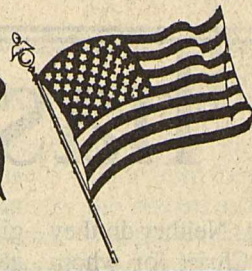


The Brackett News



Merry Christmas!

12th year, No. 47

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Volunteers contribute to Rutherford presents plaque to Brackett ISD Community Unity success

By Charolette Corey
Contributing Writer

The annual Community Christmas Program was again a great success last Sunday night at the Brackettville City Hall Park as volunteers from Gateway Ministries, Lions Club, Las Moras Hispanic Organization, EMS Building, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, City of Spofford, Brackettville Housing, Knights of Columbus, and very importantly, the employees of the City of Brackettville donated time, money, roasted marshmallows, peppermint candy, pastries, hot chocolate, cookies, salted peanuts, coffee, punch, donuts, bubble gum, and hot dogs. Gateway Ministries gave away fourteen "The Book" New Testaments and held a drawing for

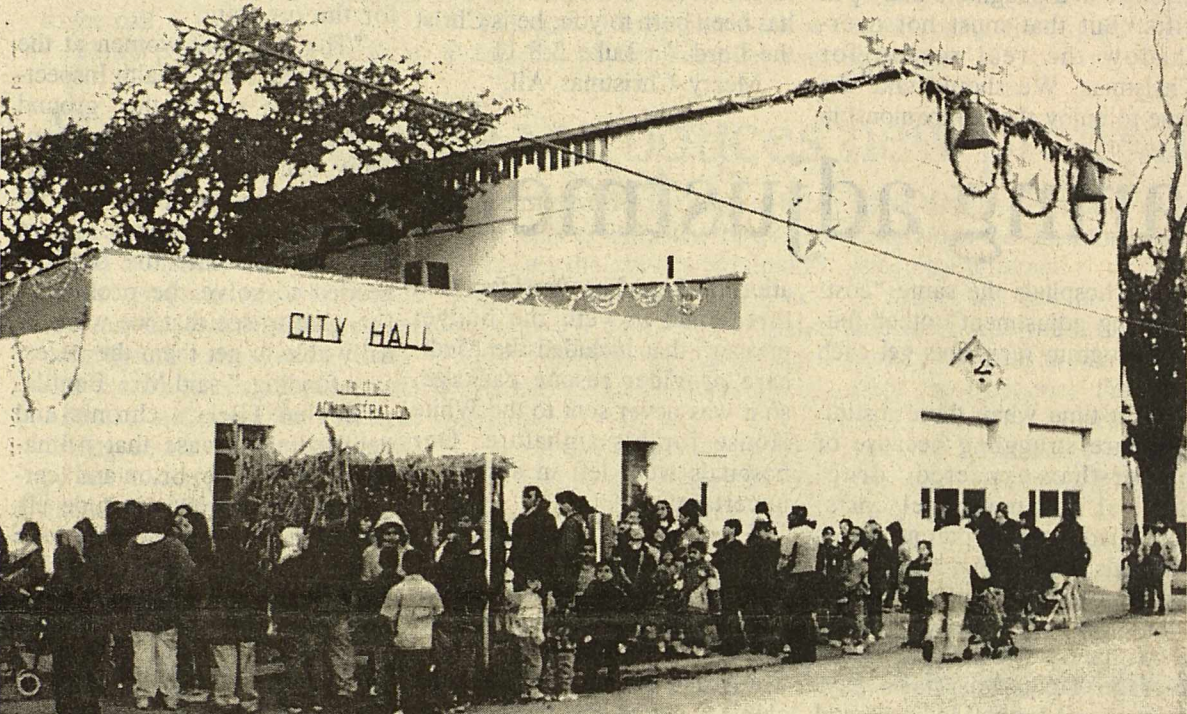
a toy pig (Harley Davidson hog). (Diana Hernandez was the winner.)

The program was emceed by Pastor Charolette Corey of Gateway Ministries, as performers came and sang from St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, Church of Christ, The Voices of Ft. Clark, and the children of Gateway Ministries - W.W.J.D. (What Would Jesus Do) Youth Program who dressed as bible characters from the nativity scene and sang for parents and friends.

Each year new improvements are made by the City of Brackettville. We loved the old fire engine with Santa riding in the driver's seat and presents in the back. We appreciated the beautiful lights, the new electrical plugs and spot lights that made keeping

things well lit and hot a lot easier. We especially give a hardy word of thanks to the efforts of Henry Lozano of Lozano's Welding and the Brackett ISD Ag Shop Teacher, John Paul Shuster, for donating their time and talents. This last minute effort on Saturday made it a lot easier to pin up sheets to make booths for stage and other tables. We will continue to enjoy these efforts yearly.

Of course, the hand out of toys was the most important event in the hearts of the children who were in line at least an hour before the 6pm beginning of distribution of toys by Santa. We thank the city employees for their help in purchasing these toys with the money donated from businesses and people who have a big, big heart for blessing children.



Citizens of Brackettville gather for the annual Community Unity which was organized by City Hall and supported by many volunteers.

Two Brackettville students chosen by Santa



From left to right Sergio Calvillo, Su Su Seargeant and Celina Calvillo. In back, Maxine Bonner, 2nd grade teacher at Jones Elementary.

Two of Brackettville's own were selected in the annual Del Rio News-Herald Letters to Santa Contest.

Jones Elementary students, Su Su Seargeant and Celina Calvillo were two of the four winners in the holiday contest.

Both students are in Maxine Bonner's 2nd grade class.

"I just think it's amazing," Bonner said.

More than 500 letters were submitted to the Del Rio News-Herald in hopes that Santa would select their letters and grant what was on their wish list.

Seargeant asked for a silver bell from Santa's sleigh and a new backpack.

Santa read both letters and agreed to them.

"Our students are not greedy, they didn't ask for much," Bonner said. "What they asked for was from the heart."

"We appreciate the students from Brackettville entering our contest," Janie Sharp said. Sharp is the News-Herald's advertising manager.

"We know we have plenty of readers in Brackettville and we are so glad Santa was able to include winners from Brackettville," said Joe San Miguel, publisher/general manager for the News-Herald.

"We thank our subscribers in Brackettville and appreciate the students writing in. We'll look for more letters to Santa for Brackettville students next year," he said.

State enlists Santa in annual holiday campaign

Austin - Santa Claus is warning Texas drivers: He's not the only one watching to see if they're being good or bad.

All available state troopers will be on the roads during Christmas and New Year's holiday weekends watching for drunk drivers. Police and sheriff's departments throughout Texas also are stepping up DWI enforcement efforts. Penalties for driving while intoxicated can include driver's license suspension, fines and jail time.

State transportation officials are joining forces with Mothers Against Drunk Driving and the food and beverage industry to enlist Santa's help in the Texas Department of Transportation's annual statewide campaign reminding Texans not to drink and drive during the holiday season. Last December 83 people were killed and 2,303 were injured in alcohol-related traffic crashes in Texas.

"If alcohol is involved in their holiday celebrations, we're reminding people not to get behind the wheel if they've been drinking," said Susan Bryant, traffic safety director for the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT).

Texas leads the nation in alcohol-related traffic crashes. In 1998, the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) reported there

were more than 26,000 alcohol-related crashes in Texas, resulting in 1,058 fatalities and 27,058 injuries.

The state's holiday campaign again features the slogan "Santa Is Coming to Town. Please Don't Hit Him. Don't Drink and Drive." Materials are available in both English and Spanish.

Santa's and TxDOT's helpers in the campaign include the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Texas Package Stores Association, Texas Restaurant Association, Diamond Shamrock and Mothers Against Drunk Driving.

Rutherford presents plaque to Brackett ISD



Carolyn Rutherford, EMS Director, presents Taylor Stephenson, Brackett ISD Superintendent, with a plaque thanking Brackett ISD for the use of their distance learning facilities. The plaque has the EMT oath printed on it and also a picture of a man giving a child CPR.

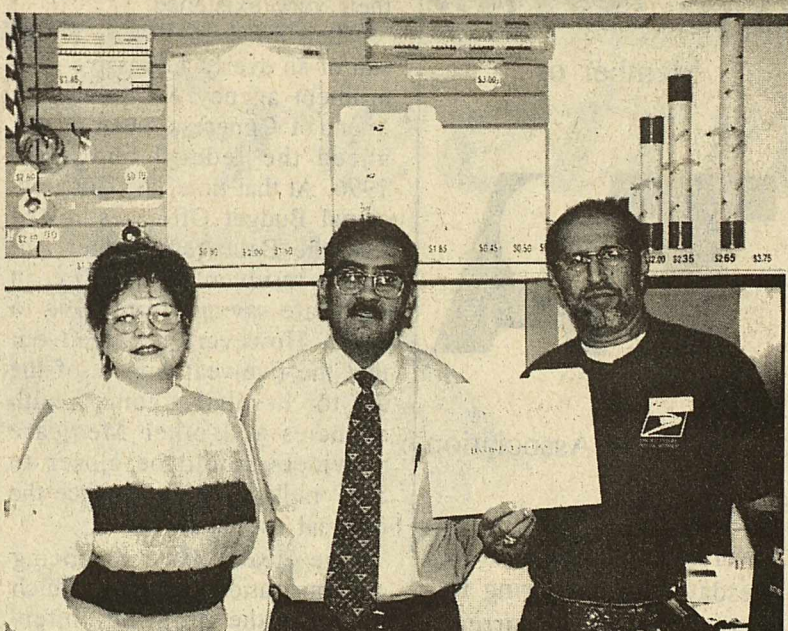
Kinney County EMS presented a plaque to Brackett ISD in gratitude for their generous support of Kinney County EMS on Tuesday. BISD allowed the Kinney County EMS the use of their distance learning facilities for an EMS training course.

Carolyn Rutherford, EMS Director, conducted the 200 hour course from June to November of this year at the school's V-Tech facility. Completing the course is the first step in the process for becoming a certified EMT. Sixteen people attended the training and are expected to work or volunteer in this area.

Stephenson expressed that he was glad the district was willing and able to help out.

"I am very pleased that the school district shares their facilities and equipment. Our goal is education - not just for students, but for folks of all ages. We're especially glad to help out the EMS," he said.

Esparza recognized by U.S. Postal Service



Brackettville Postmaster, Leonel Juarez, presents David Esparza, Post Office Window/Distribution Clerk, with a United States Post Office Certificate of Recognition for zero use of sick leave in fiscal year 2000. The certificate was awarded to Esparza by Lawrence James, District Manager Customer Service and Sales, Rio Grande District, for achieving a high standard of dedication. Juarez is pleased with Esparza's dedication. "I have a great appreciation for his outstanding attendance record. He's a great asset to the office and to the community," Juarez said. Also pictured is Helen Seargeant, Post Office Window/Distribution Clerk.

RRC offers safety tips

(Austin) - Texas Railroad Commission Chairman Michael L. Williams, Commissioner Charles R. Matthews, and Commissioner Tony Garza today advised Winter Texans visiting the Lone Star State that the agency offers propane safety tips, a statewide propane refueling directory, and other services on its Internet site <http://www.rrc.state.tx.us/divisions/afred/safety/winter-texans.html>.

"Technology has taken the place of cumbersome road maps and travel guides," said Williams. "Visitors to Texas now have information about propane safety, refueling sites, even state historical sites and RV parks right at their fingertips."

"Part-time Texans rely on propane as a full-time energy source for their recreational vehicles," said Matthews. "Having this information online will allow visitors to travel to their destinations with the peace of mind that a refueling station can be found literally a

mouse click away."

"The Internet offers the Railroad Commission another avenue for providing propane safety information," added Garza. "Winter Texans, as well as those who make our state their home year round, have this high-tech option to ensure the safe handling and use of propane."

The Railroad Commission website also features current road and weather conditions for travelers, as well as information on the safe storage, handling and use of LP-gas containers, systems and appliances.

Travelers who do not pack a computer when they are on the road, can find many public libraries in Texas that offer Internet access.

A list of libraries can be obtained by calling the Railroad Commission of Texas' Alternative Fuels Research and Education Division at 1-800-64-CLEAR [1-800-643-5327].

Briefs ...

Newspaper out on Friday

Due to the Christmas holiday being on Monday, the next edition of The Brackett News will be out on Friday, December 29, instead of Thursday. We hope you have a very Merry Christmas!

Annual Christmas party

The Kinney County Chamber of Commerce invites past, present and future members to our annual Christmas Party, Saturday, December 23, at the Service Club, Fort Clark Springs. Carolyn Kay and her band will be playing from 8:00 p.m. to midnight. Snacks will be served. BYOB

Marijuana seized

Del Rio, Texas - Border Patrol Agents from the Carrizo Springs Station seized 294 pounds of Marijuana on, December 15, 2000.

While performing linewatch duties near El Indio, Texas, agents located two Mexican nationals hiding in some brush near Washington Drive. A search of the immediate area by a canine unit for other individuals located 11 nylon feed sacks buried in tall grass and brush. The sacks contained 26 bundles containing marijuana.

The marijuana, valued at \$235,200, was turned over to the Multi-Agency Drug Task Force in Eagle Pass.

Weekly Statistics

The following is a report of the apprehensions by Border Patrol agents assigned to the Del Rio Sector for the period December 11-17, 2000. The information is provided by station, and includes a sector total.

Abilene...28, Brackettville...71, Carrizo Springs...94, Comstock...1, Del Rio...77, Eagle Pass...526, Llano...7, Rock-springs...9, San Angelo...28, Uvalde...35, Sector Total...876, Other Than Mexicans...123.

Season's Greetings

Drive carefully. Have a safe and joyous a Holiday Season.

This message brought to you by the Texas Highway Patrol Association & Museum.

Free Medical Care

Send \$5 to: Free and Low Cost Medical Care Booklet, Dept. MCB-1211, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039. Or call 202-595-1039.

INSIDE

The way I see it!

I guess I am old fashioned, maybe even curmudgeonly, but I detest the commercialization of Christmas. Christmas is a time of thanksgiving for our deliverance from the clutches of evil, of celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a sacred, holy time, and we have turned it into a feeding frenzy for the retailers of the nation.

Opinion/Page 2

Empowering Families

This is a very special time of the year. The St. Henry de Osso Family Project wishes you a very blessed Christmas and a new year of prosperity. May you be faithful to God and love one another as He has loved you. We offer the following reading and prayer for use with your family gatherings this holiday season.

Lifestyles/Page 4

Making a difference

It's Christmas, 2000 in Kinney County, Texas! Our community is a special place every day, but it's even more so at Christmas. The programs have been wonderful this year. The elementary Christmas extravaganza was the best that we have had here in many years. The band concerts were good followed by the Voices of Fort Clark, which is always special.

School/Page 3

INDEX

Classifieds	10
Community	3
Lifestyles	4
Opinion	2
Religion	9
School	5

A Savior has been born to you

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

What Does Christmas Mean to You?
I guess I am old fashioned, maybe even curmudgeonly, but I detest the commercialization of Christmas. Christmas is a time of thanksgiving for our deliverance from the clutches of evil, of celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ, a sacred, holy time, and we have turned it into a feeding frenzy for the retailers of the nation.

Many people who celebrate Christmas really have no idea of

its true meaning. Neither do they believe in the Christ for whom it is named. It distresses me to see, well, for lack of a better word, pagans, celebrating the most holy of holy days. In fact many of us have come to celebrate Christmas as a pagan holiday, worshipping the gifts we give and receive instead of the Savior Jesus Christ.

"Only 30 more shopping days left till Christmas!" say the advertisements. Instead of running rampant in the stores, searching for just the perfect gift, why don't we spend those thirty days

giving thanks for the one who gave himself as the perfect sacrifice and thereby bought salvation for our worthless souls with his pain and blood? Instead of trying to figure out what we want for Christmas, why don't we try to figure out what we can do to further the cause of Christianity? Instead of spending thousands of dollars on useless gifts for people who probably won't appreciate it and certainly don't need it, why don't we give that money to the church or charity of our choice and devote all that shopping time to doing work for

that church or charity?

Did you know legend has it that there was a candy maker in Indiana, somewhere around the turn of the last century, who wanted to invent a candy that would bear witness to the Lord Jesus Christ?

First he decided to use a hard candy to represent Jesus as the Rock of Ages. Then he shaped it like a J - for Jesus, or a shepherd's staff. He made it white to represent the sinless nature of Christ. Then a red stripe was added to represent the blood that Christ shed for the sins of the world. Finally, three thinner red stripes were added for the stripes Jesus received in our place from the Roman soldiers who beat him. And as a final touch the flavor is peppermint, which is similar to hyssop. Hyssop is in the mint family and was used in the Old Testament for purification and sacrifice, representing that Jesus is the pure Lamb of God, who came to be the ultimate sacrifice for the sins of the world.

There is really nothing wrong with exchanging gifts at Christmas. I love getting up on Christmas morning to spend time with my wife and daughters and open gifts. But that must not overshadow the real reason for Christmas. We should take the time to enjoy the companionship

of our loved ones - that is necessary - but we should never, ever, let our earthly pleasures obscure the fact that without Christ we would have absolutely no purpose in life. And that is the true meaning of Christmas.

"For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Of the increase of his government and peace there will be no end. He will reign on David's throne and over his kingdom, establishing and upholding it with justice and righteousness from that time and forever." Isaiah 9:6,7

"Therefore the Lord himself will give you a sign: The virgin will be with child and will give birth to a son, and will call him Immanuel." Isaiah 7:14

"And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at night. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, 'Do not be afraid. I bring you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is Christ the Lord.'" Luke 2:8-11

Merry Christmas All,

Steve

No Christmas gifts, please

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall


I don't want anybody to get me anything for Christmas this year. I mean it. I really do not desire any present of any kind from anyone. I have all that I could possibly want. My youngest two daughters have located jobs. I'm going to get another grandchild. What else could I ask for? But if for some strange reason, you really want to get me something, if you truly wish to show some kind of regard,

then here's an idea or two. Give your kids a hug and a kiss. Give your parents one, too. The kids, like the parents, will be gone sooner than any one of us can imagine. Squeeze them and love them like tomorrow may never come. It might not. Another present I would enjoy would be for you to go out of your way to help another person in an unusual way. Buy a hamburger for a hungry, homeless stranger. Do some random act of kindness for an individual who doesn't even know your name, never will,

and cannot possibly repay you in any way whatsoever.

And if per chance you have some money that you were planning to use to purchase a gift for me, then give it to God. Let him guide the flow of those funds for his honor and glory. Donate cash to His collection plate since I don't do enough of that. One last thing and I'll close. Love yourself during the holidays. Give yourself a big dose of love and affection. And a hug and a kiss while you're at it. We're all God's children. We definitely need more love, especially from ourselves. But I could be wrong.

Big Mama Sez!



Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't think you've done a permanent job.

Cost of caring adjustment

Capitol Comment
By Kay Bailey Hutchison
United States Senator

The last few years have been tough on hospitals in Texas and the rest of the nation. Many of these critical community institutions have fallen prey to the law of unintended consequences, confronting budgetary crises that in some cases threatened their very existence.

Their difficulties were the result of an overly aggressive government agency exceeding the intent of Congress when it balanced the federal budget in 1996. At that time, the Congressional Budget Office estimated that the Balanced Budget Act would result in \$116 billion in Medicare savings from 1998 to 2002. However, it turned out that the five-year impact of the act for hospitals, home health agencies and other Medicare providers would be closer to \$227 million - nearly twice the original estimate.

The Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA), which manages the program, interpreted the Balanced Budget Act in a way that produced cuts in Medicare reimbursements to hospitals that went far beyond what Congress ever intended: Medicare spending was reduced last year, while the number of beneficiaries grew by some one-half million. Medicare's Hospital Insurance Trust Fund expenditures fell 4.4 percent.

So earlier this year I introduced the "American Hospital Preservation Act," a bill aimed at boosting Medicare reimbursements to struggling hospitals. My legislation was designed to get them back on their feet by

giving hospitals the same "cost-of-living adjustment" other federal program recipients get each year.

At a time when these institutions are struggling because of higher-than-expected drug, medical and personnel costs, continued cuts are putting Texas hospitals in a serious bind. Their margins have fallen by 10 percent a year for three years. Approximately 50 percent of an average Texas hospital's payments come from Medicare and Medicaid. Not only were cuts in their Medicare undermining the quality and quantity of care hospitals could provide, but these pressures threatened closures and bankruptcies as well. The hospitals' credit - and ability to issue bonds if they needed to expand - was downgraded as well.

How bad was this hurting us? Parkland Hospital in Dallas had to cut 200 staffers and raise its property tax rate. The Harris County Hospital District had to raise taxes as well in the face of a huge looming deficit. Baptist Health System in San Antonio cut 290 jobs. Methodist Health System in Houston cut 100 jobs. Big Bend Regional Medical Center in Alpine cut 14 staffers. And the Senior Center in Bedford had to close.

There is no way Congress could responsibly allow cuts of such magnitude, with such results, to go forward. So for more than a year I have been working with a bipartisan group of Senators to get our hospitals off the critical list.

We thought we had the solution in hand last summer, but complications and delays of next year's final budget kept the situ-

ation in flux. The President had threatened to veto the budget measure that included the Medicare provider rescue package, so it was never sent to the White House for his signature. Our hospitals were left in a state of uncertainty.

Finally, on December 14, Congress and the executive branch agreed on a way to finish the budget - and throw a lifeline to the hospitals and other Medicare providers. Specifically, a cut in the inflation adjustment that was scheduled to take effect in 2001 is eliminated. These provisions will mean an additional \$4 billion over the next five years for hospitals nationwide.

This fixes the most pressing problem, but I believe we still will have to come back next year and finally restore the rest of the inflation adjustments to give the nation's hospitals continued financial stability. We must continue to move forward to preserve the ability of our hospitals and other Medicare providers to deliver quality health care to their patients. We are trying to get our hospitals out of intensive care, and I will continue that fight in the 107th Congress.

The Brackett News

ADDRESS:
Editorial and publication offices are at 507 S. Ann St., Brackettville, TX, 78832. Ph: (830) 563-2852. Fax: (830) 563-9538, email: thebrackettnews@comwerx.net.

Member of



Texas Press Association

DEADLINES:
Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for advertising to be composed for the current publication.

Any erroneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in the pages of The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

PERSONNEL:
Publisher: Jewel Robinson
Office Manager: Dimple Henry; Staff Writer: Amy Davis; Staff Writer: Steve LaMascus; Typist: Maria Duran

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

POSTMASTER:
Send address changes to P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, 78832.

To subscribe, please clip this application and mail to:

The Brackett News

P.O. Box 1039
Brackettville, TX 78832
or drop by our office at 507 South Ann Street (next to the bank)

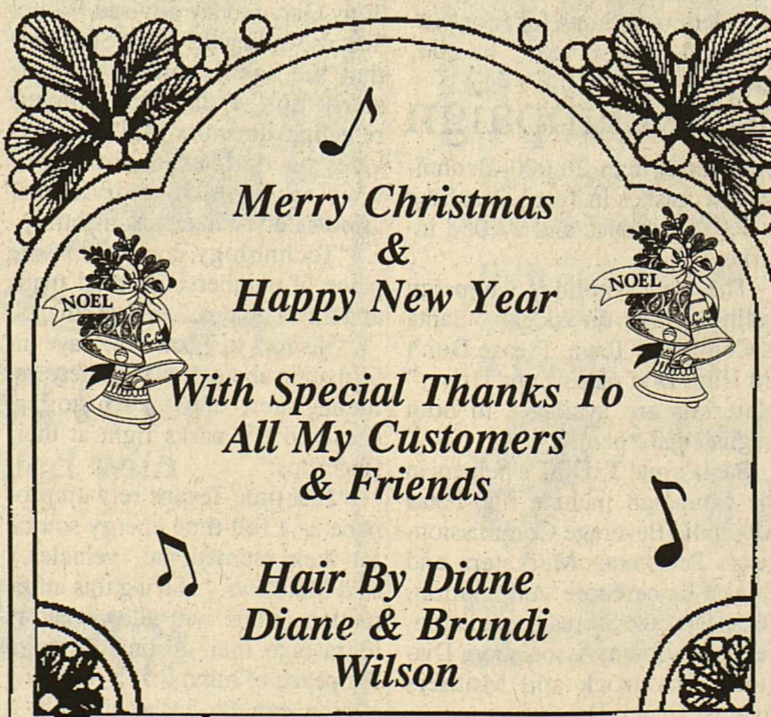
Rates:
In County \$20;
Out of County \$25;
Out of State \$27.50.
Please include check or money order.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/ST/ZIP _____

New Subscription Renewal Change of Address



Merry Christmas
&
Happy New Year
With Special Thanks To
All My Customers
& Friends
Hair By Diane
Diane & Brandi
Wilson



Season's Greetings
from
Archie's Landscaping
& Lawn Maintenance
Archie & Jill
Woodson



Season's Greetings
Merry Christmas
& Happy New Year
SOUTHWEST SERVICE COMPANY
Tom & Anita Ertle

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, Dec. 11
 5:14 p.m., A local man called to report minors fighting in an alley near Fort and Fulton streets. Deputy Karl Chism responded to the call but no one was at the location.
 6:59 p.m., A local man requested an officer be sent to his residence in reference to phone calls he had been receiving. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the residence.
 8:09 p.m., A county employee requested the sheriff's office contact a city employee to turn off the water at the civic center.
Wednesday, Dec. 13
 8:22 p.m., A local business man reported a suspicious person walking around his business. Deputy Manual Pena, Jr. was informed of the situation. The business owner called back five minutes later and reported everything was OK.
 9:30 p.m., A Del Rio woman requested a deputy be sent to her sister's house on El Paso street. She had not heard from her sister recently and she was not getting an answer on the phone. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the residence.
 11:07 p.m., A Fort Clark woman requested a deputy at her residence because her son was intoxicated. Deputy Pena responded to the call.
 11:30 p.m., Daniel C. Kyle

Ingram, 18, of Brackettville, was arrested by Deputy Manual Pena for public intoxication. Ingram was released the following day for time served.
Thursday, Dec. 14
 8:00 a.m., A Brackettville resident reported a break in at a local business on North Street. Chief of Police Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene.
 11:04 a.m., A woman called to report some male minors had been threatening her children. The woman said she would stop by the Sheriff's office to file a complaint.
 11:20 a.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley reported a white tractor trailer traveling east on Hwy 90 west. The driver was driving recklessly.
 3:38 p.m., Manual Reyes, 19, of Brackettville, was arrested for burglary of a building by Sheriff Buddy Burgess. Reyes is still being held.
Friday, Dec. 15
 10:35 a.m., A local rancher reported that a hunter had found the body of an undocumented alien. The location given was approximately 3 miles south of FM 693 on Hwy 277. The man had apparently caught himself on fire while trying to start a fire with alcohol. Deputy Manual Pena was dispatched to the scene. Justice of the Peace John Ford was notified.
 2:00 p.m., Christopher Andrew Price, 26, of Brackettville, was

arrested by Deputy Chism and Trooper Tom Wylie for contributing to the delinquency of a minor, and four warrants for carrying weapons, driving while intoxicated, capias pro fine and one outstanding DPS warrant for speeding.
 4:14 p.m., A local man called to report 3 boys were fighting with his grandchildren. Deputy Pena was dispatched to the location. Pena took the boys home and told them to leave each other alone.
Saturday, Dec. 16
 9:47 a.m., A U.S. Border Patrol agent stated he had received a report of a small blue car east of Brackettville traveling east. The occupants were believed to be the escapees from the Kenedy correctional facility.
 9:53 a.m., Reserve Deputy Manual Pena, Sr. reported the railroad lights on Hwy 1572 were malfunctioning. The railroad was notified.
 11:10 p.m., James Edward Schwartz, 38, of Leander, was arrested for DWI 1st offense by Trooper Wylie. Schwartz was released the same day after posting bond.
Sunday, Dec. 17
 5:09 p.m., A local man reported gun shots near east 3rd street. After arriving at the scene Deputy Chism reported it was fireworks being fired near Ann and 2nd street.

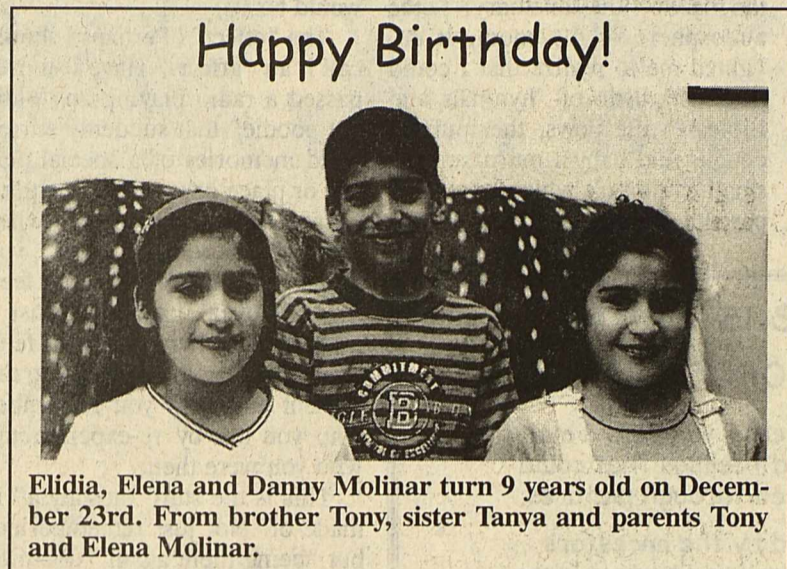
Garden Club celebrates Christmas monthly meeting

Rosie Mattingly, Charlene Simmons, and Barbara Brisetti were hostesses for the December meeting of the Mountain Laurel Garden Club. The holiday decorated table was laden with Christmas cookies and cakes, various fruit breads, nuts, and hot apple cider.
 The program was presented by The Gift Box. Sondra Meil and Mary Meek displayed some beautiful floral home decorations and gave many interesting and helpful tips to those who wanted to try it on their own. Sondra gave a short

history of the poinsettia which came from Central America where the Aztecs used it's sap for the treatment of fevers in the 1700's. Later on it was called the flower of the Holy Night. In 1824 Tod Poinsett introduced it in the United States where it bears his name today. December 12 was National Poinsettia Day. Sondra donated a poinsettia as a door prize which Bunny McClarin won.
 The club had their annual Chinese gift exchange which caused lots of excitement and fun for the twenty-two members and three

DAR meets for Christmas luncheon

Toni Hull's beautifully decorated home on Garner Field Road in Uvalde was where the Uvalde de las Encinas Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, met for their annual Christmas luncheon. Delicious salads, baked ham, deserts and home made bread were enjoyed by members and guests.
 Following lunch, guest Jenny Flanders sang some beautiful Christmas season songs and then led in singing Christmas carols. She was accompanied by Toni Hull at the piano. Other guests were Sarah Bixler, Wilma Holmgreen, and Mary Troxclair's daughter, Sheri.
 Members attending were from Uvalde, San Antonio, Pearsall, Batesville and from Brackettville were Hawkins Huey, Louise Stone, and Pat Mckelvy.



Happy Birthday!
 Elidia, Elena and Danny Molinar turn 9 years old on December 23rd. From brother Tony, sister Tanya and parents Tony and Elena Molinar.

Recreation area introduces new program

Amistad National Recreation Area has announced the inauguration of its new "Artist-in-Residence" program. Amistad NRA is located in southwestern Texas, amid desert landscapes and alongside the US/Mexico border. Lake Amistad is known for excellent fishing, and the park is surrounded by world-class prehistoric rock art and classic Western history.
 The Artist-in-Residence program offers artists an opportunity for inspiration by living and working in a National Park setting. The

program provides for a two to four week stay at Amistad NRA. In exchange, the artist is required to contribute one piece of their artwork to the park, and conduct public workshops to educate local residents and visitors about their medium.
 For over 100 years, artists have been drawn to the spectacular, dramatic, or serene landscapes parks preserve. Park resources, such as flora, fauna, and archeological remains, also inspire artists. Amistad NRA joins dozens of

other National Park Service sites nationwide that host the artist-in-residence program.
 Artists can find how to apply and park information from the park's web site at www.nps.gov/amis, by contacting the park at (830)-775-7491, or writing to the Artist in Residence Coordinator, Amistad National Recreation Area, HCR 3 Box 5J, Del Rio TX 78840. The first residency period will be September or October of 2001. The deadline to apply is March 31, 2001.

TRC offers award

Texas Rural Communities, Inc. (TRC) is soliciting applications from innovative projects in rural Texas for the organization's first annual \$10,000 Texas Rural Best Award. The prize will be a one-time award to be used to contribute to the success of the selected innovative project. Innovative projects in rural communities that have been developed and implemented for the benefit of the local community or economy are eligible. The applications will be judged on the uniqueness of the project, significance of the problem or problems solved, length of time project is operational, and evidence that project may be replicated in other areas of rural Texas. The deadline is January 15, 2001. For application procedures please call 1-800-RURAL-TX.

Your local
Pegasus Satellite Television Retailer

PEGASUS
 SATELLITE TELEVISION

J&S Sales and Service
 830-734-2020
 Del Rio, TX

Season's Greetings



Seth, Lela, Marc, Margaret, Cande, Tania, San Juana, Gilbert, Gary, Rachel, Liza, Shelly, Sonia, Dr. Gloria Box, & Michael

UVALDE
BONE & JOINT
 CLINIC, P.A.
 1025 Garner Field Rd, Uvalde, (830) 278-2292

Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

1025 Garner Field Rd, Uvalde, (830) 278-2292
www.boneandjointdoc.com

Using the holiday season to capture living memories Be faithful to God

By Rocco Fortunato
Contributing Writer

In previous articles, I talked about recording family histories using a simple cassette recorder and transferring these living voice memories to the modern miracle of digital CD to provide a lasting archive.

I discovered the importance of this kind of living memory while going through a box of my own family's reel to reel tapes from the 1950s. Several of these tapes were recorded at Christmas time.

Can you think of a better time than Christmas when family is gathered together to record a Living Family Record? Video tapes are good short term storage but will deteriorate with age. So will cassettes. But if you transfer these to CD you can have an archive that

will last for generations and generations.

Another kind of history in sound that I listened to were church services at our home church with sermons by our now deceased Pastor, a very eloquent and inspiring man whose voice was so instantly familiar that it carried me back to a time I'd forgotten completely, but whose memory I cherished. It was amazing how familiar the sound of the church was; not just the Preacher or the hymns or the sound of the choir singing, but the "sound" of the place; ...the sanctuary; ...the atmosphere of the room. It delighted me to realize that I could hear the rustle of hymnals and Bibles in the pews, the muffled coughs and baby's murmurs, the small children's whispers to their parents (even probably my own).

It amazed me how these simple sounds stirred a feeling in me — a strong familiar sense of being there again. I could visualize the room as it was (it is much different now) and I could even remember the smell of the place, especially at Christmas! Pictures have never provided me with such a personal memory of that place.

It shouldn't have surprised and amazed me so much. I'm in the business of "sound" and I have studied the effect scientifically. But I was not prepared for how personal and powerful that "effect" would be.

The "effect"? Perhaps I should call it an "affect." Have you ever passed a radio playing an "oldie but goodie" that suddenly stirred vivid memories of a special person or place or wonderful experience? Did you notice how when you remembered the "event", you also found yourself feeling the feelings all over again! Not just a memory, but here and now feelings that bring the memory to the present and help you remember who you are by re-experiencing who you were then.

This is the stuff "nostalgia" is made of! Not just remembering, but "being there again." Pictures can't do this like sounds.

If you don't believe me, get out your favorite picture of a loved one and see how you feel. Then play a favorite recording of a song that was special and popular when the picture was taken while you look again. You'll be amazed at the flood of feelings that come back.

This is why movies and TV use so much music. The sound is the emotion behind the pictures. Without the sound, the picture often falls flat.

A picture is worth a thousand words... but a hundred thousand

words can't adequately describe a "feeling."

Eyes like to send facts: cold hard information to store on file like names, dates, ideas, concepts. This is great stuff for the "computer" part of the brain, and that's where it's sent.

But the ears (and even the nose and the senses of touch and taste) send feelings. Of course, the ears send facts, too. Word facts are sent to the "computer" part of the brain for "decoding" to understand what they mean. But we hear more than facts.

Foreign languages might confuse us, but a tone of voice can tell us a great deal. A baby who hasn't learned it's first word can still recognize it's mother's voice. And music... well, music has often been called the universal language. It communicates through feelings.

So a picture is worth a thousand words, but sound is a living memory!

Use the opportunity of this family holiday season to capture your family's voices. Interview your family members to archive your family history. If you need ideas to get started, contact me. I would love to share my experiences and ideas.

You can even be recorded in a professional recording studio and get good, clear, lasting sound on CD from which you can have as many quality copies made as you wish. Consider a short reading (a poem or Bible verse...), done by members of the family to "spotlight" individual voices. Hymns or traditional Christmas songs that everyone knows can be sung. It would make a permanent record of young and old; a "Living Family Record" to be enjoyed by generations to come.

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

This is a very special time of the year. The St. Henry de Osso Family Project wishes you a very blessed Christmas and a new year of prosperity. May you be faithful to God and love one another as He has loved you. We offer the following reading and prayer for use with your family gatherings this holiday season.

Reading
Ask a sign for yourself from the Lord your God. Therefore the Lord himself will give you this sign; Behold the virgin will be with child and bear a son, and shall name him Immanuel (Isaiah 7:11,13,14).

Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus." While they were there, the time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger (Luke 2:30,31; 2:6,7).

And Simeon took him into his arms and blessed God saying, "Now, Master you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen

your salvation, which you prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and glory for your people Israel" (Luke 2:28-32).

Prayer
Blessed be the name of the Lord our God who has brought us abundant mercy and salvation. Lord of heaven and earth, bless your people in this advent season. We pray for peace in our families and in our nation. We ask that the joy of your salvation will be in abundance in our land and that the Savior whose birth we celebrate may once again find a place in our government, in our places of work, in our schools and in every home. Let this nation shine among the nations of the world with the light of Christ. We pray for our new President and our leaders. Bless our family here gathered. May we love one another as you love us. AMEN.

American Heart Association
Fighting Heart Disease and Stroke
AMERICAN HEART ASSOCIATION MEMORIALS & TRIBUTES
1-800-AHA-USA1

LAS MORAS MASONIC LODGE
meets the 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.
School of Instruction meets every Tuesday at 7:00 p.m.
Visiting Brothers are Welcome

A picture is worth a 1,000 words but...
The sound of our parents' voices is a magic link to memories and feelings that could never be remembered through pictures.
Family stories told by the ancestors that experienced them can create a legacy to your grand-children's grandchildren.
Let me help your family create a living memory archived on digital CDs made from simple homemade cassettes or professional studio recordings.
Contact Rocco Fortunato
563-2759

A cheery hello!
Just want to offer a sincere "Thanks" for your patronage and to wish you well!
Alamo Lumber
Del Rio

SANTA SAYS...
You deserve the best! We want to thank you, our patrons, for letting us serve you!
Fort Clark M.U.D. & Staff

The Giftbox
We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year
HO, HO, HO!
Have the merriest of holidays! Greetings from Bob & Gladys Burkeepile To all our Friends & Neighbors

HBO THE WORKS STARZ! SHOWTIME FLEX
For about as low as \$1.00 a day, get the Ultimate in Television Entertainment!
NO EQUIPMENT TO BUY
WE'LL DO THE INSTALLATION
WORRY-FREE MAINTENANCE
Call your local Pegasus Satellite Television Retailer or Toll-Free 877-BUY-PGTV 289-7488
Call now for SPECIAL OFFER!
Ask for Offer Code EZ-1000
PEGASUS SATELLITE TELEVISION DIRECTV
Your Local Networks Are Here!
WB, CBS, NBC, FOX, OLN, SPEEDVISION, AMC, A&E, GOLF CHANNEL, CARTOON NETWORK, CNN, FOX SPORTS WORLD, MYSTERY, TRUE STORIES, MOVIES, ENCORE, HISTORY CHANNEL, TNT, GAME SHOW, THE HISTORY CHANNEL, Lifetime, NICK NITE, SCI FI, NBS, TNT, TBS, USA NETWORK, sundance channel, CNN, Home Shopping, cine max

Community even more special at Christmas time

Making A Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

It's Christmas, 2000 in Kinney County, Texas! Our community is a special place every day, but it's even more so at Christmas. The programs have been wonderful this year. The elementary Christmas extravaganza was the best that we have had here in many years. The band concerts were good followed by the Voices of Fort Clark, which is always special. This past week, we were able to visit a Ladies' Luncheon, a Living Nativity at Fort Clark Springs, and the Community Unity Program on the grounds of the City of Brackettville. These were all exceptional events. Community Unity was particularly successful with presents from Santa for all of the little ones. The City and its employees are to be commended for a job well done. The choirs and church groups that provided treats made this a fun night.

Brackettville has been a caring community during these special events. Many dollars and toys were donated by our citizens to insure that each little one received

a special gift from Santa. The Angel Tree sponsored by the Flag Corp and its fine sponsor, Sandy Maxwell, was successful. Many of you bought gifts for the needy children of Brackettville. The gifts that you bought were some of the nicest that I have seen. There were many sacks of clothes, the most beautiful dolls that I have seen, and fun toys. You didn't seek recognition, but just wanted to help others have a merry Christmas.

Our Lions Club supported by the community always does a fine job providing holiday meals for the needy. Our own school kids donated 850 cans of food toward this effort.

Coach Wilkins and Principal Renken teamed up with the local law enforcement agency in providing bicycles for the needy children of Brackettville. Older bikes were donated by the law, renovated by the school, and Paula Renken made sure that children who needed bikes got one.

The Christian churches have been special during this high season. Music and the message of the birth of Jesus have been told in many different ways in our com-

munity. Carolers still abound and Christmas lights show the way. I particularly like the luminarias or farolitos (lighted sacks) which by tradition help us find the way to the manger and the Christ Child.

There's a wonderful ceremony called Las Posadas where symbolic figures of Mary and Joseph look for room in the inns. They are turned away until finally an Inn Keeper accepts them into his Stable. We know the rest of the story. In Portales, New Mexico, about 15 years ago, I participated in Las Posadas with a church group. One of the shut-ins that we visited on Christmas Eve was an elderly man who was paralyzed and bedridden, very close to death. As we sang, the tears began to flow from the man's eyes as he remembered Christmas in happier times. I have never forgotten this incident. It tells me that there are folks all over this earth who want to be remembered at Christmas. Take the time to find them in your own communities.

This is a season for forgiving and for re-building loving relationships. The season is about love, forgiveness and a better life. Santa enters into the season as a symbol of love and of giving. We're here on this earth for such a short time. As you look at the lights of the season, rekindle that warmth into your hearts and faces that might have been there in better times. Let's be caring all year long!

Christmas is a wonderful family time. The key to our nation's strength is our families. Enjoy the season and keep those family ties strong. Merry Christmas. Have a great week!

A traditional school year wanted

Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr. (D - Brownsville) has filed legislation that will set parameters for when the school year may start and end.

"After much deliberation, and after hearing from hundreds of parents and teachers from throughout the state, I have developed this proposal," said Lucio. "This allows local control for school districts and allows all districts to choose the calendar best suited for their students."

The bill requires all public schools to begin school no earlier than August 21 and requires the last day of school to be no later than June 7.

Tina Bruno, a spokesperson for Texans for a Traditional School Year, says the early school start date creates hardship for students, teachers and families.

"Teachers are finding it more and more difficult to complete

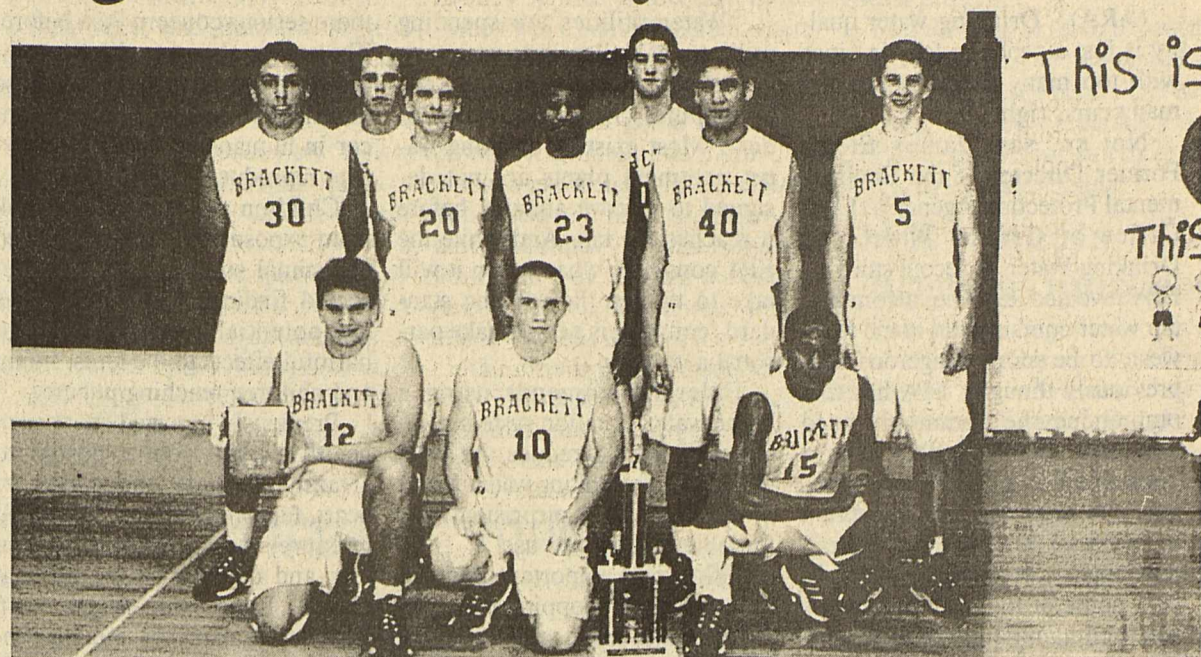
advanced degree programs as the summer is being taken away. Time for families is diminishing as the school calendar is stretched," Bruno said.

Bruno noted that school sports teams operate under parameters for practice schedules, and the state has set calendar parameters for state-funded colleges and universities, so it stands to reason that parameters would also be set for school districts' calendar as well.

"Senator Lucio's bill will simply set beginning and ending parameters. School districts will retain control of holidays, teacher instructional days and when the school year actually starts and ends," Bruno said. "It is time to return our focus and energy to the education of children."

For more information contact Texans for a Traditional School Year toll-free at (877)531-9011.

Tigers win La Pryor tournament



The Brackettville Tiger basketball team: back row - left to right, Jared Hobbs and Levi Duncan, second row - Carlos Gomez, David Campos, Jesse Hidalgo, Chris Paloma, T.D. Smith, front row - Schiller Hill, Boyd Brotherton, Damian Toms.

The Brackett Tigers won three games last week in route in winning the La Pryor tournament. Friday morning the Tigers came from behind to defeat Ricksprings 56-55. The Tigers outscored the Angoras 22-10 in the fourth quarter for the win. Scoring leaders for

the Tigers were Damian Toms with 20, Schiller Hill 14, and Jared Hobbs with 10. Friday night the Tigers defeated Trinity Christian 47-35 in the semi-final round of the tournament. The Tigers were led in scoring by Schiller Hill with 13 points, Jared Hobbs with 11, and Damian Toms with 8. In the championship game the Tigers defeated San Antonio School of Excellence 84-46. The Tigers were down 12-10 early but outscored Excellence 38-6 in the first half to take a halftime lead of 48-18. The Tigers cruised in the second half

to an 84-46 championship victory. Scoring leaders for the Tigers were Jared Hobbs with 27, Damian Toms with 19, Carlos Gomez with 12, and Schiller Hill with 10. The Tigers had two individual players recognized for their play in the tournament. Damian Toms was named Tournament MVP, and Schiller Hill was named All-Tournament. The Tigers are 8-3 on the season and will play at home against Tafolla Charter School on December 29. Varsity Girls will start at 5pm, and the Varsity boys at 6:30.

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar
Christmas Holidays continue from Thursday, December 21, until January 3rd, 2001.
Drive Safely. When driving for long periods of time this holiday, take a few minutes to walk or stretch. It could save a life...even yours.

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS
from Casuals Plus and Plaza Wash
Lucille and Cordelia

JOY TO THE WORLD
The Lord has come!
Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!
from Las Monas Hispanic Organization

Joy To The World
Have a beautiful Christmas.
From Fort Clark Springs Association

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from Employees of Kinney County Jail and the Sheriff's Department

CHRISTMAS CHEER
Wilson Construction, Car Wash, Wilson House I & II
Wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Travis & Mitch Wilson

JOYOUS TIDINGS
A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year To All
From The City of Brackettville Housing Authority

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and throughout the new year.
From: Rio Grande Electric Co-op Directors & Employees

We're probably not on your Christmas list.
Most people prefer not to think of a hospital during the holidays. But, some will have to. There will be injuries and illnesses...and babies will be born.
At Uvalde Memorial Hospital, over the 24 hours of both Christmas Day and New Year's Day, 400 dedicated people will be doing just what we do every day, just in case you need us! Some of us will celebrate early with our own families, and some late, so we will be here should the need arise. Some of you won't think about us at all because you'll just know we're here.
And that makes us very happy!
Service is Our Mission
"Well" wishes from the Board of Directors, Medical Staff, Auxiliary and Employees of Uvalde Memorial Hospital.
"May you and your loved ones be blessed with happiness and good health the whole year through!"
UVALDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL
1025 Garner Field Road • Uvalde, Texas • (830) 278-6251

Answer to Crossword
SUMO PAL TAX
OPAL FIRED PAIR
BORG UTTER UCLA
SNEAKS SRO ROSY
REC VIE
PUNISH FERRET
GASES ABASE NUN
ACHE POT LARA
GEE INEPT RICKY
DRIVEL ERUPTS
RYE RAM
TOGO DAB SPRUNG
WHEN EQUIP ANON
AIMS DUSTY PITA
SOS AHS STET

Wake-Up call for rural America Proposal threatens health care availability

(ARA) - Drinking water quality is just a problem for big cities with too many factories and too many cars, right?

Not so, says James Elder, Former Director of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Office of Ground Water and Drinking Water. A recent study by EPA revealed atrazine, a common tap water contaminant in the Midwest, to be more dangerous than previously thought. EPA has recommended the commonly used herbicide be upgraded from a "possible" to a "likely" carcinogen. "A common misconception is that rural America is safe from drinking water contamination. In fact, some of the most dangerous water contaminants, such as atrazine, are present in communities throughout the Midwest," says Elder. "These herbicides seep into the water supply after being applied primarily to corn fields to kill weeds."

Atrazine is the most widely used farm weed killer in the nation and a common tap water contaminant. Atrazine contaminates the tap water of more than 10 million people in the Midwest and causes more health standard violations in tap water than any other EPA-regulated chemical pollutant.

"Water utilities are spending millions of dollars per year testing tap water for atrazine and other agricultural chemicals," says Elder. "Most existing drinking water treatment plants are not designed to remove atrazine before it reaches the tap. And while the EPA considers what action it will take to tighten the existing standard, consumers need to take personal action."

Elder recommends using a home water filtration system as an effective way to reduce the level of atrazine in drinking water. Many of these units are surprisingly affordable and easy to use.

"The most important thing to look for when shopping for a water filter is to make sure that it has been certified by an independent agency, such as the National Sanitation Foundation (NSF), a nationally recognized not-for-profit agency that certifies water filters," says Elder. "For example, the PUR Ultimate faucet mount is NSF-certified to reduce atrazine."

The recent upgrade of atrazine by EPA from a "possible" carcinogen to a "likely" carcinogen comes after a five-year review of industry and government data summarized in EPA's new "hazard assessment," revealing atrazine to be of

more serious concern than before. The report also says there are indications that atrazine could cause uterine, prostate and breast cancer in humans and may also disrupt reproductive development.

Children are especially at risk from exposure to atrazine. Based on animal studies, EPA has presented findings that atrazine has the potential to deliver potent harmful effects to the fetus, infant and children reaching puberty.

Previously reported short-term health effects from exposure to atrazine include congestion of heart, lung and kidneys, low blood pressure, muscle spasms, weight loss and damage to the adrenal glands. Long-term effects from chronic exposure to atrazine include weight loss, cardiovascular damage, retinal and some muscle degeneration and cancer.

To learn more about the atrazine levels in your local drinking water supply, visit www.purwater.com. In addition to finding direct links to the EPA consumer confidence reports — water quality reports prepared by local municipal water suppliers — the site provides consumers with useful information on common drinking water contaminants. If your community's water report is not available on the EPA Web site, call your local water supplier and request one be sent to you.

By Bill Hammond
Texas Association of Business & Chambers of Commerce

Texas employers already spend \$4,000 to \$6,000 per employee on health insurance but proposed legislation could make that cost skyrocket even more — threatening the affordability of health benefits packages for both large and small employers. Protecting sensitive health information is important to Texas businesses, but well-intentioned privacy proposals can have unintended consequences.

In addition to recently passed federal laws addressing privacy and with more regulations on the way, one Texas proposal could create numerous obstacles for employers to shop for affordable insurance if passed in the next legislative session and could conflict with the federal legislation already in the works.

When smaller businesses shop for health care benefits, a potential insurance carrier will look at the health history of the employees. As currently written, the proposal would require for an employer to receive permission from every single employee, for a carrier to review medical information for the sole purpose of giving the business a fair bid. If even one employee does not release this information, a potential carrier can

only assume the worst and has only two choices: charge an astronomical price or refuse to cover the company's employees altogether.

For very large multi-state employers, legislation could prevent employers from being able to manage employee benefit function in a singular, uniform manner, creating an administrative nightmare that would be very costly and confusing.

In addition, the proposed legislation could also affect employees' access to covered prescriptions. Many employers utilize pharmacy benefit managers (PBMs) to administer this benefit. Although most PBMs originated as claims processors, today they provide a wide range of services. They include: refill reminder programs, disease management education mail order pharmacies and most importantly, drug interaction monitoring to make sure you aren't taking medication prescribed by two different physicians that interact with each other. By using PBMs, employers are able to offer to keep costs down and keep employees healthy. While some proposals are for such type of healthcare delivery, the costs to comply with the consent requirements would basically put PBMs out of business and put employers out of luck when wanting an affordable prescription plan.

Lastly, this legislation would create a new, unlimited cause of action against employers, coupled with jail time for voluntarily providing health benefits to their employees while doing little to improve health care quality, accessibility and the number of Texans insured. Moreover employees' physicians would likewise be subject to civil (including punitive damages) and criminal penalties for failure to comply.

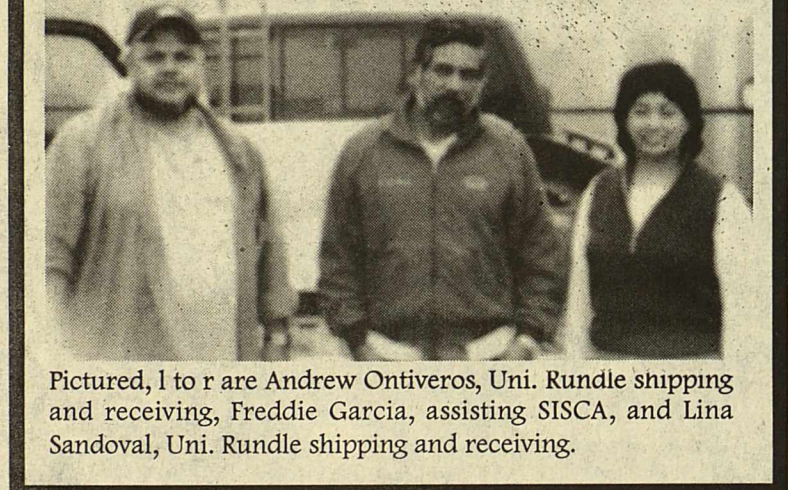
That's why our organization representing thousands of small and large employers across Texas is concerned about proposed legislation that could make it increasingly difficult for employers to provide much-needed benefits.

Personal information should be protected but information must be appropriately accessible to provide quality-based purchasing, data collection on health care outcomes, research, physician profiling and the fight against health care fraud and abuse.

The federal government is already taking steps to protect personal medical records from being misused. In Texas, we must work with federal regulations first before passing proposals that could do more harm than good.

Hammond is President Of The Austin-Based Texas Association Of Business & Chambers Of Commerce.

First of all, we, Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery Association (SISCA) of Brackettville, would like to thank everyone in the Kinney, Val Verde and surrounding counties for their great support and assistance in the past. We have several projects going on at this time. The most important, and long overdue, project is the installation of restrooms, according to state regulations, on the Carver School grounds. A warm thanks goes out to Henry Fuentes, of Brackettville, for drawing up the blue print. A special thanks to The Universal Rundle Corporation of Hondo for donating new toilets for this project. This donation was possible by the fine efforts of Shirley Mock of The Institute of Texan Cultures in San Antonio. SISCA hopes to travel to Floresville soon to receive more materials for this project — materials are being donated by George Cascillae, which was arranged by Anita Daniels of San Antonio. There is a June deadline set on the project. Other projects include working with The Brackett High School History Club with Kathy Bader as sponsor and Erica Meyer as president. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!



Pictured, l to r are Andrew Ontiveros, Uni. Rundle shipping and receiving, Freddie Garcia, assisting SISCA, and Lina Sandoval, Uni. Rundle shipping and receiving.

The life cycle and mechanics of addiction

By Clark Carr
Contributing Writer

Whether or not a person is genetically, biochemically, or otherwise predisposed to alcoholism or other drug addiction is a controversy that has been debated for years within the scientific, medical and chemical dependency communities.

One school of thought advocates the "disease concept," which embraces the notion that addiction is an inherited disease and that the individual is permanently ill at a genetic level, even if he or she experiences long periods of sobri-

ety.

Another philosophy argues that addiction is a dual problem consisting of a physical and mental dependency on chemicals, compounded by a pre-existing mental disorder like clinical depression, or bipolar disorder. This viewpoint puts forward that the mental disorder needs to be treated first as the primary cause of the addiction.

A third philosophy subscribes to the idea that chemical dependency leads to "chemical imbalance" in the neurological system.

The fact remains that although there may be research data supporting all of these concepts, none

of these theories are absolute. Based on surveys of thousands of alcohol and other drug rehabilitation program graduates, we have a national recovery rate average of between 16% and 20%.

In addition to the above three viewpoints of addiction, there is a fourth school of thought which has proven to be more accurate. It has to do with the life cycle of addiction. This data is universally applicable to addiction, no matter which hypothesis is used to explain the phenomenon of chemical dependency.

The life cycle of addiction begins with a problem, a discomfort or some form of emotional or physical pain a person is experiencing. The person finds this very difficult to deal with.

Here is an individual who, like most people in our society, is basically good. He has encountered a problem or discomfort that he does not have the ability to resolve. This could include a problem such as difficulty "fitting in" as a child or teenager, anxiety due to peer pressure, identity problems, or divorce as an adult. It could also include physical discomfort, such as a broken arm, a bad back, or inability to sleep.

The person experiencing the discomfort has a real problem. He feels this problem is a major life situation that is persisting, and he can see no immediate resolution or relief from it.

We have all experienced such

things in our lives to a greater or lesser degree. The difference between which one of us becomes an addict and which one does not depends on whether or not, at the time of this traumatic experience, we are subjected to pro-drug or alcohol influences via some sort of significant peer pressure. The painkilling or emotion-dulling effects of drugs or alcohol become an acceptable solution to the discomfort because the person using alcohol or other drugs experiences relief from the negative feeling associated with his or her problem.

As soon as the addict experiences relief from the discomfort, he inadvertently attaches "value" to the drug or drink. It helped him feel better. Even though the relief is only temporary, drug or drink is adopted as a solution to the problem. This assigned "value" is the only reason the person ever uses drugs or drinks a second, third or more times. From this point forward, it is just a matter of time before the alcohol-drinking or drug-using person loses the ability to control the alcohol or drug use.

Narconon TM, a drug rehabilitation and prevention program, offers this series on "The Life Cycle and Mechanics of Addiction" to help concerned citizens better understand the subject. There are drug rehabilitation centers using the Narconon program world-wide. For more information call (323) 962-2404.

THE SPIRIT OF
Christmas
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
Lozano's Welding
Henry & Carmen Lozano

To Faithful Old Friends,
To Cherished New Friends,
We Extend A Sincere Wish
That Happiness And The
Joy Of Christmas
Be With You During This
Delightful Holiday Season.
We will be closed on
Monday, Dec. 25

MERRY CHRISTMAS!
Motor Bank Hours
Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
Lobby Hours: Monday thru Friday 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.
The Bank & Trust
Brackettville, Texas 78832 Phone (830) 563-2451
Member F.D.I.C.
www.thebankandtrust.com

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From the Service Center
Open 7:00 A.M. 563-2661 Road Service
Matt Bland

Christmas Greetings
We're glad to have an opportunity to greet you!
STOP N SHOP
830-563-9783
Freddie Terri & Employees

HOLIDAY CHEER
From The Crazy Chicken
Mr. & Mrs Juan M. Flores,
Family and Employees
Would like to thank you for your Business.
May God Bless You.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

HAPPY SHAKAN'S
ALAMO VILLAGE
MOVIE LOCATION
(830) 563-2580
BOX 336, BRACKETTVILLE, TEXAS 78832
Where The Old West Comes To Life
From All of Us at
Alamo Village
Merry Christmas and Happy New Year

2001 Seminars reflect current events

The 2001 Big Bend Seminars Program features timely new classes as well as several longtime favorites. The new seminars include a course on the topic of wildfires. Two seminars that have appeared in the past will be taught by new instructors, who will bring new perspectives: author and travel guide Alan Tennant will take over the snake seminar, April 21, and Big Bend National Park Wildlife Biologist Raymond Skiles will teach the November 11 seminar on black bears.

In the past year wildfires scorched huge areas of the western United States and consumed large amounts of human effort and money. Although Big Bend was spared major fires in 2000, it has had its share in the recent past. This year the Big Bend Natural History Association introduces "Wildfire in the Park," taught by Bill Bourbon of the park's Fire Management office. The course will cover the natural role of fire the wilderness, how human activities affect the ignition, spread, and control of fires, and the effects fire has had in Big Bend.

The black bear seminar, originated to afford an overview of the bears' re-population of the Chisos Mountains, now has a different story to report. Drought conditions have forced most of the park's bears back to Mexico in search of food.

The 2001 Big Bend Seminars season will begin with the most popular of all-the "Big Bend Pioneer Reunion," to be held on February 3.

The seminars program, now in its thirteenth year, covers a wide range of topics with new courses added each year. It is sponsored by the Big Bend Natural History Association, the non-profit cooperating association that operates the bookstores in Big Bend National Park and Amistad. Proceeds from book sales and seminars support the parks' interpretive and research activities.

The average cost for a seminar is \$50 per day with most seminars running one or two days. Participants in Big Bend National Park seminars also can take advantage of free camping in one of Big Bend's group campgrounds. Class size is limited to 15 for most seminars to ensure plenty of individualized instruction. To register for a seminar or to receive a complete catalog for 2001, write to the Big Bend Natural History Association at P.O. Box 196, Big Bend National Park, TX 79834 or call 915-477-2236 or e-mail to BBNHA@nps.gov. Association members receive a 10 per cent discount on registration fees. The 2001 schedule of seminars is:

- Feb. 3 Big Bend Pioneer Reunion \$20
- Feb. 24 Geology Jeep Tour, Bill Bourbon \$65
- Feb. 25 Camp Cooking for the Fun of It, Catfish Callaway \$60
- March 3 - 4 Desert Sparrows, Kelly Bryan \$100
- March 31 Introduction to Wildflowers, John Mac Carpenter \$50
- April 7 Big Bend 101, Sam Richardson \$50
- April 14 Big Cats in Big Bend, Billy Pat McKinney \$50
- April 15 Wildfire in the Park, Bill Bourbon \$50
- April 21 Trans-Pecos Snakes, Alan Tennant \$50
- April 27 - 29 Birds of the Chihuahuan Desert, Roland Wauer \$150
- May 4 - 6 Birds and Butterflies, Roland Wauer \$150
- May 12 - 13 Birding in Big Bend, Kelly Bryan \$100
- May 19 Big Bend Bats, Jana Higginbotham \$50
- May 27 Desert Survival, Gary Carver \$25
- Oct. 13 Capturing the Image, Sam Richardson \$50
- Oct. 21 Geology of Big Bend, Bill Bourbon \$65
- Nov. 10 Tracking in the Desert, Billy Pat McKinney \$50
- Nov. 11 Black Bears, Raymond Skiles \$50
- Amistad National Recreation Area
- Mar 17-18 Archeology of the Lower Pecos, Joe Labadie \$100
- May 5-6 Living off the Land, Dr. Phil Dering \$100
- Nov 3-4 Living off the Land, Dr. Phil Dering \$100

Watch your limits and follow hunting regulations this season

A Little on the Wildlife Side
By Henry Lutz

This week I want to elaborate a little about the WRD or Wildlife Resource Document mentioned last week.

How many times have you gone dove hunting with friends and several people put their birds in the same pile or bag? Then one or more of you move over to another part of the field or leave the field to go to town or back to camp, leaving your birds in the pile or bag. If there is more than one persons bag limit in that pile or bag and there is only one person carrying the bag, then that person has in his possession more than his daily bag limit and he is in violation of the law.

For instance, last dove season, while checking several dove hunters leaving a field, I found approximately 75 mourning doves in one container on the back of a truck. This was during the Special White-wing season and a limit of 5 mourning doves per person was the limit. There were 2 people in the truck and several more in trucks following this one. As it turns out, some of the doves belonged to hunters in the trucks following the one with the 75 birds.

Yet after taking those limits into account, they were still way over their limit. It turns out that several hunters, after supposedly shooting their limit, supposedly left the field and went to town or back to camp. There was no way for the hunters that I had stopped to prove that there was ever anyone else there and that they were not the ones who killed over their limit of doves. One of the excuses was that the breasted out birds in the container were birds that they killed that morning in the Central Zone and that they were still hauling them around.

How many times have you gone fishing with a friend and at day's end, after both of you have caught your limit, given your limit of fish to your buddy for him to take home and he goes home in his truck one way and you go another in your vehicle? Or maybe he limited out and you just caught one and gave it to him to take home. Whether you gave him your whole limit or just one fish, the fact is that the fish you gave him puts him over his daily bag limit of fish, which could be a problem for him if he gets checked after the two of you part company.

Or how many times have you given someone part of your freshly

killed deer, where one hunter takes the head and carcass and the other takes the hindquarters, as an example?

The remedy for these problems is to write out (handwritten on any piece of paper is ok) a Wildlife Resource Document. This piece of paper must be filled out by you and must go along with the person to whom you gave the doves, fish, or deer meat so if he is checked the extra wildlife can be accounted for. This piece of paper must have on it the name, signature, address, and fishing/hunting license number of the person who caught or killed the game. The name of the person to whom the wildlife were given, the number and species of wildlife given, the date and location the wildlife were caught or killed such as the name of the lake, river, ranch, etc. must also be on the document. There have been several times when I have checked a person with one or more undersized fish and their excuse for having it is that someone gave it to them. Since they do not have this document from the person who supposedly gave the fish or doves to them, guess who gets in trouble?

For more information on this or any fishing and hunting regulations, or so you know where to locate this information again, it is located on page 34 of this years Outdoor Annual or Hunting and Fishing Guide, available wherever licenses are sold. There is a sample of a Wildlife Resource Document

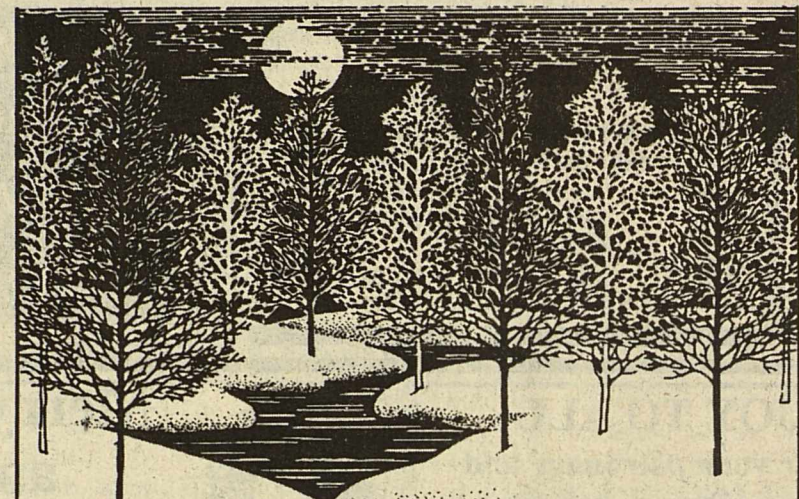
in the book (page 102) of every Outdoor Annual. You may tear this one out and use it or make copies of it for your use. This booklet contains bag and length limits and other useful information

and is handy to keep in the glove box of your vehicle or boat or in the tackle box.

If you need more information on this or any regulation, please contact your local Game Warden.



Merry Christmas and Happy New Year
from
Papco Service Co. and The Melancon Family



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the beauty of this season renew each heart with hope.

Leon Humphreys
Brackettville Funeral Home
114 North Street 563-9600

HOME for CHRISTMAS

There's no better wish we could make for all our wonderful friends and patrons at this time!
Have a safe and Happy Holiday!
from the
Kinney County Wool & Mohair

Welcome!
Church of Christ
808 N. Ann 563-2616
Sunday A.M., 9:30 Classes - 10:30 Worship
Sunday P.M. 1:30
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

UVALDE
BONE & JOINT
CLINIC, P.A.

It's worth the trip!

GLORIA GONZALEZ BOX, M.D.
Orthopaedic Surgeon

- * Arthritis
- * Sports Injuries
- * Arthroscopic surgery
- * Fractures & Dislocations
- * Joint Replacement (Knee, Hip, Shoulder)
- * Knee, Shoulder, Elbow Reconstruction
- * Pediatric Bone & Joint Problems
- * Hand, Wrist, Foot & Ankle Problems

830-278-2292
1025 Garner Field Rd.
Uvalde, Texas 78801

Most insurances accepted, including; Medicare/Medicaid, Benefit Planners, TML, TASB, Blue Cross/Blue Shield, Workman's Comp, Champus/Tricare, Private Insurance.

Deck the halls and be of good cheer, it's time to be merry, for Christmas is here! As you come together with your dear ones, we wish you every blessing!

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!
from
Val Verde Regional Medical Center
Quality health care here at home.

\$6 PER WEEK - 12 WEEK MINIMUM

(830) 563-2852

N&N FENCING
 Nat Terrazas
 Owner
 202. BROWN
 Brackettville, TX 78832
 Ph: (830)-563-3325
 Cell (830)-563-5000

The Jug Store
 Mon - Thu
 12:00 PM - 7:00 PM
 Fri - Sat
 10:00 AM - 9:00 PM
 Case Discounts
 Special Orders
 Liquor Wine Beer
 Convenient Location on HWY 90
 830-563-9030

Archie's Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance
 Experienced - Professional
 Free Estimates
 Let us solve your Lawn & Garden problems
 563-5102
 Archie and Jill Woodson

Davis Hardware & Ranch Supply
 Originally a part of Petersen & Co. Since 1876
 101 East Spring Street P.O. Box 976
 Brackettville, TX 78832
 General Hardware Stock Medicines
 Pipes & Fencing Ranch Supplies
 Paint Ammunition
Phone 830-563-2528

NotNu STORE
 NEXT TO CAR WASH
 Everything unique, one of a kind
 Appliances, furniture, junk,
 Treasures, Old, New, Handmade
 Great gifts, M & W clothes.
Open Thu. Fri. Sat.
10:00 - 4:00

LEONA RANCH
 OWN PART OF THE
 TEXAS HILL COUNTRY
\$695.00 down,
\$136.30 per mo.
 (20 AC Tract)
 P.O. Box 1039 507 S. Ann
 Brackettville, TX 78832 (830) 563-2961

MOBILE HI-FI
 Window Tinting For RVs & Autos
 Security Alarms Car Stereos
 Sprint
 Sprint PCS Provider
830-775-6993
 606 East Gibbs Del Rio, Texas

Physical Therapy
 Brandon Lewis M.D.
 1020 E. Leona Road
 Uvalde, Texas 78801
 Workers' Compensation/Medicare/Insurance
(830) 278-4426
 Se Habla Espanol

Four Seasons
 Landscape & Irrigation Co.
 P. O. Box 421536
 Del Rio, Texas 78842-1536
WINTER SPECIAL
 20% discount on all sprinkler systems
 CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE
 563-2725 or 774-7223
 Alan McWilliams Lic. #6884

PROPANE
 THE CLEAR ALTERNATIVE
ROADRUNNER ENERGY
 Call Woody @ 563-9594 or 800-543-2630

SOUTHWEST SERVICE Co.
 (830) 563-9256
 Visa/MasterCard/Discover
 Tom & Anita Parts • Repair Hwy 90E
 Ertle • Storage Brackettville, TX

Bruce Drilling and Services
 Pumps Tanks Wells
 Specializing in
 Turn Key Installation of
 trouble free water systems
830-563-9916 Gordon Bruce Jr.
 Texas Water Well Lic. # 2444WPKL

COPIES TO GO...
 2400 Avenue F, Suite 8 (830) 775-1121
 Del Rio, TX 78840 Fax (830) 775-2351
 Need a head start on your Christmas list?
 How about getting a calendar personalized
 with your favorite picture? We also carry a
 variety of color paper for all your newsletters
 and Christmas letters. Come by our shop to
 see all the different services we provide.

ROOFING SHEETMETAL REMODELING ROOM ADDITIONS STUCCO
AAA Roofing and Remodeling
 No Job Too Big or Small
 Free Estimates Peter D. Perez
 (830) 563-2617
 SHEET ROCK TEXTURES PAINTING FENCING CERAMIC TILE

Kinney County Wool & Mohair
 The Rancher's Shopping Center
 Since 1962 - Shaker Feed Store
 *Livestock Feed * Game Feed *
 * Hardware * Lumber *
 Check And Compare Our Competitive Prices
 Brackettville, TX
 830-563-2471
 Mon.-Fri. P.O. Box 1010
 8 a.m.-5 p.m. W. Spring St.
 Sat. 8 a.m.-12 Noon

This space could be yours for \$6 a week. Call 563-2852.

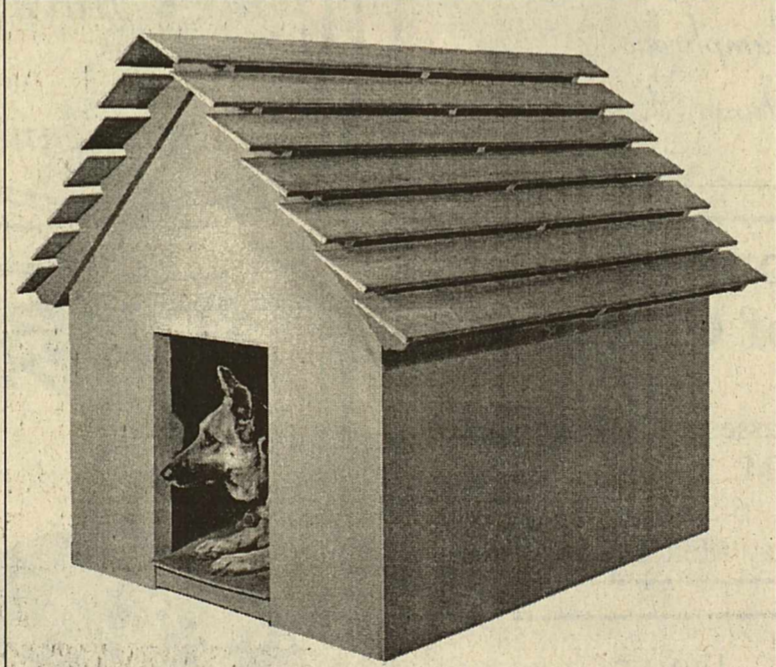
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
 From Constable Elect
Cordelia Mendeke
 God Bless our Community

CHRISTMAS JOY TO ALL
 With special thanks for your patronage and good will, we wish you a happy holiday.
Ora's Drive Inn
 From The Seven Angels
 Roger Cordy Celina
 Rene Johnathan James Vanilla

Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous New Year!
Kinney County Chamber of Commerce

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10		
11				12		13	14				
15				16			17				
18			19		20		21				
	22		23		24	25					
	26	27	28			29		30	31		
32				33	34			35	36		
37				38				39			
40			41	42			43				
	44		45			46	47				
			48			49					
50	51	52		53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61				62		63		64			
65				66				67			
68				69				70			

You Can Make It
<http://www.craftpatterns.com>



This dog house was specifically designed for large dogs. Inside dimensions are 34 inches by 43 inches, enough depth to move away from the doorway in bad weather. The one-piece floor is pitched to drain any rain that might blow in. Double-skinned walls are insulated and the slat-roof also protects against the heat of the sun. (#1580...\$7.95 plus \$2.50 shipping charge).

CRAFT PATTERNS Home Workshop, Dept. R5V
 3545 Stern Avenue, St. Charles, IL 60174-5407
 Mail payment or call 24-hour order line: 1-800-747-1429

- 1580 Insulated Dog House Plan.....\$10.45
- 2062 Dog House Plan Packet.....\$23.70 (Includes #1580 plus three more easy-to-build dog house plans)
- 98 "You Can Make It" Catalog.....\$4.00 (Shows hundreds of plans & books plus \$4.00 rebate offer)

IL residents add 6.5% sales tax — prices include delivery charges

Name: _____
 Address: _____
 City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

ACROSS

- Giant-grappling sport
- Intimate friend
- Luxury (Monopoly space)
- Ring stone
- Shot
- Matching two
- Bjorn of tennis
- Make known
- Heather Locklear's alma mater
- Creeps
- Sign of a hit show
- Blushing becomingly
- Fun and games, for short
- Contend
- Penalize
- European polecat
- Methane and helium
- Reduce in rank
- The Flying
- Sign of otalgia
- Kind of luck
- Flynn Boyle of The Practice
- Right, to Dobbin
- Not competent
- One of Ozzie's sons
- Nonsense
- Bursts
- Pumpkin alternative
- Merino male

DOWN

- Weeps
- Current with, as facts (2 wds.)
- Foal's mother
- Character in Kafka's The Castle
- Where auto racers refuel
- "Fine" things
- Lusty look
- Mexican "sandwich"
- Is indisposed
- Radiograph
- Circuit breakers' kin
- Flocks
- More pristine
- Actor Kristofferson

23. Hill, North Carolina
25. Dander
26. Wore a hole in the carpet
27. Attendant
28. Previously named
29. More plump
30. Ratify
31. Young (zealous go-getters)
32. One-liner
34. "She" (Cyndi Lauper hit)
36. Negative vote
39. Pouter's projecting part
41. Poison or grape
42. Lacked
43. Type of roast
45. Golfers' purchases
47. Grating
50. "the night before..."
51. Jack Nicklaus' home state
52. Sterling examples
54. Greenish-blue
55. President George
57. Uses a gavel
58. Body of troops
59. Reminder
60. Tiny insect
63. "a Lovely Day Today"

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 21.....Clay Hunt III	Dec. 23.....Elidia Molinar
Dec. 21.....Shelley Jost	Dec. 24.....Tom Beatty
Dec. 22.....Arabela Abrego	Dec. 24.....Sam Ferguson
Dec. 22.....Evelyn Estes	Dec. 25.....Michael Gass
Dec. 22.....Don Hood	Dec. 26.....Dorothy Clark
Dec. 22.....Richard Pena	Dec. 26.....Pat Foster
Dec. 23.....Victor Abrego	Dec. 26.....Pam Melancon
Dec. 23.....Johnie Beard	Dec. 27.....Margarita Pena
Dec. 23.....Sergio Cardenas	Dec. 27.....Christina Smith
Dec. 23.....Diana Molinar	Dec. 27.....J.J. Smith
Dec. 23.....Elena Molinar	Dec. 27.....Taylor Stephenson

HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21-April 20
 You have a tendency to go overboard giving gifts. This holiday season, give from the heart-not the wallet. Have faith in the human spirit. It won't let you down.

Taurus April 21-May 21
 Don't underestimate the power your words may have on a young person's life. There are pros and cons to an investment opportunity. If you decide to invest, it may be wise to be conservative.

Gemini May 22-June 21
 Refuse to settle for second best. While you may not be a leader, you are a loyal and dedicated team player. Your commitment to excellence may get you noticed. Get rid of stress by playing in the kitchen.

Cancer June 22-July 22
 You may need to listen more carefully to what a family member is trying to say. Don't allow yourself to be drawn into a fracas at work. Stand up for what you believe in. Young people require quality time.

Leo July 23-August 23
 View a challenge as part of life's continual learning experience. To help keep your focus, draw on a past holiday experience. Put together a detailed plan of action now. Results could come within the new year.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
 If you know the "why" behind your ambitions, it may be easier to achieve short-term goals. Intriguing architecture will motivate you to start planning a dream home. Let your imagination run wild at work.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 Someone you crossed paths with a long time ago may reappear. A strong work ethic could propel you to new heights. This holiday make someone less fortunate happy. A small token goes a long way.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 You may need to start working harder on your people skills. Do not be so stubborn. Instead of taking your frustration out on others, work through it in a new exercise routine.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 Beginning right now, start looking on the bright side. You may feel that you've been dealt a bad hand, but you are actually more lucky than others. A last-minute invitation could be a lot of fun.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 Your creative ability may be put to the test at the last minute. Let a friend bend your ear regarding a personal problem. Don't allow another person's bad attitude to influence yours.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
 Think things through before you act. You may want to correct someone, but don't cause a scene. Try to remember how it felt when you were in a similar position. Getting ahead financially could be easier in the new year.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
 You could get out of the mess you are in if you attack the problems head on. Wanting to be liked by everyone will get you nowhere. Developing a positive attitude will make a good job great.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

For local news you can use, subscribe to the Brackett News

Obituary.....

Virginia Frances Schubach Wiggins, age 76, entered into rest November 25, 2000 in San Antonio. She was born April 3, 1924 in San Antonio, Texas to Alex and Theresa (Winhofer) Schubach. She had been an active member of Blessed Sacrament Church and had given many years to serving as a member of the Altar Society. She had been vice-president of the VSP Club and secretary of the Senior Center Board. She devoted much of her time to the Arts & Crafts Group doing fund-raisers for the church. She was loved and will be missed by many. Her biggest accomplishment was raising her seven children and loving her family.

She is survived by her husband of 48 years, John T. Wiggins; five sons: Steven A., Brian T., Craig G. and wife Marsha, Matthew H. and wife Susie, Kirk C. and wife Marla; two daughters: Cynthia H. Henning and husband Don, and Alexis D. Boultinghouse; 14 grandchildren; one brother A. J. Schubach and wife Sandy; three sisters: Marcella Greathouse and husband, Myrle; Krysta Shirosky and husband Richard; Dianna Dale and husband Mike.

Interment was at Sunset Memorial Park in San Antonio. Memorials are suggested to the Cancer Therapy and Research Center in San Antonio.

Gateway Ministries
Pastors Charolette Corey

This time of the year is spent in a busy hustle and bustle of giving gifts and fruit baskets to those we care about in celebration of the birth and life of Jesus Christ. While we are busy doing this, we need to make sure that our "busy-ness" or business doesn't cause us to become short-sighted and blind to the true spirit of Christmas.

Jesus warns us in Mark 4:19 to not let the "cares of this world, and the deceitfulness of riches, and the lusts of other things entering in, choke the word, and it becometh unfruitful." It is not wrong to care about people, to be busy in doing that which is good, to the glory of God, but we need to keep things in perspective. If we give and

give of our time, our energy, our money and neglect the temple of the Lord (our own hearts and bodies) then we jeopardize the very Living Word of God planted there.

Sometimes the agenda of getting things accomplished can nullify the very efforts expended upon the sacrifice of love. When husbands, wives, and children are neglected to make sure that "everything gets done," it is time to sit back, regroup, and go to God in prayer, seeking his will for your priorities. If he says to do something, then do it with all your might, but do not justify what you are doing by simply saying "it looks right" or "it feels right." God wants to be Lord of your life all year long, but especially this time of year when you are doing things "in the name of Jesus."

Having come out of a "gentile" (gen-tile) culture, rather than a Jewish culture, many of us miss the training of learning to set aside a time for "passover." We all need to frequently stop and take stock of the many, many blessings and gifts of life that God has given us. If you are alive and reading this now, you have been given another gift by God, another chance to start fresh, another chance to forgive and be forgiven, another chance to share the unconditional love of God with others.

Jesus often sought out his "quiet time," just to be with the Father in prayer, to talk with him one-on-one and be refreshed. As we learn to cast all our cares upon him, we strengthen our trust in him. God refreshes us and we learn to

"rest in Him." This season, choose to go beyond the business of giving and getting. Remembering that your body needs nourishment daily, bless your soul with the same thoughtfulness and feed it daily. If you are on a diet of only "eating" the word of God once a week, you will eventually starve yourself. Your soul (your mind, will and emotions) will shrink down to a pitiful shadow of itself and then you will wonder why you don't have strength to call upon when you are going through trials and tribulations.

Give yourself a "fruit basket" often and savor the flavor of the Lord Jesus Christ. His word is nourishment for the soul. His presence is the best present of all. Merry Christmas!
Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Joy To The World!

St. Mary Magdalene
By Lynn McNew

The Lord comes to us at unexpected times, in unexpected places. For me, He can come to me in the laugh of a grandchild, in beautiful music, or in a quiet moment. He also can come to me in a moment of stress, in the middle of a long check-out line, or in a traffic jam. I believe the Lord comes to us when we least expect Him.

The month of December is always a very hectic time for me, as it is for most people. I find that most often, strangely enough, the few days before Christmas seem to be free from activities and events. It is almost as if all the "extra stuff" is over and it is time for me to focus on the true meaning of this holiday season. Suddenly, I have time to listen to some great music, watch some of the traditional movies, and spend time with my family. This is also when the Lord comes to me. Think about it—God tells us in the book of the Prophet Micah that a place called Bethlehem, so small it is not even counted among the clans of Judah, will be the place from which the shepherd of Israel will come.

In Luke's gospel, Mary, the simple Jewish girl, already bearing the Messiah within her, visits her cousin Elizabeth. "Blessed are you," says Elizabeth, "who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled." One seemingly insignificant place and two seemingly insignificant women. Yet it is to this place and to these women that the Lord comes.

Sunday is a strange day. It is Christmas Eve and soon we will gather, either tonight or tomorrow, to celebrate the Lord's na-

tivity. Yet it is still Advent, if only for a few more hours. Expect the Lord to come to you in unexpected places, through unexpected, seemingly insignificant persons and events. This is a fitting conclusion to this Advent season. We have prayed for Christ's coming. We have heard God's promise of presence. How blessed are we who believe that what has been spoken to us by the Lord will be fulfilled.

Lord, thank you for coming to me in unexpected places and people. Thank you for the gift of your Son. Help me to finish this Advent with my focus on You and Your gift. Joy to the world, the Lord is come!

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. During the Christmas weekend, we will have our usual Mass schedule on Saturday evening and Sunday morning. There will also be a Children's Mass on Sunday evening, Midnight Mass on Sunday night, and Christmas Mass at 10:30 on Monday morning. May God Bless You with all the blessings of this holiday season.

Jesus fulfills prophecy

Frontier Baptist Church
By Dave Crowe

In the book of Matthew, Matthew gives us nine examples of how Jesus Christ, in his life and ministry fulfilled Old Testament scriptures and prophecies.

- 1: 21-23 "That a virgin shall give birth to a son." Isaiah 7:14
- 2:15 "Out of Egypt, I called my son." Hosea 11:1
- 2: 17 -18 "Rachel weeping for her children, because they were no more." Jeremiah 31:15
- 2:23 "He shall be called a Nazarene."
- 4: 12-16 "Leaving Nazareth and going beyond the Jordan, Galilee of the Gentiles" "The people who sat in darkness have seen a great light." Isaiah 42:6

Jesus is the gift that never stops giving

First United Methodist Church
By Ken F. Sellers, Jr.

I have never quite gotten rid of one of my behaviors that began as a child. Whether it is Christmas, a birthday or graduation, I almost always open the largest gift first (unless of course it belongs to someone else).

I guess that, as a child, the largest gift was perceived as the best gift, somewhat like a child would choose a nickel over a dime because it is larger. Since my mother was always saving the wrapping paper, I was polite enough to take care in opening the gift, but I would grab the biggest and get into it as soon as possible. That gift was the indication of the caliber of gifts to come, so to speak.

Perhaps your choice of first gift to open is made differently: the prettiest, the one given by your closest loved one, the one given by your child, the one first handed to you. However you make the choice of first gift to open, it initiates that special feel-

ing of being loved that comes with such special events when you are surrounded by loved ones.

I guess the rush to that special feeling is what prompts some families to share Christmas gifts with one another on Christmas Eve. This also may be the tradition of the families where grandchildren need to be home on Christmas morning to marvel at the gifts left by Santa Claus. No matter, young and old alike anticipate the gifts on Christmas Eve, or Christmas morning, both large and small with delight.

It is my educated advice, and sincere prayer, that you all join with me on Christmas Eve to discover again the greatest gift ever given (even though in a small package). It is non-returnable. It is always appropriate. It brings joy year after year for eternity. It is something you can carry with you in every situation you encounter. It began, two

thousand years ago, bringing to millions the most profound sense of love a gift can bring.

This gift is, of course, Jesus, the Christ-child, whom Isaiah called "Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace." (Isaiah 9:6) Make Jesus the first gift you examine this Christmas season, at your normal place of worship, in your home and with your family. He is surely the indicator of the love this season has to offer every one of us.

If you don't have a church home or are looking for a new one, we invite you to join us at First United Methodist at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday as we look at Jesus as "The Defining Gift." And, as we have in previous years, we invite the community

to be with us at 6:00 pm on Christmas Eve (this Sunday) for a "Christmas Classic Celebration of Scripture, Song and Candlelight." May this special season change your life all eternity.

Sell it fast in the classifieds, 563-2852

We want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Chapo & Henry

Rejoice in the Lord always

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

Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee, because he trusteth in thee. Trust ye in the Lord forever; or in the Lord God is everlasting strength. Isaiah 26: 3,4

I create the fruit of the lips. Peace, peace to him that is far off and to him that is near, saith the Lord, and I will heal him. Isaiah 57:19

By him, therefore, let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks, to his name. Hebrews 13:15

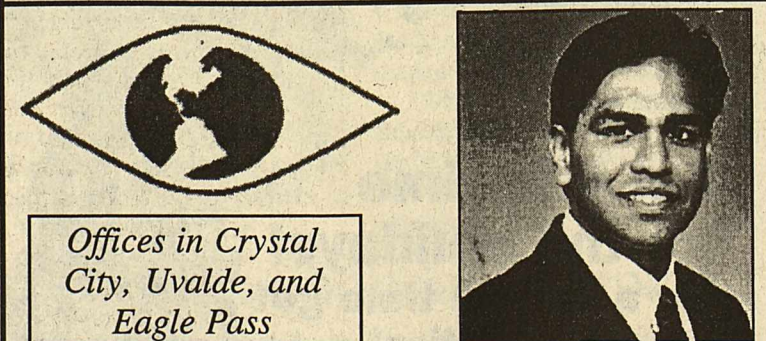
Rejoice in the Lord always; and again I say, rejoice let your moderation be known unto all men. The Lord is at hand.

Be careful for nothing, but in everything, by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving, let your requests be made known unto God.

And the peace of God, which passeth all understanding, shall keep your hearts and minds through Christ Jesus. Philippians 4:4-7

Merry Christmas and a Holy New Year from Pastor Wm. P. Adam Sr. and St. John Church Family.

Sanjiv R. Kumar, M.D., P.A.
Board Certified Ophthalmologist
Surgery and Diseases of the Eye



- Cataract Surgery with lens implant
- Diabetic Eye Disease
- Glaucoma Treatment and Surgery
- Laser Surgery in the Office
- Medicare & Medicaid Accepted
- Se Habla Espanol

800-747-2511
or 830-278-2020
927 East Main Street
Uvalde, Texas

OUR REDEEMER
LUTHERAN CHURCH
ELCA
On the corner of
Fort and Henderson
Sunday Worship 9 AM
Sunday School 10 AM
Wednesday
Bible Study 7 PM
Pastor: Nathan Lafrenz
830-591-1614

First Baptist Church (SBC)
Corner of Ann and Veltman

Sunday Schedule:
Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - Childrens Church 11 a.m.
nursery provided
Choir all ages 4:30 p.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship
Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

Bus and Church information call
church office at 563-2245
Pastor: R. D. Holloway

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

2001 January 2001

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
1 Closed! New Years Day! Happy New Year	2 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	3	4 Dr. De La Chapa Ophthalmologist Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose & Throat No Urologist	5 Dr. D. Dean Neuro-Surgeon Dr. G. Warner Urologist
8 Dr. J. De La Chapa Ophthalmologist	9 Dr. M. Oswald Ophthalmologist	10	11 Dr. S. Fisher Ophthalmologist Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose & Throat Dr. G. Warner Urologist	12 Dr. G. Warner Urologist Dr. K. Sanford Ophthalmologist
15 Dr. K. Sanford Ophthalmologist	16 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	17 Dr. J. De La Chapa Ophthalmologist	18 Dr. G. Warner Urologist Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose & Throat No Eye Doctor	19 Dr. D. Dean Neuro-Surgeon Dr. G. Warner Urologist
22 Dr. J. De La Chapa Ophthalmologist	23 Dr. M. Oswald Ophthalmologist Dr. J. Schroeder Pediatric Cardiologist	24 Dr. S. Fisher Ophthalmologist	25 Dr. G. Warner Urologist Dr. A. Dinesman Ear, Nose & Throat No Eye Doctor	26 Dr. G. Warner Urologist Dr. K. Sanford Ophthalmologist
28	29 Dr. K. Sanford Ophthalmologist	30 Dr. M. Singer Ophthalmologist	31 Dr. J. De La Chapa Ophthalmologist	<i>The Center is open Monday thru Friday 8:00AM-4:30PM</i>

To schedule an appointment with any of the above physicians call (830) 703-1730 or 775-8566 ext. 1730.
All physicians see patients at the Val Verde Regional Medical Center Outpatient Center, 801 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas.
Easy access through southside entrance of the building.

AUTOMOBILES

CHARITY CARS - DONATE your vehicle. As seen on Oprah and People Magazine. Tax deductible, free towing. We provide donated vehicles to struggling families. 1-800-442-4451, www.charity-cars.org.

DRIVERS WANTED

COMPANY PAID CDL training & first year income \$35K - Stevens Transport - OTR drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced, 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

DRIVER: COVENANT TRANSPORT * Coast to coast runs * Teams start up to 46 cpm * \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced company drivers. For experienced drivers, 1-800-441-4394; owner/operators 1-877-848-6615. For graduate students 1-800-338-6428.

DRIVER - YOU WILL see the difference in SRT. *Great pay. *Paid weekly. *Excellent benefits. *\$1,250 sign-on bonus. *Student graduates welcome. Call SRT today toll free: 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY (1-877-244-7293).

DRIVERS AT CONTINENTAL Express, 'tis the season to make money. Miles, Miles, Miles! Home at your request. Class A CDL required. Call us today, 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS - CFI HIRING OTR company/student/owner operators. Company with one year experience start at \$.32 cpm. Students earn \$50 per day. Owner/Operator start at \$.80 all miles. For more information call 1-800-CFI-DRIVE.

DRIVERS: FLEETWOOD TRANSPORTATION hiring flatbed drivers. Peterbilt equipment. Guaranteed home time and complete package of benefits. Also need owner operators. 1-888-276-9923, www.ftwd.net.

DRIVERS NEEDED. LOOK! Get your CDL and a great job. No money out of your pocket, if qualified. Earn up to \$800 or more. 1-800-301-6759.

343 DRIVERS NEEDED! No experience needed. Quick CDL training program available. Earn \$30,000 + 1st year. CDL Delivers, 1-800-260-0294.

DRIVERS - HIGH MILES. High respect. Experience pays! *Late model conventionals. *Home every 6-10 days. *Need 2 years OTR experience/23 years old. COPP Trucking, 1-800-365-0081.

DRIVERS: IF YOU are the spouse of an over the road truck driver, we will teach you to drive a "Big Rig" w/ automatic transmission in just 2 weeks! Interested, please call 1-800-234-3748.

DRIVERS NEEDED FOR regional run! Enjoy good pay, medical insurance, great equipment and home most weekends! Malone Freight Lines - Call Brenda for details 1-866-366-6361.

DRIVERS-OWNER/OPERATORS: Run regional. Home weekly! Paid: Base plate, permits, fuel taxes. 81 cpm. Loaded and empty plus fuel surcharge. 1-800-454-2887. Arnold Transportation.

INTERSTATE LEASING - DRIVERS and Owner/Operators wanted for various runs. CDL training available. Tuition reimbursement up to \$3,000. (EOE-m/f), www.swifttrans.com. 1-800-227-5751.

OTR DRIVER - MARTEN Transport Ltd. Can pay you with 1 year plus experience, 33cpm. Call 1-800-395-3331, www.marten.com.

DRIVERS WANTED

SWIFT TRANSPORTATION - DRIVERS and Owner/Operators wanted for various runs. CDL training available. Tuition reimbursement up to \$5,000. (EOE-m/f), www.swifttrans.com. 1-800-284-8785.

TRUCK DRIVERS OTR - Solo (.30 + or .28 + cpm.) Teams (.36 + cpm). Good miles, excellent equipment and benefits. One year OTR Experience required. Gulf Coast Transport, 1-888-988-8666.

DRIVER TRAINING

DRIVER - INEXPERIENCED? LEARN to be an OTR professional from a top carrier. Great pay, executive-style benefits and conventional equipment. Minimum investment required. Call today! US Xpress, 1-800-879-7743.

LEGAL SERVICES

DIABETES DRUG REZULIN recalled by FDA, liver damage, failures and deaths. Call free consultation, David P. Willis, Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Lawyer. 1-800-883-9858. Principal office, Houston, TX.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY claim denied? Free consultation. No fee until you get paid. Representatives who care, specializing in hearings and appeals. BTS Group 1-800-466-0606.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

CREDIT CARD DEBT? Avoid bankruptcy. *Stop collection calls. *Cut finance charges. *Cut payments up to 50%. Debt consolidation. Fast approval. No credit check. Call 1-800-270-9894.

NEED CASH? \$500.00 cash by phone. Same day service. Checking account required. No credit checks. No up-front fees. Call toll free now, 1-888-891-6669.

FOR SALE

Just In Time for Christmas - crocheted pot holders & kitchen towel toppers \$5.00 a pair call 563-3543. Will deliver!

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

FORT CLARK SPRINGS membership - make offer (512)-312-1218.

AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES - Wolff Tanning Beds. Buy factory direct. Excellent service, flexible financing available. Home/commercial units. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1310.

HOT CINNAMON TOOTHPICKS remember these? \$5.00 gets you 15 packs. Send to: Between Meals Inc., Toothpicks 1624 Kentfield SW Wyoming, MI 49509. Ebay Seller ID and e-mail gbaragar@aol.com.

MINIATURE DONKEYS (PERFECT for Christmas.) Sweet, lovable, and cuddly. Easy to train: grays, browns, and spots. Geldings from \$500, Jennies from \$1,200. Lucky S&L Ranch, Beeville. 1-361-362-0430 or 1-888-631-6789. Best prices on Sweeney feeders.

YEAR END CLOSEOUT! Arch steel buildings. Inventory clearance! 2000 steel prices. While supplies last! 25x30, 40x58, 50x110. Workshops/garages. Call 1-800-341-7007, www.steelmasterusa.com.

HELP WANTED

THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Development Council is accepting job applications for the position of Maintenance Worker to be housed at the MRGDC Uvalde Workforce Center in Uvalde, Texas. Preference will be given to applicants who have three (3) or more years of similar work experience. This position is responsible for the general cleaning and maintenance of building, grounds and storage areas at the central office. Some examples of the duties and responsibilities of this position include the following: open and secure building on a daily basis; cleaning office work areas and rest rooms; sweep, mop, scrub, vacuum and polish floors; removal of trash and other refuse; dust equipment, furniture and fixtures; maintenance of custodial supplies; must be able to assemble furniture and perform minor mechanical repairs; may perform duties as shipper and receiver; transport and arrange materials in storage rooms; load and unload various weights of materials and merchandise and store in proper location; maintain and adjust air conditioner thermostats/filters; clean all debris on central office grounds; cut grass areas and perform related tasks as required. Salary range for this position is \$14,446. Persons interested in applying for this position must send a resume and/or file an application with: Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Executive Director, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, P.O. Box 1199 - 307 W. Nopal, Carrizo Springs, Texas, 78834. A copy of the job description and application for employment are available upon request. Applications and/or resumes will be accepted for this position until filled. 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. For information please contact at (830) 876-3533 or through our TDD telephone number (830) 876-1260.

WANTED CARRIER for San Antonio Express News in Brackettville area. Contact Joe 775-0332. Pager 1-888-839-1665.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR! \$20-\$40/hour potential. Processing claims is easy! Training provided, must own PC. Call now! Medicor, LLC 1-888-568-7649, ext. 698.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS The Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) is soliciting Request for Qualifications from Qualified Automotive Mechanics. As grant administrators for services provided for the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board, the MRGDC is responsible for Workforce Program services delivered within the Middle Rio Grande area of La Salle, Edwards, Real, Kinney, Uvalde, Maverick, Zavala, Dimmit and Val Verde Counties. Services being sought are Automotive Maintenance Services. The deadline for submission of this RFO is **Friday, January 12, 2001, at 3:00 P.M., CST**, at the following address: Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 307 West Nopal, P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834. Proposals packets may be obtained by contacting Raul D. Diaz, Fiscal Department at VOICE telephone number (830) 876-3533 or TDD telephone number (830) 876-1260. 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. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

REAL ESTATE

O'Rourke Realty
Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
830-563-2713
Rentals Available

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year 2001!

FREE

Free Puppies For Christmas call 563-3400.

HEALTH/MEDICAL

HOME DELIVERY OF respiratory medications. Medicare may cover part or all of your respiratory medicine. 1-800-840-3987. Med4Home.

REAL ESTATE

2.84 ACRES CHOICE highway frontage Hwy 90 & 131 Brackettville. \$60,000 firm. 830-774-5084.

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO
P.O. Box 1035
Brackettville, TX 78832
830-563-2446 830-563-2447

From:
Molly Earl, Seth,
Pat, Elia, Carol

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

DEBBIE TRANT
LOCKHART REAL ESTATE
830-563-2997
104 A-E Spring

One of the real joys of the season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a special Christmas and the very best New Year.

La Fortuna Ranch Sales

Homes - Ranches - Farms - Commercial
615 Hwy 90 East
•Beautiful 2 bed 2 bath home in the Oaks, with adjoining lot, approx. 2,000 sq ft + large double garage and storage.
•Ranches 10,200 ac. N.E. of Brackettville, 2,000 ac. west of Brackett, 407 ac. Duval Co., 17,000 ac. Terrell Co., 313 ac. LaSalle Co., Plus other Hill Country and South Texas Ranches.
Phyllis Meyer Les Meyer
830-563-9911 Mobile 563-5334
lmeyer@hilconet.com

Is your Christmas list longer than your idea list? Let us help out.

Someone on your list might really appreciate a special wine, fine brandy, cognac, or other liqueur. Or - just your favorite scotch, bourbon, gin or vodka.

Smooth liqueurs
Alize
E & J Brandy
Don Pedro Brandy
Courvoisier Cognac
Remy Martin Cognac
Christian Brothers Brandy

Monday-Thursday, 12-7 p.m.
Friday & Saturday,
10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m.
Located on Highway 90
563-9030

10% off on 3 or more bottles of wine
20% off some selected brands



Liqueurs
Cointreau, Drambuie
Grand Marnier
Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry
Bailey's Irish Cream
Disaronno Originale Amaretto

Try these and our other great wines

- Kendall-Jackson
- Beringer
- Columbia Crest
- Sutter Home
- Glenn Ellen
- Bolla
- Turning Leaf
- Talus

Get it all. Get it now. Get a great deal!

Charter Digital Select package
\$19.95 per month for 3 months

- Charter Digital Select Package includes:
- Multiple screens of 1 premium channel
 - Up to 26 Digital Choice channels
 - Up to 45 channels digital music
 - Charter iNDemand (pay per view)
 - All Basic and Expanded channels
 - All local broadcast channels
 - Interactive program guide
 - 1 Digital receiver and remote control



Get it in time for the holidays! For a limited time get Free Installation* when you donate a new toy valued at \$10.00 or more for a needy child

Hurry - offer expires 12/31/00!

Charter Digital Cable
1-888-466-6290

*Call for details. Some restrictions may apply.

Country Western & Tejano New Year's Eve Dance
9 p.m. to 1 a.m., Kinney County Civic Center
Music by Encanto of Del Rio
Presale tickets \$10 per person through December 30, otherwise pay \$12 on December 31. Students pay \$5 at the door (12 and under free)
See your Brackettville Volunteer Firefighters for tickets
Or call Tino Gomez at 317-5699



OLD-FASHIONED GREETINGS
We wish our friends a holiday filled with love, laughter and warmth.
The Brackett News