

# The Brackett News



**Tigerettes win title at Canyon tourney**  
See story, Page 5

15 year, No. 44

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

**BRIEFS**

**'Nuncrackers' performances set for this weekend**

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, the 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 Tchaikowsky planned it!

Returning as the Reverend Mother is Jewel Robinson. Sister Hubert, her right hand, is played by Mary Petrosky.

Charlene Simmons plays Sister Amnesia and Tami McNew is Sister Robert Ann. Sister Mary Leo is played by Ida Holley, and Father Virgil, Sister Mary Leo's brother, is Wesley Wilson.

Lois Carlson is the stage manager and the children are Heather Baggett, Katie Braesicke, Cody Clark and Jared Harris. Accompanist is Cathie Conrey and the play is directed by Lynn McNew.

"Nuncrackers" will be presented on Friday and Saturday at 7:30 p.m. at Post Theatre on Fort Clark Springs.

Tickets are available at the Adult Center, from any cast member or by calling 563-9229, 563-3070 or 563-2296.

**Computer Club meets on Monday**

Are Internet pop-up ads driving you crazy? How about loads of spam in your mailbox?

Well, join the local computer club on Monday night from 7 to 8:30 in the Kinney County Library Annex Room.

Those attending will learn the ins-and-outs of these "what's driving you crazy!" nuisances — how to stop them and how to prevent the problems they cause on your system.

The Computer Club does not require membership fees, but donations of 50 cents per person are requested to pay for the library's utility expenses.

For more information, call 563-3443.

**Lutheran Church to host luncheon**

The Lutheran Church women will host the Ladies Christian Brunch in the Episcopal Parish Hall on Monday morning at 11.

The cost is \$5 per person. All Christian women and pastors are invited.

For more information, call Gertie Trautwien at 563-9996.



Local singing sensation Jacquelyn Conoly modeled this wool and mohair ballgown designed by Houston Community College fashion design student Leo Busscher, which took runner-up for best of show at the Houston Fashion Show of Student Designs. Conoly will be performing at the American Sheep Industry Convention in Sacramento, Calif., in January.

## Officials order a rollback election

In October, county officials found that a petition for a rollback election was not valid.

Local citizens responded two weeks ago with a second petition in opposition to the 12 percent increase of the road and bridge tax rate.

The petition was approved Monday morning by the Commissioners' Court.

The commissioners ordered a county-wide election on Saturday, Feb. 8, to determine whether or not to reduce the county tax rate for the current year to the rollback tax rate.

"It's good that we see this many voters communicate to us that they want an election," County Judge Herb Senne said. "Certainly, we will provide that election for them. We're happy to do so."

According to Martha Pena Padron, the county tax assessor-collector, there are 2,423 registered voters in the county. A recall election required a peti-

*"It's good that we see this many voters communicate to us that they want an election. Certainly, we will provide that election for them. We're happy to do so."*

**County Judge Herb Senne**

tion signed by at least 10 percent of the registered voters, or 243. Padron validated 336 signatures on the second petition.

The original petition was presented to the court on Oct. 14, but the commissioners voted to reject it on Oct. 30 on the advice of County Attorney Tully Shahan, who said it did not meet the standards of a valid petition as outlined by Article 277.002 of the Texas Election Code.

The Texas Election Code says that valid petitions must include the signer's printed name, date of birth, voter registration number, residence address, signature and date of signing.

The original petition in-

cluded only printed names and signatures.

County Judge Herb Senne and Commissioners Pat Melancon, Joe Montalvo and Francie Wylie all voted for a 12 percent tax hike and the budget for the current fiscal year, while Commissioner Nat Terrazas opposed.

After adopting four consecutive deficit budgets, officials approved major budget cuts this year. Melancon said "the major increase in the budget is 18 to 20 percent a year just in health insurance."

The commissioners pledged over \$300,000 in savings last year to balance the budget.

## Crosby, Holley elected to board

Steve Crosby and Mike Holley have been elected to serve on the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Directors, according to unofficial election results.

The members of the board are elected to the board by the taxing entities in Kinney County. The taxing entities' votes are based on the percentage of the 2002 tax levy.

Crosby led the four candidates with 899 votes, while incumbent Mike Holley garnered 864. Brackettville City Council member Mary Flores received 125 votes, while Richard Slubar, also an incumbent, did not receive any votes.

The Commissioners Court nominated Crosby and Slubar to the board, but voted unanimously Monday morning to award all of its 714 votes to Crosby.

The Brackett ISD Board of Trustees nominated Crosby and Holley last month. On Monday night, the school board agreed to cast 899 votes for Crosby and 150 for Holley.

The Brackettville City Council voted Tuesday night to award its 125 votes to Flores. The council also nominated Martha Pena Padron, the county's tax assessor-collector, but it was later determined that she was not eligible to serve on the board because of the county's contract with the Appraisal District.

The City of Spofford is entitled to two votes in the election, but it was unknown at press-time how the Spofford City Council awarded its votes.

**VOTING**

Following are unofficial results of the election of Appraisal District directors by the county taxing entities:

Candidate	Votes
Steve Crosby	899
Mike Holley	864
Mary Flores	125
Richard Slubar	0



Jared Harris (from top), Heather Baggett, Katie Braesicke and Cody Clark are among the cast members of "Nuncrackers," which will be presented Friday and Saturday night at Fort Clark Springs' Post Theater. See related brief.

## Members vote to transfer the fort's roads

Fort Clark Springs members overwhelmingly voted to turn over ownership of the association's roads to the Municipal Utility District.

The Fort Clark Board of Directors voted to put the measure in front of the members. By transferring the roads to the Municipal Utility District, the association will avoid having to pay taxes on the roads.

According to the returns, 2,794 ballots were mailed to members and 1,597 were returned. There were 1,537 ballots counted and 60 that were uncountable. Of those counted, 1,400 (91.1 percent) voted for the measure, while 137 (8.9 percent) opposed it.

"I was very delighted," said Tom Saylor, president of the association. "I thought it spoke very loudly that the members of the association are not interested in paying more taxes."

"We had not paid taxes on these roads in the first place, so the county is not losing anything financially. I was very pleased," he added.

Though ownership of the roads will be transferred to the Municipal Utility District, the association is still responsible for maintenance of the roads. And Saylor said the transfer will not affect members' taxes to the utility district.

**VOTING**

Following are unofficial results of the election to transfer ownership of Fort Clark Springs' roads to the Municipal Utility District:

Proposition	Votes
For	1,400
Against	137

**INSIDE**

**Steve LaMascus**

The United States, at least for the moment, is beginning to look like a mote of semianity in an utterly insane world.

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**Henry Bonilla**

As our nation fights the War on Terrorism, we place our lives and liberties in the hands of the brave soldiers fighting on the front lines.

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**Roger Baker**

The popular TV commentator Andy Rooney became a national figure in the '80s by asking the question, "Did you ever notice...?"

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## Agriculture is in, endangered species are out of water district's management plan

J.J. GUDRY  
Editor

The new management plan for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District received a positive reception from citizens in attendance last Thursday as the Board of Directors adopted changes to the original draft.

The finalized document was approved by Directors Don Hood, Christopher Ring, Darlene Shahan, Cecil Smith and Hadley Wardlaw. Board members Chuck Hall and Bob Young were absent from the hearing.

The district received written comments from the Nueces River Authority, the Texas Farm Bureau and URS, as well as a petition from the agriculture community, upset that agriculture was not addressed at all in the plan.

The plan now says: "Most, but not all, of the existing and historic use of groundwater in Kinney County has been applied to agricultural irrigation and domestic and livestock purposes.

The district strives to protect such uses to the extent practicable under the goals and objectives of this Management Plan and without discriminating against any other use of such groundwater for any other lawful and beneficial purpose."

Endangered species issues were taken out of the management plan, as well as a statement that the district would take steps to identify endangered species.

"I don't like seeing anything about endangered species," Wardlaw said. "It scares me to death."

His comment was met with a handful of "amens" from the audience.

Written comments from Sky Lewey of the Nueces River Authority asked that the management plan specify that the district protects "spring dependent habitats."

Don Ralston, the district's general manager, asked for public opinion on the matter, and the citizens in attendance objected to the additional language.

"My own personal feelings on this is that we should not put this in there," Smith said. "We all know that we have creeks running off into the springs down here. We all know there is fish in them. We all know there is deer, turkey and rabbits that get their water from them."

"We also know we're planning on leaving an amount of water to try to prevent the springs from going dry. I don't see why we have to go any farther than that in the management plan. Our intent is already in there."

Hood said, "I concur." "The EAA made a mistake," Hood continued. "They allocated a certain amount of permitting. The Sierra Club came in and they took 50,000 acre-feet away. That might happen to us, so I say stay out of it. It's not our deal."

Jennifer McDaniel, whose family farms in Kinney County, said she "appreciated the people on the board that are speaking their mind."

"At the last meeting, not one



Hadley Wardlaw (left) and Darlene Shahan discuss the water district's management plan last week.

board member voiced an opinion. This is what concerned us. Is this management plan being written by this board or is it being written by a lawyer in Austin? You are the board members — speak your mind. If there's something in there that you don't like, tell your lawyer."

The only issue not addressed in the management plan raised in the written comments was the amount of recharge identified in the county.

The plan says the annual amount of recharge within the district is 69,800 acre-feet.

Wendy Foster, McDaniel's daughter who now lives in Austin, addressed the issue on behalf of WaterTexas, a firm wanting to market water from Kinney County.

"To define recharge as just the rain that falls in the county's boundaries is very misleading because there is underflow that comes into Kinney County from other sources," she said. "Kinney County doesn't just get water from rainfall on the lands in Kinney County. There is water coming in from Uvalde, from Del Rio and from Rocksprings."



LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Fort lacks financial management

At the Oct. 19 board meeting, John Dixon, treasurer of the association, reported the budget for the 2003-04 was revised to reflect the closing of the restaurant. The new figures for income and expenses is \$1,746,820.

Mr. Saylor's statement about my figures of the budget is incorrect.

The actual income for the year ending Sept. 30, 2003, was \$1,665,053 as reported in the year-end financial report approved by the board.

I estimated the income to be \$1,691,678. This was \$26,625 too high, sorry about that.

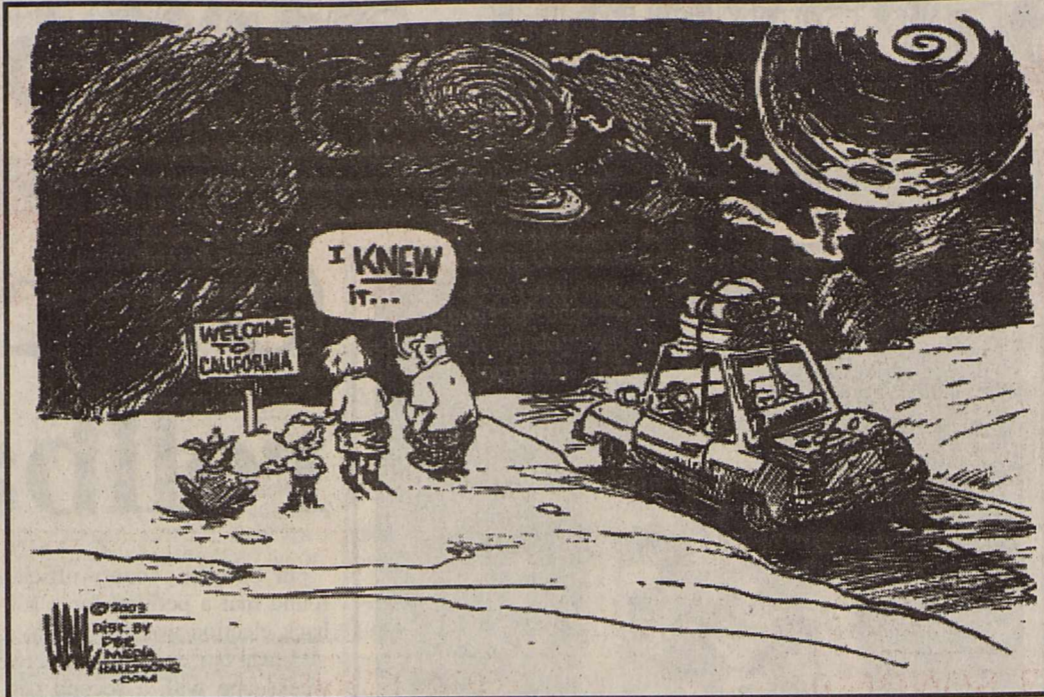
The loss of income for year 2003 was \$773,286 less than the year ending 2002, which was \$2,438,339.

This loss of income is absurd. When the audited financial statement is finished for 2003 we will know for sure what the answer is. Year ending 2002 member equity was \$1,653,982. This is a loss in equity in six years of \$1,004,080. The year ending 2002 retained earnings was a loss of \$2,497,799. This loss is carried forward. This loss has increased to \$1,004,080 in six years.

All these figures have come from the audited financial reports from 1997 through 2002.

What will these figures be for seven years in 2003? Does this reflect outstanding management for six years? What will the seventh-year management reflect?

Art Baker



Ignore Satan's animalistic naturalism

The United States, at least for the moment, is beginning to look like a mote of semi-sanity in an utterly insane world. We here are still clinging precariously to our moral and reasonable center while the rest of the world rushes with headlong abandon into moral oblivion.

Most of us are still against homosexual "marriage," legalized drug abuse, pornography, and the other things which become a maggot in the soul of a nation.

Unfortunately, our neighbor to the north is chasing the liberal fantasy of a "truly open society" where everything is legal and nothing is morally wrong.

Canada, or at least two Canadian provinces, has legalized homosexual "marriage."

In Vancouver the state government has opened a "publicly funded and supervised injection site" for heroin users.

Canada Prime Minister Jean Chretien recently said about his pending retirement that he may just "kick back and smoke a little pot."

"I will have my money for my, fine and a joint in the other hand," he said. I don't understand the world-wide propensity to view everything as relative. We seem to be falling for the old lie that we must judge ourselves by what we see around us, that whatever modern society judges to be OK has to be accepted as the norm and allowed by law.

Instead of declaring outright war on perversity and moral depravity, we are told that we are simply living in an antiquated

The Way I See It

Steven R. LaMascus

mote of society and that we must conform to the modern ideal or be declared as antisocial misfits.

Well, let me be the first to confirm that I am an antisocial misfit and will not ever, never, not bloody ever accept homosexuality, drug abuse, pornography on family TV, open prostitution, abortion, euthanasia and a great many other things as normal and healthy for society!

It is wrong, it has always been wrong, and it will always be wrong!

And guess what? Would you believe that since the 1950s church attendance in Canada has plummeted? Yeah, imagine that.

Just like in every case where Satan is winning, the belief in and dependence on God is abandoned in favor of more carnal interests. You see it worldwide. When God is forced out of a society, Satan quickly steps in to fill the vacuum. And nobody in power seems to be able to see the problem. Nations around the world are turning away from God and His moral integrity to embrace Satan and his animalistic naturalism.

We are told that to deny our inner selves is dangerous and can cause psychoses. We are told that we are just animals and that the only difference between us and pigs or gophers is that we have self realization. We recognize that we exist and can make decisions based on analysis of a series of events, while our ani-

mal brothers react instinctively to physical and mental stimuli. Animal rights activists would have us believe that "animals are people, too."

God tells us much the same thing, but for a different reason. We have a sin nature that is in all ways animalistic. To control that sin nature and obey God's commandments is what makes us more than animals.

It is simply the way you look at the problem that defines your future. I say that to deny my animal tendencies and obey God is what makes me who I am. Others would say that to deny our animal tendencies makes us exclusionistic and denies our true nature.

What makes us human is our God-given ability to control our actions and deny ourselves the things that God tells us are wrong!

If we embrace those base tendencies and deny the existence of God, we are nothing more than soulless animals without hope of salvation.

One elevates us and offers hope, while the other tears us down and offers destruction. Which would you prefer? The choice is, after all, yours to make. Do you choose to be human and a child of God, or an animal and an ally of Satan?

Ecclesiastes 2:10-11 - "All that my eyes desired I did not refuse them. I did not withhold my heart from any pleasure, for my heart was pleased because of all my labor and this was my reward for all my labor."

"Thus I considered all my activities which my hands had done and the labor which I had exerted, and behold all was vanity and striving after wind and there was not profit under the sun." NASB



Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

'Just a letter from home'

As our nation fights the War on Terrorism, we place our lives and liberties in the hands of the brave men and women fighting on the front lines. These individuals risk their lives every day to preserve our freedom and safety.

While we attend holiday parties and decorate our trees, our troops find themselves alone in foreign territory. Now, more than ever, it is paramount that we rally behind our troops and show our support.

When I think of our troops away from home over the holiday season, I am reminded of a story I heard many years ago.

During the Vietnam War, Sgt. Billy Thompson sent a simple holiday request to news columnist Abigail Van Buren. He suggested that "just a letter from home" would make a wonderful Christmas present. This resulted in the holiday letter writing campaign called "Operation Dear Abby."

For 17 years, American citizens sent letters and cards to servicemen deployed away from home. These cards served to boost morale and spread holiday cheer to thousands of military personnel.

Many years later, during Operation Desert Storm, a new letter-writing campaign was born. Rather than focus only on the holiday season, "Any Servicemember" aimed to promote troops morale year round. During operations in Bosnia, the campaign continued to grow and brought joy to many members of armed services.

Unfortunately, recent threats of Anthrax and biological warfare, have made delivering large amounts of mail to our troops unsafe.

The Department of Defense was forced to announce that both of these highly successful campaigns would be indefinitely suspended. In the midst of a new kind of war, we must find new means of supporting our servicemen and women.

In light of these events, the Navy created a web-based alternative to traditional letter-writing campaigns. The new "Any Servicemember" website provides a simple system to send e-mail greetings to our troops. Anyone wishing a reply to their message, need only to include a return e-mail address.

This simple process allows those sending the message to choose any branch of the military to send their greetings. While our troops will miss the brightly-colored envelopes and picturesque cards, they are excited about the convenience of e-mail.

As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true conviction for our armed services. Each person must do their part to help boost the morale of those who will not be home for the holidays.

I urge each of you to participate in this thoughtful and patriotic campaign. It will take only a few minutes, but think of the joy it will bring to these very special and admirable men and women.

For more information about the Navy's "Any Servicemember" campaign, visit <http://anyservicemember.navy.mil>.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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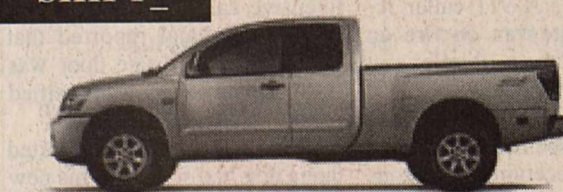
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OBITUARY

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 preceeded 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, Josie Cortez and husband Bobby of

Rankin, and 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.

Pasole is a favorite this time of the year

There are many traditions that are unique here in South West Texas, and most of us include one from cultures other than our own with great enthusiasm. The recipe today is a favorite meal in Spanish families, especially this time of year

- Posole (Hominy Stew)**
- 1 can (No. 2 1/2) hominy
  - 2 cups water
  - 1 teaspoon salt
  - 1 teaspoon ground oregano
  - 2 pounds pork shoulder or roast, cut in chunks
  - 3 teaspoons ground chili or 2 large red pods
  - 1/4 teaspoon garlic powder
  - 1 small whole onion
  - 1 teaspoon saffron (asafron)
  - 1 teaspoon flour.
- Cook meat until done. If boiling to cook the meat, brown the



Goodies From G.G.

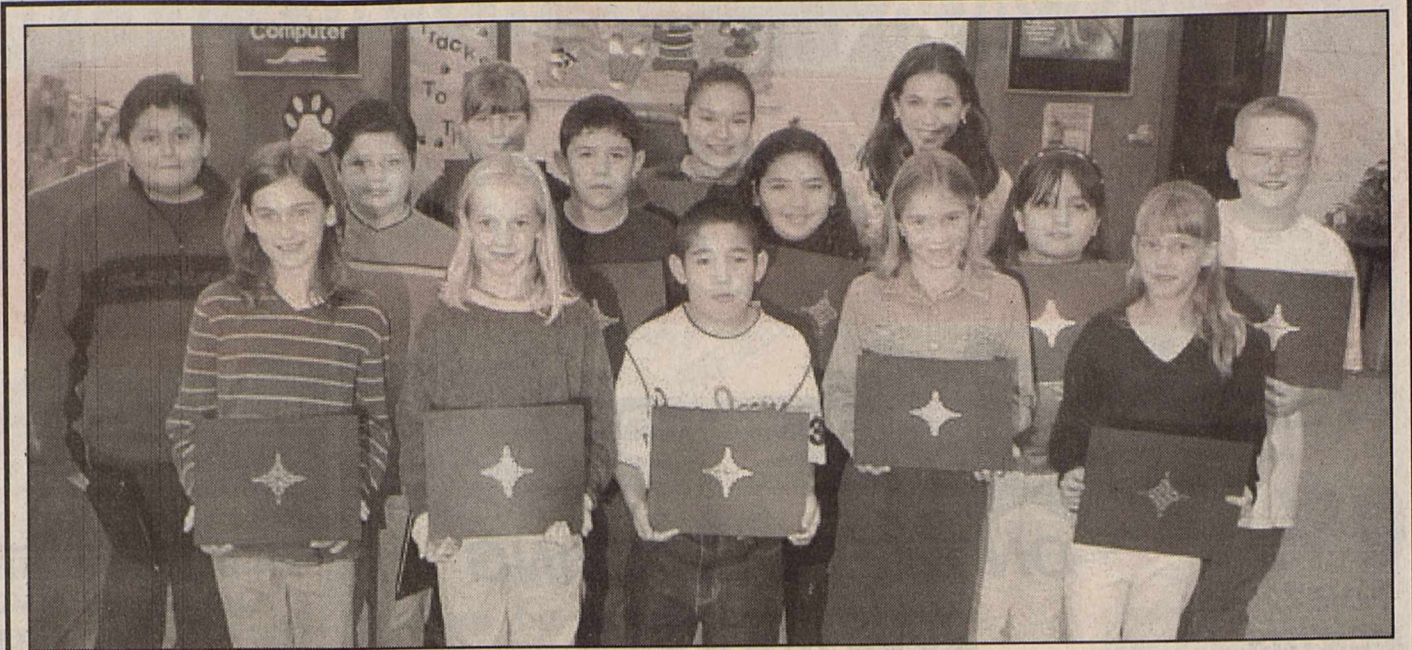
Vada Baldree

pieces first and then drain which meat is done.

Add hominy to meat mixture and all other ingredients except the oregano, flour and saffron. Simmer about two hours.

Mix the oregano, flour and saffron together, and then add a small amount of liquid from the pot to blend and add to stew mixture. Let simmer 15 minutes.

This is nice to serve on dry toast with a side dish of cottage cheese. It serves four.



The Brackett ISD School Board of Trustees recently recognized students that entered their poetry last spring and were selected for publication in "A Celebration of Young Poets." The students include, front row (from left): Haley Hale, Kelsey Bruce, Mike Flores, Icela Rueda and SuSu Seargeant. Middle row: Roberto Torres, Tyler McDonald, Jesse Garza, Abigail Gutierrez, Sahara Rodriguez and Bryan Calk. Back row: Paige Nowlin, Brenda Pacheco, and Heather Baggett. Not pictured: Damien Falcon, Nicole Lira-Steinberg and Danika Villarreal.

Alamo Saddlery gets world-wide attention with mini-documentary

Alamo Saddlery, founded here in Brackettville in 1996, will be featured in a mini-documentary that will be released to western industry dealers in the United States, Germany, Australia, Canada, Belgium, Venezuela and Italy, among other countries.

"As we approach our ninth year in business in the western industry, we wanted to be sure our dealers know how our story began in Brackettville, since they've contributed so much to the success and growth of Alamo Saddlery," said Corina Muniz, general manager at Alamo Saddlery.

"The Story of Alamo Saddlery" is in post-production now and was field-produced in Kinney County by a five-man television production crew from Quadrant Productions, based in Corpus Christi and San Antonio.

Photographers on the crew taped more than five hours of footage at the warehouse and

distribution center in Brackettville, and at the factory in Ciudad Acuna, Mexico.

The presentation includes how an Alamo Saddle is made - from start to finish.

In the video, Alamo Saddlery dealers world-wide will see some of the finest toolers and braiders at work in the western saddle industry.

Muniz, Leisha Ashley, CEO, and Anna Diaz, factory manager in Acuna, were interviewed for the documentary.

The full Alamo line of more than 800 products includes more than 10 children's saddles, all kinds of western ranch, barrel, pleasure and show saddles and tack, and the unique and growing line of "jewelry on tack." These items are sold wholesale to retail stores and dealers.

Alamo Saddlery employs 11 people at the combination warehouse and distribution center in Brackettville and 70 at the factory in Acuna.



A television production crew tapes footage for a mini-documentary at Alamo Saddlery's warehouse and distribution center in Brackettville.

**ORACON AL ESPIRITU SANTO**

Espiritu Santo tu que me alcaras todo, que iluminas todos los caminos, para que yo alcance mi ideal, tu que me das el don divino de perdonar y olvidar el mal que hacen y que en todos los instantes de mi vida estas conmigo, yo quiero en este corto dialogo agradecerle por todo y confirmar una vez mas que nunca quiero separarme de ti por mayor que sea la ilusion material. Deseo estar contigo y todos mis seres Queridos en la gracia perpetua. Gracias por tu misericordia para conmigo y los mios. La persona debera rezar esta oracion 3 dias seguidos sin decir el pedido, dentro de tres dias sera alcanzada la gracia por mas dificil que sea.

G.S

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KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

**Wednesday, Nov. 26**  
Paulino Avila, 29, of Roanoke was arrested by Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter on a warrant for aggravated assault with a deadly weapon. He was transported to Acalor County last Thursday.

**Thursday, Nov. 27**  
James Joseph Melkus, 71, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley for driving while intoxicated, first offense. He was released the next day on a personal recognizance bond.

**Monday, Dec. 1**  
10:35 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported a possible oven fire at her residence on Oak Lane. The Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department was notified of the situation.

1:30 p.m., A man reported a deceased animal with its head cut off.

8:08 p.m., A woman requested assistance because she said a man was "going crazy."

8:43 p.m., Jesse Sanchez, 22, of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess for public intoxication. He was released after being credited with time served.

**Tuesday, Dec. 2**  
9:04 p.m., A Super S employee reported that two individuals were hanging around the store asking if anyone knew someone who sells marijuana.

**Wednesday, Dec. 3**  
8:43 a.m., Francisco Gomez, 48, of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff Burgess for criminal mischief. He was later released on a personal recognizance bond.

10:35 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs security employee requested assistance in Unit 15 because of a vehicle that refused to move.

11 a.m., Peter David Perez, 29, of Brackettville was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch on a warrant for no liability insurance. He was also ticketed for not wearing a seatbelt. He was released the same day after paying his fines.

4 p.m., John Paul Reyes, 32, of Uvalde was arrested by Trooper Welch for driving with a suspended license. He was released the next day after posting a \$1,000 bail bond.

**Friday, Dec. 5**  
7 p.m., Thomas Charles Ward, 22, of Brackettville, was arrested by Chief Deputy Fritter. His probation was revoked on a DWI charge. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

**Saturday, Dec. 6**  
3:03 a.m., A Border Patrol employee requested assistance with an intoxicated driver west of Peridido Creek.

3:45 a.m., Javier Louis Gonzales, 26, of San Antonio was arrested by Deputy Cody Shannon for driving while intoxicated. He was released later that day after posting a \$2,000 surity bond.

6:27 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported that lights were on at a residence in Unit 15. He said that the residents were gone and no car was in the driveway.

9:40 a.m., A man reported that an unknown vehicle was parked under another man's carport, with a tire busted out, at a residence on Third Street.

12:15 p.m., An unknown caller reported that a box of bullets had been found at Fort Clark Springs. The box was given to Deputy Sheriff Manny Pena.

7:41 p.m., A 911 caller reported a white van on fire on Highway 90, about 10 miles east of Brackettville.

10:45 p.m., A Fort Clark Security employee requested assistance after receiving numerous complaints from residents across the fort about loud music that

was coming from a party at the Fort Clark Pro Shop.

11:55 p.m., An anonymous caller reported that three individuals got in an argument at El Paso Street Bar and Grill. The man said that a fight might break out in the parking lot. Deputy Shannon was dispatched to the scene. He spoke with two individuals and told them to leave, and then escorted the third man home.

**Sunday, Dec. 7**  
11:25 a.m., Jonathan Isaiah Rivers, 21, of Uvalde was arrested by Trooper Welch on two warrants out of Ector County for fugitive felony and burglary of a habitat.

2:25 p.m., A Pico employee reported that two vehicles had drove off without paying for gas.

3:27 p.m., An employee from the Val Verde Memorial Hospital reported that a Fort Clark child had been injured from falling off the bumper of a truck. The child was in the hospital's intensive care unit.

An individual reported that the Tejas Real Estate door was open. Deputy Pena was notified of the situation.

7:14 p.m., A man reported that a dog had scratched his new car and wouldn't let his children out of the vehicle.

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# Tigerettes win title at Canyon

SWTJC tourney opens today in Uvalde

The Tigerettes won the championship Saturday at the Nueces Canyon tournament, while the Tigers came up short in the third place finale.

Brackett's hoops teams resume action today in the Southwest Texas Junior College tournament in Uvalde.

The Tigerettes (8-1) open the tournament this morning at 8:30 against Knippa.

The loser of the game will play the loser of the Leakey-Utopia contest at 3:30 today, while the winners play in the semifinals at 6:30 tonight.

The Tigers (4-3) will also play Knippa in the first round in a 10 a.m. contest.

The loser of the Brackett-Knippa game will play the loser of the Leakey-Utopia contest today at 5, while the winners play in the semifinals tonight at 8.

Amanda Davis scored 17 points and Shanae Simmons and Ashley Smith both had 12 points Saturday to lead the Tigerettes to a 56-49 win over Knippa in the championship game of the Nueces Canyon tournament.

Stephanie Bonner and Ashley Castillo both had five points in the contest, while Emily Valenzuela scored three and Courtney Frerich had two.

Brackett posted a 53-35 win over Nueces Canyon in the semifinals.

Smith scored 16 points in the contest, while Castillo and Valenzuela both finished with nine.

Davis scored seven, Bonner

and Simmons had four apiece, Stacey Castilla pitched in two and Frerich and Brandy Smith both had one.

Frerich had a game-high 10 points to lead the Tigerettes to a 36-18 win over Rocksprings in the first round.

Bonner chipped in eight points in the contest, Castillo and Smith both had five, while Castilla, Davis, Simmons and Valenzuela all scored two.

The Sabinal Yellowjackets edged the Tigers 58-55 Saturday in the third place final.

Dietrich Davis and Travis Nowlin led Brackett's scoring with 12 points apiece.

Charlie Slaughter tallied nine points, Leon Woolsey had seven, Glenn Morgan and Oscar Sierra both had six points and Noe Talamantes added three.

Brackett lost a heart-breaker to Nueces Canyon in the semifinals, 35-33.

Slaughter had 14 points in the contest, Sierra, Dietrich and Tillman Davis all had four points, Woolsey scored three and Morgan and Nowlin both had two.

The Tigers opened the tournament with a 45-31 victory over Rocksprings.

Nowlin scored 15 points for Brackett, while Slaughter also finished in double figures with 12. Dietrich Davis posted seven points, Sierra had four, Cody Edwards scored three, and Morgan and Rolando Ortiz added two apiece.



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## BRIEFS

### Ashabrunner earns all-state honors

Brackett's Juliann Ashabrunner has been named to the Texas Girls Coaches Association all-state cross country team. The junior distance runner won four meets this year and placed fourth at regionals. She has qualified for state for three consecutive years, also winning three consecutive district championships.

"Juliann is a great competitor," Tigerettes coach Dusty Brotherton said. "She has a great work ethic and it always shows in her performances. She had a great season and is very deserving of this prestigious honor."

### JV Tigerettes win big over Canyon

Brackett's junior varsity improved to 2-0 on the season last week after the Tigerettes ran away with a 43-9 win over Nueces Canyon. Brackett jumped out to a 12-0 lead after the opening stanza and never looked back.

Juliann Ashabrunner paced the Tigerettes with 10 points and three steals. Lisa Morgan had eight points, eight steals and four rebounds, while Nadine Terrazas finished with eight points, six steals and four boards.

Danika Schmidt tallied six points, four steals and three rebounds for Brackett. Dana Bonner scored five points, pulled down six boards and grabbed two steals. Brandy Smith pitched in four points, five rebounds and four steals, while Alanna Conolly had two points, one rebound and one steal.

The Tigerettes resume action this weekend, competing in the Dilley junior varsity tournament.

### Cubettes claim victory over Utopia

The Brackett Cubettes picked up a 27-14 win over Utopia on the road Monday in eighth-grade basketball action.

Bailee Allen was Brackett's leading scorer with six points. Julie Castillo and Bianca Stewart both had four points, Daphne Hunt scored three, and Amber Castilla, Capri Creech, Meghann Davis, Hailee Harris and Ashley Stephenson all had two points.

Davis finished the contest with four steals, while Hunt grabbed three and Allen had two. Stewart led the Cubettes on the boards with seven, while Allen had six and Harris pulled down five.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS 1 Small weight 5 Actor's place 10 Tempted one 14 Character 15 Lower region 16 Letter closing 17 Make \_\_\_; gamble 18 Sailor's direction 19 Currier's partner 20 Protects 22 Events on a paper's business page 24 Source of caviar 25 Nobleman 26 Trainee 29 Enjoyment 30 Meaning 34 Felt terrible about 35 Container 36 Tranquilize 37 Live 38 Notices 40 Sun deity 41 Attic 43 Promotional write-ups 44 Word with tall or fairly 45 Weather condition 46 Appropriate 47 Runner 48 Crosses out 50 Beverage 51 Hit Broadway play 54 Periods of time 58 Monthly payment: abbr. 59 Facilitates 61 Donahue 62 Missing 63 In stitches 64 Suffixes for velvet & eight 65 Common contraction 66 One-armed bandits 67 Plant part DOWN 1 Homecoming attendee 2 Garment 3 Hebrew letter 4 Like short-term parking 5 Color 6 Sole attachments 7 Footfarw 8 Like Beethoven 9 Organic compound 10 Straightened 11 Type of bird 12 State 13 Disarray 21 Negative word 23 American Beauties 25 Pieces of furniture 26 Mountaineer's hazards 27 Of one of the senses 28 Name in farm equipment 29 Like Santa and Taft 31 Like a twang 32 Wrap 33 Confederate general, turned upside-down? 35 Modern plane 36 Peter, Paul & Mary: abbr. 38 Discourage 39 Rhyming trio 42 Edits 44 Gambler's adviser 46 Particular 47 Flightless bird 49 Sly looks 50 Annoying people 51 Cubicle 52 Hand lotion ingredient 53 First-rate 54 \_\_\_ on; forwarded 55 Sweet snack item 56 \_\_\_ Nnette 57 Method: abbr. 60 \_\_\_ Paulo, Brazil

ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions— forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: FRUITS

Grid for Roaring Twenties puzzle with words: APRICOT, BANANA, BLUEBERRY, CHERRY, GRAPE, KUMQUAT, LEMON, LIME, NECTARINE, ORANGE, PEACH, PEAR, PLUM, POMEGRANATE, PRUNE, RAISIN, TANGERINE, WATERMELON

HAPPY BIRTHDAY Dec 11.....Russell Latensen Dec 14.....John Flores Dec 15.....Teodoro Avila Dec 15.....Rickie Espinosa Dec 15.....Mary Sandoval Dec 15.....Plunker Sheedy Dec 16.....Mary Allen Dec 16.....Allen Kreiger Jr. Dec 16.....Greg Sandoval Dec 16.....Laura Tovar Dec 17.....Josie Aguirre Dec 17.....Amber Carrow Dec 17.....Josefina Estrada Dec 17.....Jack Frerich Dec 17.....Gracie Mata Dec 17.....Diane Wilson

Roaring Twenties Solution: 1. Apple 2. Apricot 3. Avocado 4. Banana 5. Blueberry 6. Cherry 7. Grape 8. Kumquat 9. Lemon 10. Lime 11. Nectarine 12. Orange 13. Peach 14. Pear 15. Plum 16. Pomegranate 17. Prune 18. Raisin 19. Tangerine 20. Watermelon

ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) You need to maintain your professional decorum at work. Leave what's happening at home right where it belongs. Later in the week, you sort things through successfully. LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You overhear a conversation which isn't flattering to you. Avoid confronting the perpetrators. These are people who just love to indulge in malicious gossip. TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Money is an issue this week between you and your mate. You're upset at what you see as undue holiday extravagance. Relax; things get better after the New Year. SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're all wound up as the week begins. Try to take a deep breath and prioritize. This weekend, you play catch-up. SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Your concentration is off this week. That's fine since everyone can have an off week. Co-workers are happy to come to your aid. CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) While you have a very specific idea in mind concerning the holidays, family members aren't cooperative. Instead of dictating, get everyone's input. By week's end, you all come to a mutually satisfactory agreement. AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Things aren't going as smoothly as you'd like, both at work and at home. Ride out this rocky time. Some around you are just a bit overwrought and need to work it through. PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You're a bit insecure in the romance department. Try not to force the issue. This could have the opposite effect you want.

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# Christmas is about hope

The popular television commentator Andy Rooney became a national figure in the '80s by asking the question, "Did you ever notice ...?"

As we approach Christmas, I thought I'd make a few comments of my own.

Did you ever notice that folks really seem to care about the poor and hungry during Christmas? The wonderful Lion's Club is busy collecting for baskets to take to our neediest families. Please collect up some extra groceries or even better some extra cash. There's a real need out there.

Did you ever notice that our deputies and EMS and Border Patrol agents are still on duty keeping us safe on holidays? That doesn't even include our volunteer firefighters, who are effectively always on duty waiting for a call.

Maybe this year each of us can find a way to say thank you.

Maybe we can drop off some goodies at the Sheriff's Office or at the Cline checkpoint or at the EMS building.

Did you ever notice that some folks get really depressed and feel particularly blue during the holidays? Maybe we can keep our eyes open for those who are near desperation from the emotional pressures that the holidays can bring.

Some people are lonely. Others are overwhelmed by their families. Sometimes a card, a letter, an hour spent just listening can make all the difference. An hour of your time is a valuable gift.

Did you ever notice that Christmas is a time of intense frustration for many people? Soldiers can't return home because of duty. Children of fractured families have to choose between Mom and Dad again.

Empty places at a table remind us again of a missing loved



First United Methodist Church  
Rev. Roger Baker

one far away or forever departed. Telling people to "cheer up" and "get the spirit" isn't a kindness when their hearts are breaking or, worse yet, broken.

Christmas is about hope — the hope Christians find in the coming of Jesus Christ, the new king of a new sort of kingdom.

A Christian's hope transcends the local boundaries of space and time, of unmet need and unheard cries. A Christian celebrates the season not because of the opportunity to give or receive, but because of the gift given long ago and already received in a receptive heart.

As Christians, we need to

find ways to share our hope. Sometimes that means gifts that come in pretty paper, sometimes it means gifts of another sort. Prayer and time spent listening, encouraging, feeding, and assisting others are most appropriate to the Christmas season.

Maybe this week we can take time to notice those whose Christmas isn't about hope, but has eroded into a frenzy of shopping or of cooking or of family visits. Maybe we can help them through example and prayer that our hope at Christmas is a hope we share with others. Maybe we can share Christ in a real and meaningful way.

At First United Methodist Church, we're trying to notice the ways we communicate our love of Christ through the way we celebrate Christmas. Join us this Sunday at 10:45 a.m. as we light the third Advent candle and await the coming of the Savior!

## Rejoice in God's love

Just the other day, as I was watching the news, I was appalled to see people fighting in line at a Toys R Us store to see who could get inside the door faster to snap up the sales.

Obviously, the whole consumer spending binge is going strong already in this Christmas season. But that is precisely the problem!

This is not the Christmas season, this is Advent. Christmas doesn't start until after the fourth Sunday of Advent.

Advent is the month-long season of the church year in which we prepare ourselves for the coming of the Messiah.

Advent is a time of penitence and preparation. It is a time of examining ourselves, taking stock of our behaviours and priorities. It is also a time of expectation and hope.

Some of our Scripture texts for Advent include apocalyptic material, which may frighten some of us. Yet Jesus tells us in Luke to keep our heads up, be awake and alert, for the day of redemption draws near.



Our Redeemer Lutheran & St. Andrew's  
Nathan Lafrenz

As I understand in military training, one is told when the bullets start flying, keep your heads down. But Jesus gives us a different way of handling trouble. He tells us to look firmly ahead into the midst of our troubles, into the midst of the darkness and despair, and confidently expect that God is making all things work for good for those who love Him.

Above all we Christians are not a people who fight in line at the mall for the best sale, but are people of hope, rejoicing in God's amazing act of love and salvation, the impending birth of the Christ child.

Come and join us in our Advent preparation at Our Redeemer Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal Churches at 9 and 11 a.m., respectively.

## Tigers blessed with great season

My Dear Tigers of Brackettville,

Praise the Lord! Peace be with you! Much time has passed since the beginning of the football season.

I remember that I was with you in the beginning. I watched you practice, I was present at your early games, and I have been with you throughout.

All my brothers and I here in Italy have been following you very closely. We have prayed for you, and with each victory we have celebrated with you. Praise the Lord.

It has been a great season, one which you will not soon forget. In fact, you will recall it again and again, replaying the great moments over and over, sharing with each other the sweetness of these times for years



Postcard Home

Brother Henry Clay Hunt III

to come. I am very proud of you.

I charge you to seal in your heart the gifts and treasures you have received this year. I watched you pray and was humbled by your faith in God.

Remember that He always comes first, before all things, in good times and in bad.

This was truly a glorious season with many glorious moments, but remember that all human glory is ordered in Him, who is Glory itself.

See that you were blessed

with good leadership. I believe that from the top to the bottom your coaches are good men, solid in the ways of the Lord and pure of heart. They guided you well. Be attentive to their way of life in family and in community, not just on the football field. They have served you well.

Finally, hold fast to the method and work ethic that you were formed in, and then apply it to your faith and your life.

You men were exemplary in your effort and preparation. I say that with all truth, warmth and sincerity of heart.

Work to live a good and just life, avoiding sin, with the same zeal that you lifted weights and ran to be in shape. Just as you were faithful to practice and working hard everyday, be

faithful husbands and fathers in the days to come.

Just as when times were difficult and your backs were against the wall, you showed the heart of a Tiger. Fight temptation to do things that will offend God the Father, never forgetting his mercy in the sacraments.

You have seen that it is worth it to pour your hearts out in the fight. Now with all your hearts, fight the good fight. You are champions — now go for the greatest victory and be champions for Christ.

With much love and esteem, I consecrate all of you again to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Animo! Courage!

From Rome,  
Br. Henry Clay Hunt III,  
S.O.L.T.

## Don't forget your pain so you don't repeat your sin

Ever since coming home from school Meg was acting depressed and subdued, not her usual exuberant self.

Diane decided Meg needed to talk. She sat down on the side of Meg's bed and asked, "What's the matter, sweetheart?"

"It's nothing Mom, I'll get over it," Meg haltingly answered.

"Honey, when women are bothered over something, they always need to talk," Diane said.

Meg rolled over and looked at her Mom: "I'm really ashamed of something I did Mom. And I don't know what to do about it."

"And?" Diane said.

"And," Meg said. "Today I

got into an argument with Jeri and I used a word that was bad. She took it personally, though I didn't mean it that way. She really got angry.

"I apologized, but she just walked away. She's been saying bad things about me ever since. Why can't she just get over it?"

"Honey," Diane said. "The wrong began with you. But you did the right thing and apologized. When Jeri rejected your apology and refused forgiveness, hers is the greater sin. The sin is compounded when she went about saying bad things about you. What you must consider is how to keep such things from happening in the future."



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

So what do I do, Mom?" Meg asked.

"Long ago, a very wise man said what came out of your mouth started as a thought in your heart," Diane said. (Sirach 37:16)

"So?" Meg asked.

Diane continued: "The wise man then asked, who will apply the lash to my thoughts, to my

mind the rod of discipline, that my failings may not be spared nor the sins of my heart overlooked?" (Sirach 23:2)

Taking her daughter's hands in her own, Diane said: "Sometimes it is pain of the heart that is the lash to our thoughts and the rod of discipline to our words so that our actions do not result in pain to others.

"Do not forget your pain so you do not repeat your sin," she said.

■ *Editor's note: This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project, working in Brackettville to strengthen family, faith and education.*

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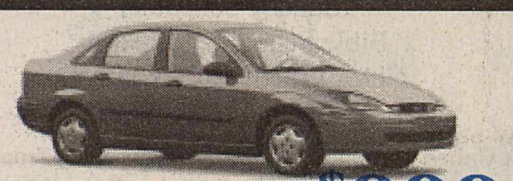
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**WANTED: A STAFF** writer to cover governmental meetings and community events. Experience preferred. Interested individuals can pick up an application at 507 S. Ann Street.

**Answers to Crossword Puzzle**

GRAM	STAGE	ADAM
ROLE	HADES	LOVE
ABET	APORT	IVES
DEFENDS	MERGERS	
ROE	BARON	
CADET	FUN	SENSE
RUED	JAR	SEDATE
ARE	DETECTS	SOL
GARRET	ADS	TALE
SLEET	DUE	MILER
DELES	POP	
CABARET	SEASONS	
ELEC	EASES	TROY
LOST	RIANT	EENS
LETS	SLOTS	ROOT

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<b>03 Lincoln Town Car</b> #PY645804 - Leather, CD, Dual Pwr Seat, Remaining Warranty <b>\$24995</b>	<b>02 Nissan Altima SL</b> #UC288928 - Moonroof, Leather, Automatic, Low Miles <b>\$17995</b>	<b>02 Lincoln LS</b> #PY711001 - Auto, 6 Cyl., Moonroof, Leather, 2k Miles <b>\$24995</b>	<b>01 Nissan Xterra</b> #UC596962 - CD, Cloth, Tilt, Cruise, Aluminum Wheels <b>\$10995</b>	<b>98 Chevy Silverado 1500</b> #UT727629 - Trailer Tow, 6 Cyl., Auto, Pwr Win/Locks, 36k Miles <b>\$9550</b>	<b>01 Ford F-150 Sup Cab</b> #UMB68399 - 6 Cyl., Auto, Tilt, Cruise, Low Miles <b>\$12650</b>	<b>00 Ford F-150 XLT Sup Cab</b> #UNC18957 - CD, Auto, Power Windows/Locks, 6 Cyl. <b>\$11995</b>	<b>01 Ford F-150 Reg Cab</b> #UNA13886 - 6 Cyl., AM/FM/Cass, Chrome Wheels, 12k Miles <b>\$10995</b>
<b>00 Isuzu Rodeo LS</b> #U4357678 - Auto, 6 Cyl., CD, Tilt, Cruise <b>\$10995</b>	<b>99 Dodge 4x4 Durango SLT</b> #UF618886 - 8 Cyl., Auto, Leather, Rear AC, Capt. Chairs <b>\$12995</b>	<b>01 Chevy Silverado Ext</b> #U1360263 - CD, Alum. Wheels, Power Windows, 8 Cyl., Auto <b>\$16995</b>	<b>02 GMC Sierra SLE Flareside</b> #U2220914 - Auto, Cloth, CD, AM/FM/Cassette <b>\$16995</b>	<b>01 Chevy Tahoe LS</b> #UR121183 8 Cyl., 4x4, Leather, Capt. Chairs <b>\$22850</b>	<b>00 Ford Expedition XLT</b> #NLB35999 - 6 CD Changer, Auto, 8 Cyl., Capt. Chairs, Leather <b>\$17995</b>	<b>00 Ford F-250 Crew Cab</b> #UEA09286 - Diesel, Power Windows, Power Locks <b>\$17995</b>	<b>99 Ford Expedition XLT</b> #ULA07291 - 8 Cyl., Auto, Dual AC, 6 CD Changer <b>\$14995</b>
<b>99 Ford Expedition XLT</b> #ULA07291 - 8 Cyl., Auto, Dual AC, 6 CD Changer <b>\$14995</b>	<b>01 Ford Escape XLT</b> #NKS58848 - 6 Cyl., Auto, CD, Power Windows/Locks <b>\$12650</b>	<b>02 Ford Explorer XLT</b> #PWA02446 - 6 Cyl., Auto, Dual AC, Tilt, Cruise, CD <b>\$19995</b>	<b>00 Ford Explorer XLT</b> #UZA13664 - CD, 6 Cyl., Auto, Keyless Entry, Tilt, Cruise <b>\$10995</b>	<b>99 Lincoln Navigator</b> #ULJ3A209 - Leather, Dual AC, Tilt, Tow, CD Changer, Capt. Chairs <b>\$18495</b>	<b>99 Expedition Eddie Bauer</b> #UJLC14788 - Auto, Leather, Rear AC, 6 CD Changer <b>\$15495</b>	<b>01 Expedition Eddie Bauer</b> #ULA50115 - V8, Entertainment System, Auto, Leather <b>\$19995</b>	<b>01 Ford XLT Ext. Cab</b> #UNA10962 - 6 Cyl., Auto, 6 CD Changer, Tilt, Cruise <b>\$16995</b>
<b>01 Ford F-150 S/C</b> #UKB46650 - 6 Cyl., Auto, Pwr Windows, Tilt, Cruise, Cassette <b>\$13995</b>	<b>02 Ford F-150 S/C</b> #UKE22427 - 6 CD Changer, Auto, 6 Cyl., Tilt, Cruise <b>\$16995</b>	<b>01 Ford F-150 XLT Sup Crew</b> #UKE91576 - 8 Cyl., Auto, CD, Trailer Tow, Tilt, Cruise <b>\$18995</b>	<b>02 Ford Expedition</b> #ULA93390 - 8 Cyl., Auto, Tilt, Cruise, Pwr Win/Locks, 16k Miles <b>\$21995</b>	<b>01 Ford Expedition</b> #ULB19882 - 6 CD Changer, Tilt, Keyless Entry, 8 Cyl., Auto, Cruise <b>\$19995</b>	<b>03 Ford F-350 Crew Cab</b> #UEA14994 - 8 Cyl., Diesel, 4x4, Trailer Tow, CD, Pwr Win/Locks <b>\$33995</b>	<b>02 Lincoln Navigator</b> #ULJ14824 - Rear AC, 3rd Seat, Climate Control Seat, 17k Miles <b>\$30995</b>	<b>02 Ram 1500 Quad Cab SLT</b> #NG14364 - 8 Cyl., CD, Bed Liner, Auto, Tilt, Cruise <b>\$18995</b>

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