

Please rank the importance of the three following possible areas to cut federal taxes.

■ The average married couple

making \$60,000 jointly pays about \$1,400 more than if they had filed as singles. I introduced legislation last year to eliminate this so-called marriage penalty.

■ Under current tax laws, the government may take more than half of a person's life savings, home, farm or business upon their death - the so-called inheritance or death tax.

■ Congress passed a one-percent across-the-board tax cut for all Americans that President Clinton vetoed. Had it become law, if you were in the 15 percent bracket, it would have dropped to 14 percent; 21 percent would have gone to 20 percent, and so on.

Please rank these in order of importance to you. Use the number "1" to label the tax you would eliminate first, a "2" for the second tax to be eliminated and a "3" for the third:

- ___ Marriage Tax
- ___ Inheritance Tax
- ___ 1 percent Cut

2. Some members of Congress are trying to federalize the Homestead Exemption under the bankruptcy laws. This would eliminate Texans' ability to exempt their homesteads — whatever their value — from bankruptcy proceedings. Opponents of Texas' Homestead Exemptions, which is in our state constitution, claim that people will come to Texas to abuse the bankruptcy laws.

How important do you think it

is to protect Texas' Homestead Exemption?

- ___ Very Important
- ___ Important
- ___ Not Important

3. Congress has different versions of "patients Bill of Rights" legislation which will expand rights for patients with Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) medical insurance. For example, it would give HMO patients the right to an outside, independent review for any rejected claims.

The different versions of this bill also try to expand health insurance coverage to more of the approximately 44 million uninsured Americans. The version passed by the House of Representatives contains the right to sue an HMO. The Senate bill does not contain this provision because Senators are concerned about how the right to sue would increase the cost of HMO premiums.

Please categorize the following choices in their order of importance to you.

- ___ Keep Medical Cost Down
- ___ Ability to Sue HMO
- ___ Choice of Doctors
- ___ Universal Health Ins.
- ___ Low Out-of-Pocket Medical Costs.

Please clip and send this completed survey to me at 284 Russell Senate Office Building, Washington, D.C., 20510. I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy Holidays!

Let's spend the next millennium strengthening our community

Making A Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Millennium Time, 2000! Happy New Year! We made it through Y2K with its hype and costs. We'll see the New Year celebrations all day long on Friday. Technology has made it possible for us to know what is happening in all parts of the world. We celebrate the turning of the New Year, 1000 years, together as a world that is greatly dependent on each other.

Most of the world uses the Gregorian calendar which began marking time in the year 1. The calendar leaves some doubt as to whether the millennium (period of 1000 years) begins with the year 2000 or the year 2001. I'll not go there in this article. We'll find enough to celebrate New Years 2000 and probably try it again on New Years 2001!

What will we call the graduating Class of 2000? Last year, it was the Class of 99. This year, will it be the class of aught aught? The Yale Class of 1900 called itself the Class of aughty aught.

What will the decade be called? The hundreds? The ohs? The double ohs? The zilches? Who knows, I'll not go there either! For now, it's the Class and the Year of 2000.

Happy New Year! Our community is a great place to live, and I believe it will be here for the turning of the next millennium.

We must realize that we need each other in this world. It can't be a world of them versus us. Somehow, we must continue to care about people in all parts of the world. We must care about those who speak different languages and who may be a different color, creed or religion than we are. Let us be more accepting of those who move into our community who are "outsiders."

In our churches, let's make a renewed effort to invite and accept all who want to be a part of our church community. We can support positive moves

by local government to make things better without always thinking we have a better idea. Above all, we can care for each other. Not by saying I'm right or I worked for mine or by putting down others.

We must see our town, Fort Clark and Kinney County as a community where all belong. Let's make it a community where we all work together to make life better for young and the old, and the poor and the wealthy. Let's make this part of Texas the best place in the world to live. We can do that by having fine schools, good government, strong churches, but above all by doing good deeds by example — not just speaking hollow words.

We've arrived at the millennium. Let's use the momentum to make positive changes in our lives.

Leonard Delgado was 90 years old. He burned up in his home (an old car in a tin shed) in South San Antonio Wednesday night. Leonard was always a good mechanic who spoke many languages and spoke good thoughts about the world. With his cats and meager possessions, he quietly contemplated the meaning of life. In the 1950s and before, my dad always remembered Leonard on special occasions. Dad would cook a fine meal and would always deliver Leonard's meal before our family could eat.

Leonard was the same in the 50s as in the 90s. He was very poor but rich in spirit. My dad cared about this man. He could see Leonard's spirit, and he did what he could to show that he cared.

I was sad to read about Leonard. In fact, I thought that he had passed away many years ago, or I would have tried to carry on my dad's tradition.

That's it. That's what I'm talking about here. Are there folks like that here? Can we take a few minutes of our time to show them that we care?

In the millennium, let's spend 1000 years caring and loving each other. Let's give help through the hard times and let's build our community even stronger and better than it is now. Here's to you! Have a great millennium! Happy New Year!

Rotarians celebrate Christmas with carols

By Ella Chambers
Contributing Writer

Frank and Ruby Cheaney brought the spirit of Christmas to fellow Rotarians and their spouses at last Thursday's luncheon held at the newly reopened Las Moras Restaurant.

Cheaney spoke on the history of "Silent Night, Holy Night" and how the most famous of all Christ-

mas carols had its beginning due to a mouse damaging the church organ so that it could not be used for a Christmas Eve service. Franz X. Gruber wrote the music for the service that night since no organ repair persons could be found on Christmas Eve and titled it, "Stille Nacht" while the words were written by Joseph Mohr.

While there are many versions of who originally wrote the favor-

ite carol, the original manuscript has been found and preserved giving credit to Gruber.

A sing along led by Taylor Stephenson with Ruby Cheaney at the piano followed the luncheon. All present joined in singing many of the traditional Christmas carols. Frank Cheaney was joined by Ida Holley in an English-Spanish rendition of "Silent Night, Holy Night".

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, Dec. 21

5:20 p.m., A local resident requested that a deputy patrol her residence periodically.

5:25 p.m., Someone reported that there were three to four people living in the culvert located on U.S. Highway 90 East by the city's animal pound. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene.

Wednesday, Dec. 22

12:21 a.m., Two Brackett High School students were reported stringing toilet paper on the new Tiger statue. Deputy Sheriff Bobby Guidry was dispatched to the scene. He told the students to remove the toilet paper immediately. Guidry said that he had seen one of the students around the statue five minutes earlier and asked him to leave the area. No damage was done to the statue.

6:30 p.m., Uvalde Police Department officials reported a hit-and-run suspect leaving Uvalde, travelling west on U.S. Highway 90. The vehicle was driven by a white male wearing a camouflage cap, and the vehicle he was driving had damage on the left rear quarter panel. The vehicle that was hit was red. DPS Trooper Tony Ashley located a vehicle fitting that description at Pico's at 7:15 p.m.

9:54 p.m., A local woman reported that people were setting off fireworks around E. First Street.

Thursday, Dec. 23

1:15 a.m., A local resident called and reported that loud music was being played. Deputy Guidry went to take care of the disturbance.

2:16 a.m., Deputy Guidry reported a vehicle had broken down on the road and the owner would be staying with his car until daybreak. The transmission was giving the motorist trouble.

2:46 a.m., An unidentified caller reported music was being played too loud at the projects located on First Street. Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism located the source and the problem was taken care of.

7 p.m., Gabriel Flores, 25, of San Antonio was arrested by Trooper Ashley for driving with a suspended license. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Flores posted bond and was released the same day.

Friday, Dec. 24

2 a.m., Chuey Gonzalez, 26, Ramon Suke Gonzalez, 33, and Hernando Suke, 30, all of Eagle Pass, were arrested by Game Warden Henry Lutz for hunting deer at night. The three subjects were booked into the Kinney County Jail where they are still being held.

Saturday, Dec. 25

7:36 p.m., A county employee requested that a deputy to be sent to the Kinney County Civic Center to take care of a misunderstanding. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the location.

8:54 p.m., Santos Diaz Devora, 51, of Houston was arrested by Trooper Ashley for driving while intoxicated, first offense. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Devora posted bond and was released the same day.

Sunday, Dec. 26

12 a.m., A local resident called and reported loud music being played north of the Catholic Church. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

4:01 a.m., A local resident reported not being able to sleep because her neighbors were being to

loud. Deputy Chism went to the location and took care of the situation.

4:10 a.m., A woman who resides in Del Rio but works at Ora's Drive Inn filed a missing person's report for her 16-year-old daughter. The daughter had gone to movies with a couple of local residents and had not returned. Deputy Chism located the girl and advised the young man she was with to take her home. The mother reported that her daughter was back home at 8:05 a.m.

4:27 a.m., U.S. Border Patrol agents at the Cline Checkpoint reported they were holding two individuals from New Mexico for not having a driver's license or any form of identification on them. Officials at the checkpoint instructed the dispatcher to have Trooper Ashley call before going to their location.

5:45 p.m., A local resident requested that Game Warden Henry Lutz be dispatched to his residence. Someone had shot a deer on his property. Lutz was advised of the situation.

8:08 p.m., A local woman called and reported that someone was setting fireworks off near her property and one had landed in her yard and started a fire. She was able to put the fire out. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the location.

The Brackett News

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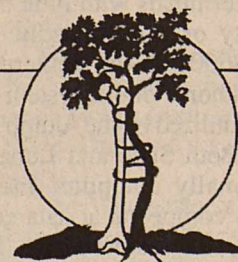
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Season's Greetings



Marc, San Juana, Nate, Margaret, Gary, Sonia, Martha, Liza, Clarissa, Dr. Gloria Box, Gilbert, Cande and Michael



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*Wishing You and Your Family a Safe
and Happy Holiday Season*

There's still time!

I could be wrong!
By Chuck Hall

I am trying to find just the right words to express my feelings as we near the end of this year, this decade, this century, and this millennium. It isn't easy. What words of incredible magnitude can I share with my readers?

It seems like I should write something monumental. I won't. I hardly ever do. But I have to write something don't I?

Should I ramble about the changes we've seen in the last 1,000 years? I am hardly qualified. I barely remember half of the last century. I am even confused about last week's events. And a large portion of what I do recall, I'd like to forget.

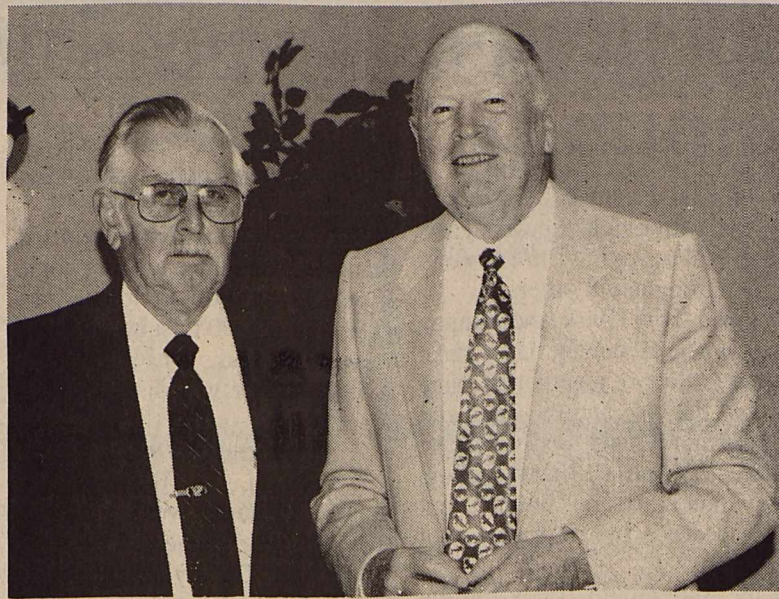
Perhaps I'll record what I en-

vision to be the future of the next 1,000 years. I don't have that much foresight.

Maybe we're blowing this Y2K thing all out of proportion. Why is the beginning of this year any different than any other Jan. 1? Or unlike any ordinary new day for that matter? Is it really that special? How will your life, or mine, change at 12:01?

Every new day is special. Each beginning brings a fresh start of something exciting.

Wait! This isn't really the end of this decade, century, or millennium. No, we still have a year to go. It actually won't be the first day of a new millennium until 1 January 2001! I still have a full year to create something memorable. I promise it'll be worth the wait. But I could be wrong.



Clark Davis (left) welcomes Allen McCord to the Uvalde Chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution.

Sons of the American Revolution host last meeting of the century

The last meeting of the century of the Uvalde chapter of the Sons of the American Revolution was held Dec. 11 with a luncheon at the Uvalde Holiday Inn.

The meeting was conducted by President Clark Gilbert Davis. Following the Pledge of Allegiance, the group sang "America the Beautiful," and Tom Casey then gave the secretary and treasurer reports. State Vice President Louis Haley brought greetings from the state president.

Vice President Charles McFarland introduced the speaker, NJROTC Lt. Commander Ramos from Uvalde High School.

Ramos gave an excellent presentation on the activities that the Uvalde ROTC has been involved in. A question and answer session followed his presentation.

A new member of SAR, Allen Rue McCord, was introduced to the group and presented with his member pin. McCord is a resident of Fort Clark Springs in Brackettville.

Attending the meeting from Brackettville were Pat and Clem McKelvy, and Allen and Clara McCord.

The SAR scholarship to an Eagle Scout was voted on and will be awarded at a later date.

Construction projects top stories in 1999

Continued from Page 1

problems with the plumbing and the bells. Sims said the problems were solved by the end of the first day of school.

3. NEW EMS BUILDING: The Kinney County Commissioners Court approved a \$281,000 contract with Jack Hill Construction Company earlier this month for the construction of the county's new EMS building.

The facility will be built on county property, located on the corner of Ellen and Henderson streets.

Construction will begin as soon as the company receives a notice to proceed from the county. The project will be completed within 180 days after construction begins.

4. CITY ANNEX COMPLAINTS: Brackettville city officials received complaints concerning the erection of a wire fence, a large gate and a 20-foot easement at the city's collection site property on U.S. Highway 90.

The council agreed to hear the complaints in executive session, and took no action on the issue.

5. SAFETY MEASURES AT FCS: Officials at Fort Clark requested that the county provide a deputy to patrol and give out traffic citations at the fort.

State House Bill 1703, which went into effect Sept. 1, allows a commissioners court to extend and enforce traffic rules applying to

county roads to the roads of a subdivision.

The bill requires 25 percent of the property owners in the subdivision to petition the court.

A committee found that funding of another full-time deputy would cost \$32,000 annually.

6. CHIEF APPRAISER RESIGNS: Joyce Fuentes resigned as Kinney County's chief appraiser June 7.

"It really didn't take too long to make this decision, it's a very stressful job," Fuentes said at the time. "I am currently taking medication that helps control the stress related to this job."

The Appraisal District later contracted the duties of the chief appraiser position to Mick Mikulenska for \$21,000.

7. FCS BOARD RESIGNATIONS: George Cowart resigned from the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors June 19, becoming the third board member to resign in less than two months.

Bill Kelly and Bob Moore had previously resigned from the Board of Directors.

Ella Chambers, David Gonzalez and Herb Senne later filled the vacated positions.

8. 150th ANNIVERSARY OF HIGHWAY 90: Brackettville took part in the May 1 celebration of the highway which started its career as the San Antonio-El Paso Road 150 years ago.

A Pony Express ride began in Brackettville

at the old stage stop on El Paso Street, owned by Seth and Molly Earl Kaplan, and ended in Castroville.

A proclamation from Gov. George W. Bush was presented to Brackettville officials congratulating the city on being a part of Highway 90.

9. COUNTY EMPLOYEES UNHAPPY WITH SALARIES: A few county employees expressed outrage toward the salary increases in the 2000 budget during an August meeting.

A 4.5 percent raise was given to all county employees, but some employees were given a more substantial pay raise.

The budget was later approved as it was originally proposed.

10. ALAMO VILLAGE CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY: Kinney County's famous movie set celebrated 40 years. The village originated in 1959 when John Wayne produced, directed and starred in "The Alamo."

Alamo Village was originally built by Wayne after he was persuaded by James T. "Happy" Shahan to film the movie in Texas rather than Mexico.

Over 600 people from across the nation turned out for the annual Labor Day celebration.

Special guests included James Drury of "The Virginian," Alamo stuntman Dean Smith, and world renowned gunslinger Joe Bowman.

The Lions Club Thrift Store will be closed Jan. 1, 2000.

Our next sale day will be Jan. 15, 2000.

We would like to thank the community for all the donations and purchases. Wishing all of you a safe and happy New Year!!

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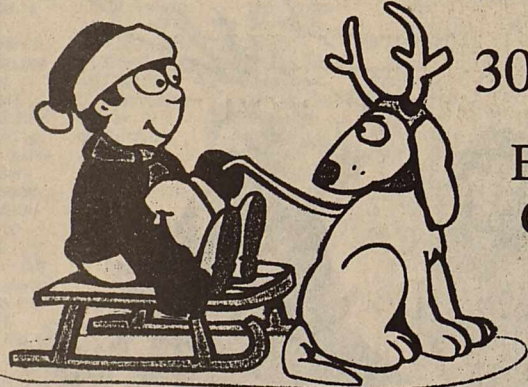
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Party chairman unsure

Continued from Page 1

"I kind of wish they would start taking all of that local stuff out and go on a state and national level, but on the other hand, I will encourage somebody to run if I think someone is not doing their job and I encourage people to go along with the philosophical belief of the party they're in," Melton explained.

Here in Kinney County, the number of republicans who vote in primary and general elections tends to be greater for the state and national levels.

"If it's on a state level it's immense, but it is huge on the national election, and it (the number of turnout) depends on that primary if we don't have a local election," Melton explained.

"The last time we had the judge's race here, only the hardest core republicans came out and voted, they wanted Senne to win

bad," Melton said. "But, when it came time for the national election, it was huge and the Republican Party nominees carried Kinney County."

By Melton's estimate, Kinney County's population is about 65 percent Hispanic.

"Bush and all the republicans did really well among Hispanic voters in Kinney County. I was totally shocked. It taught me two or three things, a lot of the Hispanic voters are independent minded, they don't go along with certain things," said Melton.

Both parties will have their primary elections on March 14. The secretary of state will be in charge of the primaries for both parties. In November the county will be running the general election through the County Clerk's Office.

For more information, you can call the Secretary of State's Office toll free at 1-800-252-2216.

Secret Service agent speaks to DAR group

Charles Dyer, a special agent with the Secret Service in charge of the South Texas-Mexico area, was the guest speaker of the Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter No. 2060 of the United Daughters of the Confederacy at the group's December meeting at Fort Sam Houston Officers Club in San Antonio.

The Secret Service was organized in 1865 following the war between the States to maintain the financial integrity of the currency of this country. At this time, approximately one-third of the circulating currency was counterfeit.

Today the United States' currency is the most respected in the world.

It was not until after the as-

assination of Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley that the Secret Service began protecting the president of the United States.

At this time, the protection of the president is one of their priorities, but they are still very involved in breaking counterfeit money rings, as well as counterfeit credit card schemes.

Following Dyer's presentation, the group had lunch and then wrapped candy canes and toiletries for patients in the Veteran's Hospital.

During the business meeting, Pat McKelvy was appointed second vice president of the organization.

Other Brackettville members present were Hawkins Huey and Agnes Vondy.

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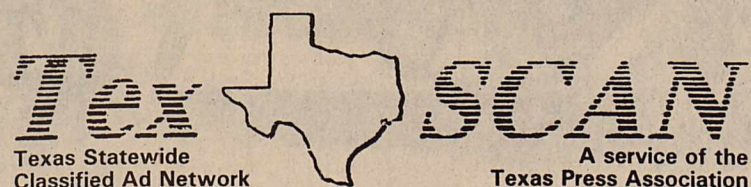
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Appraisal board approves \$11,000 in amendments

Continued from Page 1
The second approved budget amendment was to purchase two workstation computers for Slate and Luna.

Existing computer hardware was purchased in 1996 for \$29,665. The Appraisal District still owes \$11,754 towards the purchase.

Haenn presented the board with written background information and a recommendation that described the present computer system.

"We do not use the Uniplex Word Processor at all," Haenn said in his written proposal. "We overpaid for a system with five 'dumb' terminals with little or no flexibility or user friendly. The IBM RS6000 is the centerpiece and workhorse of our system, but is under utilized by the 'dumb' terminals. Both Slate and Luna are exceptionally computer literate and very competent at data entry, retrieval, and maintenance. They need PCs to fully capitalize their skills."

Tigers advance to consolation finals at Rocksprings tourney

By J.J. Guidry
Contributing Writer

ROCKSPRINGS — The Brackett Tigers split a pair of games Monday to advance to the consolation finals of the Rocksprings Invitational basketball tournament.

Brackett faced Harper Wednesday afternoon in the consolation championship, but results were not available at presstime.

The Tigers (6-6), who open district play at home on Friday, Jan. 7, against Center Point, advanced Monday after picking up a 62-52 win over the Sabinal Yellowjackets in the consolation semifinals.

Brackett led by two points at halftime, but outscored Sabinal 18-15 in the third quarter to take a 48-43 lead into the final stanza. The Tigers went on to take a 14-9 scoring advantage in the final period.

"We played good," Brackett coach Jimmy

"We played good. We played together as a team. The kids really stepped up. We had good intensity on defense."

Tigers coach Jimmy Thomas

Thomas said. "We played together as a team. The kids really stepped up. We had good intensity on defense."

The Tigers led 19-12 after the first quarter, but Sabinal outscored Brackett 16-11 in the second period to cut the Tigers' lead to 30-28 at intermission.

Damian Toms paced Brackett's scoring attack with a game-high 24 points. Steven Hagler and Jacob Hughes also scored in double figures with 13 and 11 points, respectively.

Schiller Hill finished the game with six points, while Jared Hobbs and Coty Williams

added four points each.

The Tigers dropped their opening game of the tournament to the Eldorado Eagles, 42-65.

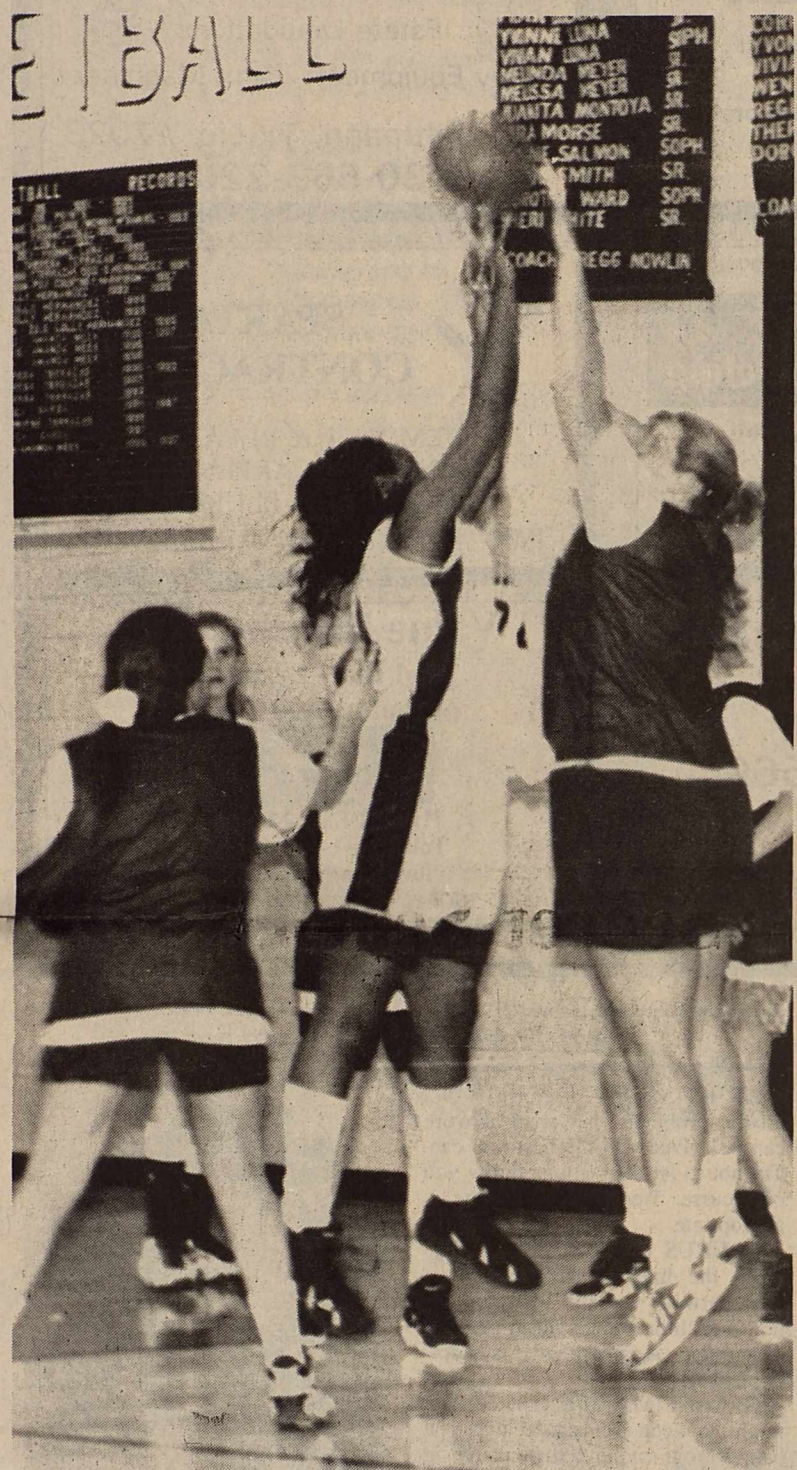
Eldorado led 9-8 after the opening stanza, but Brackett took a 14-13 advantage in the second period to tie the game at 22-all at half-time.

The Eagles put the game away in the second half, outscoring the Tigers 25-15 in the third quarter and 18-5 in the fourth.

"We played a great first half, and struggled in the second half against a Top 10 team," Thomas said.

Hill was Brackett's leading scorer in the contest with 13 points, and Williams chipped in eight.

Toms finished the game with seven points, Hughes scored six, Hobbs had four, Daniel Hernandez scored three, and Hagler added a free throw.



LaToya Wright (center) goes up for a shot against Amanda Meek in last year's alumni game. Wright and the Tigerettes will face the exes tonight at 6 at Tiger Gym. Brackett News File Photo

Tigerettes battle alumni tonight

By J.J. Guidry
Contributing Writer

The Brackett Tigerettes will resume basketball action following the Christmas break tonight at 6 as they face the Brackett exes at Tiger Gym.

The annual matchup features the high school's current team against alumni.

Tigerettes coach Gregg Nowlin said all former players are welcome to come play.

"Anybody is welcome to play," he said. "We'll even take exes from other towns."

Nowlin said he hopes the game will get the Tigerettes back into the swing of things.

"Hopefully, it will be good competition," he said. "We've had about a 10-day layoff and it's something to get us going before we play Comstock."

Brackett (11-4) travels to Comstock Tuesday before opening district play on Friday, Jan. 7, at home against Center Point.

"We're off to a real good start," Nowlin said. "Hopefully, we will be able to pick up where we left off."

"We have good senior leadership with LaToya Wright, Trish Robinson and Jamie Bader. If you don't have good leadership, then your team is not going to gel and come together."

Wright, who starts at post, is averaging 11.0 points and 10.7 rebounds a game this season.

"She's playing good," Nowlin said. "I told her before the season

that I expected a lot of great things out of her. She's playing well. She knows that she has a ways to go, but she is pleased with what she has done so far."

Robinson has become more of a scoring threat for Brackett since being moved from the point guard position to a wing. She is averaging 8.0 points per contest.

"I thought we could get more scoring opportunities for her at the wing," Nowlin said. "She has adapted well. She has had some 16- and 18-point games. The last couple of years, she didn't get those opportunities. I think it has been a good move."

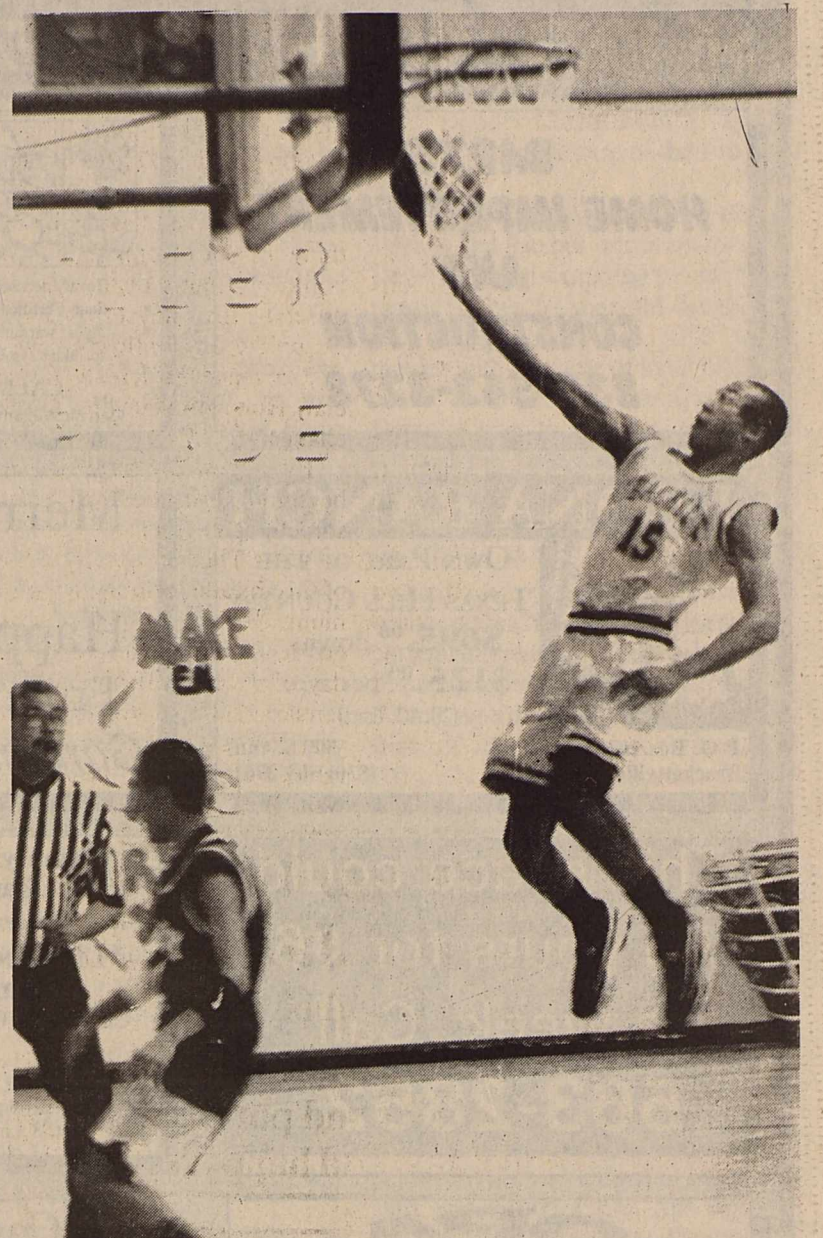
Also providing a spark for the Tigerettes has been sophomore post Duquesa Hunt, who is averaging 9.2 points and 7.2 rebounds a game.

"Duquesa started the year off real well," Nowlin said. "She's in a shooting slump right now, but we're hoping she will pull out of it. I'm hoping she will average 13 or 14 points a game in district, and she's capable of that."

Nowlin is confident that the Tigerettes will be in the race for the district title.

"Like any year, if the team comes together, I think we can compete for the district championship," he said.

"Jourdanton has four starters back and some real good bench players back, plus they had a good J.V. last year. They should be the pick of the district. We're hoping to step up and knock them off," Nowlin added.



Damian Toms (15) scored 24 points Monday in the Tigers' 62-52 win over Sabinal at the Rocksprings tournament. The Tigers open district play Friday, Jan. 7, at home against Center Point.

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OUTDOORS

Practice shooting from field positions

Gunsmoke and Campfires
By Steven R. LaMascuso

I went out to the rifle range the other day to sight in two of my rifles. Both had been on a couple of long, hard trips and I just wanted to make certain they were still sighted in.

I set up my sandbags and shot both guns from the bench at 100 yards. One of them, my favorite, is a stainless steel Model 70 Winchester Classic in 7 mm. Remington Magnum. From the bench the first group I shot with the big seven was just about three inches above point of aim at 100 yards with all three of the bullet holes clustered into a group that measured less than a half-inch.

The other rifle I was shooting that day was a Remington Model 7 in 7 mm-.08 with pencil thin 22-inch barrel. Its groups off the bench will usually run just about three times the size of those shot with the Magnum. This day was no exception and the three-shot group from the Model 7 ran nearly an inch and a half. Still plenty good for a light barreled hunting rifle.

Satisfied that both were still sighted properly, I stepped to the 200-yard range and fired some groups from the sitting position with both rifles. This time the groups were considerably larger.

The Winchester's groups opened to about five inches. Not bad considering I was shooting at 200 yards without a rest. But the surprising thing was the fact that the Remington's

groups were almost identical to those of the more accurate Winchester.

Why? Simple. That is as good as I can shoot from the sitting position at 200 yards. Both rifles are capable of better accuracy than that at that range, but the shooter isn't. Therefore the difference in accuracy between the two rifles is a moot point.

The moral of this story is that no matter if you have a rifle that will literally put all the bullets in the same hole, the limiting factor is the ability of the shooter.

I learned a long time ago that the way to take game is to shoot from the steadiest position possible. I try to never shoot from the offhand position if there is any other option. Even though it is the fastest position to assume, it is the slowest position from which to get off an accurate, well-aimed shot.

Shooting from offhand requires total concentration, breath control, trigger control and patience. You simply cannot grab the shot as the target wobbles by. You must hold, aim, and squeeze until Old Death and Destruction decides to fire. This takes time. To the contrary, when shooting from a rest it is easy to get on target and press the trigger, because the sights are not wobbling all over several acres.

The most useful field position is sitting. It is relatively fast to assume, steadier than anything short of a rest, and flexible enough to allow shooting at a moving target. In reality, it

is faster to get off one well aimed, accurate shot from sitting than it is from standing, except at very short ranges, say less than 75 yards.

Prone is a useful position, but seldom used in the field. Almost without exception, when I have used the prone position in the field, it was with a rest over a log, a jacket, or some other object.

Prone is the steadiest field position, but also the least useful. When prone your vision is often obstructed by low vegetation or other impediments.

It is amazing the difference that a foot of elevation can make it the amount of clutter between you and your target.

I cannot understand those hunters who never practice shooting from field positions. I see dozens every year who spend hours at the range and never shoot except off the bench. It is imperative that you practice the positions you will use under field conditions.

Practice getting into that sitting position so you won't have to think about it when that Boone and Crockett buck is poised for a get-away and you have three seconds to shoot. And learn to use a sling. It will make a world of difference in your field accuracy.

Here is my personal motto regarding shooting in the field: Never shoot offhand if you can sit, and never sit if you can find a rest. Even if your rifle is a paragon of accuracy, you won't be able to hit beans if you aren't shooting from the most solid position available.

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5 Touch up the text
9 It should be square
13 "Don't — it!"
18 Act like Eina
20 Birdbrain
21 Garfield's pal
22 Fragrance
23 Tennessee cry of denial?
25 — "Shuffle" (77 song)
26 Long walks
27 Pleasant
28 Jeroboam contents
29 Way up
30 Vend
31 Get — (be successful)
32 Mikita and Musical
33 Find the sum
36 Spring holiday
39 TV's —
40 Sharky's
44 Mature
48 North Carolina cry of encouragement?
47 Seizes suddenly
51 Join the leisure class?
52 Item for
53 Live on lettuce
55 Coasted
57 Texas cry of sympathy?
58 Feel
59 Writer Rland
60 Second
61 Triumvirate member
62 EMT's skill
64 Everything
65 Dickens
68 "Yak"
69 Pennsylvanians cry of disgust?
73 — Moines, IA
74 He'll bend over backward for you
76 Grazing
80 Exac's deg.
82 Utah cry of revolution?
88 Chihuahua dough
89 Chihuahua snack
91 Italian port
92 Dwell
93 "Scat!"
95 Illinois cry of surprise?
97 Sampras and Rafter
98 Weeding tool
100 Duration
102 Chemical suffix
103 Buy off
106 See
109 Orient
112 Uproar
113 Mr. Diamond
114 Least liberal
119 Gravel-voiced
120 Thailand, formerly
121 Michigan cry of chagrin?
122 Senator
123 Cultural grp.
124 Nautical adverb
125 Concluded
126 Hackneyed
127 Big man on campus
128 Cunning
129 With 106
1 Horns or Olin
2 "He's — Plicker" ("14 song)
3 German valley
4 Church areas
5 Fit to least on
6 Barbie or Ken
7 Unemployed
8 Sock part
9 "Le Misanthrope"
10 Minneapolis suburb
11 Helped
12 Composer
13 Massachusetts cry of contempt?
14 Author Jong
15 Symbol
16 Forebodings
17 "Boss"
18 Tweed's nemesis
19 What you used to be
20 Actor Kilmer
21 Baby
22 Egyptian viper
23 Playwright
24 Fugard
25 Taj town
26 Sleuth
27 Nancy
28 Kids
29 D.D.'s connect them
30 Jockey giant
31 Darjeeling dress
32 Hawaii's state bird
33 Veneration
34 Psychic
35 Geller
36 Incination
37 Tennyson tale
38 — rummy
39 Sock part
40 Bank
41 depository
42 "Hiroshima"
43 Quiet
44 Colors
45 Maugham's
46 —
47 Delibes
48 Pro-gun grp.
49 Saucepan
50 Drillers' org.
51 TV's
52 "Murder, — Wire"
53 Huff and puff
54 Feels sore
55 Impertinent
56 Cops' org.
57 — grease
58 Indeed
59 Grievance
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62 Sgt. or cpl.
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64 The Never-Ending Story
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68 Tiny coin
69 Genesis setting
70 Sealooked one
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88 "The — is High" ('80 hit)
89 Tiny coin
90 Genesis setting
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92 Luminox

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

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

Basket	Carton	Jar	Shaker
Box	Cask	Luggage	Tank
Can	Dumpster	Pitcher	Thermos
Capsule	Flask	Pouch	

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ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Not all the problems that arise at work can be solved. Do the best you can. Try not to let distractions throw you off course. Weekend celebrating is appropriate.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Keep the lines of communication open between you and a partner. Try not to let little things get in the way of harmony. A career matter is happily resolved.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You might be inconsistent in the way you handle your money, particularly in light of the celebration you have planned. Resist penny-wise, pound-foolish behavior. Don't let a friend's negative thinking get you down.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You could get conflicting advice about a financial concern. Double-check schedules to avert holiday travel mix-ups. Accent positive thinking this weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Minor delays in business could test your patience. Getting upset won't do anything to further your progress. Make allowances for others' shortcomings.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) There could be a mix-up in holiday party schedules. You might have too much to do at home to feel comfortable really whooping it up. An in-law asks for advice.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You're likely to have ambivalent feelings about socializing. Part of you would prefer to be by yourself when the New Year rings in. Don't dwell on a past matter. Let bygones be bygones.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Concentration might not be at its best on the job. Unexpected developments could throw you off course, but this is temporary. Try not to let a domestic concern upset you.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Overall, it is not the best week for financial dealings. Everyone's mind is on the approaching new millennium and the celebration. Innocent expenditures could easily mount up.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Take care you don't misplace something of value. You might not be ready to make up your mind about a financial matter. Delays at work are likely due to the holiday.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll enjoy the company of surprise visitors, but you might fall behind on some projects. With partners, there's a need to be cooperative.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Business comes before partying. A child could be temperamental. There are some loose ends at work you'll want to tie up before relaxing for the holiday.

YOU BORN THIS WEEK are an original thinker who is visionary in outlook. You have much nervous energy and need time alone to keep yourself on an even keel. Your ideals are high and you seek a job that reflects this.

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HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

Differences: 1. Sign on shovel is different. 2. Window on door is missing. 3. Man's nose is wider. 4. Man's hat is different. 5. Tree trunk is wider. 6. Man's nose is shorter.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 30.. William D. Thornton	Jan. 2..... Jerry Melane
Dec. 31..... Jerry Adams	Jan. 2..... Jerry Taugner
Dec. 31..... Betty Sanchez	Jan. 3.. Genovena Gutierrez
Jan. 1..... Chonita Garza	Jan. 3..... Janelle Senne
Jan. 1..... Tootsie Herndon	Jan. 4..... Kevin Cavender
Jan. 1..... Valerie Vela	Jan. 4..... Inga Haglund
Jan. 2..... David Burton	Jan. 4..... Ronald Theis
Jan. 2..... Amanda Meek	Jan. 5..... Norman Butler
Jan. 5..... Maxine Schoolfield	

Choose to let your light shine

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charolette Corey

"Light the Night" as we enter the new year and the new century and a new millennium. "Ye are the light of the world... Let your light so shine among men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven." (Mat 5:14-16) Remember, also, that your light cannot shine unless you have the one who is THE LIGHT living in you. "Then spake JESUS again unto them, saying, I am THE LIGHT of the world: he that followeth me shall not walk in darkness, but shall have the light of life." (John 8:12) "...as many as received him, to them gave he power to become the sons of God, even to them that believe on his name..." (John 1:1-14).

Some fear that they will have no electricity for light in their homes. You should be more concerned about whether there is light in your soul. If there is light in your soul, God will give you wisdom through the power of the Holy Spirit to deal with earthly matters. If you don't have the Holy Spirit, you will be left in darkness, no matter how wise you think you are.

In the story of "The Christmas Carol" there was a character named Marley who was the former partner of Scrooge. When Marley entered the room he dragged along the chains he had forged for himself when he was alive. Each link of these chains were forged by hard heartedness, unforgiveness, lack of love and selfishness among

other things. Marley warned Scrooge that the chain he had forged was already much longer and heavier than the one he had forged for himself. The story also pointed out that we can choose to change our potential future by making the right choices.

There is biblical truth in this story when it comes to not forgiving others or letting go of the past. When you don't forgive, you choose to drag the past around as chains about yourself in an eternal darkness of the soul. When you choose to do wrong things, you add another link to your chains.

Romans 13:10-12 says "Love worketh no ill to his neighbor: therefore love is the fulfilling of the law. And that, knowing the time, that now it is high time to awake out of sleep: for now is our salvation nearer than when we believed. The night is far spent, the day is at hand: let us therefore cast off the works of darkness, and let us put on the armour of light."

1 Thes. 5:8-14 says, "But let us who are of the day, be sober, putting on the breastplate of faith and love; for an helmet, the hope of salvation.

For God hath not appointed us to wrath, but to obtain salvation by our Lord Jesus Christ, who died for us, that, whether we wake or sleep, we should live together with him. ...See that none render evil for evil unto any man; but ever follow that which is good, both among yourselves, and to all men.

Choose to let your light shine in the darkness. Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Evolution versus creation

The Way I See It!
By Steven R. LaMascuso

Brother Ray Melton, when he so aptly filled in for me while I was away a couple of months ago, mentioned the THEORY of evolution.

Now evolution is a very interesting theory. It helps us poor, stupid humans explain something that we have trouble understanding - where did life come from?

Charles Darwin, in his landmark book "Origin of the Species," put forth the theory of evolution, and since then it has been embraced by almost every scientist as the theory to end all theories. It is used to explain the appearance of dinosaurs, mammals, man, and so on, ad infinitum.

According to the current theory, everything began by pure accident. Apparently, several billion years ago, there was a "primordial soup" on earth. This was before there was any life at all. This primordial soup contained various substances including proteins and amino acids.

Since the earth at that time was in a constant state of flux, and the atmosphere was poisonous and highly charged, there were continuous gargantuan discharges of electricity. Apparently this megalinghtning struck the soup and caused the amino acids to come to life. Wow! Shades of Dr. Frankenstein! It's alive! It's alive!

There is only one thing wrong with this theory: There has to have been a true beginning.

If there was a primordial soup, where did it come from? Where did the earth on which this pri-

ordial soup formed come from? If the universe was formed by the explosion of an infinitely dense mote of matter, as the Big Bang Theory says, then where did that mote of matter come from? See what I mean?

There has to have been a cause for the whole thing. Everything physical has a beginning.

I don't know how God formed the universe. I wouldn't understand if he told me. It would most likely be like me trying to explain quantum physics to a gold fish. However, I don't have to understand the basics to understand that there was a beginning.

Since time, space, and gravity all require matter and motion to exist, it is only reasonable to assume that before the formation of the universe there was neither time nor space. If there was no time, then why did that so often theorized Big Bang happen?

The theoretical scientists of today, and of the time of Darwin, are overlooking the most elementary fact. Not once has there been any proof found that the THEORY of evolution is factual. There has never been a single "missing link" discovered. The theory of evolution is just exactly that, a theory! It is not a scientific fact. It has less factual basis than creationism. So why is it so universally accepted as an unimpeachable truth?

When I watch a show on TV about dinosaurs, or early mammals, or anthropology, the producers always display the evolutionary aspects of the species. The dinosaur evolved from a reptile, that evolved from a fish, that evolved from a simpler life form,

that evolved from a single cell, and so on, and so on. They offer this to us as a concrete fact. Never is it put forth as a theory.

Never will you hear on these programs that there is a possibility that God just decided to introduce another, different species into the Great Scheme of Things. Oh, no! There simply must be another explanation. Well, they are wrong!

There is but one explanation - there is only one God, there was only one Creation. Moses knew. When he wrote "In the beginning God created the heavens and the earth. Now the earth was formless and empty, darkness was over the surface of the deep, and the Spirit of God was hovering over the waters," he knew exactly whereof he spoke. He knew because God told him.

He was, by our standards, a primitive man. He had no concept of the scope of even the small corner of the earth he lived in. Without the knowledge of God there is no way he could have come to the conclusion that there had been a beginning, much less envision the immense scope of that beginning, but there it is; a pretty good description of what the beginning of everything must have been like.

Just remember this when you are force-fed the Theory of Evolution as a truth - it is not only unproven, it is proven wrong.

God, not Mother Nature is the Creator. Do not make the mistake of confusing the Creator with His creation.

God created the universe; man created the Theory of Evolution. Which do you think is right?

Different resolutions come with the new millenium

Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
By Lynn McNew

As I have said previously, in the past several weeks I have had the opportunity to look at things from a different perspective. It has not been easy. I would like to believe, however, that I will have changed slightly when this is all over.

This brings me to my New Year's resolutions. I make some every year and I am not good at keeping them. Maybe this is because I have tried to make such big resolutions. I will lose fifty pounds, I will exercise for thirty minutes every day, I will spend more time in prayer and Bible reading. The list could go on and on, and I'm sure many of you make the same kind of promises.

What has changed? Well, for one thing, and probably the most

important, I have learned that things don't have to be done in big steps. That many small steps will eventually get you where you want to go. Does it take longer? You bet it does. Are you more tired when you get there? I'm not sure, but I think so. But along the way, I have seen beautiful butterflies and flowers and lots of other interesting things.

I have also learned that things don't always get done when and/or how you want them. Does it matter? Most of the time, probably not. Patience and letting go of control are wonderful assets to have.

During the long nights when I am not sleeping, I have learned it is a wonderful time to pray. And the thing is, I used to know that. When our children were growing up, I would get up early in the morning so I would have quiet time by

myself to pray and reflect and get ready for my day.

For the year 2000 my resolutions will be different. Will eating healthy and getting enough exercise still be important? Of course they will. But I know I will feel like doing those things when I am not frustrated by all the other baggage I carry around. So my resolution will be to remember what is important in life and appreciate it. To take my time and use that time to say a prayer.

May this new year (whether or not you believe it is a new millennium) bring you the gift of time - to enjoy the things you like to do, family, friends, a good book. And may we never lose sight of the glory of Christmas.

You are welcome to worship with us at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church anytime. God Bless You!

Dave Crowe to deliver message

Marshal Dave Crowe of Alamo Village will hang up his guns and spurs long enough on Sunday to deliver his millennium message at Frontier Baptist Church.

Crowe, a member of the community for seven years, said he has come to love the people of this area. He began preaching this past summer out at Alamo Village's Old San Fernando Church because, after 40 years of doing so, Rev. Joe Townsend was not able to continue because of illness.

Crowe extends a warm and heart felt invitation to everyone.

"No matter who you are, you are an adopted child of God, made in his image," he said. "God knows you! If you have lived in this area any length of time, everyone else knows you as well. In the sight of God we are equal, no one better, no one worse. We are all sinners, God loves us and he is always ready to forgive us. Praise be to God."

Readings from the book of St. Matthew

St. John's Missionary Church
By Rev. William P. Adams

"Therefore take no thought saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or with what shall we be clothed?"

"For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things.

"But seek ye first the Kingdom of God, and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you," St. Matthew 6: 31-33.

New Year's Eve service will be held at 10:45 p.m. Everyone is invited to St. John's Missionary Church. Praise God!

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Sunday P.M. 1:30
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

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Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
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HEALTH

What you can do about holiday or Y2K stress

Whether mild stress brought on by a car that won't start to the stress of holidays or Y2k concerns to the intense stress of losing a loved one, everyone experiences it.

Learning to recognize the normal reactions and emotions that stress may cause can help you become more comfortable and effective in coping with it. The following information explains some of the feelings and behaviors that can result from stress. Things to look for:

- Behaviors**
- Having problems getting to sleep or staying asleep.
 - Isolating or withdrawing from others.
 - Keeping excessively busy and preoccupied to avoid stressful thoughts or situations.
 - Losing interest in activities that previously were enjoyable.
 - Becoming overly alert or easily startled.
 - Experiencing increased conflicts or tension with family mem-

- bers or other people.
- Easily crying or becoming tearful for no apparent reason.
 - Eating noticeably more or less than usual.

- Feelings**
- Feeling just "not myself," out of balance, or easily upset.
 - Feeling a loss of interest in everyday activities.
 - Feeling a sense of despair, hopelessness or emptiness about the future.
 - Feeling anxious or fearful, especially in connection to sources of stress.
 - Feeling irritable, short-tempered, or angry and resentful.
 - Feeling depressed, sad or down much of the time.

- Thoughts**
- Trouble concentrating or remembering things.
 - Difficulty making decisions.
 - Frequently replaying stressful events and circumstances in your mind.
 - Recurring dreams or even nightmares related to sources of

stress.

- Questioning of spiritual or religious beliefs.

Health

If stress continues over time, physical health can be adversely affected. It is common for headaches, stomach or intestinal problems, colds, viruses and increase in allergies to occur more frequently. Also, pre-existing medical conditions such as heart problems and high blood pressure may be aggravated by prolonged stress.

Mental Health

Stress may adversely affect mental health as well as physical health. Anxiety and depression can occur as a result of stress. If you already have a mental health problem, stress can make it worse. Stress can bring about physical, mental and emotional fatigue. It is important to remember that it can take time to heal from the effects of stress. However, using some proven tools to cope with stress can help reduce the intensity and duration of its effects.

For Yourself

- Talk to others about how you are feeling.
- Don't become isolated. Seek and maintain connections with community - friends, relatives, coworkers, or church members. Talk about your experiences with them.
- Take time for recreation, relaxation or a favorite hobby.
- Pay close attention to your physical health as prolonged stress can take a toll on the body. Maintain a good diet and get enough sleep. Physical activity and exercise can help, too.
- Upsetting times can cause some people to use alcohol or drugs to cope with stress. This way of coping doesn't help in the long run and is likely to cause other problems.
- For Your Family
- Families should keep some routine in place such as regular meals, certain enjoyable activities, and other family rituals. This will

■ See WHAT YOU/Page 8

ADOPTION

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

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Open House: January 5 & 8, 12:00 noon - 4:00 p.m.
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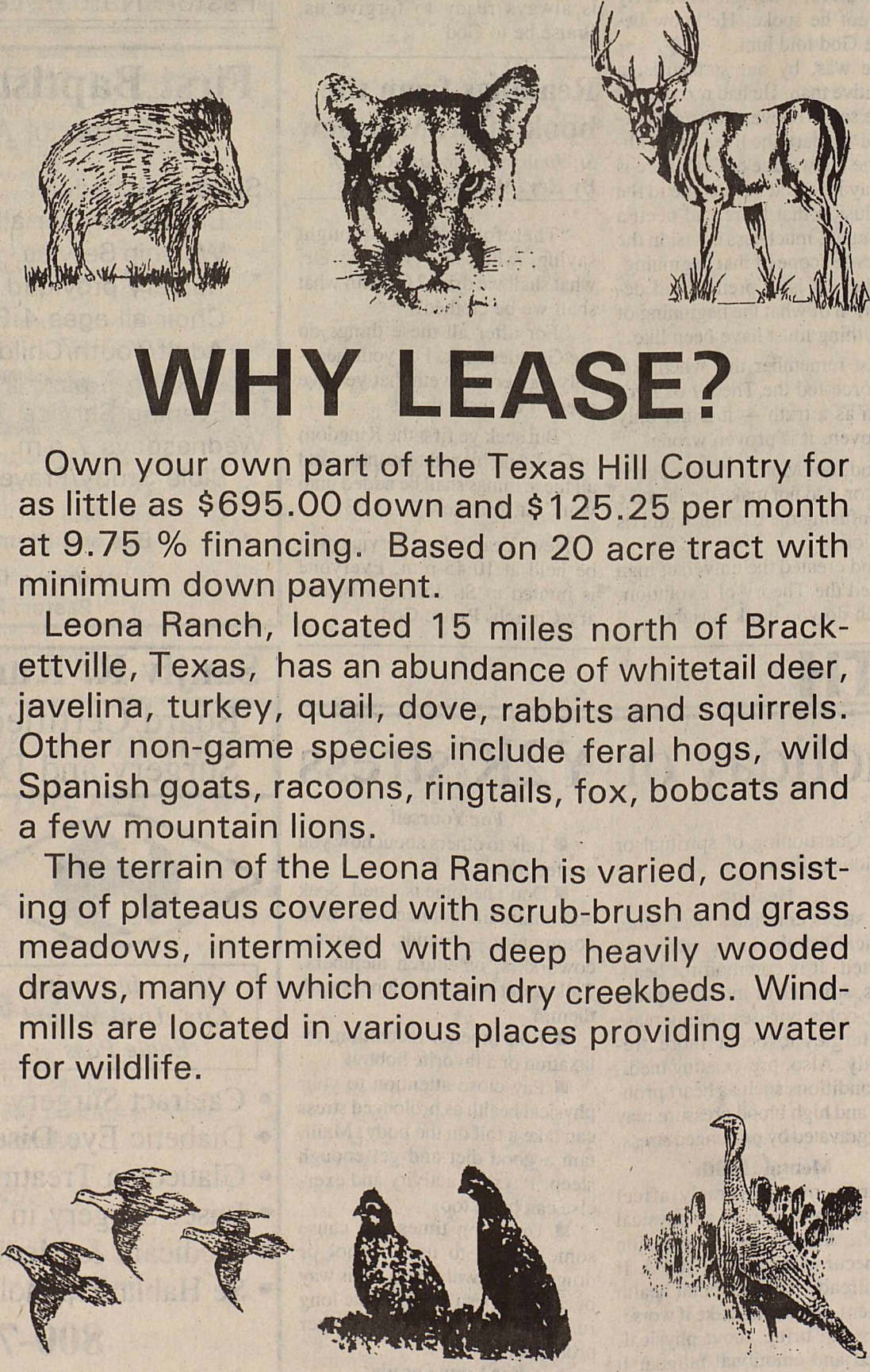
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What you can do about stress

- Continued from Page 7 help provide a sense of order and normality.
- Couples need to attend to their relationship, as this is often overlooked when one or both partners are under stress.
- Take time to be alone together, to talk about how you feel, and to have fun together.
- Take time to talk with your children. Listen to what they have to say and let them freely express their feelings.
- Remember that children do not have the same level of coping or understanding that you have.
- People with a physical or mental disability and older adults are especially vulnerable to stress.
- You may have many of the same reactions and feelings already mentioned. However, some reactions to stress can be different or intensified, as described below. It's important to ask for support when you need it.
- Feelings**
 - Memories or feelings associated with prior stressful events or situations.
 - Fear of dependency or lack of self-sufficiency.
 - Worry about limited financial resources and time to rebuild from losses.
 - Fear of institutionalization.
 - Fear of a decline in physical or mental health and reduced abilities.
- Where to find help**
 - If stress causes or worsens anxiety, depression or physical problems, or interferes with regular activities in some way, consult a physician or mental health professional. Most physicians can make referrals.
 - For more information, contact the Texas Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation Office of Consumer Services/ Rights Protection at 800-252-8154.

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Answer to Super Crossword
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