drackett Alei



Tigers have 16 named to all-district squad See story, Page 4

15 year, No. 43

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Officials discuss management plan today

Citizens concerned about how agricultural community will be affected

J.J. GUIDRY Editor

The Kinney County Groundexpected to adopt its draft management plan today when the board resumes a hearing at 4 p.m. at the Courthouse.

The management plan has bers of the county's agricultural community.

Kinney County is one of 65 nomically farming-dependent by the U.S. Department of Agriculdoes not include the word "agriculture.'

"I would appreciate some stating is not true." kind of statement in the manageexisting agriculture in this county," local farmer Jim McDaniel told officials. "This is

addressed in there."

McDaniel's daughter, Wendy water Conservation District is Foster of Austin, expressed her concern to the directors about would have on agricultural pro- me. ducers in the county.

"I take offense to the fact that raised concerns among the mem- (County Agent) Robert Elledge has not been consulted by any of you all about any local data," she said. "There's not one sen-Texas counties classified as eco- tence in your management plan

Cecil Smith, board president, too.' ture, but the management plan interrupted her: "You just stop. We got information from Rob- that there is 15,836 acre-feet of ert Elledge's office. What you're

"It is not in your plan — and ment plan to stop trying to harm that is true," Foster responded. put it in the plan."

an agriculture county and I it's not being used," Foster ment plan estimates the total usfact that the Farm Bureau has not

> "The fact that you've got people saying Fort Clark Springs is going to go dry if water leaves this county — when back in the 12,000 troops stationed at Fort Clark Springs and it never went Mace, published in an August dry - I take offense to that, report by the Texas Water De-

The management plan says water being used within the district on an annual basis, but a report from the Texas Water Development Board says that Smith agreed: "We did not 14,112 acre-feet of groundwater

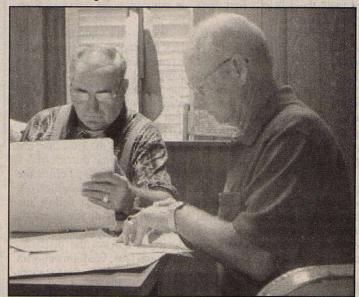
would like to have agriculture asked. "That's the problem with able amount of groundwater in the ag protection. To say that the district as 69,800 acre-feet, you talked to him and did not the same as the annual amount include it is an insult. And the of recharge within the district.

The plan says it is a "policy the effects the management plan been contacted is an insult to decision by the Board of Directors ... for the purposes of protecting the long-term viability of the groundwater resources in Kinney County."

The amount of recharge was 1930s and '40s there were derived from the research of Roberto Anaya and Robert velopment Board.

Grant Snyder, a senior hydrogeologist with the URS Corporation, said the recharge estimate is "simply not accurate."

"It does not take into account significant sources of groundwater from the Austin group (of was used on farms in Kinney aquifers" or "underflow from "Why did you go to him if County in 2000. The manage- outside the county," he said.



Making a plan

Directors Bob Young (left), Don Hood and the other water board members will consider adopting the district's draft management plan this afternoon.

City leaders approve tax exemptions

By J.J. GUIDRY Editor

Some Brackettville citizens will get much-needed tax relief during the next fiscal year.

The Brackettville City Council approved a resolution adopting tax exemptions, including \$5,000 for residence homestead exemptions, \$10,000 for disable persons exemptions and \$10,000 for an over 65 exemp-

tion.
"It's a good thing," Chief Appraiser Bill Haenn told the council. "You are the only taxing unit of the six that does not have homestead exemptions. Your amounts are the same as the county, the City of Spofford, Fort Clark MUD and the water conservation district."

"Many of the elderly only pay taxes to the City of Brackettville, and this is because their property isn't worth \$15,000. Now, they won't have to pay any

"The important thing for you to understand is that it does not change the amount of money you bring in on taxes at all. It raises the same amount of money, but it redistributes that total tax income to the people that are still working and are under 65. It also gives those approaching that age something to look forward to."

The resolution also says the city will "limit the tax on homesteads of the elderly and disabled See CITY/Page 4

Getting the ball down court

Tigers guard Travis Nowlin (10) tries to keep the ball away from Knippa's Jose Martinez (31). The Tigers opened the season by taking second in the Brackett tournament. They are now 3-1 on the season. See story, Page 4.

Taxing entities to elect directors for A.D. board

By J.J. GUIDRY Editor

Five candidates have been nominated for two available positions on the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Di-

The county's taxing entities will vote next week to elect two directors. The five nominees are Steve Crosby, Mary Flores, Mike Holley, Martha Pena Padron and Richard Slubar.

Holley and Slubar, both incumbents, were nominated last Commissioners Court. Crosby and Holley were then nominated by the Brackett School Board of

City Council.

based on the percentage of the praisal District board. 2002 tax levy.

Brackett ISD will get 1,049 votes (52.47 percent), Kinney County will get 714 votes (35.72 percent), the City of Brackettville will get 125 votes (6.23 percent) and the City of Spofford will get two votes (.104 percent).

"It's based on your percent of the levy," said Bill Haenn, automatically. the county's chief appraiser. "The school gets the most votes Padron said she was told by added.

VOTING

Distribution of votes based on percentages of the tax levy for the election of Appraisal District directors: **Taxing Entity** Brackett ISD1,049 Kinney County714 City of Brackettville ... 125 City of Spofford2

County Attorney Tully Shahan that she would not be allowed to serve on the board because month by the Kinney County the county was under contract with the Appraisal District.

elected officials from other entities also serve on the board, Flores and Padron were such as Holley, a Fort Clark nominated by the Brackettville MUD director, and Tim Ward, who was a school board trustee The taxing entities' votes are when first appointed to the Ap-

"Because she is the tax assessor-collector, by law she would normally serve on our board of directors as a non-voting member," Haenn said. "However, because our Appraisal District collects for all the taxing units, she does not sit on the board. That is why she's not on there

"In Val Verde County, Mr. (Wayne) Hyde sits on the Apbecause they collect the most praisal District because he colmoney, followed by the county." lects the county taxes," he

to members' letters

INSIDE

Wes Robinson

Rumors and gossip almost never become fact. However, if repeated enough times, they frequently begin to be referred to as "common knowledge." Opinion/Page 2

Shanae Simmons

I can feel the wind whipping against my face. I feel cool and my legs push on ahead staying in a constant, fluid motion with my arms. Opinion/Page 2

Chuck Hall

Bill Baxter called me the other day. You remember my past column about him coming to visit. He challenged me with a problem. Opinion/Page 2

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15th year, No. 43

Fort Clark directors respond

Editor

Committee of the Fort Clark a recent press conference.

As Art Baker pointed out in bership," he said. his Oct. 23 letter to the editor, to pay this year's taxes.

"We've had a lot of questions from members asking why they had to pay taxes twice this year," said Tom Saylor, board president. "They're not paying

in the mid-1990s.

'It is in the restrictions," board member Ron Pellin said. "They call it a tax assessment. ended up taking money out of that's good management." reserves to pay the taxes when it should have been passed on Baker has a lot of figures in here to the membership."

saved money this year by paying its taxes early.

"The previous administration Members of the Executive didn't pay last year's taxes until January of this year. At the very Springs Association responded last minute, they went into the come like a nonto various letters that have ap- impound fund and borrowed the peared in The Brackett News at money, and then did a passthrough on the taxes to the mem-

"This administration paid the the Fort Clark board did pass a taxes in October so we could take resolution to impose a special advantage of the 3 percent distax of \$25.50 per membership count. We saved roughly \$3,500. We borrowed money from the impound fund and then we will be able to pay it back from the assessments paid to the association by the membership."

Baker's letter also said: Year cial statement, income totaled ing the restaurant.' The special tax assessment is \$1,550,705. Averaged over 11 not a new practice. It was in months, this yields \$140,973 place for years before being per month and projects an esti- corporation. abandoned by an administration mated income of \$1,691,678 for come was \$2,438,339 as re-It was a fiscal error. The board revenue totaling \$746,661. Now

Saylor responded: "Mr.

"Our objective is to match our expenses and our inprofit agency does." Ron Pellin

time, were based on a budget that was done prior to closing the res-

that were made as well. There of security." taxes twice. It's a special assess- to date, as of the Aug. 30 finan- was a rippling affect from clos-

Pellin pointed out that the as-

Unlike a profit-making comported in the 2002 annual au- like a non-profit agency does," dit. This is a projected loss of he said. "There is fixation in some of the things you read ing wild. about us not making a profit. Well, that's not our objective.

"As a matter of record, at the Saylor said the association expenses. His numbers, at that the capital expenses and the capital expenses and the capital expenses and the capital expenses and the capital expenses. His numbers, at that the capital expenses and the capital expenses and the capital expenses and the capital expenses.

tal from the sale of the manager's house into consideration, you're looking right at breaking even. This board has been able to take a draining situation and, by getting our expenses under control, increase our cash availability significantly from what it was a year ago," Pellin said.

"And that happened in six months," board member Sherry Holloway added.

Jerry Miller said in a letter "The budget was adjusted af- to the editor on Oct. 30: "The ter we closed the restaurant. The gated community is wide open restaurant was costing us be- to everyone except for relatives, tween \$8,000 and \$10,000 a friends and hired contractors month. When we adjusted the who are stopped and turned budget, there were other changes around at the gate in the name

Saylor said the statement was not true.

"We do have some problems sociation is a Texas non-profit at the gate, yes, but part of the problem are landlords," he said. "Landlords are responsible for friends - he's a cop. It's ludithis year. Last year's total in- pany, our objective is to match the actions of their tenants. We crous. our expenses and our income have a couple of renters here that

"In spite of the rumors that them that they were coming. Senon Garza, the security chief,



Tom Saylor

"Mr. Miller complained at a are getting people through the forum that a relative of his could gate, and then they're just go- not get in, but he had not bothered to call the gate and tell

"All he had to do was pick is letting all of his friends up the phone, call the gate and about proposed revenues and end of the fiscal year, if you take through to go party on the fort, say someone was coming in -

Plan lacks agriculture issues

The following letter was signed by over 100 citizens and being such an important part of presented on Tuesday to Don our county, is not once men-Ralston, general manager of the tioned in your draft plan. This water district:

These comments are in reference to the Kinney County Groundwater District's revised draft management plan.

The Kinney/Val Verde County Farm Bureau, which represents the overwhelming majority of the agricultural producers in the county, submitted comments to the district's first draft in our county be removed from management plan.

After reading the revisions, we see those comments were ignored as none of the requested changes were implemented in this revised draft. We, the members and supporters of the ag community, feel we must speak up as individuals and sign our names in hopes of being heard by the district.

management plan is adopted, it will be over the objections of the agricultural community and private property right advocates who are not afraid to stand up for their rights in this county.

The ag community has endured a loss of support from all levels of government. It is one thing for bureaucrats in Washington D.C. or lobbyists in Austin to try and take away our rights. However, when our own elected officials take it upon themselves to try and erode our property rights, we take personal offense. It is not our goal to be a burden to you. We are just asking to be fairly represented.

As concerned citizens of Kinney County, we are asking that the district's management plan address agriculture in a way that protects our interests and livelihoods.

Our local economy is based on agriculture, not only farms your reasons for its denial. The and ranches, but the local busi- producers and advocates of prinesses that are supported by

The term "agriculture," while is unacceptable. The comments submitted to you from the Farm Bureau were not unreasonable. In fact, they are all easily and readily attainable by the district, at no cost.

We also ask that all language pertaining to the role of the district becoming involved with federal and state agencies working to find endangered species the plan.

We do not understand your lack of support of agriculture in Kinney County. We are even more at a loss to explain why the district would voluntarily mandate working with agencies that have no problem ending agriculture in this county.

This is not the first time we have come to the district with a If this revised draft of the request. Last year, before the final adoption of your rules, we requested that you follow the original intent of the district's drafting committee and exempt agriculture from the district's rules and fees. We followed with a second request, not to adopt substantive rules without scientific data on which to base them.

The district did not acknowledge those requests and instead proceeded on without any input or approval from the county's ag community.

We feel as though we have continually been ignored, but we refuse to give up this fight. We come now and ask that you not only acknowledge our request to have agriculture addressed in your management plan, but that you give this request careful consideration. If you choose to again ignore our request, we ask for a written response from the district stating vate property rights await your response. Thank you.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Water board is going too far

Friends and neighbors, it is with it, like it is. of what's going to happen to our county, but what about the farmwater, our livestock and our- ers and ranchers who need wa-

the fort were forced to dig wells. They were lucky, they hit good water.

I had a good well — the water level never went down. I shared that well water with several ranchers in the Spofford area who were not so lucky. It kept many of them afloat, it kept their livestock alive and it kept our county prosperous. I still have that well. I am still using it, and have for all these years.

ing to tell me that's not my water, and how to use it, and pay for it. Let me tell you, to me it is mine - I paid for the cleanpumps, pipe, etc.

It takes care of my livestock green, growing and alive. and my garden, and I am happy

time for all of us to take notice I'm just a little part of the ter for larger places? Can you I have no idea how many of imagine what small yields crops you were living here in the '50s will provide without enough when we had no water. The water, or the reproduction of anispring dried up, and the city and mals? Not to mention the cost for meters and price of water they pump. Many of our farmers and ranchers are living with a very small profit margin as it is.

This is an agricultural county. Most of the income in Kinney County is from agricul-

I have not attended all meetings of our groundwater district, and really don't understand all their rules (which change very often), but I think our county Now today, someone is try- could be hurt by the draft management plan. There is never a word about agriculture, the basis of our livelihood.

Please, attend the meetings, ing and maintenance, for the let the board members hear from you. Lets keep our county,

Genie Nixon



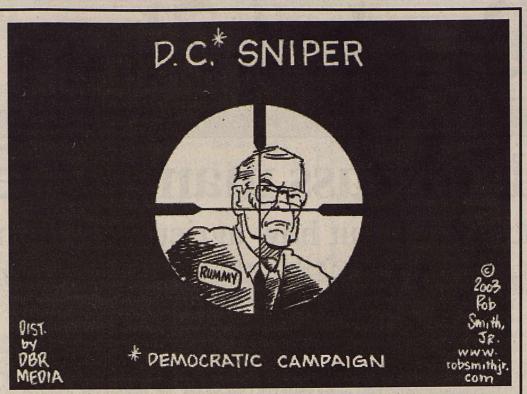
You know you're getting older when the happy hour is a nap.

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We are responsible

Rumors, hearsay and gossip almost never become fact. However, if repeated enough times, they frequently begin to be referred to as "common knowledge." Now that's an oxymoron!

I do not tend to participate, repeat or address any of those three things. However, after repeatedly being told, by numer- they voted to approve the curous people, the only reason a rollback petition was started was because I wasn't appointed to the cials not represent our wants and water board, I felt you needed to hear it from the horse's

I do support the rollback, that's no secret. Unfortunately, I can only claim credit for making the public aware it could be done, not for starting the petition. Rest assured, I would have made you aware regardless of who the commissioners appointed to the water board. As a matter of fact, the court played a major role in placing me on the tax board the following month. Why didn't that stop me from telling you your rights?

While I did sign the first petition, you will not find my name on the second one.

Why? I kept forgetting because I was trying to put together ing? No way! enough evidence to prove hiswells before Dec. 1.

desires, not the public's, when They can't know what we want rest in Nov. 2006.

other day. You remember my

past column about him coming

problem. A math problem. I tried

to tell him that I was no longer

in that part of the educational

business. The pedagogic gods of

yore decided that I wasn't to

that he flew a plane 41,000 feet

high. He wanted to know how

far he could get from a radio sig-

nal before the curvature of the

The diameter of the world is

about 7,926 miles. Therefore,

the radius is half of that, 3,962

miles. And 41,000 feet is equal

Earth blocked the signal.

Didn't sound too bad.

Back to his problem. He said

teach math anymore.

He challenged me with a

to visit.



Wes Robinson

Us

Why would our elected offidesires? I think it is because by the time they heard them, they

No, I am not insinuating they to cut. did anything illegal. I'm saying you and I are partially responsible for their attitude toward the general public.

We, you and I, didn't attend the budget workshops or, for that matter, most of the meetings. Then we showed up at the public hearing and told them we didn't like the budget they had been working on for a month or

Did you really think they were going to completely change showed up to gripe at one meet- members, I expect the latter.

toric use on two of my mother's from our elected officials, we election we had better start pay-The reason I support the roll- In short, attend more meetings, election day. back is because, in my opinion, speak out and write letters. This If we still don't get fair rep the Commissioners Court was goes for all of our governmen- resentation, we can take care of representing their wants and tal entities, not just the county. part of it in Nov. 2004 and the

Another problem bites the dust

If we take a circle, represent-

ing the globe, draw a line from

the center outward, and add the

height of the plane above the

Earth, that length is 3,970.765

point, tangent to the Earth, in-

center of the Earth to point (v).

angle and using Pythagoras'

Now draw a line from that

(v). Draw another line from the earth. QED.

But I Could

Be Wrong

Chuck

Hall

if we don't tell them, and they obviously won't act on our ideals at the last minute.

I encourage you to attend the Commissioners Court meeting next Monday. I do not know if they will take action on the rollback petition, but some of us need to be there to find out.

If the rollback election occurs and is successful, any county meetings immediately before or after it will be crucial. The commissioners will have to make cuts to the budget. You had better had already made up their be there to tell them what to cut and, more especially, what not

> They will also face a choice while making those cuts. They could choose to represent their consistuency's desires, as best they can, or try to use those cuts to childishly lash out at the public by targeting specific county departments. You know, the ones that may not contain 'team players' or the ones most important to a majority of the folks who signed the petition.

I hope commissioners make the first choice but, due to the the budget just because we recent conduct of some court

If we want to enjoy the re-If we want fair representation sults of a successfully rollback have to be more civically active. ing attention, especially after

theorem, we find the distance

requested to be about 248 miles.

distance along the curvature fol-

lowing the world, then trigo-

two lines drawn from the center

of the Earth A. The cosine of

angle A is 3,963 divided by

3,979.765. Now we have angle

A valued at about 3.2 degrees.

equal to 3.2 divided by 360

times the circumference of the

This finally leads us to a dis-

So there you go Bill. Take

Member of

DIMPLE HENRY

Office Manager

Earth (about 24,000 miles).

The arc length in question is

nometry is required.

But if we want to know the

Call the angle between the

Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

Why should I be in a hurry?

I can feel the wind whipping against my face in a way one can only define as spectacular. I feel cool and clear headed and my legs push on ahead staying in a constant, fluid motion with my

There is no burning in my lungs or aches in my body. I feel like I am a bird flying and I am untouchable, one of the fastest beasts on the planet. I look back, watching others eat my glorious dust, and smile and enjoy the feeling of complete mirth.

Then suddenly, something terrible happens. I wake up.

For those who do not know me quite well, I am not very fast, and dreams like these often haunt my slumber. They are also pretty ill-founded, seeing that I have never once had people eat my dust, or felt the absence of burning and soreness when running. Actually, I am usually the very last person to finish when conditioning.

During the recent basketball tournament, one could have seen how easily I was attacked by fatigue simply by watching the couple of games I played in.

Not only was I very red and out of breath, but I was so sweaty that it looked like I had just gotten back from digging ditches in Hades.

Of course, the solution to my problem is clear, just the path to it is difficult. The reason I am so out of shape is because I have never really been in shape.

When running lines, an evil torture device involving running up and down the basketball court, I have never really done it correctly. I mostly shuffle, not really bothering to lift my heels off the ground.

I guess you can say I run flatfooted. As result of my casual, whatever it is I do, I have never really gotten past the hardest part and become conditioned.

So as a further result, I huff and I puff, and chug along, coming in last almost every time.

Sometimes I wonder what it would be like to be in the front, ahead of everyone, but the urge does not usually last too long. Maybe one day I will really

try hard, and some day know what if feels like having others eat my dust.

Until then, I guess I will enjoy my role as a casual walker. Sooner or later though, America should be having that toddler Olympics I have been waiting for, and we shall see who will have the last laugh.

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POSTMASTER:

News Editor

KATHY WILSON

tersecting the circle in one point tance of 213 miles along mother

The angle at (v) is a right your choice, air distance, line

angle. Thus we have a right tri- of sight, or Earth miles along the

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for a "Giant Christmas Stocking" to be given away

Register

Dec. 23rd

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OBITUARIES

Juanita F. Gomez.

Juanita F. Gomez, age 78, passed away Nov. 23, 2003, in San Antonio. She was born May 13, 1925, in Georgetown.

Gomez was preceded in death by her husband, Maximo F. Gomez, and sons, Mario, Patricio and Rocky Gomez.

She is survived by her children: Maria Inez Medina, Luz Garda G. Cruz and husband Camilo, Paulita A. Garza and husband Jesus Jr., Laura J. Waddell and husband Louis, Raymond F. Gomez Sr. and wife Sylvia, Francisco Gomez, all from Brackettville, Maximo F. Gomez Jr. and wife Julia of Wyoming, Inocencio Gomez and wife Blanca of Austin, Joe Henry Gomez of Austin, Lucia Val Verde and husband Eloy of Amarillo, Alicia Castro and husband Joe of San Antonio, and contest's theme, "Ay, Fiesta George Gomez of San Antonio; numerous grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was held Nov. 25 at the Brackettville Funeral Home and a Rosary was recited.

A mass of Christian burial was held Nov. 26 at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Burial followed at the Kinney County Cemetery.

Mike G. Rodriguez

Mike G. Rodriguez, age 75, passed away Nov. 29, 2003, in Del Rio. He was born May 8, 1928, in Yoakum.

Rodriguez was a veteran of World War II and served in the Army Air Corps.

He was preceded in death by Lydia Rodriguez, Jerry M. Rodriguez, Jackie Rodriguez, Joe Rodriguez, Tony Rodriguez, Ben Rodriguez, Nick Rodriguez and Victor Rodriguez.

He is survived by his son: Jose Ray Rodriguez and wife Isabelle of Cisco; long-time companion: Julia Martinez of Brackettville; brother: Ralph Rod- RGEC Service Awards riguez of Yoakum; sister: Pauline Rodriguez of San Antonio; and his grandchildren: Nicole Dawson, John Mathew Rodriguez, Cheyenne Rodriguez, Paul Michael Rodriguez

and Andrew Rodriguez. Visitation was held Monday and Tuesday at the Brackettville Funeral Home Chapel, where a

Rosary was recited. A Mass of Christian was held Wednesday at St. Mary of Magdalene Catholic Church. Burial followed at the Catholic

BRIEFS

City officials set new work hours

Brackettville city officials have set new hours for the brush area and landfill.

The brush area will be open on Monday, Wednesday and Sat-

urday from 8 a.m. to noon. Landfill hours are from noon to 5 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday and 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

on Tuesday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday. "The City of Brackettville apologizes for any inconvenience this may cause, but due to short staff the schedule will continue until we obtain more

manpower or our workload decreases," said City Secretary Bonnie Wardlaw.

'Nuncrackers'

The nuns are back! Two years ago the Little Sisters of Hoboken, from Mt. Saint Helen's Convent, presented a show on Fort Clark's stage to raise funds to bury their sisters who had been poisoned by the cook, Sister Julia, child of God.

Now they are here again to tape their first annual Christmas Show. They are planning their adaptation of "The Nutcracker Ballet" and let's just say that it doesn't turn out quite the way Tschaikowsky planned it!

"Nuncrackers" will be presented on Friday, Dec. 12, and Saturday, Dec. 13, at 7:30 p.m. at Post Theatre. Tickets are available at the Adult Center, from any cast member or by calling 563-9229, 563-3070 or 563-

Cavalry Brigade to meet Saturday

The Fort Clark Community Council's Cavalry Brigade will meet Saturday at 9 a.m. at Shafter Hall. Lunch will be provided for all volunteer workers.

Jones Elementary students recognized for participating in national art contest

Forty young artists from Jones Elementary School were recently recognized for their participation in a national art contest sponsored by Mexico's Department of Public Education.

The students were congratulated for their efforts by Jorge Espejel, consul of Mexico, and Rosa Maria Montes, program coordinator For Communidades Mexicanas of the Mexican Consulate's office in Eagle Pass.

Last year the Education Department of Mexico invited American school children between the ages of 8 and 11 to submit paintings depicting artistic interpretations of the art

Alma Gutierrez, a first-grade panic culture and traditions, ented young artists throughout that participated in the art con- tional art contest this year.



Jorge Espejel

the production of their art work. After visiting Jones Elementeacher and a conservator of His- tary School Principal Paula Renken, Espejel and Montes mentored and guided the tal- were introduced to the students dents will participate in the na-

The students were aghast when they learned from the consul that over 2,000 contest entries had been submitted.

Only 12 entries were selected for publication in calendar form; beautifully designed with exquisite pictorial representations of Mexico's national holidays.

Espejel complemented the student audience for their participation in the art contest and enthusiastically declared each of them as "winners" for their representation of their school and community, through their exceptionally beautiful art work.

The consul presented the students with a certificate of participation and the exquisite calendar with the winning depictions of "Ay, Fiesta Bonia!"

Jones Elementary School stu-



Jones Elementary School first grade teacher Alma Gutierrez (right) displays the calendar sponsored by Mexico's Department of Education as fellow teacher Hector Jimenez looks on.

Columnist offers kitchen tips

Today I'm sharing a few quick tips that may help some of you, new or not so new, with the arts of the kitchen.

1. Perfectly dry salad greens: Even salad spinners don't remove all moisture. So before dressing greens, toss them in a large bowl with a few sheets of paper towels which have been the second slice. This makes it torn into quarters. This takes easier to slide the first piece out away all moisture.

Do be sure to remove all the dressing. Maybe count them!

the grill, place a few thin slices the three ice cubes in our recipe. of lemon, lime or orange on the grill grate.

You won't have grill marks, but you do get extra flavor from mignon have no connective tisthe citrus, plus non-torn fish. sue (the large streaks of white

or cake: After making the first and very little marbling (seen as two cuts to form the first slice, fine white lines in the fake fimake a third cut as if to form lets).



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

neat and intact.

4. More zap for smoothies: towel pieces before adding Trade the ice cubes that are normally used for frozen juice bars 2. Prevent fish sticking to the (all-natural popsicles) in compligrill: To prevent fish sticks, fil- mentary flavors. We found that lets or kabobs from sticking to half of a 4-ounce bar replaced

5. Filet Fraud: To identify the real filet mignon, check the grain. In other words, the real 3. A neater first slice of pie or grey visible in the imposters)

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Cervantez is a second class But even though it's cold now, 4. If you decide to get a new people are putting off "non- system, you can do so with no

Holiday" purchases.

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KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Saturday, Nov. 22

and CEO of Rio Grande Elec-

The luncheon is an annual

11:45 a.m., Erica Maria Garcia, 24, of Del Rio was ar- tion. rested by Trooper Welch on a DPS warrant. She was released after paying a fine of \$545.

3:13 p.m., A woman on W. El Paso Street reported sparks from her stove. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the child who lives on W. First problems with a fuse.

7:23 p.m., A man reported local church.

9:19 p.m., Steven Merrill performances set Davis, 38, of Leakey was ar- Unit 15. rested by Trooper Welch for driving while intoxicated. He was released three days later on restroom at the Civic Center. a \$5,000 bail bond.

Sunday, Nov. 23

Whitten, 19, and Zachary Lee Riley, 21, both of Charlotte, and Parker Cale Rodden, 19, of Jourdanton were arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch. a dead cat at her residence on Whitten was charged for driv- N. Brown Street. City officials ing while intoxicated as a minor, while Riley and Rodden were charged with public intoxication. All three were released later the same day after posting bail bonds.

attempted burglary at The El Paso Street Bar and Grill. The man reported that the door had been busted open.

requested assistance at a residence on E First Street.

3:41 p.m., A 911 caller reported a possible car accident on could not locate the man. Highway 90, approximately 16 miles west of Brackettville.

6:19 p.m., A woman reported a suspicious truck against her her 3-year-old son.

Villarreal is a second class tric, during the annual Employee iineman. His daughter, Maria, Service Awards luncheon held recently at the co-op's wareevent and beamed with pride as

Gilbert Villarreal (from left), Susanna Castillo, Elena Luna and Freddy Cervantez

are congratulated by Dan Laws, general manager and CEO, during Rio Grande

Rio Grande Electric honors employees

"There are those who have a Gilbert Villarreal, five years, Her husband, Tommy, and her

Electric's annual Service Awards luncheon.

her father received his award. event to recognize Rio Grande the co-op as a part-time custo- Luna is currently a consumer Electric Co-Operative employees

years of service. Employees are District. Castillo quickly adrecognized in five-year increvanced through numerous posi-This year's honorees were rently an executive secretary. Springs service territory.

'can do' attitude, and those who Susanna Castillo, five years, and children attended the luncheon don't, and as I look around me, Elena Luna, 15 years, all of Brac- and helped to celebrate her ac-I see a lot of 'can do' people," kettville, and Freddy Cervantez complishment. said Dan Laws, general manager of Carrizo Springs, 10 years. Luna is prob Luna is probably one of the

Photo Special to The Brackett News

most recognizable members of RGEC's Brackettville team, hav-8, was his special guest at the ing held various positions, including area office clerk and executive secretary, during her 15-Castillo began her career with year tenure with the Co-op. dian while also working for the accounting specialist. Her guest who have achieved at least five Brackett Independent School at the Service Awards luncheon

> was her daughter, Tina. tions within RGEC, and is cur-lineman in RGEC's Carrizo

ranch gate. Game Warden Henry

Monday, Nov. 24

7:13 a.m., A woman requested assistance at her residence on Fort Street.

3:43 p.m., A deputy with the Val Verde Sheriff's Office re-

4:19 p.m., A Fort Clark loud music being played at a Springs man requested assistance in regards to property that was stolen from his residence in

9:34 p.m., A man reported finding a silver bracelet in the to the resident, who said every-

Wednesday, Nov. 26

2:41 p.m., An anonymous 1:45 a.m., Kyle Gene caller reported a motorcycle driver who was passing vehicles on the shoulder of Highway 90, nearly causing accidents. 3:28 p.m., A woman reported

Friday, Nov. 28 1:50 p.m., A man reported that a vehicle had caught on fire about 13 miles outside of Brackettville on Highway 1572 by on W. Fulton Street because of 9:50 a.m., A man reported an the railroad tracks. Members of a verbal altercation earlier in the the Brackettville Volunteer Fire evening. Deputy Cody Shannon Department were dispatched to

were notified of the situation.

the scene. up and that he wanted to file tion. charges. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene, but

7 p.m., A San Antonio woman requested assistance re-

10:15 p.m., A man and Lutz was notified of the situawoman reported that another man was harassing all of their friends and family.

Saturday, Nov. 29 10:20 a.m., A caller reported

that the water was off at residences on Coffin and Third Street. City officials were notiquested assistance concerning a fied and said they were having

Sunday, Nov. 30

5:35 a.m., An ADT Security employee reported an alarm sounding at a residence in Unit 27 on Fort Clark Springs. Deputy Manuel Pena was dispatched to the scene and talked thing was all right.

4:45 p.m., A man reported a grass fire about 8 miles south of F.M. 377 in Edwards County. Officials from the Edwards County Sheriff's Office were notified 6:35 p.m., A woman reported

that she had seen a man that was wanted in Val Verde County. Officials from the Val Verde Sheriff's Office were notified. 11:30 p.m., A woman said that one man threw a beer bottle

at another man at her residence was dispatched to the scene. The victim was bleeding, but said he 3:55 p.m., A man reported did not want to press charges 11:13 a.m., An individual that another man had beaten him and did not need medical atten-

Monday, Dec. 1

7:30 a.m., A woman requested a welfare check on her children who had not been brought home. She wanted to garding a welfare concern for make sure they would be taken

BRIEFS

Gonzalez set to compete in Sweden this summer with USA national team

CARY, N.C. — Amador "Alex" Gonzalez, a soccer athlete from Brackettville, will be joining a national team of Sports Tours USA athletes competing in Sweden during July of 2004.

Gonzalez has been accepted to represent the United States during the summer event. Selected athletes must pass two separate screening criteria before being considered for the team roster.

The local soccer player will dedicate the months prior to travel conditioning for the competition and providing services and volunteering locally in Brackettville to help earn the program cost. Gonzalez is an eighth grader at Brackett Middle School. He

plays on the Cub football and tennis teams.

Cubettes fall to Sacred Heart 29-24

The Brackett Cubettes lost a heart-breaker to Sacred Heart 29-24 in eighth grade basketball action.

Bailee Allen was the Cubettes' leading scorer with eight points. Bianca Stewart finished the contest with six points, Julie Castillo scored five, and Meghann Davis, Hayley Harris and Daphne Hunt all scored two. Allen, Castillo and Hunt all grabbed six steals in the contest. Harris and Capri Creech had four steals apiece, while



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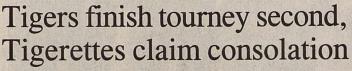
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Tigers named to all-district team

The Tigers fell short in the championship game of the with nine points, Dietrich Davis Brackett tournament, while the had six, Morgan and Nowlin Tigerettes claimed the consolation title.

team safety).

out-scored Brackett 27-14 in the third quarter en route to a 76-63 victory.

Dietrich Davis paced the Tigers' offense with 14 points. Charlie Slaughter and Tillman Knippa 59-58. Davis also finished in double figures with 13 and 11 points, and Leon Woolsey added two.

first round and then edged added two. Knippa 38-35 in the semifinals as Tillman Davis hit a 3-pointer at the buzzer for the win.

Slaughter finished the game both had five, Ortiz and Woolsey had four apiece, Tillman Davis In the boys' finale, Sabinal scored three and Sierra had two.

Representing the Brackett Tigers on the 30-2A all-district football team are, top row (from left): Rolando Ortiz (second team offensive tackle), Tres Rueda (first team outside linebacker), Eli Woolsey

(first team center and defensive end), Kody Yeager (first team quarterback) and Whitney Massingill

(first team guard and defensive tackle). Middle row: Jason Smith (first team offensive tackle), Gumaro

Martinez (second team guard), Mark Kesteloot (first team kicker and second team inside linebacker),

Glenn Morgan (offensive MVP and first team inside linebacker), Dietrich Davis (defensive MVP and

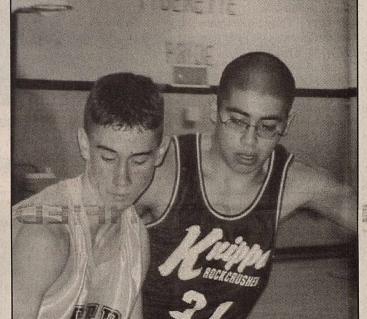
first team tight end) and Tony Rosetti (first team running back). Bottom row: Noe Talamantes (first team safety and second team running back), Arnold Pinales (second team outside linebacker), Cody

Edwards (second team corner back), Tillman Davis (first team corner back) and Brand Wylie (second

The Tigerettes claimed the consolation championship with a forfeit win in the final round.

Brackett opened the tournament losing a heart-breaker to

Shanae Simmons paced the Tigerettes with 23 points on 7respectively. Glenn Morgan had of-15 shooting. Ashley Smith eight points, Travis Nowlin chipped in 15 points, Amanda scored six, Oscar Sierra pitched Davis had seven, Stacey Castilla in five, Rolando Ortiz had four scored five, Ashley Castillo scored four and Stephanie Bon-The Tigers had a bye in the ner and Courtney Frerich both



Dishing off

Photo by J.J. Guidry

In the second round, Brack- Tigers guard Charlie Slaughter (15) dishes the ball ett topped Nueces Canyon 40- after driving the lane against Knippa during the 30 behind 10 points from Smith. Brackett basketball tournament.

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Council OKs tax exemptions

Continued from Page 1 persons in accordance with the property tax code."

Haenn said the city is the first taxing unit in the county to adopt the taxing limitation.

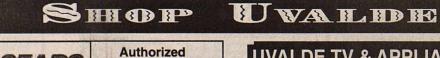
"Right now only the school has a mandatory freeze by the Texas Constitution," he said.

"What this means is that when someone becomes eligible by reaching age 65, whatever their taxes are that year, they freeze at that amount. This helps people on fixed incomes. So no matter what the tax rate becomes, if taxes go up, that senior citizen's taxes remain the

"The only way the taxes change is if they dramatically change the value of their property. If they build a brand new house on their lot, then only the value of that improvement is taxed new and the old tax stays the same," Haenn added.

The resolution was approved by council members Camilo Cruz, Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez and Johnny Samaniego.

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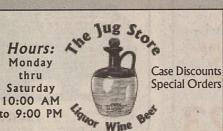
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36 Again, in music 37 Generosity 41 Omega 42 Imiguities 44 Actress

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32 One who 33 Alphabet when a wimp sees a mouse characters 4 One: Scot. 35 Opposite

38 Announce the arrival 39 Word with

which 40 Man's nick-46 Sickly

looking 47 Formations that are sometimes acute 48 Religious principle

49 Take __ ; show 50 Bonnets 51 Fourth 52

52 __ Hari 53 Make over 54 Bakery purchase 55 South African fox 56 Noble 58 .36524 +

59 Holiday party offering 61 _ pro nobis; pray

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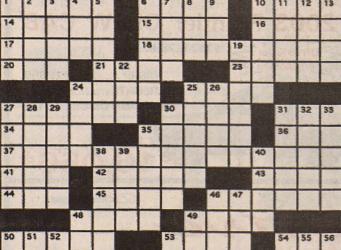
BOARING TWENTIES

in the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you are sent the wind in all directions-vided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directionsforwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: HIGH SCHOOL SUBJECTS

GEOMETRYPPQC EGSCISYHPYGH REHHCHSILGNE MHEITIGYMOHM ASVLNAZAULII NIAAMARDSOSS CEPQHBZTIITT HSFRENCHCBOR TRIGONOMETRY CALCULUSGHYU GAMSILANRUOJ

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8. Civics Drama 8. English 9. French 10. Geography 18. Journalism 17. Music 18. Physics 19. Spanish 20. Trigonometry

I/Q/ONOMETRIY CALCULUS ON WIL GANE ILANAUDI EGYCHPARGOEG

by Charles Cooper

source this week. This leads to great thought was off the table at work ideas for work projects. Later in the suddenly arises again. Fortuweek, you ponder your holiday gift nately, all the thought and plan-

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You're busy early in the week polishing up a business plan. By midweek, you finally complete the task. This SAGITTARIUS (November 22 weekend, listen closely to what a loved one has to say.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your romantic life is going well. Too bad the same can't be said of a friendship. Do your best to mend fences before this gets out of hand.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A financial development comes as a nice surprise. In general, sticking close to home this week is a good idea. By the weekend, you put the finishing touches on your holiday decorating.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) While difficult for you, it's best to be patient this week with co-workers. Some are deliberately baiting you for an explosive reaction. If you realize this, you can rise above it.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Any social plans you have should be put on hold for a little bit. You need to spruce up the house to get ready for company. The weekend is the best time to accomplish this.

LIBRA (September 23 to October get in touch with family mem-22) You hear from someone who has bers you've been neglecting. been out of your life for quite some time. Make it a point to get together soon. You'll both want to catch up and reconnect.

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You SCORPIO (October 23 to Nofind inspiration from a surprising vember 21) Something you ning you'd done previously. comes to the rescue. Over the weekend, family responsibilities take precedence.

> to December 21) You're a bit dissatisfied with the way your holiday preparations are going. Feel free to enlist help from family members. Their ideas are actually quite good.

> CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Your original way of thinking captures the attention of bigwigs at work. However, don't let them take advantage of you. Expect compensation which is commensurate with your contributions.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Some time alone gives you some breathing room and a chance to think. Some may give consideration to a career change. The weekend is a great time to find holiday bargains.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You link up with people who could become business partners. Just be sure that everyone is on equal footing. Later in the week,

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Holidays shout Christian heritage

drank and slept indepence, a con- prayer." cept based on their religious principals.

were not appointed for just one the fourth Thursday of Novemday of national celebration, but ber as Thanksgiving Day. were a daily experience because of their Christian beliefs.

new United States of America become famous for its celebraoccurred in 1777.

Gen. George Washington and his army, amid the open fields and bitter winter on their way to Valley Forge, stopped and practiced a day of Thanksgiving.

Our American forefathers ate, tional day of "thanksgiving and

President Abraham Lincoln resumed the tradition in 1863. Their days of thanksgiving President Roosevelt established

Other cultures have set aside a day of thanksgiving to their The first Thanksgiving of the gods, but it is America that has tion of Thanksgiving Day based on their worship of Jesus Christ. come and live in America.

Our very customs shout our others try to rewrite history, it (Psalm 1:3) is their attempt to deny the one His first proclamation in true God. It is their attempt to it shall grow. When the water



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us the religious freedoms and independence for which others have been given the right to

Our nation is like tree that faith to other countries. When has been planted by the water.

As long as the water feeds it,

The Living Word of God is the water all Christians must have. It is what the principles of our nation were founded upon. Dry up the water, and our na-

Keep our nation strong. Stand up for God's uncompromising word. Be bold to speak it. Overcome evil with good.

Be in prayer for our nation and those who are fighting overseas for the rights of others to be free from inhuman cruelty.

Pray unceasingly for God's grace and mercy upon our nation and that we keep our faces turned to Him for guidance.

Stand in faith, rest in hope,

1789 as the first president de- change the hearts and intents of ceases or is poisoned, the tree clared Nov. 26, 1789, as a na- our forefathers who died to give shall wither and die. walk in love. If we take happiness from God's

hand, must we not take sorrow too? Once upon a time, more than some 30 years ago as a matter of fact, I met Dennis and Diane

Dankoski and their family. I did not ask their permission to tell this story they told me concerning themselves since I do not know where the family is today. Hopefully, they will not object.

After some time (it could have been a few weeks or a few months after their decision contime), Dennis and Diane deterprayer time to a particular theme parts of the world) would not each week.

This particular week they decided to dedicate it to "saying ber only three of the seven other several hundred dollars to the hand of God, and not receive



St. Mary Magdalene Church

Fr. Cornelius J. Scanlan

other of the various events in

As life would have it, the family experienced one-after-ancerning their family prayer other event for which most mined to dedicate their daily America (perhaps also in other think of saying thanks.

After all these years, I remem-

during one hot summer month. transmission.

The first was an incident with their first born, a son, who was 4 years old at the time. While playing on a fort-like wooden time later that, after that one

"Thank you, Lord, for the in-

A second incident happened when the air conditioning syspeople in these United States of tem of their home decided to

"Thank you, Lord," was their

And the third was needing anthanks to God" for one or an- events, all of which took place spend out of their savings on the the bad?"

within the space of one week repair of their station wagon's

Once again, their prayer was, "Thank you, Lord."

They shared with me some construction in the back yard week of saying "thanks," they one day, he broke a bone in his experienced an enriched sense of peace.

It sounds as if they listened jury of our son," was their to what Job of the Old Testament observed.

> One translation from the original language has it, "If we take happiness from God's hand, must we not take sorrow too?"

A second translation, also from the original language: "Shall we receive the good at

Remember the example of Christ during holidays

As I write this message, a cold blue norther is blowing in reminding me of Thanksgivings celebrated back up home in Iowa.

It brings back good memories of Thanksgiving gatherings with family at my grandparents' home.

to gather together and cel- ation. ebrate, as well as giving thanks.

As Christians we recognize that God is the source of all good things. We in the church give witness that it is God who live. has given us the gifts of food,

But also at this time of year we must remember that God creation is for all.

zens will eat well, be warm, erosity. or feel the warmth of family or community.

This reality makes us aware bounty that we have been 11 a.m.



Our Redeemer Lutheran & St. Andrew's

> Nathan Lafrenz

Thanksgiving Day at its blessed with, and forgotten best connects with our need God's concern for all of cre-

> During the holidays, let us remember the example of Christ who did not squander or hoard, but freely gave of His life for all so that we may

Christ's example teaches us family, employment and com- that it is in giving that we receive. Let us share of the bounty of creation. Let us as a community knit together in proclaims that the bounty of common concern and commitment to the poor and all who Sadly, not all of our citi- are dependent upon our gen-

Come and celebrate the goodness of God each Sunday at Our Redeemer Lutheran that in many cases we have Church at 9 a.m. and St. hoarded or squandered the Andrew's Episcopal Church at

Hear the Word of God

"And it came to pass, that, as the people pressed upon him to hear the Word of God, he stood by the Lake of Gen-nes'-a-ret.

"And saw two ships standing by the Lake; but the fishermen were gone out of them, and were washing their nets.

"And he entered into one of the ships, which was Simmon's thy Word I will let down the net. and prayed him that he would thrust out a Little from the Land. And he sat down, and taught the people out of the ship.

"Now when he had left speaking, he said unto Simon.

unto him, Master, we have they began to sin." (Luke 5:1toiled all the night, and have 7) taken nothing: Nevertheless at

St. John's Missionary Church

Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

"And when they had this done, they inclosed a great multitude of fishes: and their net

"And they beckoned unto their partners, which were in the other ship, that they should come and help them. And they came,

Glory!!! Praise God!

about this note from your not his," Jimmy said, beginning Launch out into the deep, and **Empowering** ing wise. (Proverbs 19:20) teacher," Dave said. "Your be- to sound flippant. let down your nets for a draught. **Families** "Heeding the instruction of "And Simon answering said and filled both the ships, so that 'Where'd you get that idea, a wise man is a path of life. (Prov-

"Jimmy, we need to talk havior was out of line and you got detention."

"Yeah I know," Jimmy replied. "It's over with Dad, so Martinez is too strict. He needs don't worry about it."

"Let me see if I understand you, Jimmy," Dave said. "You were in detention two afternoons and I shouldn't worry? There's some problem with your being grounded sound?" behavior and that does worry

me. Dave's voice was serious.

"Look Dad, Mr. Martinez doesn't like me and I don't like him. Just because he's the principal doesn't give him the right ing grounded. to get on my case," Jimmy told his father.

"What I do is my business and

son?" Dave asked with surprise. "Dad, all the kids think Mr.

to cool it," Jimmy said with a "Well, Jimmy," Dave said. "You need some time to think

about this. How does a week of Ohhhhh, crap," Jimmy said

His thoughts were racing school?" through what he thought might be his options for avoiding be-

his dad was not going to change



Dr. Donald Smith

language, son," Dave said to his wise counsel.

sternly. as he threw himself into the "Why should I be punished at shall talk about discipline and home for what happened at wisdom.'

because it keeps you from go- cation.

Come

Frontier Baptist Church (SBC)

Take advice of the wise for success in life ing astray and leads to becom-

"You are not being punished at home for your behavior at school," Dave continued. "You are being punished for your attitude of disrespect for Mr. Mar-"Be careful and control your tinez and for refusing to listen

"Every evening before you "But Da-ad," Jimmy pleaded. go to bed this week, you and I

Editor's note: This column "Listen carefully, son," Dave is brought to you by the St. began. "Long ago a very wise Henry deOsso Family Project, man advised us to listen to wise working in Brackettville to He remained silent, knowing counsel and receive instruction strengthen family, faith and edu-

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Pastor Darin Koenig



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11:00 am Worship Service

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CREDITORS - Notice is hereby given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of SAMUEL H. BLACKWOOD, JR., Deceased, were issued on November 25, 2003, under Docket No. 1009, pending in the Probate Court of Kinney County, Texas, to BRENDA S. BLACKWOOD. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the estate, addressed as follows: BRENDA S. BLACKWOOD, Representative Estate of SAMUEL H. BLACK-WOOD JR.,, Deceased c/o TULLY SHAHAN, Attorney at Law 401 South Ann Street, PO Box 367 Brackettville, Texas 78832. All persons having claims against this estate, which is currently being administered, are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated November 25, 2003. BRENDA BLACKWOOD By Tully Shahan, Attorney for Applicant.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS HIGHWAY IMPROVEMENT CONTRACTS: Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. CONSTRUC-TION/MAINTENANCE CONTRACT(S). Dist/Div: Laredo, Contract 6109-28-001 for PREPARATION OF RIGHT OF WAY in KINNEY County, etc will be opened on December 23, 2003 at 2:00 pm at the District Office for an estimate of \$297,500.00. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the **TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's** list, at the applicable State and/ or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit pre-qualification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 11540. State Office: Constr./ Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704, Phone: 512-416-2540. Dist/ Div Office(s): Laredo District, District Engineer, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043, Phone: 956-712-7400. Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TXDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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