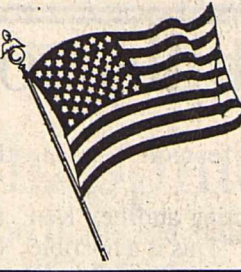


The Brackett News



Boys and Girls
basketball against
Dilley, Tuesday at 5:00

12th year, No. 53

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Edwards addresses issues concerning creation of water district in Kinney County

By Amy Davis
Staff Writer

At the Kinney County Extension Agency's 3rd annual meeting, held on January 23, guest speaker Paul Edwards, addressed those attending on the future development of water in southwest Texas.

Edwards first gave a short history of this area's water supply. He noted that the area between the Rio Grande and San Antonio was one of the first areas to be discovered by early settlers, but one of the last to be settled because it is a dry area. He said that the early settlers were unaware of the aquifer that was beneath them, what we know as the Edwards aquifer.

"This is one of the most productive and prolific ground water aquifers in the U.S., if not the world," he said.

In 1991, residents of Kinney County chose to be left out of the Edwards Aquifer Authority. Paul Edwards says he would have taken the same option if he'd been living here at the time, but says that not creating a water district at that time was not a wise decision. He added that the decision may not be irreparable. Creating a water district at this point will require a lot more money and a lot more time.

"It's not going to be easy, and it's not going to be cheap," he said.

Edwards pointed out that land purchasers are now buying land in this area they would not have considered just a few years ago, not for the purpose of farming or hunting. He says they are buying it for the water.

"Everybody assumes that soon water is going to be worth more than oil. I don't know whether that's true or not," Edwards said.

He urged those attending the meeting to consider all options and to think about the pros and cons of creating a water district. He says that citizens in this area are in a situation where there is speculation on water rights.

"Nobody knows what the status of ground water rights are going to be or not going to be."

Edwards said that in order to reduce speculation, it is necessary to have a settled regulatory environment.

"The problem with a speculative environment is that the speculators with big money have the power to make their speculations, dreams come true."

"Everybody assumes that soon water is going to be worth more than oil. I don't know whether that's true or not."
- Paul Edwards

Edwards said that at this time, the Uvalde County Underground Water Conservation District is trying to conserve what control they have left over certain waters in the Uvalde area. When creating the water district there, they experienced opposition to having another taxing authority in the county. Edwards said that despite the opposition, it had to be done.

Edwards said there have already been offers made from citizens in Kinney County to sell water out of this area to the San Antonio Water System. Listed as one of the positive features in the sales package about offering Kinney County water, was that there was no local

district.

Edwards, who serves as a charter member of the Board of Directors of the Uvalde County Underground Water District, offered the help of the Uvalde water district to citizens in Kinney County as they continue to consider creating a water district.

Edwards is currently the owner/operator of PAE Associates, a private consulting firm engaged in providing development and management services to governments and development groups throughout Texas. He has spent the majority of his professional life in local and state government in Texas, including both jobs with the cities of San Antonio and Austin, the Texas Department of Community Affairs, the Governor's office, and the Middle Rio Grande Development Council, where he served for almost 20 years, twice as Executive Director.

Food check-out day shows food is a bargain

Local students and the County Farm Bureau will celebrate National Food Check-Out Day at Jones Elementary by holding a canned food drive from Thursday, February 1st through Wednesday, February 7th. First graders through fifth graders will participate in this year's event. Food Check-Out Day represents the day by which the average American has earned enough income to buy his or her food for the entire year, which is about 10.4 percent of their disposable income. In 2001, that day is February 7th, only 38 days into the new year. The American Farm Bureau Federation through the County Farm Bureaus across the nation started the event to promote farming and ranching to all consumers and to give to those in need. Americans are blessed with an abundant food source and this food drive will

share some of those blessings with folks who are in need in the country. It takes only 38 days to earn enough money to buy a year's supply of food, but it takes more than 120 days to earn enough to pay your taxes for that same year.

"We are proud of our role in providing affordable food for all Americans and excited to sponsor this event along with the help from the folks at Jones Elementary and we hope to make this an annual event with the school. Awareness of how fortunate we all are to have a food source like no other country is crucial to the survival of the consumer and the American farmer and rancher," says John Paul Schuster, President of Kinney/Val Verde Farm Bureau. The winning grade will have an ice cream party sponsored by the County Farm Bureau.

Briefs ... Ring resigns

Chief of Police, Ron Ring has resigned from his position effective Monday, January 22. City Secretary, David Luna said that the reason for Ring's resignation was stated as personal. Ring has not been available to make comment concerning the resignation. City Council will discuss the option of hiring a new Police Chief at the next regular meeting Tuesday, February 13 at 6pm.

Cavalry Brigade plans clean-up

It's "giddy-up" time for FCS's "Cavalry Brigade" to continue on schedule for clean-up on the first Saturday, February 3rd. The usual roundup of volunteers meet at 9:00 a.m. on the steps of Shafter Hall. Grazing time will be from 11:30 - 12:30 with a surprise change in menu that's sure to please all, even those with disgruntled tendencies.

So, FCS Members join the happy volunteers who would rather clean-up than mess up! There are jobs for all that vary from the limited physical type to the gung-ho and remember - weather is no obstacle, since we also have indoor projects. Volunteers come - yaaheah?

FCS Historical Society

Dr. Rosalind Z. Rock, Ph.D. was guest speaker at the Ft. Clark Historical Society meeting Saturday. Dr. Rock's field of specialization is in Spanish Colonial Borderlands History; and her love of the subject was evident from her engrossing presentation. She traced the paths of the missionaries as they accompanied the Gold Seeking Conquistadors. Their task was to entice a normally nomadic people to settle so they could be converted to Christianity. This was done by teaching them agriculture. The missions had to be located near water on land suitable for this purpose. Dr. Rock is presently the park historian at the San Antonio Missions National Historical Park.

Retiring Society President Frank Cheaney was presented a plaque in appreciation of three years of outstanding service by Glen White the incoming president. Other new officers named were: Larry Mendeke, secretary; Tom Collins, treasurer; and Bill Stuart, museum curator.

INSIDE

■ The way I see it!

I recently wrote of what I see as the dangers in the current trend of television showing things that are dangerous to our children. At that time I was not aware of the trial that was going on in Florida.
Opinion/Page 2

■ Empowering families

"Mom, these problems are too hard," said eight year old Jaime. "I'll never get them done."
Maricella answered her son. "Keep trying you'll get it sooner or later."
Lifestyles/Page 3

■ Making a difference

The Brackett Advisory Committee recommends a scholarship program for Brackett High School seniors who graduate from BHS. The basic idea is to reward scholarship, character and service. Qualifying seniors must have a minimum of a "B" average.
School/Page 5

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Cub Scouts release derby results

By Star Smith, Cubmaster
Contributing Writer

Cub Scout Pack 257 held a Pinewood Derby Race on Monday, January 29, at the Brackettville EMS building.

Each boy took a block of wood 1 7/8 " x 1 3/8 " x 7" long and cut it into the shape of his choice. They also painted their cars. We had some fantastic designs with lots of detail and some with extra parts added like roll bars and drivers. There were a total of 16 cars raced in 4 different divisions, including an adult division for those dads who are still boys at heart!

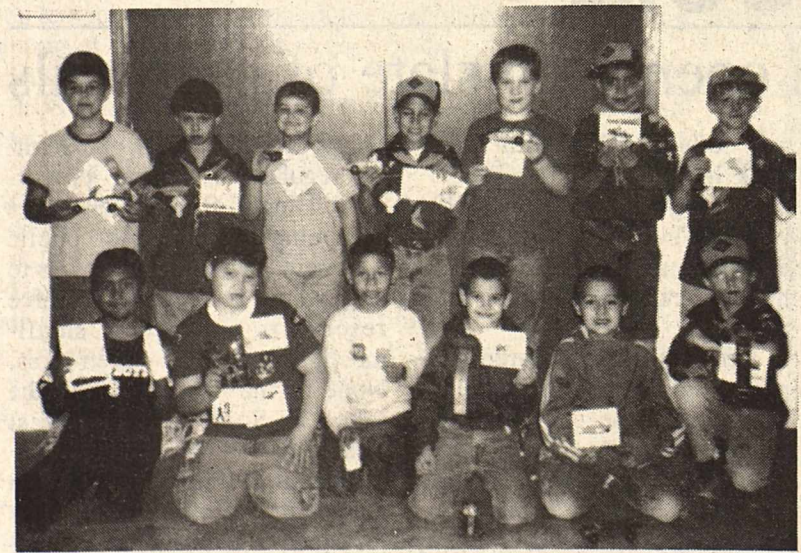
In the Tiger Cub bracket, first place went to Tariq Cherradi and 2nd place to Daulton Woodson.

Ayland Letsinger took 1st place for the Wolf Cub bracket with Joshua Smith taking 2nd and Jody Garrett taking 3rd. Josh Garrett took 1st place in the Bear/Webelo bracket.

The entire crowd had a great time watching the races and we even had a grandma enter a car in the adult race.

Best of Show went to Daulton Woodson for his well-designed car.

The Pack would like to thank Kinney County EMS for the use of their building, Drue Duncan and Mickey Romero for being finish line judges, Susan Smith for the "cool" awards and Mike Adam, Concho Valley Senior Executive, for his presentation of participation awards to all the boys.



Cub Scouts in Pack 257 after their Pinewood Derby competition last Monday, held at the EMS Building.

Brotherton named on President's List

Schreiner College has named a student from Brackettville to its President's List.

Lindsey Brotherton, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Dusty Brotherton, was named to the roster of high-achieving students for the Fall 2000 term.

To qualify for the President's List, full-time students must have passing grades in all classes, must earn at least a 3.7 grade point average, and have at least 12 hours

credit for the term.

Schreiner College is primarily a residential liberal arts college in Kerrville, Texas, with a current enrollment of 780. The school is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). Schreiner grants a master's degree in education and baccalaureate degree in humanities, natural sciences and social sciences.

Visit our web site at www.schreiner.edu.

City employee, Armando Cruz, adds asphalt to the driveway at the Kinney County EMS Building. EMS was having a problem with water collecting at the bottom of the driveway, making it hard to keep the facility and the ambulances clean.

Meyer presents history of cowboy spurs

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Program chairman, Ms. Paula Renken, brought one of the two students selected to attend RYLA, Rotary Youth Leadership Assembly, to the Rotary meeting on January twenty fifth. Erica Meyer reported on her experience at the assembly which she attended the prior weekend. It was held in New Braunfels, Texas. The other student chosen also attended, Rudy Ramirez, went to RYLA but was unable to come to the Rotary luncheon meeting.

The program for the day was Mr. Les Meyer speaking about "Cowboy Spurs." His wife Phyllis and daughter Leslie were also present. Mr. Meyer's other two daughters, Sarah and Laura did not come. (Erica Meyer is not related.)

Meyer brought part of his collection of spurs with him. They were on display along with a stack of magazines and catalogues ad-

ressing the subject.

Meyer started collecting spurs when he was in high school, having been introduced to the hobby by his uncle.

Spurs were originally brought into Mexico when Cortez came to the new world. The Spanish brought blacksmiths with them, and they made large spurs like ones worn in Europe. These were worn by the conquistadors and later by the bracara and were introduced into the southwest.

Large spurs continued to be used in Europe and have been found in archeological sites that date back to 700 B.C.

After the civil war, longhorns ran wild in the west and were rounded up and driven north by cowboys. These long drives caused companies to be created to provide what the cowboys needed to go on those long drives. Companies like Levi Straus and Stetson became well known, and blacksmiths began making spurs and

Expanded Horizons expands its opportunities

The Expanded Horizons Handmade shop has expanded into a thrift shop with items ranging from 25¢ to \$1. We are also thrilled to announce that we have eggs. Our chickens have started laying eggs and we now have eggs available for sale. The eggs are fresh and brown in color. We are also adding new items to our handmade shop for gifts, including Valentine and Easter items.

Our party pacs are also available, so give us a call at 830-563-9416 for information or come by and to see us. We're located on the right-hand side of Highway 90

east. We would love to have you stop and say hello. Don't forget, we also collect aluminum cans.

As the CSA of Expanded Horizons Workshop, I would like to publicly thank all of you who have supported our shop through your purchases and donations.

As you know, our handmade shop and now our eggs and thrift shop area are the way we support ourselves. Because of all of you who help support the workshop, our clients grow in becoming worthy, viable and independent citizens of our community. Thank you all.

We must regain ability to be shocked by violence Give the gift of life

The Way I See It By Steven R. LaMascus

I recently wrote of what I see as the dangers in the current trend of television showing things that are dangerous to our children.

A Christmas gift problem

My grandson got a Christmas present that I don't approve of. It's a miniature chain saw. When the trigger is pulled it makes starting sound, then a very realistic running noise.

imitating professional wrestlers."

The prosecuting attorney Ken Padowitz said, "This is a horrible tragedy. There are no winners in this case."

I hasten to inform Mr. Padowitz that he is terribly incorrect in that assertion. There is indeed a winner, and that winner is the eternal enemy of mankind — Satan.

This and many other cases I had heard and read of over the years should be proof enough to convince anyone that what children see on television directly effects their actions.

Gift problem

But when it's very old he'll disassemble it, see if he can fix it, try to discover how it works and spend many many more hours alone with his chain saw.

Now we come to the part that troubles me. It's the above mentioned segment in the life of this toy that I worry about. When he's trying to fix that toy chain saw, which he can't do by the way; while he's laboring over what parts are actually inoperable; after he has exhausted all of his talents and resources; that's when the damage is going to be done.

At that time in his life, he's going to learn to cuss. He'll swear a blue streak while trying to make that chain saw run like new again. I know. Those things make me lose my religion.

lently cartoonish actions of "professional wrestlers" are reality, what else do you think they believe? There are many shows on today that portray everything from prostitution to murder for money to witchcraft in a positive light.

It could be and has been argued that the young man convicted of this horrid crime didn't know that he was hurting the child. This is bunk. The little girl he killed had numerous broken bones, a fractured skull, a detached liver, and other injuries.

gorier than reality. I have been in law enforcement for more than twenty years. I have seen things that no one should have to witness. But by and large the things I have seen in real life are less bloody and gory than what I have seen on television.

There is a proliferation of evil and violence on television and in the movies today because Satan has a plan to win the physical world from Jesus, and it's working. Satan knows he will lose the war, the spiritual war, but his hatred is so great that he doesn't care.

Galatians 5: 19-21 - "The acts of the sinful nature are obvious: sexual immorality, impurity and debauchery; idolatry and witchcraft; hatred, discord, jealousy, fits of rage, selfish ambition, dissensions, factions and envy; drunkenness, orgies, and the like. I warn you as I did before, that those who live like this will not inherit the kingdom of God."

Senator Hutchison's questions continue

Capitol Comment Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

The annual questionnaire continues. Each year since I was first elected to the Senate, I have published a series of questions seeking readers' opinions regarding matters in the forefront of the public policy debate.

As always, I would like to thank your local newspaper for allowing me to communicate with you in this way.

Questionnaire Part Three - Campaign Reform

It looks as if campaign finance reform will play a prominent role on the agenda of the 107th Congress. Our new President has expressed his support for a strengthening of our laws regarding campaign contributions.

1) Would you change the current federal campaign finance law that allows a candidate to loan himself or herself an unlimited amount of campaign funds,

and then hold fund raisers to reimburse himself or herself after the election? Should there be a limit on such self-loans? Yes No

2) Would you support changing the current \$1,000-per-individual, per-candidate contribution limit to adjust for inflation? Yes No

3) Do you believe the current federal campaign finance laws yield a level playing field for candidates who challenge incumbents? Yes No

4) Please list, if anything, what you would change about our current campaign contribution laws? Firearms Issues

As Texans are well aware, gun control continues to be a major question confronting Congress. As a strong supporter of the Second Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, I am interested in hearing your ideas on this subject.

5) Do you believe that all gun owners should be registered and licensed? Yes No

6) Is it reasonable for the gov-

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

This time of year is a busy one for all of us. The holiday season has come to a close. We've made our new year's resolutions and we're getting back into the swing of things. As you dash into 2001, I urge you to consider an extra new year's resolution: donate blood.

The good news is that millions of Americans voluntarily donate blood every year. The bad news is that this is not enough. Did you know that 60 percent of the U.S. population is eligible to give blood, but only five percent donates each year?

The demand for blood is constantly increasing, but the nation's blood banks simply can not keep up. According to the American Red Cross, the amount of blood needed by hospitals increased more than 15 percent in the past year. Maintaining an adequate amount of blood for surgeries, trauma victims and treatment of diseases is becoming a year-round problem.

What's worse is that donations traditionally slump during the Christmas holiday season. Colleges, schools and businesses that normally host blood drives close and families take vacations. An outbreak of the flu and bad weather can also affect donations. That means that the demand for blood is higher this time of year than in other

months.

In order to avoid a critical shortage, more donors are needed. Donating blood is safe, painless and can save the lives of others. Any individual who is at least 17 years old and weighs 110 pounds or more can donate. Donating blood takes about 45 minutes to 1 hour, including 20 minutes for the actual blood collection. Type "O" blood is the most commonly used because it can be safely transfused to people of all blood types.

There are many places where donations can be made. Bloodmobiles travel to high schools, colleges, churches, and other community organizations. People can also donate at community blood centers and hospital-based donor centers. Many people donate at blood drives at their workplace. To find out where you can donate, call the national Red Cross hotline at 800-GIVE-LIFE, America's Blood Centers at 888-256-6388, or the American Association of Blood Banks at 866-376-6968.

Every few seconds, someone in the United States needs blood. In the year 2001, make a resolution to give the gift of life: donate blood.

Your Representatives

- U.S. Senator The Honorable Phil Gramm 370 Russell Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-2934
U.S. Senator The Honorable Kay Bailey Hutchison 283 Russell Building Washington, D.C. 20510 202-224-5922
Congressman 23rd District The Honorable Henry Bonilla 110 E. Broadway Del Rio, Texas 78840 1-830-774-6547
Governor The Honorable Rick Perry Box 12428 Austin, Texas 78711 1-800-252-9600
State Senator District 19 The Honorable Frank Madla Texas Senate P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station Austin, Texas 78711 1-512-463-0121
State Representative District 74 The Honorable Pete P. Gallego 1110 W. 10th Street Del Rio, Texas 78840 1-830-774-0800

Big Mama Sez! Success in marriage is more than finding the right person; it is being the right person.

The Brackett News Member of TP Texas Press Association Address: Editorial and publication offices are at 507 S. Ann St., Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Phone: (830) 563-2852; Fax: (830) 563-9538; Email: tbnews@comwerx.net

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OUTDOORS

Unified statewide deer season opener on slate of proposals

A Little on the Wildlife Side Submitted by Henry Lutz

AUSTIN, Texas — A statewide opening date for the Texas general deer hunting season and more youth-only hunting opportunities are among proposed changes to the state's hunting and fishing regulations unveiled by Texas Parks and Wildlife.

State wildlife and fisheries officials presented their annual list of recommended regulations to the Texas Parks and Wildlife Commission Jan. 24. The public has until April 5 — when the commission meets again to consider final adoption of the 2001-2002 Statewide Hunting and Fishing Proclamation — to study and comment on the proposals.

This year's offering continues a theme advanced by the TPW Commission several years ago of focusing on the hunting experience for youth. Young hunters were allowed to take a variety of game species — including squirrels, waterfowl, quail,

deer and turkey — during special weekend youth-only seasons last fall. If adopted, the latest recommendation could expand the statewide youth-only weekend seasons for white-tailed deer and Rio Grande turkey to include all weekends in October and the three weekends following the second Sunday in January.

The commission has also sought to simplify and standardize hunting and fishing rules in Texas, and this year's proposals address those mandates. In perhaps one of the biggest departures from tradition, TPW is suggesting a new opening date for the South Zone general deer season that would create a unified statewide deer opener, the first Saturday in November. The South Zone season closure would remain the second Sunday in January.

Wildlife officials also hope to correct a nagging issue that restricts hunters in one-buck-only counties.

Once a hunter uses his one-buck-only tag, he cannot hunt in

any other county with a one-buck limit.

A proposal would establish two one-buck limit areas east and west of Interstate 35, and hunters could take a buck from each.

Other hunting-related proposals on the table include:

- Increase the deer bag limit in Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Calhoun, Cameron, Hidalgo, Live Oak, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr and Willacy counties from four deer (no more than two bucks) to five deer (no more than three bucks).

- Allow the use of Antlerless and Spike-buck Deer Control Permits statewide from the Saturday nearest Sept. 30 through the last day of any open season in a given county.

- Move the quail season opening date to the Saturday immediately preceding the opening day of the general deer season.

This proposal is the result of a public petition accepted for consideration by the commission.

Although not as extensive as

the proposed changes to hunting regulations, several proposals relating to fisheries resources are being advanced for public comment, including revisions to largemouth bass limits on three reservoirs and a new smallmouth bass limit on seven lakes. None of the changes affect the lakes in South or Southwest Texas.

In coastal waters, officials are proposing regulations changes for Spanish mackerel to be consistent with restrictions in federal waters. The current 14-inch minimum (total length) and seven-fish daily bag in Texas would be altered under the recommendation to a 15-fish daily bag.

The public may comment on any of these proposals during upcoming public meetings to be scheduled statewide or by writing:

TPW Hunting and Fishing Proclamation Public Comment, 4200 Smith School Rd., Austin, TX 78744, or on the Web: http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/.

Border Patrol Agents continue removing drugs from marketplace; Seize more than 4,100 pounds of marijuana in last two weeks

Del Rio, Texas - Border Patrol Agents with the Del Rio Sector seized 4,160.02 pounds of marijuana valued at \$3,328,016, over the past two weeks.

The weekend of Friday, January 12, began with agents from the Carrizo Springs Station seizing 263 pounds of marijuana near El Indio, Texas. While performing signcutting activities around 8 p.m. agents came upon eight burlap sacks containing 24 bricks of marijuana. The marijuana was valued at \$210,400.

Sunday, January 14, afternoon, agents from the Del Rio Station performing linewatch duties seized 274.32 pounds of marijuana upriver from the Del Rio International Bridge. The marijuana was valued at \$219,456.

Sunday evening, agents from the Del Rio Station performing linewatch duties 16 miles upriver from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry seized 274.6 pounds of marijuana. The marijuana was valued at \$219,680.

Monday (Jan. 15) morning, agents from the Eagle Pass station patrolling 9 miles down river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry came upon several individuals hiding in the cane. When the agents were spotted, the individuals jumped into the river. A search of the area resulted in agents locating four feed sacks containing 29 bricks of marijuana weighing 151.2 pounds. The marijuana was valued at \$120,960.

Tuesday, January 16, morning, agents from the Eagle Pass Station patrolling FM 1021 approximately 11 miles down river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry located 380.2 pounds of marijuana in eight feed sacks. The marijuana was valued at \$304,160.

Tuesday afternoon, agents from the Eagle Pass Station performing linewatch duties approximately 19 miles upriver from the Eagle Pass port of entry, seized 208 pounds

of marijuana. The marijuana was valued at \$166,400.

Tuesday evening, agents from the Brackettville Station patrolling RR 674 seized 232 pounds of marijuana north of Brackettville. The marijuana was valued at \$185,600.

Sunday, Jan. 21, agents from the Del Rio Station seized 517 pounds of marijuana while patrolling Val Verde County. The marijuana was abandoned in a 1988 Chevrolet Astro that had drove off U.S. 377 near Ranch Road 2523. The marijuana was valued at \$413,600.

Sunday evening, agents from the Eagle Pass Station seized 24.1 pounds of marijuana at the Border Patrol Checkpoint on Highway 57 north east of Eagle Pass. The marijuana had a street value of \$19,280.

Monday, Jan. 22, agents from the Eagle Pass Station seized 106.2 pounds of marijuana nine miles up river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry. The marijuana was valued at \$84,960.

The same day, agents from Eagle Pass Station seized 213.4 pounds of marijuana four miles down river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry. The marijuana was valued at \$170,720.

Monday, agents from the Eagle Pass and Carrizo Springs Stations combined efforts to seize 170.5 pounds of marijuana being transported to San Antonio. The marijuana had a street value of \$136,400.

Monday evening, agents from the Comstock station seized 291 pounds of marijuana 35 miles west of Comstock on Highway 90. Marijuana was valued at \$232,800.

Tuesday, Jan. 23, agents from the Eagle Pass Station seized 470.8 pounds of marijuana 5 miles up river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry. The marijuana had a street value of \$376,640.



Brad Coe, canine handler, demonstrating drug searches with Rambo, at last Tuesday night's Border Patrol Liaison meeting. Most of the dogs used by Border Patrol are Belgian Malinois, which are imported from Europe.

The same day, agents from the Eagle Pass Station seized 102.2 pounds of marijuana three miles down river from the Eagle Pass Port of Entry. The marijuana was valued at \$81,760.

Wednesday, Jan. 24, agents from Brackettville Station seized 369 pounds of marijuana 18 miles east of Brackettville on Ranch Road 334. The marijuana was val-

ued at \$295,200. Thursday, Jan. 25, agents from the Carrizo Springs Station seized 112.5 pounds of marijuana approximately 7 miles down river from El Indio. Marijuana was valued at \$90,000.

All marijuana was turned over to the Multi-Agency Drug Task Force in Eagle Pass.

By Dr. Donald Smith
Contributing Writer

The keys to family happiness and success is the theme of a series of four classes for parents, teachers and others interested in families. The classes will be presented at the school library. The dates will be on Mondays, February 12, 19, 26 and March 5. Times will be from 6:00 p.m to 7:00 p.m. Childcare and refreshments will be provided at the school.

The series is being presented at no cost to participants as a community partnership effort between Jones Elementary School and the St. Henry deOsso Family Project. The classes will be taught by Drs. Donald and Anita Smith. The Smith's are retired educators living at Ft. Clark Springs. The first class is titled, Teachable Moments: The Key to Positive Change. The second class is titled, Adult Relationships: The Key to Problem Solving in the Family. The third class is titled, Encouragement: The Key to Success in School. The final class is titled, Having Fun: The Key to Happiness and Long Life.

Sign-up forms can be obtained at the Principal's office at Jones

Elementary School or at the Casuals Plus store. Parents, young adults who are contemplating marriage, married young adults without children, and grandparents are all encouraged to attend. Others interested in this theme such as law enforcement officers, public officials, pastors and other religious workers are welcome.

We are living in violent and unprincipled times. Children are killing other children, parents are killing their children, children are abandoned by adults to the care of television, computer games and websites. Children are giving birth and sexually transmitted disease spreads most rapidly among teenagers. Children are being prescribed medications to speed them up or to slow them down.

To build success we need strong families, strong faith, and strong education. Come to the classes and commit yourself to becoming part of the solution. Change comes one family at a time. It doesn't take a village to raise a child; it takes a family.

Volunteers are needed to help with the childcare. For information or to volunteer, call the Smiths at 563-2285 or the Jones Elementary School office at 563-2491 X2.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, Jan. 22
9:29 a.m., A man reported the plates from his horse trailer were stolen.

11:33 a.m., An employee from a local store reported a man in a Ford truck with a horse trailer went off without paying for his gas. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter responded to the call.

2:13 p.m., Trapper Pena, called the Sheriff's Office for assistance to help him with the seven illegals he had in custody.

2:24 p.m., Agent Corp called to report a deceased illegal. Deputy Fritter, Justice of the Peace John Ford and funeral home was notified.

4:10 p.m., A man called to report he was going to repossess a white Dodge pick up

Tuesday, Jan. 23
11:43 a.m., Sheriff Buddy Burgess and DPS Troopers Richard Slubar, and Tony Ashley responded to a call of a possible sighting of the last two Texas escapees on FM 674.

7:08 p.m., A Border Patrol agent called in about a deer with a broken leg. Game Warden Henry Lutz said a Deputy could dispose of deer if needed.

8:40 p.m., Eduardo Paz, 28, of Dardanelle, Arkansas, was arrested by DPS Trooper Tom Wylie for possession of cocaine and meth. Paz was released on Thursday after posting bond.

5:31 p.m., Rogelio De Las Santos, 50, of Eagle Pass, was arrested for two warrants, by Constable Cordelia Mendeke. Santos, was released the same day.

6:13 p.m., A Border Patrol agent reported a brown sedan that was abandoned on HWY 90 east of town. Trooper Wylie was advised.

Wednesday, Jan. 24
1:10 a.m., A local man reported that his neighbors were making a lot of noise. Reserve Deputy Larry Robinson responded to the call.

Thursday, Jan. 25
3:32 p.m., Fort Clark Security requested an officer for a possible break-in of a trailer. Deputy Fritter went to the scene.

Friday, Jan. 26

7:00 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to a burglary of a man's apartment.

9:08 p.m., A 911 caller reported a woman having shortness of breath. Deputy Pena responded and EMS was dispatched.

9:25 p.m., A local man called to report a fight at his residence between him and another man and stated that didn't want the man at his residence. Deputies Chism and Pena were the responding officers.

10:00 p.m., Deputy Pena was dispatched to a 911 call concerning a lady who was going into diabetic shock. EMS responded.

10:45 p.m., A local man spotted vehicles from out of town and requested that the Sheriff's Office to check them out. Deputy Pena responded to the call. The vehicles were reported to be from Eagle Pass, with about 20 juveniles who were at one of the local stores.

7:40 p.m., Deputy Karl Chism responded to a call about loud music.

Saturday, Jan. 27
6:30 p.m., A resident from Spofford advised Deputy Pena of an accident that his brother was in, involving another vehicle.

4:14 p.m., A phone call was received at the Sheriff's Office about a report of a pedestrian lying beside the check point station. U.S. Border Patrol was advised.

10:30 p.m., A local man requested an officer to talk to a woman who had been harassing him.

Sunday, Jan. 28
8:30 p.m., A border patrol agent reported a mountain lion being caught in a snare trap. Game Warden Lutz and Pena found an 85 lb., 6 ft. 3" female mountain lion trapped in it.

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<p>2000 Sierra MSRP \$22,795 Brown Disc. 4,800 #8653 \$17,995* Pwr Locks, V-8, Auto W/OD, A/C, Tilt, AM/FM Cass</p>	<p>2000 GMC Safari MSRP \$25,170 Brown Disc. 3,675 #9042 \$21,495* Pwr Driver's Seat, A/C Front & Rear, V-6, Auto, AM/FM/CD Cass, Tinted Glass, Keyless Entry, Aluminum Wheels</p>	<p>2000 Savana Conversion MSRP \$30,915 Brown Disc. 6,920 #8969 \$23,995* A/C, V-8, Am/Fm CD/Cass, Tinted Glass, Aluminum Wheels, Leather Steering Wheel</p>
<p>2000 Safari Conversion MSRP \$26,944 Brown Disc. 4,449 #9083 \$22,495* Pwr Driver's Seat, A/C, V-6, Auto, AM/FM Cass, Deep Tint Glass, Keyless Entry, Aluminum Wheels, Leather Steering Wheel</p>	<p>2001 Sierra 2500 4dr MSRP \$33,929 Brown Disc. 2,934 #9325 \$30,995* Tinted Glass, V/8, Auto W/OD Aluminum Wheels, A/C, AM/FM Cass/CD</p>	<p>2001 Sunfire SE 4dr Auto, Tilt, AM/FM CD, Keyless Entry, Pwr Doors, Pwr Windows, Pwr Mirrors #9295 \$247 per mo. Sale Price of \$15,495. 35 payments of \$247.52 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$7,171.50 at 4.10% APR figured with \$1000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>
<p>2001 Grand Am Auto, AM/FM Stereo W/CD, A/C, Spoiler, Cruise #9321 \$259 per mo. Sale Price of \$16,995. 35 payments of \$259.56 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$8,839.20 at 5.15% APR figured with \$1,000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>	<p>2001 Firebird Pwr Seat, V/6, Pwr Locks, Pwr Windows, Pwr Mirrors, A/C, Auto #9107 \$336 per mo. Sale Price of \$19,995. 35 payments of \$336.32 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$11,890.40 at 10.00% APR figured with \$1,000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>	<p>2001 Grand Prix GT 4dr V/6, Auto, AM/FM CD, Pwr Seat, Leather Steering Wheel, Onstar, Remote Keyless Entry #9292 \$357 per mo. Sale Price of \$22,995. 35 payments of \$357.71 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$12,432.27 at 6.75% APR figured with \$1,000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>
<p>2001 LeSabre Custom V/6, A/C, AM/FM Cass, Pwr Seat #9275 \$439 per mo. Sale Price of \$22,995. 35 payments of \$439.73 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$10,895.28 at 8.60% APR figured with \$1,000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>	<p>2000 Regal LS MSRP \$23,947 Brown Disc. 3,952 #8962 \$19,995* V-6, Aluminum Wheels, A/C, Trunk Net</p>	<p>2001 Aurora V/6, Auto, Pwr Heated Front Seats, Dual-Zone AC System, Sunroof #8856 \$432 per mo. Sale Price of \$29,995. 35 payments of \$432.17 per mo. 1 Final payment of \$17,974.00 at 5.80% APR figured with \$1,000 down + T.T.&L. WAC thru GMAC</p>

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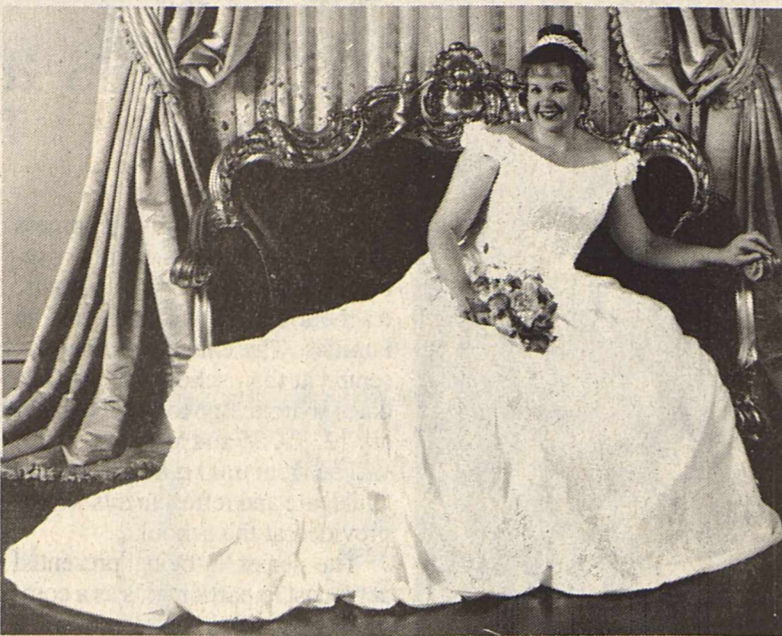
Thanks

A Note of Thanks from Tencha

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the many, many customers who have patronized the Las Moras Restaurant and Snack Bar during the past few months. In the short time I have been manager, I can only say it has been very rewarding. It has been quite an experience and our efforts are finally paying off. I owe this to the many Fort Clark Springs members, towns people and the Board of Directors, who have been so supportive. Thank you to the maintenance and accounting departments, whom I constantly call upon; you have been so very helpful. And to Genell in administration, who put all her trust and faith in me. Special thanks to my very hard working staff, who work so hard every day. I could not do it without them.

The success of this business is truly due to all of you working together and standing behind me. Again, thanks and I ask for your continued support. Only good things can happen with positive attitudes!

Huntsman, Jones unite in marriage



Shelley Marie Huntsman and Jerry Alan Jones, Jr., were united in marriage on January 13, 2001, at Northwest Hills United Methodist Church in San Antonio, Texas. The Reverend David Trawick officiated.

A recent graduate of Incarnate Word University with a degree in Child Psychology, Shelley is the daughter of the Rev. Emet and the Rev. Sue Huntsman. She is the granddaughter of Emet and Elise

Huntsman of Ft. Clark Springs and the late Cleo and Helen Fern Johnson of Pleasanton.

Jerry, an Airman First Class, is the son of Jerry and Tammie Jones, Sr., of San Antonio, and the grandson of Jack and Edith Jones, Sr., of San Antonio and Don Johnson and Carol Leet.

After a brief honeymoon, the couple plan to make their home in Minot, North Dakota.

Finding the right answers

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Mom, these problems are too hard," said eight year old Jaime. "I'll never get them done."

Maricella answered her son. "Keep trying you'll get it sooner or later."

"But Mom, can't I watch TV for a while and then try some more?" Jaime asked.

"Mi'jo, the TV is not going to help you with your math. Keep trying."

The frustration was getting to him and Jaime was getting angry. "Mom, I can't do these problems. I thought learning was supposed to be fun."

As she sat down in a chair next

to Jaime's, Maricella tried to calm her son. "Jaime, sit down here next to me. It won't help to lose your temper. Let's eat a snack together and talk about it. Look, Mi'jito, anyone who told you that learning was supposed to be all fun, lied. Learning can be fun when something is easy. It can also be fun after you have learned something important because you can see how to use it in all kinds of ways. But, when you are working on something new that you don't know, it is just plain hard work. It is important for you to learn this hard work. Your Dad and I work hard all day. Do you know what keeps us going day after day to this hard work?"

"No, what?" Jaime answered.

"Just the privilege we have to give you and your two sisters a future. Everyday we look forward to getting home to see you laugh and smile, and even to see you get angry. That is all part of the preciousness of life. Look, Mi'jito, I am not very good at math, but we can help each other. Tomorrow afternoon I'll meet you at school and we will talk to your math teacher. Then, we will work on the homework together and you will teach me how to do the problems."

A parent does not have to know everything. Most important is knowing where the answers are.

This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working in Brackettville.

Matthews addresses concerns on cost of natural gas

Texas Railroad Commissioner Matthews proposed to his fellow Commissioners that the Commission look into all possible solutions regarding the high cost of natural gas. After visiting with representatives from the exploration and production sector, gas utilities, and customer groups, Matthews is convinced that the Commission needs to look into solutions to help evaluate the causes of the rise in natural gas prices, the impact this rise will have on the consuming public, what measures can be taken to mitigate the impact of significantly higher energy bills, and what long-term solutions are available to keep natural gas a reliable and affordable source of energy.

Commissioner Matthews has been speaking throughout the state

about the issues confronting our natural gas industry. During this winter, gas bills for Texas customers have reached prices more than 50% higher than they were last year.

"Natural gas consumers have been calling into the Commission with their complaints," said Matthews. "We have got to address this issue and work toward solutions in avoiding gas spikes."

Commissioner Matthews intends to work with Representative Steve Wolens, Chairman of the House State Affairs Committee on policies that will increase drilling in Texas, therefore increasing the natural gas production while creating jobs, stability in the industry, and more supply.

Another issue Commissioner Matthews intends to address is the

decline of workers in the oil and gas industry ranging from roughnecks to geoscientists and petroleum engineers. He hopes to explore federal agencies, such as the Department of Energy and Department of Labor, for education grants to encourage young people to enter the industry.

"The people I have talked to share my concern that the demand for natural gas is growing faster than the supply and that the amount of natural gas in storage is much lower than the targeted amount, therefore resulting in higher prices," stated Matthews.

Railroad Commissioner Charles Matthews was elected to the Commission in 1994 and is the current senior member. In November of 2000, he won re-election to a second term.

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Johnny belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We are. We're a coalition of West Texas cooperatives committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

The goal of deregulation is to bring the benefits of retail competition to the power industry. But so far, in states such as California and Pennsylvania, reality has fallen short of the promise, often bringing higher rates and even power shortages. The Texas Legislature gives cooperatives an opportunity to wait and see how deregulation will affect Texans. We intend to take advantage of that time to be sure deregulation is right for our member-owners.

Texas electric cooperatives have been providing power to Texans since 1937. As coops, we are non-profit and member-owned. To learn more about deregulation visit us at our web site, or call your local Smart Choice cooperative.

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7th grade boys, playing some hoops

By Walt Brock
Contributing Writer

The 7th grade boys have been playing great basketball this season. They opened up the year with some impressive wins over Knippa and have also had a victory over Del Rio. The roster for the cubs consists of Travis Nowlin, Brand Wylie, Martin Flores, Joey Montalvo, Evaristo Villareal, Mason McWilliams, Robby Looney, Jose Talamantes, and Joe Steelman. Highlights of the season have been Martin Flores with

16 points against Comstock, Travis Nowlin with 18 points against Knippa, and Brand Wylie with 12 points against Utopia. Talamantes, Looney, and Montalvo have done a great job playing down low and have gained several rebounds. Villareal, Steelman, and McWilliams have done a tremendous job at pressing offenses and creating turnovers.

The entire team has done a great job learning the game and they really hustle. The next game for the 7th grade will be Monday night at Knippa.

Bonilla named retail champion

WASHINGTON D.C. - The National Retail Federation (NRF), the world's largest retail trade association, today named Representative Henry Bonilla a Retail Champion from the 106th Congress.

A Retail Champion is a lawmaker who has demonstrated leadership on issues including bankruptcy reform, taxes, and international trade. Representative Bonilla achieved a score of more than 70 percent, earning him the title "Retail Champion."

"I am honored and pleased to receive this award from the National Retail Federation, a group which represents millions of retail establishments world-wide," said Bonilla.

"We would like to thank our friends in Congress who supported us in 2000," said Steve Pfister, NRF's Senior Vice President for Government Relations. "The retail industry is a vital component of America's economic strength, and it is a pleasure to recognize those legislators whose efforts help keep

America's retailers strong. We look forward to continuing good relations with the House and Senate in the 107th Congress."

The National Retail Federation (NRF) is the world's largest trade association, with membership comprising all retail formats and channels of distribution, including department, specialty, discount, catalog, Internet and independent stores. NRF members represent an industry that encompasses more than 1.4 million U.S. retail establishments, employs more than 20 million people — about 1 in 5 American workers — and last year registered sales of \$3.1 trillion. NRF's international members operate stores in more than 50 nations.

In its role as the retail industry's umbrella group, the NRF also represents 32 national and 50 state associations in the U.S., as well as 36 international associations representing retailers abroad. More information on the NRF can be found at <http://www.nrf.com>.

Brackett ISD plans to offer scholarship for students

Making A Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

The Brackett Advisory Committee recommends a scholarship program for Brackett High School seniors who graduate from BHS. The basic idea is to reward scholarship, character and service. Qualifying seniors must have a minimum of a "B" average. They must demonstrate service to their community. They must give something back to the community that has supported them. A requirement will be good character demonstrated through exemplary behavior and staying away from drugs and alcohol.

The scholarship will be funded by donations from all of us. We can do this by memorial donations to the fund in memory of a loved one or by simply donating money to support a good cause. A memorial card will be sent to families when donations are made

in their name. Donations should be made to BHS scholarship fund. The school district will account for the funds through its trust and agency accounts where we hold monies in trust for organizations. The account will be audited with all school district funds. A governing board will be selected to govern scholarship committee decisions.

The goal is to make available \$250 per year for each year that the student attends Brackett High School, maximum of \$1000 per student. You may earmark your donation for a specific class, for instance the Senior Class of 2003. If the monies are not donated to give \$250 per year for qualifiers, we will award what is donated.

The Brackett ISD Board of Trustees will make final decisions on the creation of this fund in their February school board meeting where details will be outlined for the Board. I encourage you to be-

gin to save a dollar or two to help with this project. If you have questions, I'll be happy to answer them for you.

We're trying to work on positives for the school district this year. There are many areas that we dream about improving including school facilities, weekend and summer recreational activities, as well as continuing to stress the importance of retaining our fine teachers and staff. If you have suggestions for improvement, write them to me or e-mail to taylors@brackett.k12.tx.us. I'll share them with district personnel and check to see if it is possible to accomplish the suggestions.

As our basketball teams begin the second half of the season, they will need your support and encouragement. You can do that by coming to the games or by telling the players and coaches that you believe in them. I'm betting on a better second half record.

There are folks in this community who are praying for our schools. The ladies prayer group has been meeting once a month

and praying for our school system. Recently, Don Smith informed me that the St. Henry deOsso family project will add schools to its prayer list. I appreciate the efforts that are being made by our community to help our kids, parents and faculty.

Baseball and softball seasons are near. The ball diamonds are being cleaned up and lights checked by Richard Terrazas and our fine maintenance crew. In early February, we'll begin to see competition. We also have golfers who are practicing and have begun to play. The track team is getting into shape, and the tennis courts are beginning to see more use. The BHS One Act Play practices are in progress. UIL academic preparations have begun at all school levels.

This week, our Long Range Building Committee will meet to set summer projects into motion. We're very busy trying to continually improve the fine Brackett School System. Your support is appreciated. Have a great week!

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

Thursday, February 1

Field Test, Alter. Assessment, GR 3-8 Reading

Friday, February 2

8:00 a.m. Boys Golf, Del Rio 1:30 p.m. - 2:30 p.m. Long Range Building and Planning Committee, 5:00 p.m. Bsktbl JVB/VG/VB, Natalia(T)

Saturday, February 3

8:00 a.m., Boys Golf, Del Rio, Bsktbl JH 7G, Del Rio Tourn.

Monday, February 5

Bsktbl JH 7G/8G Knippa (T) 5,6,7,8 p.m.

School Counseling Week

Tuesday, February 6

5:00 p.m. Bsktbl JVB/VG/VB Dille (H), Spring Practice TAAS

Wednesday, February 7

School Counseling Week

Spring Practice TAAS

UDC announces annual essay topics

The Annual Essay Topics for 7th and 8th grade students for 2001 was announced at the Texas Division, United Daughters of the Confederacy, Forum held in Bellmeade on Saturday, January 27. The students may choose from either "Colonel Benjamin F. Terry and Terry's Texas Rangers" or "Sopia Suttonfield Porter, 'The Scarlett O'Hara of Texas.'" The essays need to be between 300-400 words and the deadline is April 1, 2001.

Last year Brackett Middle School's Courtney Frerich won first place for her essay on "Emma

Sansom, Teenage Confederate Heroine."

The United Daughters of the Confederacy offer several college scholarships for graduating high school seniors. For further information and application forms contact Pat McKelvey, educational chairman, at 563-9287.

Kevin Young, author of "To Tyrants Never Surrender": A Texas Civil War Sampler, gave a review of his book earlier. Committee reports were given and a delicious bar-b-q luncheon was enjoyed by more than 300 members coming from all parts of Texas.

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13			14		15		16
17			17		18		19
20			21		22		23
24			25		26		27
28			29		30		31
32			32		33		34
34			35		36		37
38			39		40		41
43			44		45		46
48			49		50		51
52			53		54		55
56			57		58		59

- ACROSS**
- A bottle that contains a drug
 - Mated
 - The "C" in CO₂
 - Took a trip on a boat
 - Stimulates
 - Price to get on a bus or trolley
 - Container for storage
 - Summer footwear
 - Used to fry eggs in
 - Six (Spanish)
 - Thomas ____, American patriot
 - Egyptian goddess
 - Insect repellent
 - I.M. ____, architect
 - Soviet city
 - Gulf of, in the Aegean
 - Short-billed rails
 - The common gull of Eurasia and north-eastern N. America
 - Ancient Egyptian king
 - Italian city
 - Infections; aches
 - Herb ____, San Francisco columnist
 - The cry made by sheep
 - Evergreen trees and shrubs having oily, one-seeded fruits
 - Bert ____, Oz lion
 - Pertaining to or containing gold
 - Mass of matter
 - Actress ____, Thurman
 - An eight-sided polygon
 - France; shortened form
 - Denunciations
 - A spirited, graceful and intelligent riding horse native to Arabia
 - Stirs; excites
 - Conical parts
 - Smallest bills
 - Arthur ____, Wimbledon champion
 - Noises made using the friction between two fingers
 - Type genus of the Canidae
 - "Live And Let __"
 - More disreputable
 - In an angry way
 - Made of wood
 - W. Bolivian city
 - To have something
 - Word element meaning ear
 - Pertaining to a particular large African desert
 - Edges
 - Goatlike antelope of central Eurasia having a stubby, proboscis-like nose
 - Egotistical
 - __ Wilson
 - Macaws
 - Expose to the circulation of air for purification
 - Stringed instrument
 - Scores on the serve
 - Mine wagon
 - Supernatural force
 - Lyric poems
 - Ancient Japanese religious center
 - Dined
 - School transportation device

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

America	Justice	Promote	Union
Blessings	Liberty	Provide	United
Establish	Ordain	Secure	Welfare
Insure	Posteriority	Tranquility	

AOROSCOPIES

Aries March 21-April 20
 You've made all the plans for a romantic Valentine's Day. Did you check with your partner? Don't go any further until you do. Watch yourself at work this week. With so much on your mind, be sure you don't speak before you think it through.

Taurus April 21-May 21
 You've worked really hard planning a special dinner. Don't let your guest's attitude get to you. He/she may have had a very bad day. Stay away from idle gossip this week at work. If you don't, it may come back to haunt you.

Gemini May 22-June 21
 Diplomacy is your key word this week. You will need to practice it at home and at work. At home, things may go from bad to worse concerning a family member. Hang in there-changes are just around the corner and will help ease tensions.

Cancer June 22-July 22
 A friend is trying to influence you on a big decision. Don't take his/her advice without checking it out thoroughly. Before you finalize your weekend plans, be sure to check the family schedule first.

Leo July 23-August 23
 Before you open up to someone at work, think. It could be that person is more interested in your job than in your ideas or problems. So don't put yourself in a vulnerable position. Keep your emotions under control.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
 Don't let someone else's pessimistic attitude about Valentine's Day spoil your fun. Ignore him/her and plan a wonderful day for a special friend. Work may be slow right now, but watch out. Things are going to pick up and get better.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 So you want a little more sizzle in your love life? Now is the time to plan it. With Valentine's Day just around the corner, you'll have a perfect chance to put the romance in a great relationship. Don't let a problem at home get you down.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 Keep personal information to yourself at this time so it doesn't come back to hurt you at work. A costly night out is not the answer to your problems. You can enjoy time with friends, but do it wisely and don't outspend the budget you've set.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 An old idea of yours may be just the thing to present at a meeting this week. At least you can get some feedback from others on its value. If you go further with it, remember to be charming and not forceful, and a little humor will go a long way.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 If you're involved in any kind of negotiations this week, get agreements in writing. It will work to your benefit in the long run. You know that minor problem at home? Take care of it now before it gets out of hand and becomes a major problem.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
 A person you are acquainted with at work may come to you for advice. Your personality will make that person feel more comfortable and at ease in a new situation.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
 The doors of communication will open wide this week, all because you look at a challenge in the workplace with a sense of humor. That sense of humor will help you gain allies, and will put you in a good light with management.

No great artist sees things as they really are. If he did he would cease to be an artist.
 -Oscar Wilde

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