

# The Brackett News



Tigerettes now 12-2,  
preparing for district  
See story, Page 10

15th year, No. 45

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

1 Section, 14 Pages

## School district moves polling place

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Brackett ISD has submitted an application to the Department of Justice to change its polling place to the Hunt Library.

The decision by the Board of Trustees was initiated by a recommendation from the Superintendent's Advisory Committee in response to complaints from citizens at a town meeting last spring.

The traditional polling place for school board elections is the district's Central Office, but some citizens said the location was intimidating.

"Having it in the Central Office made some people feel uncomfortable," Superintendent Bobby Templeton said. "They felt that it would just be better to have it at a more neutral location. The board thought that was a good idea and it was something that we could do."

*"The reason we chose the library is because it has restrooms, it needs to be private and it has to be ADA approved."*  
**Bobby Templeton**



Templeton said the process in submitting the application has been involved.

"You can't just move it. You have to turn in an application to the Department of Justice and they will approve it," he said.

Templeton expects the application to be approved before the upcoming school board election

in May.

"I don't think there's going to be a problem," the superintendent said. "By the next election, we should have the polling place finalized and it should be in the library."

Early voting will continue to be conducted at the Central Office.

"That is simply a personnel issue," Templeton said. "We don't have the manpower to have a dedicated person over there for

the entire time."

Templeton said the board discussed other locations before agreeing on the school library.

"The reason we chose the library is because it has restrooms, it needs to be private and it has to be ADA approved," he said.

Moving the polling place was just one result from the Superintendent's Advisory Committee.

"A lot of good came out of it," Templeton said. "There was

■ See **SCHOOL**/Page 4

### Agents apprehend 302 illegal aliens

DEL RIO — U.S. Border Patrol agents from the Brackettville Station apprehended 302 illegal aliens during the month of November.

Agents from the Del Rio Sector apprehended a total of 2,372 illegal aliens, including 870 in Eagle Pass, 384 in Carrizo Springs, 238 in Del Rio, 158 in Uvalde, 149 in Abilene, 130 in San Angelo, 80 in Llano, 39 in Comstock and 22 in Rocksprings.

Border Patrol officials also seized 3,338.72 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$2,670,975.20, during the month of November.

November 4, Border Patrol Agents from the Del Rio Sector seized 329.45 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$263,560. The agents responded to activity upriver from the Del Rio Port of Entry, and encountered a Ford F-150 truck. The vehicle exited the roadway and traveled into the carrizo cane. The driver exited the vehicle and fled south into the Rio Grande River. Agents located four bundles of marijuana. The marijuana was turned over to the Drug Enforcement Administration.

On Nov. 11, agents from the Del Rio Sector encountered a 1993 Jeep Grand Cherokee approximately 2½ miles west of the Del Rio Port of Entry, and seized 256 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$204,800. The vehicle, subject and contraband were turned over to agents from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

On Nov. 25, agents from the Del Rio Station seized 447.1 pounds of marijuana in a Ford F-150 up-river from the Del Rio Port of Entry. The marijuana, valued at \$357,680, and the vehicle were turned over to the Val Verde Sheriff's Department.

On Nov. 29, agents working at the checkpoint on Highway 277 north seized 339.75 pounds of marijuana with an estimated value of \$271,800. The vehicle, driver and marijuana were turned over to the DEA.

## Nuncrackers



Mary Petrosky (above) and Katie Braesicke were among the local thespians that starred in the Old Quarry Society's production of "Nuncrackers" last weekend at Post Theatre.

### City denies resolution from fort committee seeking municipality

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Without any discussion, the Brackettville City Council rejected a resolution supporting a committee of Fort Clark Springs residents seeking to incorporate as a municipality.

The resolution was first discussed last week, but the council tabled action because the actual resolution had not been presented. The aldermen met again Tuesday during a special meeting to discuss the issue.

Council members Camilo Cruz, Mary Flores and Johnny Samaniego voted against the resolution. Alderman Tomas Gomez was absent.

After the meeting, Flores said the decision was based on a recommendation by the city attorney, Pat Brown of San Antonio.

"As a property-owner association, Fort Clark Springs Association is not eligible to obtain federal, state or other monies available to incorporated municipalities," said Kim Schmidt, the spokesperson for the committee. "As a municipality, we would be eligible to apply for monies to develop a national tourism location."

"Brackettville and Fort Clark are ideally located to be a major focal point in several Homeland Defense plans and programs being developed that would include us if we are ready. We must be ready to take advantage of this opportunity and the only way we can do this is for Fort Clark to become a municipality. As twin cities, we can do much toward the economic growth of our community," she added.

### Three incumbents file for primary elections

By J.J. GUIDRY  
Editor

Filing for six county positions is underway for the upcoming March primary elections.

The six local positions on the ballot include county attorney, commissioners for Precinct 1 and Precinct 3, constable, sheriff and tax assessor-collector.

Candidates seeking election to those petitions can file through Jan. 2.

Three Democratic incumbents have filed for re-election: Francie Wylie, Precinct 1 commissioner; Bobby Guidry, constable; and L.K. "Buddy" Burgess, sheriff.

Candidates must file election through the respective party chairmen.

#### ELECTION DATES

Following are dates for the upcoming primary elections:  
Last day to file to run ...Jan. 2  
Early voting begins ...Feb. 17  
Early voting ends .....Feb. 27  
Election day .....March 2

Brackettville City Council member Mary Flores is county chair for the Democratic Party and Don Hood is the Republican chairman.

Other incumbents up for election are Tully Shahan, county attorney; Nat Terrazas, Precinct 3 commissioner; and Martha Pena Padron, tax assessor-collector.

Early voting for the primary elections will be Feb. 17-27, and election day is on March 2.

## 8th Cavalry returns to Fort Clark

By BILL HAENN  
Contributing Writer

The 8th Cavalry served at Fort Clark from 1876 to 1888, longer than any other unit in the 19th century.

On Friday, the 8th Cavalry returned to Fort Clark after an absence of 115 years.

The purpose of the 8th Cavalry's return was to conduct a "staff ride" for the officers of the battalion.

A "staff ride" is an analysis of an historical event as a training experience to increase the officer's technical and tactical proficiency. In this case, the historical event was the Medal of Honor fight of the Seminole Negro Indian Scouts, under the command of Lt. John L. Bullis, at the Pecos River on April 25, 1875.

The unit also held a "dining-in" (formal regimental mess) on Saturday evening in the Palisado Building. This was one of the last training events the unit will conduct prior to deploying to Iraq early next year.

The Fort Clark Historical Society graciously made the Palisado Building available for



Officers of the 8th U.S. Cavalry of Fort Hood form on Saturday evening in their dress blue uniforms, spurs and Stetsons at the "Empty Saddle" statue on prior to their formal regimental mess at the Fort Clark Historical Society's Palisado Building.

the conduct of all the unit's activities. Additionally, Dr. James Moore allowed use of the Wainwright House for quartering of the battalion commander and his staff and Cecil Hale opened the Patton House for quartering of the remaining unit officers.

Barbara's Table catered lunch and dinner on Saturday.

The "staff ride" began on Friday with a five hour road march from Fort Hood to Fort Clark by the Battalion's 38 officers in a convoy of private vehicles and government vans.

When the group arrived and gathered outside the Patton

House, the battalion commander, Lt. Col. Florentino Lopez Carter, emphasized to his officers how impressed he was with the message on the fort's marquee: "Welcome back 8th

Cavalry."

On Saturday morning a hearty breakfast of Escamilla's tacos was served in the Palisado Building followed by a slide presentation on the "Legacy of Fort Clark."

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**INSIDE**

- **Safe driving**  
AUSTIN — Santa has a warning for Texas motorists: He knows when you've been drinking. He knows when you're .08.  
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- **Holiday meeting**  
The Brackettville Lions Club recently held its annual Holiday Parade of Checks meeting at the Fort Clark Service Club.  
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- **Tigers take third**  
Charlie Slaughter poured in 28 points Saturday to lead the Brackett Tigers to a third place finish in the SWTJC basketball tournament.  
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EDITORIAL

### Appraisal District board deserves more attention

For the second year in a row, the Kinney County Commissioners Court has nominated someone for the Appraisal District Board of Directors and then not voted for them.

Last year, the court nominated Steve Crosby for the post, but did not award him any votes. Crosby, by the way, garnered enough votes from the Brackett ISD Board of Trustees this month to earn a spot as a director.

This year, the commissioners nominated incumbents Mike Holley and Richard Slubar, but when it came time to vote two weeks ago, the court gave all of its votes to Holley.

Slubar did not get elected. In fact, he was the only candidate of the four not to receive any votes.

We think Slubar has done a fine job on the board, and we believe Crosby will also serve the community well. Our concern lies in the appointment process.

Over the past year, the Commissioners Court has had to fill two vacancies on the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board of Directors. When doing so, they accepted applications and interviewed all who were interested in serving.

We are curious why the same process is not followed when nominating and electing directors to the Appraisal District board.

Often times, when the taxing entities in the county — not just the Commissioners Court — meet in November to make nominations, they are not even aware of who is interested in serving on the board.

We hope, next year, the taxing entities will offer citizens interested in serving on the Appraisal District board an avenue to apply.

If the taxing entities do seek applicants, then maybe our elected officials will not nominate people they have no intentions of voting for.

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In our business, weather is everything. During “peak” seasons, we’re too busy. Other times, we’re wishing the weather would bring us more business.

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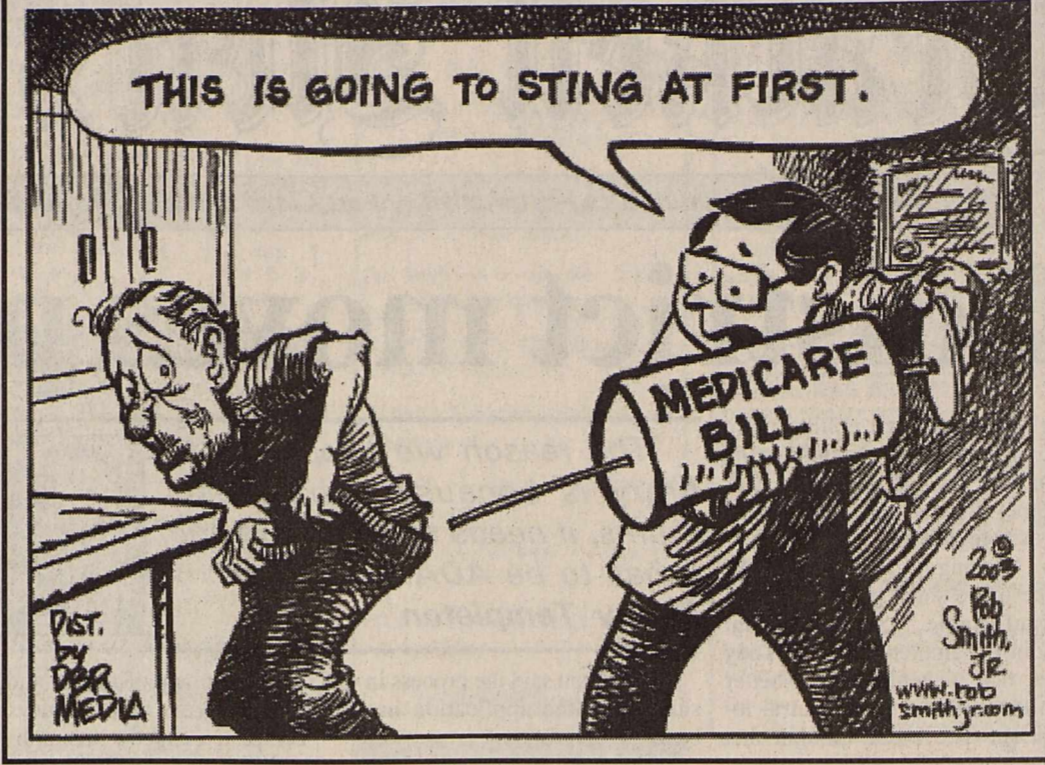
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### ‘Don’t cry over spilled milk’ is good advice

It was beautiful, magnificent, what you would call a pure master piece. The heavenly work consisted of 23 slides, each containing its own unique transition and animation scheme, each piece timed by a loving hand. I worked diligently for hours on end on this ultimate creation, and cared for it as a mother would a recently birthed child.

But in the blink of an eye, this piece of me was ripped away when the most unforeseeable thing occurred — it was lost in the realms of computer land. As what often happens, many are probably clueless about what I speak of, so I guess I will fill you in. Recently, in my U.S. history class, I had a six weeks project due that was a major part of my final grade.

Being normal Shanae, I procrastinated until the weekend before its due date, having to pack all the information in an interestingly designed power point presentation. For the many who, yet again, do not know what I speak of, power point is a program found on computers which allows people to create slides with animation, pictures, sounds and text. One creates a show by compiling a group of ordered slides, and creating a sort of story. It is a very good way to relay information.

Continuing the story, I had just finished the longest presentation of my life. I put sweat and blood into this creation, figuratively speaking.

After finishing, I was completely relieved and saved it to my computer. Then I got a floppy disk and tried to save it, but it was too massive to fit on. So I tried to fit it on multiple disks, but it still would not fit.



Teen Spirit

Shanae Simmons

I was upset, because I still had other work to do, and I didn’t know how I could get this information to school. Then my grandfather got the great idea of putting it on a CD. That is where all the trouble began.

After attempting to open the file through the CD creator, I corrupted my file, deleting it completely from my computer.

I sat on the phone for an hour and a half with a computer doctor. I searched the computer, and even tried to find help online but it was no use. Temporary insanity set in, and I panicked. Of course, I reacted the same way I overreacted, treating it as a life or death situation.

After calming down, I finally went to bed, and later the next day described to my teacher what happened. She was totally understanding, which helped, and allowed me to redo my project. I was a bit more relieved, though I didn’t look forward to totally recreating my entire project.

That afternoon when I got home, I worked on it, and to my surprise, it took about a quarter of the time of the original to make, though it wasn’t as snazzy.

I was still excited, and I saved it on two places on my computer, and then learned how to save it on more than one floppy discs by something called “pack and go.”

After everything was saved on four floppies, I went to bed not the least bit stressed. The next day at school, I tried to open the program for my class to view, and guess what. The darn discs would not open up. We tried for awhile, but they would not budge.

My teacher assured me that all was OK, and we would try again the next day. She even taught me a new way to send in my presentation.

So the next day, I tried again on a CD and it saved perfectly, but when school came around, the file was there, but it would not open on the computer.

I couldn’t stand it. After that, I thought that there must have been some divine intervention occurring, stopping me from showing my project to the class so I just gave up.

The next day I had a basketball tournament and I stopped worrying about the project. I really tried to stop caring about my bad luck, and eventually totally forgot about it.

That night when I got back, I called a friend to see if she turned in some work for another class for me, which she had.

Before we disconnected she remembered something from the school day and said, “Oh yeah, they got your power point running. It works fine.”

Talk about crazy luck, just when I stopped caring, everything worked out once again for the best. My grandma always said, “Don’t cry over spilled milk,” and I guess it is a helpful saying to live by.

I am just glad everything worked out. From now on though, I think for my own safety, I will stick with sipper cups, less spills that way.



Capitol Comment  
Kay Bailey Hutchison

### Centennial of flight

On Dec. 17, 1903, a blustering Friday morning in Kitty Hawk, N.C., the Wright brothers achieved the world’s first powered flight. Although it lasted a mere 12 seconds and the plane traveled only 120 feet, its impact continues to reverberate 100 years later. This month we celebrate the centennial anniversary of the flight, and the heroes who have shaped and led a century of aviation.

In these 100 years, we have made extraordinary strides from that short-lived treacherous flight. At this very moment, NASA is preparing to test Albert Einstein’s theory of general relativity by launching a gravity probe into space.

More than 100,000 flights take off each day around the world, eliminating geographic boundaries and creating an increasingly global culture. Air travel enables me to work in Washington but live in Texas with my family and visit regularly with people throughout the state.

Aviation is a case study in the ingenuity of humankind. It has played a pivotal role in every aspect of our culture and economy, and the progress we have made is astounding.

Just 66 years after the Wright’s famed flight, aeronautics transcended earthly bounds and Neil Armstrong became the first man to set foot on the moon.

On Earth, our ability to rapidly and efficiently move goods and people has been key to our progress as a society. And perhaps one of the most amazing aspects is how little we dwell on it, or how much we take it for granted. What began as a perilous, incomprehensible undertaking is now safer than driving from El Paso to Nacogdoches.

Since my time as vice chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, I’ve been fascinated by aviation and helped found the Frontiers of Flight Museum, a Texas treasure dedicated to the history of flight. This unique collection is housed at Love Field in Dallas and provides a wonderful retrospective of aviation and aerospace.

The history of aviation is a legacy of men and women whose hard work and determination enabled them to achieve their dreams. As Isaac Newton said, “If I have seen further, it is by standing on the shoulders of giants.”

America has produced many of these giants on whose shoulders we now stand. The Wright Brothers, Bessie Coleman, the first African-American aviator in the world, Charles Lindbergh, who flew solo non-stop across the Atlantic, Amelia Earhart, Chuck Yeager, who broke the sound barrier with two broken ribs, Walt Cunningham, John Glenn and many others.

The breathtaking speed with which aviation has progressed in the last 100 years has been in no small part due to the courage and determination of these people, and the inventiveness and dedication of the scientists and engineers who have designed their aircraft.

Flight has also been critical to our military success. Unmanned aerial vehicles, the latest innovation, have flown reconnaissance missions over enemy territory in Afghanistan and Iraq. They transmit images back to headquarters and can target the enemy without putting a single soldier in harms way.

Cargo planes transport troops, equipment and weapons to battlefields and peacekeeping missions around the world. And military fighter jets and helicopters are critical to our success.

The commemoration of 100 years of aviation provides an important opportunity for Americans to look back on our nation’s history and look forward to her future. The innovation, perseverance and vision that have brought us to this important milestone will continue to fuel the imaginations and dreams of Americans and propel us into the next century.

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Weekly Report

Henry Bonilla

What happens when Santa doesn't come?

When I was growing up, my parents didn't have a lot of money. I was nearly 12 before I realized that not all moms and dads hold down two or three jobs a piece.

I know my parents must have dreaded Christmas. When you're little, everybody's quick to tell you that Santa Claus brings toys only to good little boys and girls. If you don't get much under the tree on Christmas morning, you must have done something to get on the wrong side of Santa.

A tree was a luxury we couldn't always afford at Christmas. But, until the year I turned 10, there were always presents.

That year, 1964, things were harder than usual. By then our family had grown to include five children, including me. My Dad would stay up late at night, adding, subtracting and dividing the bills in a crazy kind of math that never gave him the answers he wanted. About two weeks before Christmas, my Mom took me aside.

"Henry," she said, "You're the oldest, so you should know what's happening. It looks like we're not going to be able to buy any presents this year. I need you to help your brothers and sisters understand."

I nodded, but inside I was worried. How do you tell a 5-year-old that Santa won't be coming this year?

The next two weeks went faster than I would have wanted. Suddenly, it was Christmas Eve. That evening, my Mom made her famous tamales and bunellas. Dad read the Christmas story, and we sang a few songs.

But I noticed my brothers and sisters weren't as excited as usual. They'd been warned days before that there were lots of kids in the world, and the North Pole toy factory was having a hard time making all of the toys.

The next morning, as I was just waking up, I heard my brother Nate shout. I ran into the next room. There, in the corner, was a Christmas tree, standing about 4 feet tall with shiny red, blue and yellow balls on it. But that wasn't what surprised me the most.

Under the tree were presents! There were new coats, games, and dolls for my sisters. Somehow, my parents had found the money for Santa to come.

My throat tightened as I thought about the extra shifts Mom must have taken, and the nights when Dad could barely sleep before heading off to the next job.

Now, 37 Christmases later, my son and daughter have never gone to sleep on Christmas Eve afraid that Santa's forgotten them. But that doesn't mean we haven't tried to show them what it's like for other children who aren't as lucky as they are.

Every year, Project ABC (Any Baby Can) here in San Antonio matches us with a family that doesn't have enough money to give their kids the Christmas they deserve. The families that Project ABC helps all have children with expensive medical problems.

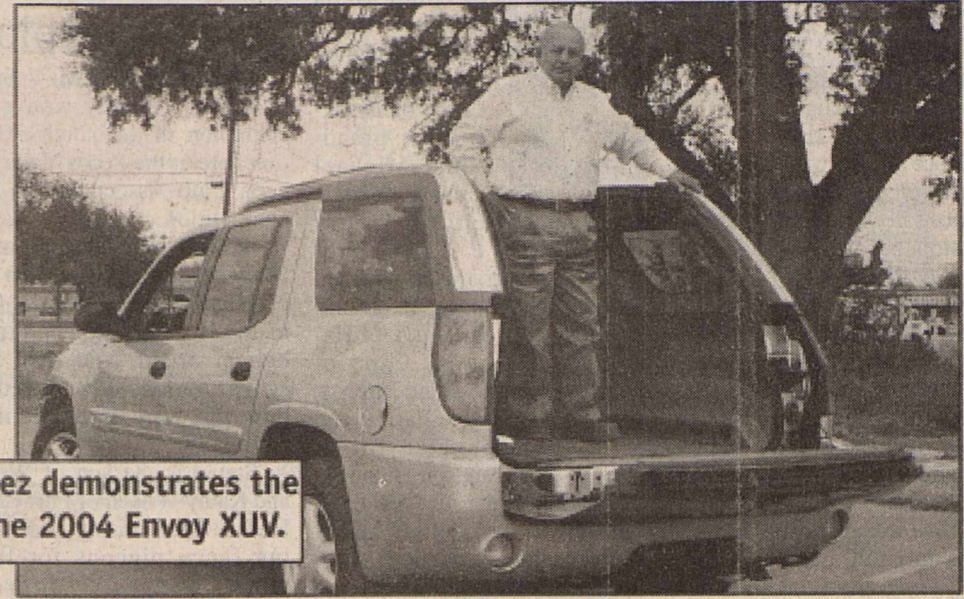
One year, our family was matched with a family that had a boy my son's age who had muscular dystrophy. Our family goes out and buys presents we think the children (and their parents) will like. We also bring them everyday things like canned food or pots and pans.

We're not the only family who plays Santa. Today, there are dozens of charities that try to make sure that "all" good girls and boys have a Merry Christmas. They do it not because of some rule or regulation the government has passed. They do it because they care about their fellow Americans. They are what Christmas and our country are all about.

FIND THE NEWS THAT'S IMPORTANT TO YOU EVERY WEEK IN THE BRACKETT NEWS!

Introducing the 2004 Envoy XUV

The new Envoy XUV is loaded with revolutionary designs, including the world's first SUV with a power-sliding rear roof. With the touch of a button, the rear roof slides open, allowing you to carry tall items that won't fit in a typical SUV. In addition, the Envoy XUV features a drop or swing tailgate... fold-down Midgate that extends your cargo area and an all-weather cargo area with an efficient quick-drain system.



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Advertisement for 2003 models: Pontiac Sunfire (Save \$5,100, MSRP \$16,845, Sale \$11,745), 2003 Tracker 4 Door Hard Top (Save \$6,300, MSRP \$20,470, Sale \$14,170), 2003 GMC Sierra 1500 Reg. Cab (Save \$7,500, MSRP \$21,367, Sale \$15,367), 2003 Buick Century (Save \$1,500, MSRP \$23,075, Sale \$15,575), 2003 GMC Envoy XL (Save \$8,000, MSRP \$38,970, Sale \$30,970).

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Three featured vehicles: 2001 Chevy Suburban (SUV of the Week, MSRP \$20,995, Sale \$19,98), 2002 Chevy Reg. Cab (Truck of the Week, MSRP \$13,995, Sale \$12,498), 2000 Chevy Impala (Car of the Week, MSRP \$6,995, Sale \$1,390).

Inventory table listing various vehicle models, years, miles, and prices (e.g., 2003 Pontiac Vibe, 2002 Chevrolet Tahoe, 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab).



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## OBITUARY

**Larry Curtis Groce Sr.**

Larry Curtis Groce Sr., age 86, passed away at the Cedar Hills Geriatric Center in Campwood on Sunday, Dec. 14. He was born Aug. 10, 1917, near Ardmore, Okla.

Groce and his wife Opal were married 68 years. He was an insurance salesman for 30 years in Houston before relocating to Fort Clark Springs.

For the 11 years he spent in Brackettville, Groce was a member of the First Baptist Church, a member of Gideon's and continued to be active in a twins study which he and his identical twin participated in for over 25 years.

Groce was preceded in death by his only son, Larry C. Groce Jr.

He is survived by his beloved wife Opal Lee Hope Groce; twin brother Allen Curtis Groce of Duncan, Okla.;



daughter Delia Kay Groce Curry and son-in-law Weldon Ken Curry of Brackettville; grandson Michael Curry, great-

grandchildren Erica N. Curry and Alexander P. Curry, all of Bend, Ore.; grandson William Byron Curry and great-grandchildren Justin K. Curry of Hawaii and Shayna M. Curry of Pullman, Wash.; granddaughter Shelly Marie Groce Barrett and great-granddaughter Brook Barrett with grandson Glenn A. Groce of Houston; grandson John Groce of Dallas; great-granddaughters Lili and Hannah Groce of Abilene; niece and nephew Janette Groce Clark and Allen C. Groce Jr.; and great-nieces and great-nephews in Oklahoma.

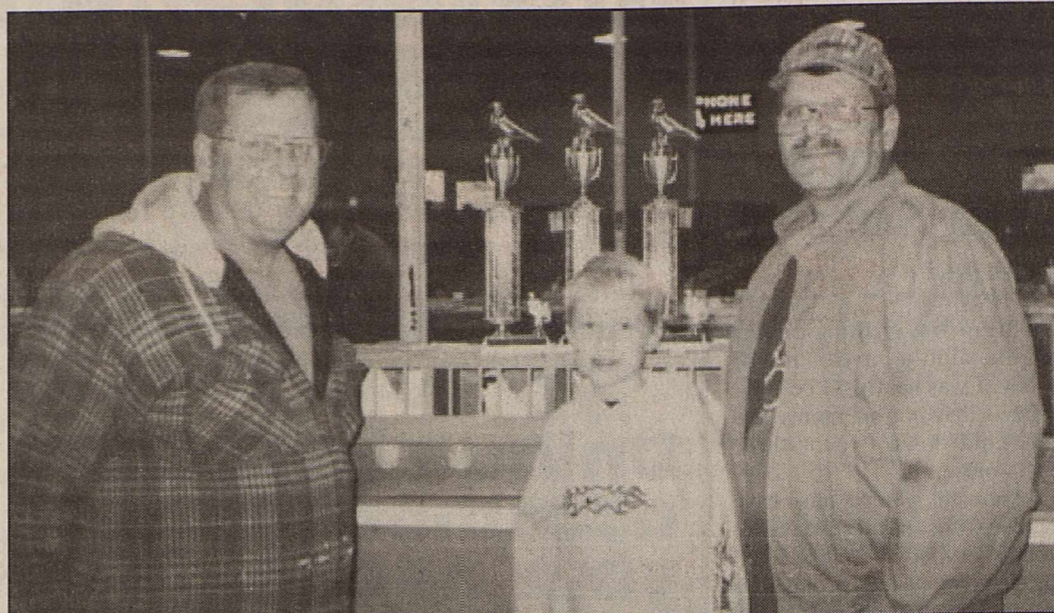
**Lowrance named grand champion**

CARLSBAD, N.M. — Stevie Lowrance recently won grand champion in the youth exhibition here at the Pecos Valley Pigeon Club Association tri-state competition.

Stevie's helmet entry was a fancy breed of pigeon that was originally developed in Germany. His entry won best of the helmet breed, and then won against various other breeds of birds that were developed internationally.

Stevie is the son of Wesley and Kathy Wilson of Fort Clark. He has been raising and showing fancy pigeons for three years.

Stevie's grandfather, Bob Jackson, won reserve champion in the adult class of all breeds at the competition and his great uncle, Mickey Jackson, won grand champion in the special



Bob Jackson (from left), Stevie Lowrance and Mickey Jackson show off the trophies they won at the Pecos Valley Pigeon Club Association tri-state pigeon show competition.

breed division.

The Grand National this year will be held in Birmingham, Ala., in January. The event is

sponsored by the National Pigeon Association and will draw international exhibitors. The event is held annually at

various locations in the U.S. and draws more than 500 exhibitors and over 8,000 birds of various breeds.

**School moves polling place**

**Continued from Page 1**  
quite a bit of work that went into it. I think it has been beneficial not only to the kids here, but to the community.

"It was really beneficial for me being a new superintendent because it gave me a working document from which to start building on," he added.

The school district has also worked to improve communications with parents and the community. An information board has been placed at Pico's, the district's website has been redesigned, handbooks were made more user-friendly, and mailouts and parent meetings have been increased.

The committee also addressed student discipline and behavior. The color-code system was simplified at the November board

meeting and behavior charts are now sent home to parents every night.

The district has also addressed dress code issues, truancy problems, public display of sexual affection, family involvement, safety and risk management, cafeteria and nutrition, athletics and extra-curricular activities, and hiring more Hispanic and Spanish-speaking employees.

"The staff worked really hard on all of this," Templeton said. "The school board is very supportive of the community and very responsive to their needs."

"It was just a team effort between the school, the staff, the board and the community. It's been a great team effort so far and we will continue to complete this," he added.

**Thank You**

Thank you to everyone that made the barbecue benefit for Elia Ward a tremendous success. We could not have done it without all of you who donated briskets, beans, rice, potato salad and desserts.

A big thank you to Albert Payne and friends who donated their time to cook 30 briskets for us.

We would also like to express our thanks to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Branch of the Fraternal Thrivent who will match donations up to \$500.00

As many of us already know, we live in a very special community. It is because of everyone that donated food, money, time and prayers that Brackettville is a wonderful place to call "home".

Thank you, Christy, Claudia, Nancy, Lynn

**Thank You**

The Las Moras Hispanic Club held its Annual Christmas Benefit Golf Tournament at Ft. Clark Springs Golf Course last month. This fundraiser is the only source on income for our Annual Christmas Baskets to the elderly and needy. We would like to thank and acknowledge individuals and Corporations that contributed to this fundraiser. Ft. Clark Springs Assn., Ricks furniture, REA, Papco, Band and Trust, Davis Hardware, HEB, Wal-Mart, Lopez Bakery, Country Style Salon, Budco of Del Rio., Carson Distributors, Super S, Coca Cola, Corey's Pest Control, Dr. Luz, Tejas Property, Monty Montgomery, Cecil Smith, Gerald Smedberg, Bubba's Beverage Barn, Pampered Pus, Carol Benefield, Jack Record, Ft. Clark Mens Golf Club, Stan Sterling, Nat Terrazas. The people of the Community thank you and so do we. Christmas Baskets will be delivered on Sat. Dec. 20th between 9 a.m. and 12 noon

Martha Martinez  
Club President

**Public Notice****EMS Public Hearing To Be Held Regarding Kinney County EMS Personnel Temporary Shortage**

There will be a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 22, 2003, at the Kinney County Courthouse in Brackettville, Texas. The purpose of this hearing is to heighten public awareness of the ramifications of having an EMS that is noncompliant with the law.

Notice is hereby given that Kinney County Emergency Medical Service has requested a variance from the Texas Department of Health to operate said EMS while not being in compliance with the law. The variance, if approved, would allow Kinney County EMS to operate emergency vehicles while responding to and transporting emergency patients. The public is encouraged to attend.

For additional information, please contact Steven Burch, EMS Director at the office 830-563-9090 Monday through Friday 8:00 a.m. until 5:00 p.m., or visit at 401 S. Ellen St.

**BISD HONOR ROLL**

The following is Brackett Independent School District's Honor Roll, as provided by the district, for the second six-weeks grading period:

**High School****All-A Honor Roll**

Seniors: Elizabeth Ballew, Stacey Castilla, Chestin Clark-Haley, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Hector Febres, David Latimer, Sarah Meyer, Emily Petrosky, Arnold Pinales, Ashley Smith, Star Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Ashley Thourot, Blake Ward, Beau Watkins and Caitlin Wylie.

Juniors: Tillman Davis, Jaclynn Duncan, Whitney Massingill, Danielle Moore, Cody Robinette, Oscar Sierra and Shanae Simmons.

Sophomores: Alanna Conolly, Lilianna Hernandez, Rachel Swinson and Brand Wylie.

Freshmen: Justin Calk, Laura Meyer, Austin Shewbart and Kara Yeager.

**A-B Honor Roll**

Seniors: Stephanie Coronado, Tony Jamail, Allison LaMascus, Christopher Lehnert, Nataly Rodriguez, Anthony Rosetti and Elijah Woolsey.

Juniors: Juliann Ashabranner, Courtney Frerich, Monica Gonzalez, Whitney Hobbs, Kristin Meyer and Kody Yeager.

Sophomores: Valentin Barrutieta, Dana Bonner, Jessica

Crane, Kimberly Glass, Ramiro Pina and Billy Steelman.

Freshmen: Dolores Cano, Robert Davis, Allison Del Bosque, Diana Hernandez, John Moore, Josh O'Neill, Robin Pevehouse, Ivan Pinales, Danika Schmidt, Micheal Stephenson, Nadine Terrazas and Emily Valenzuela.

**Middle School****All-A Honor Roll**

Eighth grade: Bailee Allen, Heather Baggett, Meghann Davis, Conrad Moore and Bianca Stewart.

Seventh grade: Laura Swinson.

**A-B Honor Roll**

Eighth grade: Travis Bonner, Amber Castilla, Doolie Fernandez, Whitney Gum, Daphne Hunt, Lane Nowlin, Christopher Seargeant, Gabriela Talamantes, Anolda Watkins.

Seventh grade: Amanda Braesicke, Serenity Gammill, Veronica Garza, Rebecca Mann, Samantha Moore and Maribel Rivas.

**Elementary School****All-A Honor Roll**

Sixth grade: Brooklyn Gose and Katie Yeager.

Fifth grade: Kelsey Bruce, Bryan Calk, Haley Hale, Janine Rex and Josh Smith.

Fourth grade: Brittany Hale and Nevada Payne.

Third grade: Priscilla Aguirre, Daniel Brinker, Cali

Campos, Cesar Castillo, Meghan Flores, Yeika Garcia, Briana Garza, Selina Gerardo, Sariah Guartuche, Rolando Guitierrez, Lucas Hurt, Ethan Justice, Austin Pettett, Jonathan Pinales, Adam Resendez and Marissa Villarreal.

Second grade: Judy Adams, Carolina Aguilar, Korlee Allen, Wyatt Blake, Arturo Castillo, Clay Flores, Dolores Garza, Javier Gomez, Hannah Johnson, Steven Maldonado, Leona Packard, Paul Resendez, Garon Rueda, Shelby Schuster and Haley Smith.

First grade: Yessenia Argil, Webb Ashley, Peyton Bonner, Gabrielle Brown, Morgan Brown., Alexiss Castillo, Blake Duncan, Siarra Falcon, Maddie Frerich, Griffin Grayson, Logan Hurt, McKenna O'Neill, David Ortega, Amber Resendez, Amber Rivas, Bryce Slubar and Davis Wade.

**A-B Honor Roll**

Sixth grade: Cheyenne Billings, Chris Blake, Cynthia Gland, Alexi Buecher, Cody Clark, Charles Conolly, Shaun Davis, Victor Elizondo, Brianna Escamilla, Sarah Gonzalez, Ramon Gutierrez, Lauren Hernandez, Aracely Martinez, Elena Molina Elidia Molinar, YeMi Moore, Michael Rosetti and Andy Schmidt.

Fifth grade: Sahara Rodriguez, Cody Blankenship, Susu Seargeant, Katie Bowlin, Stello Guajardo, Aylard Letsinger,

Victor Roman, Courtney Kirkland, Sofia Viesca and Erica Villanueva.

Fourth grade: Lauren Duncan, Francisca Flores, Emily Holmes, Steven Lowrance, Yanira Perez, Joelson Terrazas, Shandel Villarreal, Ashley Wardlaw, Salvador Pacheco, Megan Resendez, Joel Talamantes and Daulton Woodson.

Third grade: Brooke Brown, Ryan Clark, Vanerick Domenech, Tony Flores, Crystal Garcia, R.J. Hernandez, Alexandra Herrera, Celes Molano, Jasmine Pena, Juan Ramos, Kyle Rinaldi, Jose Rivas, Juan Talamantes, Raul Talamantes, Selene Talamantes, Jorge Villarreal and Vanessa Villarreal.

Second grade: McKenzie Castillo, Precious Castillo, Clarissa Cruz, Edgar DeLeon, Jose Falcon, Shannon Gammill, Marisol Gomez, Peter Martinez, Josue Pena, Zachary Pevehouse, Marlinda Rivas, Alberto Rocha, Kendall Saballos and August Stephenson.

First grade: Benjamin Brinker, Leonardo Elizondo, Briana Flores, Vyvianna Flores, Mark Garcia, Joshua Gose, Christian Lopez, Reid Markham, Courtney McDonald, Keila Molina, Marco Novel, Karina Perez, Amber Ramirez, Denise Salmon, Gabby Sandoval, Te'a Sandoval, Joaquin Solis, Colten Stephenson and Juanita Vasquez.

**KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT****Sunday, Dec. 7**

11:25 a.m., Jonathan Isaias Rivera, 21, of Uvalde was arrested by DPS Trooper Tully Welch for outstanding fugitive and felony warrants out of Ector County for burglary of a habitation.

**Monday, Dec. 8**

9:10 a.m., Deputy Cody Shannon observed four pickups driving at a high rate of speed on Highway 674 North. Shannon drove to the oak tree past the Church of Christ and waited for the vehicles return. He then clocked a dark blue Ford pickup going 80 in the 50-mph zone. He turned his lights on and followed the vehicle, but it evaded him. The occupants of another vehicle later identified the driver of the truck as a 15-year-old male. Shannon found the boy hiding behind a trash can at his residence on S. Beaumont Street. The deputy spoke to the boy's mother, who did not know her son had taken the vehicle. The juvenile was transported to the Sheriff's Office, charged with fleeing and cited for speeding and driving with no driver's license, and was later released to his mother.

11 p.m., Salvador Garcia Badovinos, 30, Jose Parra Fabian, 27, and Victor Blas Perez, 19, all of Mexico, and Ernest

Castillo Ramirez, 46, of Guatemala were arrested by Deputy Shannon for burglary of a habitation. Ramirez was turned over to INS four days later. The other three men were booked into the Kinney County Jail where they were still being held at press-time.

**Tuesday, Dec. 9**

4:19 a.m., A Val Verde Sheriff's Office employee reported a white Chevrolet pickup driving reckless east-bound on Highway 90, 10 miles west of Brackettville.

9:19 a.m., Trooper Welch reported trash on Highway 90 next to Bubba's Beverage Barn. The Texas Department of Transportation was informed.

5:57 p.m., A Sentry Security employee reported an alarm sounding at a residence on E. Spring Street. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene and said the residence was secure.

9:29 p.m., A Sentry Security employee reported an alarm sounding at BISD Hunt Library. Reserve Deputy Cordelia Men-deke was dispatched to the scene and said the building was secure.

**Wednesday, Dec. 10**

1:36 a.m., A woman reported loud music near her residence on N. Brown Street.

9:11 a.m., A 911 caller re-

ported a light blue pickup swerving in and out of the lanes on Highway 90, approximately 13 miles east of Brackettville.

12:58 p.m., A Fort Clark security employee reported a possible theft at the Pro Shop.

10:40 p.m., A Pico's employee reported that an individual had locked their keys inside their vehicle. Deputy Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene and unlocked the vehicle.

**Thursday, Dec. 11**

12:10 a.m., A Fort Clark security employee reported that a call had been received from the El Paso Bar and Grill requesting assistance. Deputy Ring was dispatched to the scene. He met with the owner, who was concerned about having problems with a customer, but the woman had already left the bar.

7:08 a.m., A Border Patrol agent reported finding an illegal alien on a bicycle on Highway 131, about 18 miles south of Brackettville. The man had a sawed off shot gun and shot gun shells. The man said he was traveling with another illegal alien who was on a bicycle and possibly had an AK47.

8:50 p.m., Mario DeLeon Monrreal, 32, of Mexico was arrested by Deputy Ring on an outstanding warrant. He was booked into the Kinney County

Jail where he was still being held at press-time.

**Saturday, Dec. 13**

9:51 a.m., A man reported that the city had cut off his gas at his residence on W. Spring Street, but he showed deputies the receipt where he had paid his bill. City officials were notified of the situation.

12:00 p.m., Charlie G. Perez, 24, of Del Rio was arrested by Deputy Manny Pena on DPS warrants for failure to appear, expired license plate, no insurance and speeding. He was released later the same day after posting a \$1,475 bail bond.

**Sunday, Dec. 14**

2:25 a.m., A woman reported that someone was calling and harassing her.

8:10 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported that he had locked his keys in his vehicle and asked to use the Sheriff's Office's kit to unlock it.

11:30 a.m., A Val Verde Sheriff's Office reported a grass fire at the Double M Ranch on Highway 2523. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department were dispatched to the scene.

1:40 p.m., A man reported that someone killed eight of his Spanish boar cross goats at his ranch.



Happy Holidays  
From The Brackett  
News Staff



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MSRP.....\$24165  
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**\$23,030\***

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**2004 GRAND AM 3 to Choose From SAVE UP TO \$3600\*\***

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MSRP.....\$53265  
DISC.....\$8020

**\$45,245**

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MSRP.....\$30185  
DISC.....\$1500  
Rebate.....\$3000

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MSRP.....\$22995  
DISC.....\$1750  
Rebate.....\$2500

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MSRP.....\$23330  
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2809A 2003 Yukon	WAS \$33995.....NOW \$29995	P7386 2003 Sentra	WAS \$12195.....NOW \$11395
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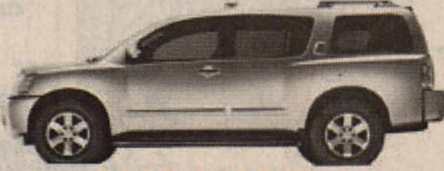
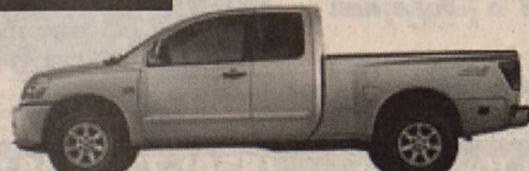
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MSRP.....\$15830  
REBATE.....\$2500  
BROWN DISC.....\$800

#2959, 2886 **\$12,530\***

**2003 NISSAN Frontier King Cab OR .9% for 60 Months**

MSRP.....\$16205  
REBATE.....\$2500  
BROWN DISC.....\$1169

#2392 **\$12,536\***

**2003 NISSAN Frontier CC OR .9% for 60 Months**

MSRP.....\$19656  
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BROWN DISC.....\$1100

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Instructor Chetto Cumpian (from left) works with Elaine and Ron Ladeau and Raymond Gonzalez during a recent first aid and CPR training course at St Andrew's Episcopal Church.

# Exams make last week busy before holidays

This week sees the end of the first semester of the school year and the closing of a semester here at BISD.

For those that have not been around a school in a while, rest assured that the students and staff have been extremely busy for the past week.

Students are taking final exams and rushing to get in overdue homework.

The teachers are grading exams and projects and doing, quite literally, a hundred other things to close out the year.

Friday at 1:15 the kids will be anxious to celebrate and the staff will be anxious to get some much needed rest. Both groups



Making A Difference

Bobby Templeton

ter of safety, prosperity and success.

That, in itself, is reason enough for us all to give thanks for the life that the children of Kinney County are able to have, and to pray that one day the countless children less fortunate will be able to have even a little slice of the life our children are afforded.

In closing, I have one special request of our parents. In public schools we, sadly, are unable to legally teach our children the true meaning of Christmas.

As you travel, open presents, eat turkey and rest, don't forget to teach your children the things we can't. Happy Holidays.

are most deserving.

As a school administrator, I live in almost constant fear that a student will fall prey to some type of harm or injury.

As a parent, those fears are doubled, but they force me to smile and remember that we all have reason to celebrate and give thanks that the students of Brackett ISD have seen a semes-

**Sutherlands**  
 Would like to wish Brackettville a Warm and Happy Holiday  
 830-775-6860 2401 Avenue F Del Rio, TX

**Season's Greetings**  
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**Merry Christmas #1 Son**  
 Those warm times shared in past Decembers, the mind still sees the heart remembers.  
 We love you - Mom & Dad

"May Your Days Be Merry & Bright!"  
 From Your Friends At Rio Grande Electric Co-op & RioNet Internet Service

Happy Holidays to Our Members from Border Federal Credit Union. We will be closing at Noon December 24th and all day December 25th.  
**BORDER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION**  
 CALL 774-LOAN TODAY!  
 600 E. Gibbs Del Rio, TX Building 336 Laughlin AFB, TX

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

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

Wishing you a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year  
 Feliz Navidad!!!  
 Las Manas Hispanic Organization

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

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

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

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 Travis Wilson Construction  
 What better gift than that of friendship... thank you for yours!  
 Wish you a Merry Christmas & Happy New Year  
 Travis Wilson

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

**PICO #15**  
 Would like to thank all our customers for their support. Pico employees would like to extend a Very Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all.

# State's safe-driving holiday campaign targets drunk driving

AUSTIN — Santa has a warning for Texas motorists: He knows when you've been drinking. He knows when you're .08. So do thousands of law officers trained to identify drivers who have reached the state's legal limit for intoxication. And they will be patrolling Texas streets and highways this month in an effort to reduce alcohol-related traffic deaths and injuries.

The Texas Department of Transportation's lively new campaign, which features several tongue-in-cheek holiday slogans based on Christmas carols, has a deadly serious message: If you drink this holiday season and get behind the wheel, you will find more than coal in your stocking come Christmas Day.

Expect penalties ranging from stiff fines and drivers license suspension to spending time in jail.

DWI prevention messages are appearing on television, radio, billboards, gas pumps and decals and coasters in bars and restaurants statewide.

The public education campaign is part of a concerted effort

between Dec. 19 and Jan. 4 to change Texas' standing as the national leader in alcohol-related traffic fatalities. Impaired drivers are to blame for more than 1,700 deaths and 25,000 injuries in Texas each year.

"If alcohol is involved in holiday celebrations, we're reminding drivers to designate a driver who hasn't been drinking, or take a cab," said Carlos Lopez, traffic operations director with the Department of Transportation.

"It may be the season to be jolly, but we want Texas motorists to know if you drink and you drive, you go to jail," he added.

The Texas Department of Public Safety and more than 600 local law enforcement agencies will be out in force during the holidays to keep Texas roads and highways as safe as possible.

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, Texas Restaurant Association, Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, Diamond Shamrock and Mothers Against Drunk Driving also are participating in the campaign.



Both Juan Gomez (left) and John Sell (third from left) of the Laredo District's Brackettville Maintenance Office received service awards for their years of meritorious service with the Texas Department of Transportation. Gomez received a 10-year service award and Sell was recognized for his five years of service. Presenting the service awards were Luis Ramirez (right), an engineer with the Laredo District, and Oscar Sierra, assistant maintenance supervisor.

Merry Christmas  
and  
Happy New Year  
to all my friends  
Alfred (Chapo)  
Castro

May your Holidays  
be the Happy  
beginning of a  
wonderful year.  
Judge Ford  
and Staff

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Greetings From

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HO, HO, HO!

Have the merriest of  
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535 750 1005  
MONA LISA SMILE LAST SAMURAI, THE  
(PG13) No Passes (R) 1125 250 705 1025  
1130 210 450 735 1015 HAUNTED MANSION  
SOMETHING'S 'S (PG) 1220 250 510 730  
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Joy To The World

Have a beautiful Christmas.

From  
Fort Clark  
Springs Association

JOYOUS TIDINGS

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

Christmas Greetings

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COME TO THE FRONTIER

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# Lions host holiday meeting

The Brackettville Lions Club recently held its annual Holiday Parade of Checks meeting at the Fort Clark Service Club.

Honored guests included Juan Olivares, district governor, and his wife, Kathryn, along with Saul Lopez, vice district governor, and Chris Lloyd, past district governor.

After a buffet dinner, the governor presented certificates of excellence to local Lions Club members Roland Boyson and Francis Larson for years of service. Lion Tom Saylor was presented a certificate of excellence for his service as the Brackettville Lions Club president from 2001 through 2003.

Tom McNew, first vice president, inducted a new member, Juanita Robertson. She was sponsored by Donna Saylor.

The Parade of Checks began with members presenting the governor with a check for every Lions organization supported by this district. This support qualifies the local Lions Club to remain a 100-percent club, an honor all clubs do not attain. Mary Dixon, club president, presented a handmade Lions quilt to the governor and his wife. Each member was given a holiday coffee cup as a memento of the evening's events.



Chris Lloyd (from left), Mary Dixon, Kathryn and Juan Olivares and Saul Lopez visit during the Brackettville Lions Club's annual Holiday Parade of Checks meeting at the Fort Clark Service Club.

# Columnist now a disposer

I have turned into the thing that I dislike the most in this world. No, I'm not a cat. I have developed that type of personality that I loathe. I have become a disposer.

For most of my life, I have tried to discourage throwing away items. I am a recycle fan. For years, I have encouraged folks to not dispose of anything before reusing at least twice. I contend that we must become a nondisposable society.

But let me explain how I got this way. I hung Christmas lights. Not a particularly odd occurrence. They were up for several days (and nights) when Connie noticed a portion of one string of lights on the roof was out.

I needed to fix it. I wanted to watch TV that evening, but the lights needed to be fixed while it was noticeable. That meant now. Right now.

I knew there are spare bulbs. Somewhere. Ah, the beautiful land of somewhere. After an hour of searching, and missing TV, the extra bulbs were located.

I got out a ladder, positioned it, in the dark, and climbed upward like a homesick angel. I did not need a flashlight since the roof was lit up like midday.

Once on the roof it was easy to find the darkened section. I located a bad bulb just as easily. As I wiggled each successive glass globule, one after the other, the nonworking section came alive. It worked.

Now I'm smart enough to know if I just got down, I'd



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

be back up here tomorrow night or later tonight.

What was wrong with the bulb? As I gazed at it, I saw it was broken. A smashed remnant cannot be ignored, or I'd be back up here.

I grasped the broken piece. Why did I not know there was electricity in the end of that bulb? After the mild shock, I climbed to a spot that allowed me to disconnect the juice. It's dark on the rooftop with no lights.

Remember the part about not needing a flashlight? Now I did. But I was not going to climb back down, get one, climb back up, when I was already here.

In the darkness I extracted the bad bulb with the precision of the finest dental work. I reached into my pocket and withdrew the new bulb. It didn't fit. There must be hundreds of different types. Why did I expect it to work?

I climbed down. I took the old and the new bulbs apart, made one good one, of the old type, climbed back on the roof, forgot a flashlight, and the lights all worked.

End of story: I did all of this to save at most \$2.95 for a new string of lights. Yep, I am now a disposer.

But I could be wrong.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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# A holiday treat guaranteed to please

Christmas is just around the corner so this week I thought I would share this recipe that I friend of mine recently e-mailed to me. It is becoming a holiday favorite. Enjoy!

Jose Cuervo Christmas Cookies

- 1 cup of water
  - 2 cups of flour
  - 1 tsp baking soda
  - 1 cup of sugar
  - 1 tsp salt
  - 1 cup of brown sugar
  - lemon juice
  - 4 large eggs
  - 1 cup nuts
  - 2 cups of dried fruit
  - 1 bottle Jose Cuervo Tequila
- Sample the Cuervo to check quality.

Take a large bowl, check the Cuervo again, to be sure it is of the highest quality, pour one level cup and drink.

Turn on the electric mixer, and then beat one cup of butter in a large fluffy bowl.

Add one teaspoon of sugar, and beat again.

At this point it's best to make sure the Cuervo is still OK. Try another cup, just in case.

Turn off the mixer thingy.



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

Break two legs and add to the bowl and chuck in the cup of dried fruit. Pick the friggig fruit off the floor ... mix on the turner.

If the fried fruit gets stuck in the beaters just pry it loose with a drowscriber. Sample the Cuervo to check for tonsisticity.

Next, sift two cups of salt, or something. Who giveshz a sheet. Check the Jose Cuervo.

Now shift the lemon juice and strain your nuts. Add one table. Add a spoon of sugar, or somefink. Whatever you can find. Greash the oven.

Turn the cake tin 360 degrees and try not to fall over. Don't forget to beat off the turner.

Finally, throw the bowl through the window, finish the Cose Juervo and make sure to put the stove in the dishwasher. Cherry Mistmas!

# Duplicate Bridge club meets at FCS

The Duplicate Bridge Club met at the Gorgas Room at Fort Clark Springs' Adult Center on Dec. 2 and again at its annual Christmas Party last Tuesday.

The winners of three and a half tables using the Howell Movement on Dec. 2 were Ann Melin and Ann Watts.

Mona Miller and Dena Scott

finished second, and Helen Marie Jones and Rosetta Pingnot were third.

Alice Seargeant and Flo Stafford took top honors last week as four tables played using the Howell Movement.

Loyde and Orlene Alvis took second place, and Pingnot and Scott finished third.

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8th Cavalry officers survey the canyon at the mouth of the Pecos River (from the U.S. Highway 90 overlook in Val Verde County) where Lt. John L. Bullis and three Seminole Negro Indian Scouts from Fort Clark battled a force of Comanches on April 25, 1875. The action resulted in the award of the Congressional Medal of Honor to the three scouts.

## 8th Cavalry returns to Fort Clark

Continued from Page 1  
The 8th Cavalry troopers then visited the Old Guardhouse Museum followed by a walking tour of the Fort Clark National Register Historic District, returning to the Palisado Building in time for lunch served by Barbara's Table.

Following lunch, the leadership of the 8th Cavalry then "mounted up" for the journey to the Pecos River and the site of Bullis's Medal of Honor fight. A battle analysis and after action review was conducted overlooking the awe inspiring can-

yon of the Lower Pecos River. Upon their return to Fort Clark, the officers changed into their dress blue uniforms, and wearing their spurs and Stetson campaign hats, posed for a group photo at the Empty Saddle statue.

At sundown the officers walked across the parade ground to the Palisado Building, which had been transformed into a comfortable banquet hall complete with oil lamps, tablecloths and china. The soldiers were surprisingly greeted by a mounted trooper, Bob Erickson, who cap-

tured the moment as a reminder of the cavalryman of old.

The "dining-in" was a dignified if not frequently raucous affair which embodied all the proud traditions of a cavalry regiment.

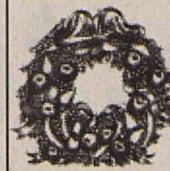
Carter presented certificates of achievement to the Fort Clark Historical Society, Hale, Moore and Bill Haenn in grateful appreciation of their support to the officers of the "Stallion Battalion" during its staff ride to Fort Clark.

Carter made it clear to his officers in his inspiring remarks

that he felt the events of the day and the trip to Fort Clark would prove significantly instrumental in preparing his young officers for the task ahead.

The experience of Fort Clark and its link to the unit's past service here had contributed to unit cohesion, focus and "esprit de corps" as they prepared themselves both physically and mentally for their pending deployment to Iraq.

Carter promised his men that when they returned from Operation Iraqi Freedom, they would return to Fort Clark.



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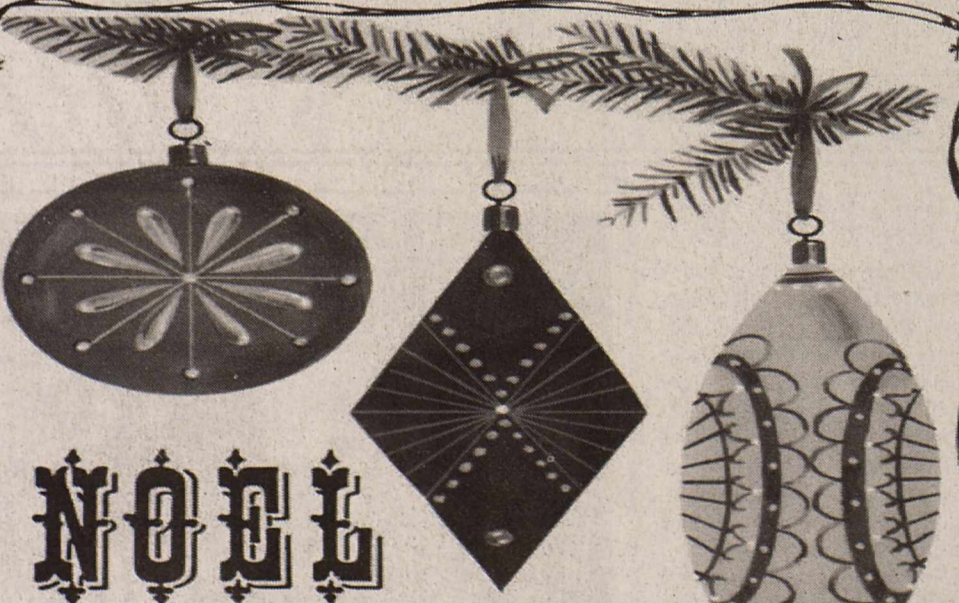
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# Tigerettes keep on rolling

## Brackett off to a 12-2 start in preparation for district

By J.J. GUDRY  
Sports Editor

The Brackett Tigerettes finished 7-15 in their first year under head coach Ricky Creel.

The Tigerettes are now 12-2 one month into Creel's sophomore season, and they have high hopes for district play, which begins next month.

"I'm real happy with where we are at," Creel said. "I knew coming into the season that we would be pretty good, but the girls are playing above expectations. They're playing together."

Brackett is led by senior Ashley Smith. The point guard set the school record for most points in a game after scoring 38 last year against Sabinal in the Nueces Canyon tournament.

"Ashley is the leader of our team," Creel said. "She runs the offense. She has the ability to think on the court. She has great ball handling skills and she has a real good shot. She's just a real hard worker."

Smith is one of seven players on the Brackett team to score in double figures this season, along with senior wings Stacey Castilla and Amanda Davis, junior wing Stephanie Bonner, junior posts Courtney Frerich and Shanae Simmons and sophomore post Ashley Castillo.

"It's good that we don't have to rely on one certain person to win a game," Creel said. "We have several people capable of scoring in double figures, so it's always a team effort."

The Tigerettes have two more games this month and then a 10-

*"The girls have a lot of confidence right now. They are playing really well. We just have to maintain that level of performance."*

**Ricky Creel**

-day layoff before opening district play on Jan. 9 in Natalia.

"The girls have a lot of confidence right now," Creel said. "They are playing really well. We just have to maintain that level of performance."

"I think the district is going to be evenly matched. All of the district games are going to be tough, but I think we can compete very well," he added.

Both of the Tigerettes losses this season have been to Knippa. The Lady Rockcrushers edged the Tigerettes 59-58 on Nov. 20 in the Brackett tournament. Knippa then claimed a 62-44 victory over Brackett last Thursday in the first round of the Southwest Texas Junior College tournament.

Brackett will get one more shot at the Lady Rockcrushers when the two teams meet in Knippa tomorrow night at 6:30.

"Knippa is really tough," Creel said. "They are ranked 10th in the state in Class A so it will be a good game for us going into the break."

"It will help us to know where we're at and what we need to work on going into district," he added.



Senior Amanda Davis has helped Brackett to a 12-2 start. The Tigerettes have two more non-conference games this month before opening district play Jan. 9 against Natalia.

## Girls claim consolation

By J.J. GUDRY  
Sports Editor

UVALDE — Ashley Smith earned all-tournament honors Saturday after helping the Brackett Tigerettes win the consolation championship at the Southwest Texas Junior College basketball tournament.

Smith and Shanae Simmons both scored 10 points in the consolation final as Brackett posted a 41-22 win over Nueces Canyon. The Tigerettes led 13-3 after the opening stanza and never looked back.

Stacey Castilla and Ashley Castillo both scored six points in the contest, Stephanie Bonner had five and Amanda Davis and Courtney Frerich each added two.

In the consolation semifinals, the Tigerettes routed Leakey 72-31.

Smith had a game-high 15 points against the Lady Eagles. Davis also scored in double figures, finishing with 11.

Castilla, Castilla and Frerich all had nine points, Simmons scored six, Kara Yeager posted five, Bonner pitched in four and Timmeke Simmons had two.

Brackett opened the tournament against Knippa, dropping a 62-44 decision. The Lady Rockcrushers outscored the Tigerettes 22-9 in the second quarter and then held on for the win.

Castillo and Davis both scored 11 against Knippa while Smith had 10. Frerich finished with four points, Shanae and Timmeke Simmons both had three and Dana Bonner chipped in two.

## Tigers take third place at SWTJC

By J.J. GUDRY  
Sports Editor

UVALDE — Charlie Slaughter poured in 28 points Saturday to lead the Brackett Tigers to a 51-40 win over D'Hanis in the third place final of the Southwest Texas Junior College basketball tournament.

Travis Nowlin also finished in double figures for Brackett with 13 points.

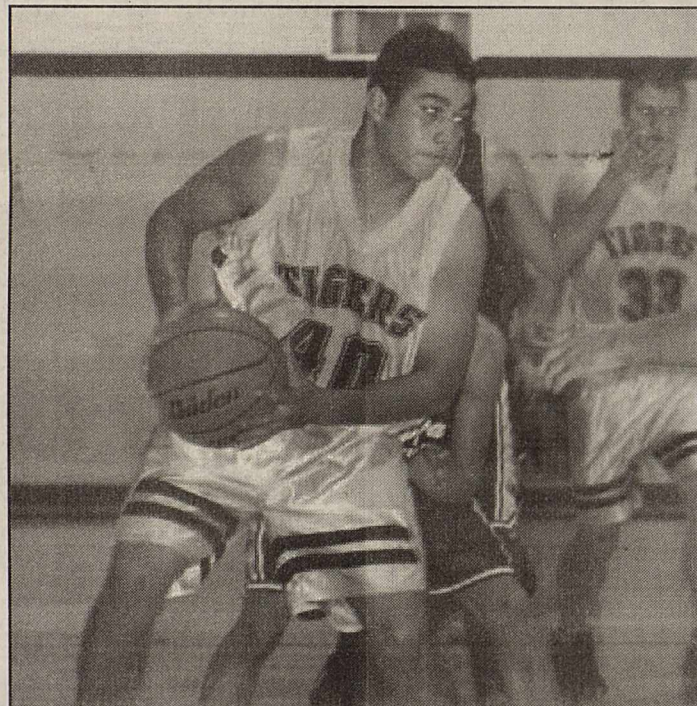
Dietrich Davis, who represented the Tigers on the all-tournament team, scored eight points against D'Hanis, while Noe Talamantes and Leon Woolsey each had one point.

"We let up in the second half, but refocused and ended up winning by 11," Tigers coach Charlie Marquardt said.

In the semifinals, Utopia led Brackett 17-9 after the opening stanza and held on for a 41-34 win.

Utopia was up 36-22 after three quarters. The Tigers outscored the Buffalos 12-5 in the final period, but couldn't pull out the victory.

"This was a moral victory," Marquardt said. "Utopia had been beating everyone by at



Oscar Sierra and the Brackett Tigers finished third at the Southwest Texas Junior College tournament last weekend in Uvalde.

least 30 points. They're ranked No. 1 in the state in Class A and we played them very well."

"We controlled the tempo of the game. The team really came together for this one," he added.

Nowlin scored 14 for the Tigers, Slaughter finished with nine, Woolsey had five, and Talamantes and Dietrich and Tillman Davis all had two.

Brackett opened the tournament with a 52-39 win over Knippa.

"Our defense has had to step up and carry us," Marquardt

said. "There are times when our shooting touch is going to be off. The second half we found our touch from the line. It won the ball game for us."

Dietrich Davis had 12 points in the contest, while Nowlin and Woolsey both finished with 11. Slaughter and Tillman Davis had seven points apiece, while Talamantes and Oscar Sierra both scored two points.

The Tigers return to the court tomorrow night when they face Knippa on the road. Tip-off is set for 8 p.m.

## J.V. girls win Dilley tourney

DILLEY — The Brackett Tigerettes won four games last weekend to win the championship of the Dilley junior varsity tournament.

The Tigerettes are now 7-0 on the season.

Brandy Smith scored 10 points to lead Brackett to a 34-17 win over Crystal City in the first round on Friday.

Jessi Crane finished the contest with seven points, Nadine Terrazas had five, Alma Reyes and Emily Valenzuela both had four, Lola Cano pitched in three and Juliann Ashabraner added one.

In the second round, the Tigerettes jumped out to a 12-2 lead against Natalia and then cruised to a 35-24 victory.

Valenzuela paced Brackett with 11 points, Crane scored 10, Smith had eight, Alanna Conoly scored six and Lisa Morgan had two.

Brackett faced Lytle in the semifinals. The Tigerettes outscored the Lady Pirates 14-1 in the first period en route to a 33-21 win.

Valenzuela finished the game with 12 points, Ashabraner had five, Crane and Smith each scored four, Morgan and Terrazas had three apiece and Allison Del Bosque scored two.

The Tigerettes met the hometown Lady Wolves in the finals.

### ROUNDUP

Brackett was up by 12 going into the final stanza, and then outscored Dilley 12-1 in the fourth quarter for a 41-18 victory.

Crane led Brackett's scoring attack with 14 points. Smith also finished in double figures, scoring 10 points.

Valenzuela tallied nine points in the game, Cassie Mata scored five, Cano had two and Terrazas added one.

The Tigerettes resume action Friday when they face Knippa on the road at 5 p.m.

### J.V. Boys

The Brackett Tigers won one of four games while competing in the Dilley junior varsity tournament last weekend.

The Tigers opened the tournament with a 56-23 loss to Class 3A Somerset.

"We played well, but ended up falling short," Tigers coach Ken Wallace said.

Brandon Kluzek and Kody Yeager both scored 10 points to lead Brackett.

In the second round, the Tigers fell to Natalia 54-36. Kluzek had eight points in the game and Robert Davis scored seven.

"We started slow and could never recover," Wallace said.

Brackett faced another 3A team in the third round, falling to the undefeated Lytle Pirates.

"We played inspired ball in the first half of the game and the score was tied 19-19 at the half, but the Pirates were just too strong and pulled away in the second half," Wallace said.

Cody Robinette was the Tigers' leading scorer in the Lytle game. He finished with nine points.

Brackett closed the tourney with a 43-38 win over Dilley.

"We were able to put it all together against Dilley," Wallace said.

Kluzek paced the Tigers' scoring with 14 points. Brand Wylie scored 12 in the contest and Yeager finished with nine.

The junior varsity is open until Jan. 2 when the Tigers will host Utopia at 3 p.m.

### Seventh Grade Girls

The Cubettes lost a 18-16 heart-breaker to Rocksprings last Monday in junior high action.

Natalie Aguirre and Bianca Terrazas led Brackett with four points each, Summer Allen had three, Jessica Garza and Samantha Moore each had two points and Harmony Petteit added one.

Moore had five steals in the contest, while Aguirre and Terrazas both had four. Brooke Bowlin led the Cubettes on the board with five rebounds.

Brackett's seventh-grade girls will next face Sacred Heart in Del Rio on Jan. 8.

## OUTDOORS

### Texas riverbed vehicle prohibition starts in January

Beginning Jan. 1, motor vehicles may not be operated in most Texas riverbeds, according to a new state law.

Several communities in various parts of the state are developing or considering local access plans that would allow limited vehicle access in specified areas, and some rivers are exempt from the law.

For several months, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens have been notifying people they encounter on or near rivers that the new law is about to take effect.

Starting in January, game wardens, local sheriff's deputies and other peace officers will enforce the law. A first offense is a Class C misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of as much as

\$500. Repeat offenders could face higher fines and jail time.

The new law pertains to any "navigable river or stream" in Texas except for the Canadian River and the Prairie Dog Town Fork of the Red River in the Panhandle.

The law prohibits motor vehicles from operating in "that portion of the bed, bottom, or bank of any navigable river or stream that lies at or below the gradient boundary of the river or stream."

It defines navigable river or stream as "a river or stream that retains an average width of 30 or more feet from the mouth or confluence up."

A motor vehicle is defined as "any wheeled or tracked vehicle, machine, tractor, trailer or semi-



A Little  
on the  
Wildlife Side

Henry  
Lutz

trailer propelled or drawn by mechanical power and used to transport a person or thing."

The public continues to have the right to travel along navigable waterways as long as the restrictions on motor vehicle use are observed.

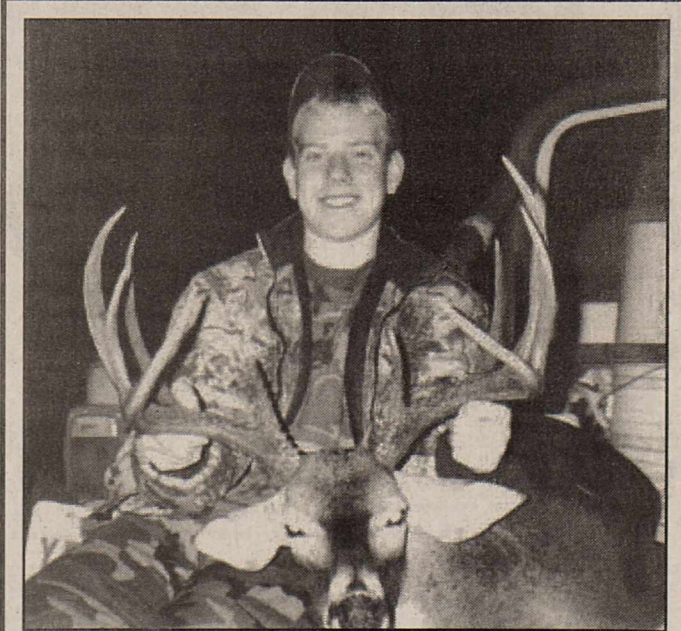
The law says "a person may not restrict, obstruct, interfere with or limit public recreational use of a protected freshwater area." It also contains various exemptions for motor vehicle

use in riverbeds by emergency and law enforcement personnel, utility workers, adjacent landowners and others.

The law grew out of Senate Bill 155, sponsored in the Texas Senate by Sen. Judith Zaffirini of Laredo. Rep. Robert Puentes of San Antonio sponsored a companion bill in the Texas House of Representatives.

The law provides that cities, counties or river authorities may create Local River Access Plans that allow motor vehicles in specified riverbed areas. These plans must be approved by TPWD. Local plan administrators may collect a fee for vehicle riverbed use.

For more information, call (512) 389-4725 or (800) 792-1112, Ext. 4725.



Cody Robinette recently shot this beautiful 10-point buck at the Christopher Ring Ranch. The buck scored 153 4/8.

# Dairy operators, cattle owners urged to test for tuberculosis

AUSTIN — Eighty Texas cattle herds — 49 dairies and 31 purebred or “seedstock” beef herds — have tested negative for cattle tuberculosis (TB) since Nov. 1, when the state kicked off its plan to regain cattle TB-free status.

The “free” ranking would allow Texas’ 150,000-plus ranchers to move cattle across state lines without TB restrictions or testing requirements.

Cattle TB is a bacterial infection that can affect an animal’s lungs, lymph nodes or other internal organs. The disease can also infect humans, one of the reasons for the national disease eradication effort.

“At their meeting Dec. 3 in

Austin, the 12 governor-appointed TAHC commissioners reiterated their responsibility to require testing and their commitment to complete the Texas TB plan, the vehicle which will enable our state to regain TB-free status,” said Dr. Bob Hillman, head of the Texas Animal Health Commission.

“In their resolution adopted at the meeting, the TAHC commissioners directed dairy operators and purebred cattle owners to comply with testing requirements,” he said. “However, the commissioners are optimistic that producers will participate voluntarily, to ensure the overall health and marketability of Texas cattle.”

All of Texas’ 880 dairies and about 2,400 of the state’s purebred beef cattle herds must be tested for cattle TB for the “free” designation from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The testing effort is a major component of the five-pronged Texas TB plan, developed last year by a task force comprised of members from the dairy and beef industry and the TAHC.

Other aspects of the plan include testing of breeding cattle exported from the state, enhanced inspection of carcasses at slaughter, required annual TB testing of rodeo stock imported from Mexico, and urging cattle producers to voluntarily maintain imported Mexican feeder

cattle apart from native cattle.

Hillman pointed out that Texas initially achieved TB-free status in 2000, with the exception of portions of El Paso and Hudspeth Counties, a small area which still remains under testing and movement restrictions.

In 2002, Texas lost the “free” ranking after two infected herds were detected. The first was a purebred cattle herd in Fayette County. The second involved both dairy and beef cattle on a ranch headquartered in Pecos County.

Another infected purebred cattle herd was detected in Zavala County in August 2003. The infected herds were destroyed.



Brackettville goat rancher Doris Haby (left) nominated Houston Community College Applied Arts Department Chair Kay King for the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association 2003 Certificate of Appreciation Award for her outstanding contributions to the wool and mohair industry.



Marty Graham (left), director of the Association of Texas Soil and Water Conservation Districts, presents Amanda Davis (second from right) a plaque from The Texas State Soil and Water Conservation Board. Davis’ essay on soil and water conservation won the Texas State Essay Contest. Texas State Rep. Timoteo Garza attended the reception last week to award her a certificate and an invitation to the next House session in Austin to honor her achievements. Davis was accompanied by her parents, Lloyd Lee and Susan Davis.

- JUAN AGUIRISTI \* VICKI ALLEN \* CHRISTOPHER ALVARADO \* CATHY ALVAREZ \* DOLORES ALVAREZ \* ELENA ALVAREZ \* MOSES ALVAREZ \* PEDRO ALVAREZ \* ERICA ARIZMENDI \* PATRICIA ARMSTRONG \* YOLANDA AROMIN \* ANGELICA ARREDONDO \* PATRICIA ARREDONDO \* JOYANNA ARREOLA \* NORMA ATKINSON \* HECTOR AVILA \* ROSEMARY AYALA \* DIAMANTINA BABBITT \* LETICIA BALLESTEROS \* ALNA BANOGON \* CHRISTOPHER BANOGON \* NANCY BARTON \* ANJAHETTE BASS \* MARLOWE BAS \* HORTENCIA BASALDUA \* YSABEL BASALDUA \* ANITA BASS \* LUISITO BAUTISTA \* ROBERT BEATTY \* CONSTANCE BENAVIDEZ \* MARIO BERNAL \* MARTA BERNAL \* MARY BERRY \* FELIX BLANCO, JR. \* ANNE BLISS \* SYDNEY BOOKER \* PATTI BOREN \* KARLA BOWMAN \* SHELLY BOYD \* SHONDA BRICE \* MARIA BRINGAS \* AMANDA BRISENO \* ROGER BROOKSHIER \* ALLISON BROWN \* KENNETH BROWN \* SHARON BROWN \* PEGGY BULLOCK \* ERICA CALDWELL \* JOANIE CANALES \* ALDA CANO \* ARMANDO CARDONA, JR. \* ESDULA CARDONA \* MILDRED CARIAGA \* JERRY CARRASCO \* CHARLA CARTER \* LAURA CARTER \* LEE CASE \* SUSAN CASS \* JEFFERY CASSON \* ADRIANA CASTILLO \* CLAUDIA CASTILLO \* MARIA CASTILLO \* PURIFICACION CASTILLO \* AMY CASTRO \* NORMA CASTRO \* PURIFICACION CASTRO \* SHARON CATLETT \* ANN CATRON \* HEATHER CATRON \* ELSA CHAVEZ \* SAN JUANA CHAVEZ \* DENISE CHURCHWELL \* PEGGY CLARK \* BECKY COCKERILL \* NORMA COLE \* JOHN CORONADO \* DAVID CORTEZ \* CYNTHIA CORWIN \* JACQUELINE COWARD \* MARTIN COWARD \* RAQUEL COWARD \* MATTHEW CRISP, III \* SHANNA CROWSEY \* LINDA CRUZ \* DEBBIE CUELLAR \* KOCHITL CZECHOWICZ \* NORMAN DAVENPORT \* ARMA DAYILA \* JOANNE DEACON \* ERIC DEHOYOS \* OLGA DELAGARZA \* EDWARD DELEON, JR. \* ESMERALDA DELEON \* NORMA DELEON \* ALEPHIA DELOSH \* MARIA DELTORO \* PERNIA DENNIS \* IRMA DIAZ \* TEODOR DIMITROV \* LYNDON DONNISON \* PHYLLIS DOBSON \* JORA DOSI \* FRANCES DULIN \* LEAH DUNGO \* NELSON DUNGO \* LUCY DURAN \* BENNIE DURR \* DAWN DYAL \* BLAKE EAKER \* LINDA EARWOOD \* MEGAN EASLEY \* JOE ESPARZA, JR. \* LIBRADO ESPARZA \* JESUS ESQUIVEL \* DOMINIQUE ESTRADA \* LETICIA ESTRADA \* MARIA ESTRADA \* CRISTINA EVANS \* SHIRLEY EWOLDT \* MELBA FAIRES \* EVANGELINA FAZ \* GEORGE FEAR \* PAULA FEAR \* KATHERINE FEHLEK \* RONALD FEHLEK \* LORRAINE FENSKE \* CORINA FINN \* DENISE FLETCHER \* ALDO FLORES \* DYANA FLORES \* MARIA FLORES \* OSCAR FLORES \* PAUL FLORES \* VANESSA FLORES \* JOYCE FLUITT \* CARMEN FONTANEZ \* IRMA FUENTES \* OLGA FUENTES \* TRICIA GALLAGHER \* RITA GANT \* ANGER GARCIA \* CAROLINA GARCIA \* CRISTINA GARCIA \* EULALIO GARCIA \* MARIA C. GARCIA \* MARIA I. GARCIA \* PAULINE A. GARCIA \* ROBERT GARCIA \* ROBERTO GARCIA \* LYNNE GARTMAN \* GINA GARZA \* ROSEMARY GARZA \* SAN JUANA GARZA \* BARBARA GEMBLER \* JACQUELINE GILLETTE \* LINDA GLEASON \* VIRGINIA GLEASON \* BERNARDA GOMEZ \* KELLY GOMEZ \* LINDA GOMEZ \* ROSALVA GOMEZ \* CHRISTINA GONZALES \* GLORIA GONZALES \* JOSE GONZALES \* JULIAN GONZALES \* MARTHA GONZALES \* ROSALYNDIA GONZALES \* ROSIE GONZALES \* YERONICA GONZALES \* DENISE GONZALES \* OLGA GONZALES \* RAFAEL GONZALES \* SELINA GONZALES \* ROBERT A. GONZALES, JR. \* SHANNA GRAYES \* LINDA GRIFFIN \* DORA GUJARDO \* RENE GUARDOLA \* JOSE GUERRA \* BELIA GUERRERO \* ANITA GUTIERREZ \* MINERVA GUZMAN \* AMANDA HADLEY \* CAROLINE HANER \* DONNA HALSE \* JEAN HART \* LINDA HATCH \* REBECCA HAUGHEY \* ANNELL HEARD \* JANET HENRY \* ANTONIO HERNANDEZ, III \* DANIEL HERNANDEZ \* DONNA C. HERNANDEZ \* DIANNA G. HERNANDEZ \* JOE HERNANDEZ \* NORA HERNANDEZ \* ERIC HILL \* SILVIA HILL \* YVONNE HILL \* NANCY HISE \* MELISSA HODGES \* JILL HOLDRIE \* KENNETH HOLMES \* KAY HOLT \* MARIA IBARRA \* MINERVA ISAZA \* ENRIQUE ITURBE \* SUSANA ITURBE \* KAHLA JACKMAN \* MARY JACKSON \* TARA JEFFERY \* GUADALUPE JIMENEZ, II \* MARIA JIMENEZ \* DORA JOHNSON \* GREG JOHNSON \* NANCY JOHNSON \* BLANCA JUAREZ \* CRYSTAL KALMRING \* RICHARD KELLEY \* ROLLA KELLEY \* JENNIFER KELLNER \* RHONDA KENNEDY \* AURORA KHORRABI \* ELSA KOEPP \* MARIO LAFUENTE \* CATRYN LANGFELD \* HORTENCIA LARA \* MARIA LARA \* MARTHA LARA \* MICHELLE LARA \* ELIZABETH LAWSON \* MICHAEL LIM \* ELIVIRA LIMON \* MARIA LLANES \* MARY LERA \* VALERIE LOPEZ \* DALIA LOZANO \* RICHARD LUJAN \* LARRY LUNA \* RICARDO LUNA \* ARTURO MALDONADO \* CATSY MALONE \* JOEY MARKHAM \* ANN MARTINEZ \* DORA MARTINEZ \* FRANCES MARTINEZ \* GUADALUPE MARTINEZ \* MARIA MARTINEZ \* MELITA MARTINEZ \* PROCE MARTINEZ \* SEYERIANO MARTINEZ \* YUBAN MATA \* ZERGIO MATA \* JUNE MCCALEB \* JOSEPH MCDOWELL, III \* KATHERINE MCDUFFE \* JENNIFER MCDUFFE \* FRANK MCKINLEY \* LOURETTA MEDINA \* PATRICIA MENCHACA \* ELIZABETH MERRITT \* LOUELLA MIRANDA \* VICTORIA MIRELES \* JOBETH MOFFETT \* ERNESTO MORALES \* ROSA MORALES \* JANETTA MORRIS \* ANGELO MURDO \* TINA MUNOZ \* ZULMA MUNOZ \* MARGARET MYERS \* ROSI NAVARRO \* ENEOWA NEELY \* LARRY NELSON \* LINDA NEVAREZ \* DENISE NOLASCO \* JOHANNA NOLASCO \* JOSE OLIVERA \* ALICE ORTEGA \* HECTOR ORTIZ, JR. \* MARY ORTIZ \* LYDIA OZUNA \* DONNA PACE \* ROSA PALACIOS \* KIRK PALERMO \* LAURA PALERMO \* GLENYS PANNELL \* JEFFREY PANNELL \* ROBERT PAPPYAN \* ANOPOLOS \* MARIA PASTOR \* JEFFREY PEREZ \* LAURA PEREZ \* LINDA PEREZ \* TONY POPE \* BETSY PRADO \* FRANCES PRADO \* MANUEL PRADO \* JUDITH QUIROGA \* CHRISTINE RAHAMAN \* ROSELIN RAMBIE \* LINDA RAMIREZ \* RICARDO RAMIREZ \* EVA RAMON \* GUADALUPE RAMON \* ARMANDO RAMOS, JR. \* ESPERANZA RAMOS \* LYDIA RAMOS \* MARIA RAMOS \* ROSE RANGEL \* SHAWN REAGAN \* TAMM REDLICH \* BARBARA REED \* BETTY REED \* RAUL REDDON \* DANIEL REYES \* DENISE REYNA \* JEFFREY RICO \* JIMBERLY RIMPLER \* YSABEL RIVERA \* MARIA ROBRES \* NORMA ROBLES \* CAROLINA ROCHA \* GUMECINDO ROCHA, JR. \* MARIA ROCHA \* CONNIE RODRIGUEZ \* ESTELLA RODRIGUEZ \* JAMES RODRIGUEZ \* KIMBERLY RODRIGUEZ \* LARISSA RODRIGUEZ \* LUIS RODRIGUEZ \* ROBERTO RODRIGUEZ, JR. \* SONYA RODRIGUEZ \* YOLANDA RODRIGUEZ \* ALICE ROGERS \* AMELIA ROMO \* OLIVIA ROQUE \* CHERYL ROTH \* DULCE RUIZ \* SUZANNE RUE \* ANA RUIZ \* ANTONIO RUIZ, JR. \* EMMA RUIZ \* ESMERALDA RUIZ \* ROSA RUIZ \* BRENT RYLEDGE \* MARGARITA SALAZAR \* ROXANN SALAZAR \* DULCE SALUDEZ \* YOLANDA SAMANIEGO \* JUANITA SANCHEZ \* ANNA SANDOVAL \* JUANITA SANDOVAL \* CRISTINA SARMIENTO \* KELLY SATTERWHITE \* ERIK SAUCEDA \* JUDITH SAUCEDO \* JENS SCHWEDDER \* DEBORAH SCIBA \* JENNIFER SEALY \* CHRISTINA SEVILLA \* MARIA SEVILLA \* STEPHANIE SHAPER \* KYVIA SHANNON \* REGINA SHERIDY \* TERRY SHEEDY \* BERNHA SIFUENTES \* MARK SIFUENTES \* RORY SKINNER \* BARBARA SKIRVIN \* ROSA SOSA \* SHELLY SPORGENS \* TONJA STORY \* KILENE SWEETEN \* MARTHA TAYLOR \* ELENA TEMOREZ \* HERMA TINAYA \* MINI TITUS \* SATURNINO TOBIAS \* DANIEL TORRES, JR. \* VICTORIA TORRES \* YOLANDA TORRES \* JUAN TREVINO \* MARIA E. TREVINO \* GERTRUDE TRULOVE \* ELVIRA TUBIERA \* ANNABELLA VALDEZ \* RAUL VALDEZ \* RAUL D. VALDEZ \* BELINDA VALENZUELA \* YOLANDA VALERIO \* AURELIA VASQUEZ \* SANDRA VASQUEZ \* MARY LYNN VRAUGHN \* JOSE VEGA \* BBY VELA \* CAROLINA VELASQUEZ \* FLORENCE VERA \* JUAN VERA \* SELINA VILLARREAL \* MARTHA WAGLEY \* YSABEL WALKER \* LINDA WALKER \* NATASHA WALKER \* ANNA WATKINS \* SHERRY WILLIAMS \* CHRISTINA WILSON \* RACHEL WISE \* PEGGY WRIGHT \* SUSAN YEATS \* PETE YOUNG \* KATHY YOUNG \* QUELINDA ZAMARRIPA \* MARIA ZAMORA**

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Monday, December 22, 2003  
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9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

*As traditions of the holiday season are all around, at The Bank & Trust we have taken this time to reflect on our tradition of providing Home Town customer service with exceptional financial products. We thank you for your business in 2003. The Bank & Trust gives you our word that Home Town personal service is our tradition this year - and next!*

*From our family to yours - a very merry Home Town holiday!*

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**CROSSWORD PUZZLE**

ACROSS  
1 Musical Instruments  
6 Sissy  
10 Smell  
14 200 milli-grams  
15 Covers the cake  
16 Silent performer  
17 Queen's accessory  
18 Law enforcers  
20 David's son; abbr.  
21 Secluded valley  
23 Word with travel or press  
24 Insects  
25 Michael Leamead's role on The Waltons  
27 Period of time  
30 Stack  
31 Deborah Franklin's man  
34 French pronoun  
35 Naval detection apparatus  
36 Flightless bird  
37 Tried a serviceman  
41 Primate  
42 Littlest ones  
43 Away from the wind  
44 Directed  
45 Miquelon et Réunion  
46 Most popular tubers  
48 \_ so; extremely  
49 Harbor bird  
50 One lacking freedom  
53 British dwelling  
54 Item on a certificate  
57 Lunch spot  
60 Veranda  
62 \_ For All Seasons  
63 Spacious  
64 Singer/pianist John  
65 Ernie's buddy  
66 Suffix for kitchen or novel  
67 Complains violently  
**DOWN**  
1 Fall parts; abbr.  
2 Scott of Happy Days  
3 \_ surgeon  
4 Cob  
5 Presented to an audience  
6 Dries  
7 Religious symbol  
8 Allen or Gibson  
9 With 10 Down, alphabetic conclusion  
10 See 9  
11 Thinnest of six  
12 Future indicator  
13 Split  
19 Tourist's item  
22 Major's  
24 Boxes Max or Buddy  
25 Candies  
26 Asia's Mountains  
27 Transferable picture  
28 Sneak away to be united  
29 in; gave info to  
30 Boston and New Orleans  
31 Ball attendee  
32 Mideast title; var.  
33 Certain paintings  
35 Less loony  
38 Table top protector  
39 Beast of burden  
40 Past dua  
46 Refrain  
47 Caribou's feature  
48 Happening  
49 Bring joy to  
50 Strike-breaker  
51 Like a poor excuse  
52 O'er yonder  
53 Rancher's hand  
54 Against; pref.  
55 Spot for a Coventry con  
56 Cologne numerals  
58 Leading lady?  
59 Plague carrier  
61 Mont-gomery's place; abbr.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
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65							66			67		

**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—forward, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: **DOG BREEDS**

GREY HOUNDS KA  
DECHIUAHUA K  
BVKSUHILTI  
LESDDKHEEMET  
HIAHETIRIABA  
ARWGLZPLNLU  
STOULIXUALP  
AEHOOECGPMLO  
ARCRESXOBSUDO  
PSAMOYEDETOD  
SCHNAUZEREGL  
OWNAITAMLADE

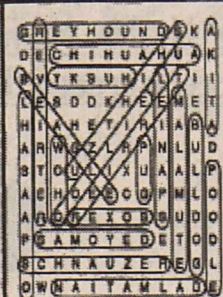
1. Bulldog  
2. \_\_\_\_\_  
3. \_\_\_\_\_  
4. \_\_\_\_\_  
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20. \_\_\_\_\_

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

- |                              |                            |
|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Dec 18.....Carol Benefield   | Dec 22.....Arabala Abrego  |
| Dec 18.....Adrian Juarez     | Dec 22.....Robert Elledge  |
| Dec 18.....Wayne Meyer       | Dec 22.....Evelyn Estes    |
| Dec 18.....Joe Sandoval      | Dec 22.....Don Hood        |
| Dec 18.....Jessica Taylor    | Dec 22.....Richard Pena    |
| Dec 19.....Nathan M. Luna    | Dec 23.....Victor Abrego   |
| Dec 19.....Enemencia Starzel | Dec 23.....Johnie Beard    |
| Dec 19.....Roger Workman     | Dec 23.....Sergio Cardenas |
| Dec 20.....Jean Hood         | Dec 23.....Danny Molinar   |
| Dec 20.....Juan Reyes        | Dec 23.....Elena Molinar   |
| Dec 20.....Julia Terrazas    | Dec 23.....Elidia Molinar  |
| Dec 21.....Clay Hunt III     | Dec 23.....Sam Ferguson    |
| Dec 21.....Shelley Jost      | Dec 24.....Paul Williams   |

Roaring Twenties Solution:

- |              |                |
|--------------|----------------|
| 1. Akita     | 11. Lhasa Apso |
| 2. Beagle    | 12. Malamute   |
| 3. Boxer     | 13. Poodle     |
| 4. Bulldog   | 14. Pug        |
| 5. Chihuahua | 15. Retriever  |
| 6. Chow      | 16. Samoyed    |
| 7. Collie    | 17. Schnauzer  |
| 8. Dalmatian | 18. Shih Tzu   |
| 9. Greyhound | 19. Spaniel    |
| 10. Husky    | 20. Terrier    |



**HOROSCOPES**

by Charles Cooper

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) A minor irritation at work shouldn't throw you for the whole week. You have important tasks to accomplish. Later, your social life is positively whirling!

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) An unexpected opportunity falls right into your lap. Where it concerns your career, choose carefully. Compromise is the watchword for week's end.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You're in no position to be lending people money. With the holidays, things are tight as it is. While your heart's in the right place, you're not thinking clearly.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) Come up with a plan wherein you and your family can donate time to a nursing home or hospital this holiday season. You'll find the true meaning of giving. Later in the week, a bigwig at work has a happy surprise for you.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) Social invitations are arriving. Thus, you'll need to sort out the wheat from the chaff. Not every outing can be undertaken, so choose wisely.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A gift you ordered some time ago still hasn't arrived. You may have to come up with an alternative. This weekend is a good time to finish up all pre-holiday chores.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) Your usual holiday happiness is marred this week by a work worry. Remember, fretting won't change things. Come up with a concrete plan of attack.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) A meeting you'd prepared for is taken off the schedule. Deal with this gracefully. When it does happen, you're up for it.

**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Tie up some loose ends on the job. This clears your schedule for upcoming important events. Over the weekend, you enjoy domestic harmony.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) The best way to deal with a contentious co-worker is with tact. Ultimately, this person comes around to your way of thinking. Later, some last-minute holiday shopping is in order.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) Those in negotiations, whether in business or personally, will succeed. In general, things are going your way. Travel is in the stars after the holiday season winds down.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) Your intuition is working overtime. Follow these hunches. While it makes no logical sense, you're often successful when you just go with your gut instincts.

# Christmas: What does it truly mean?

One morning a few days ago I asked rionet.cc to connect me with cnn.com. So far so good.

My next request, upon being connected, was for their search engine to find "Christmas." It did. But when I saw what was on the screen, I felt a disappointment.

Certainly, Christmas is the birthday of Jesus of Nazareth. I know that, but I wanted to refresh my memory about the religious origins of our Christmas celebration.

Instead I saw such entries as: "Shop for Christmas at MSN Shopping," "Christmas letters from the North Pole," "Wonderous Christmas gifts," "Christmas gift ideas" and a few more of a similar vein.

"Maybe," I said to myself, "the Catholic Encyclopedia might enlighten me." There I found an 11-page article on the history of Christmas.

I re-learned that our English name for this annual celebration, "Christmas," can trace its roots to a late Old English title dating back to the year 1038, "Cristes Maesse." Eventually, by the year 1131, it became "Cristes-messe."

Both mean "The Mass of Christ." So an early celebration of Christmas seemingly revolved around the religious celebration of "The Mass."



**St. Mary  
Magdalene  
Church**  
**Fr. Cornelius  
J. Scanlan**

The Gospels of Matthew and Luke tell us the story each from different points of view.

The Evangelist Matthew begins: "Now the birth of Jesus the Messiah took place in this way."

And the Evangelist Luke, after locating his story within the history of the time, states: "The time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped him in bands of cloth, and laid him in a manger."

But the Evangelist John digs deeper when he wrote: "In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word became flesh and lived among us."

When all is said and done, purchasing and giving gifts is splendid, but it is not a very good idea to deviate too far from the long-standing meaning of Christmas, the Son of God entering our world to live among us and bring with him "peace on earth (and) good will toward men."



The youth of the First Baptist Church presented "The Christmas Story" during Sunday evening services. The play had a cast of 16 and was directed by Karron Childress and Susan Smith.

# The greatest gift is your heart

Joanna watched the bearded rabbi as he made his way among the throng of people who had come to hear him.

"He was not handsome," she thought. "At least as some would measure his looks. There was nothing imposing or imperial in his voice or his gestures. Yet some call him King."

As she watched, her thoughts drifted 31 years into the past. She smiled as she remembered.

Three elegant men and an entourage of servants were winding their way through the narrow streets of Bethlehem. They were not Roman nor were they Jewish.

Joanna's intense childish curiosity drew her to them. She followed closely until they came to a large cave used as a shelter for animals on the outskirts of town.

Joanna's little eyes followed the entourage inside where she witnessed something she would never forget. In the cave there was a magnificent light, but it had no source. There were several figures huddled around a small crèche.

A young woman was holding up a child for the elegant men

to look at. There was a glow about the child and he did not cry. He just smiled. It was as if he knew what was happening.

"Perhaps," Joanna thought, "this is something I should not see."

As she turned to run, something very bright blocked her path. Her little head turned up as her eyes looked skyward. The sight took her breath away, yet she felt no fear.

The bright figure was glowing. Love seemed to emanate from it like a warm ocean of water washing the depths of her soul. It was a feeling she had never felt before.

The angel spoke: "Do you hear the music, child?"

Joanna looked at the sky. A magnificent star hovered in the heavens directly above. Her eyes brightened.

"Yes," she said. "It sounds like a chorus of angels."

Then the angel pointed toward the child in the crèche. The three elegant men were offering gifts that had been carefully wrapped in beautiful cloth and carried by their servants.

When they left, the angel spoke again: "Go, Joanna. Go



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worship the King."

Joanna began to cry. "But I am very poor. I have no gift to give him," she sobbed.

The angel spoke again. "Look at your feet, Joanna," he commanded.

Joanna looked at her feet to see a small bush with beautiful white roses in full bloom. She picked as many of the fragrant blossoms as her little hands could hold. As she turned toward the baby, the angel spoke again.

"The baby's name is Emmanuel, God with us. You will call him Jesus. His mother is Mary. Give the roses to Mary. They are the brightest of white and tell of her everlasting purity."

"But," Joanna stammered. "What do I give the King Emmanuel?"

"To him, you are to present your heart and your life" the angel said. "You will serve him

during your life on earth."

Joanna slowly made her way to the place where the baby lay. She knelt before Mary and handed her the roses.

"And what do you bring for the King?" Mary asked.

Joanna looked into the loving eyes of Mary. "My heart," she answered shyly. "I give to him my heart and my life."

Mary smiled and looked at her son. "Yes," she said softly. "You have brought the greatest gift."

Joanna's reverie was broken by the noise of the crowd. Suddenly there was an eerie quiet as if someone had given a command. The comely rabbi King rose to speak.

"Blessed are the poor in spirit," he began. "Theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

May people of good will all over the world experience the peace and salvation that has come to us in the birth of the King.

**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.

# Christians should rejoice in the coming of the Lord

This past Sunday many churches celebrated the third Sunday of Advent, also known as Rejoice Sunday.

Our scripture readings call upon Christians to rejoice in the coming of our Lord.

John the Baptist calls upon his hearers to repent of their sins all the while exhorting his listeners to be prepared for the coming of one who is more powerful than he. He calls for the fruits of repentance of his listeners. When those to whom he speaks asks what should they do, he clearly calls for a change in behavior. He calls for those with two coats to share with those who have none. To those with much food, he calls for them to share their food with the hungry.

He calls upon the tax collectors to only charge what is their rightful share of taxes. He calls upon all soldiers to be content with their pay and not to steal, oppress or extort money from the weak.

Would this not be good news if such actions took place in our midst? There would be much rejoicing if all people had sufficient clothing in order to be warm. There would be much rejoicing if all people had enough food to eat. There would be



**Our Redeemer  
Lutheran &  
St. Andrew's**  
**Nathan  
Lafrenz**

much rejoicing if all government officials took seriously their responsibility to serve their constituents rather than using their offices for their own personal gain. There would be much rejoicing if soldiers throughout the world served honorably their profession rather than stealing, murdering, raping and pillaging as so many armies do throughout the world.

As Christians we are people of hope and expectation. We believe that through the saving power of the Holy Spirit these changes in behavior can and will happen.

Let us rejoice in the power of God who is indeed making all things new for those who love Him.

Come and rejoice in the transforming redemptive power of God in Jesus Christ each Sunday morning at Our Redeemer Lutheran and St. Andrew's Episcopal churches at 9 and 11 a.m.

# We serve a mighty God

"And Jesus took the Loaves, and when he had given thanks, he distributed to the disciples, and the disciples to them that were set down: and likewise of the fishes as much as they would.

"When they were filled, he said unto his disciples, gather up the fragments that remain, that nothing be lost. Jesus answered them and said, Verily, Verily, I say unto you, you seek me not because ye saw the miracles, but because ye did eat of the Loaves, and were filled.

"Labour not for the meat which perisheth, but for that meat which endureth unto everlasting life, which the Son of man shall give unto you: for him but God the Father sealed.



**St. John's  
Missionary  
Church**  
**Rev. Bill  
Adams Sr.**

"Then said they unto him, What shall we do, that we might work the works of God? Jesus answered and said unto them this is the work for God, that ye believe on him who he hath sent.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." (John 6:11-12, 26-29, 35)

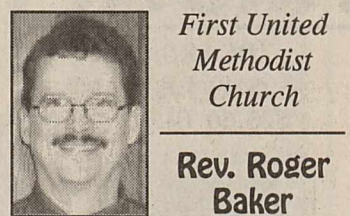
# Celebrate Christmas by living out the Gospel

According to a report on Fox News last week, Mary Morely, an artist whose works were to be shown in a Meriden, Conn., public library, had to cancel her art show.

It seems that among many of the historical figures Mary painted included a portrait of Jesus Christ. The local librarian decided that a display of Jesus was inappropriate — despite the fact the library had other religious figures in the display, such as Pope John Paul II, Buda and Dr. Martin Luther King.

It appears to me that in America there is an ever-increasing inclination towards a sort of legalism that wants to carefully eschew any sort of public celebration of Christian spirituality. This is especially troublesome to those most concerned with the "jobs and titles" of orthodox Christian doctrine. Of course, the same issue holds in England, where the nation grapples whether or not it should continue to have a "national" church.

It's not even a uniquely Christian struggle, as the same sort



**First United  
Methodist  
Church**  
**Rev. Roger  
Baker**

of battle exists for modern Muslims in secular Turkey and religious Iran.

This isn't a modern phenomenon either, as any student of the Roman Empire can attest. The whipsawed religious people of that seven-hilled city had to switch their allegiances carefully with Caesars who would vow to one god, many gods, their personal deity (Nero) or perhaps something new (Constantine).

In Jesus' time, the argument was between the Sadducees and Pharisees, who might be considered analogues to the liberal and conservative believers of our time.

It's appropriate we remember this sort of religious suppression during the very season we Christians celebrate freedom from the oppression of the Mosaic Law,

and from the oppression of sin represented by that law.

Jesus affirmed the law (Matthew 5:17), but also explained the law in the context of instruction and condemnation. He corrected the Pharisees in their strict adherence to the law (Matthew 12:2-8) and even showed that some would try to use the law to enslave others with burdens they themselves were unwilling to take on (Luke 11:46).

The Apostle Paul explained the great theme of freedom from the law even further in his epistle to the Romans. In Romans 13:10 he says: "love is the fulfillment of the law" hearkening back to Jesus' assertion that He came to fulfill the law.

There are even those today who try to stir up some sort of righteous indignation against government authorities, especially where religious rights are concerned, forgetting that Romans 13:6-7 tells us to pay respect to those due respect, to pay our taxes, to honor those in authority as God's servants.

I don't agree with every court ruling, but as a Christian I must

respect the court.

When we argue that Christians must vote or think a particular way, I wonder if we aren't really trying to create a new set of laws to replace those given through Moses.

Perhaps we should stop arguing over trifles (Romans 14:1-4), stop trying to judge other Christians (Romans 14:13), and just bear up under the strain of having a strong faith. (Romans 15:1)

Christians, our King came to set us free. He fulfilled the law by loving us. We needn't worry over displays of faith when the real display is the inextinguishable light of Christ shining through our daily lives.

The real way to celebrate Christmas is by living out the Gospel — clothing the naked, feeding the hungry, and sharing the Good News.

At First United Methodist Church, we're trying to live the Christian life of love. Come worship with us on Sunday morning at 10:45 as we search the Bible for more about the wondrous love that fulfilled the law.

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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. Construction/Maintenance Contract(s) - Dist/Div: Laredo. Contract 0022-09-046 for District Wide Sealcoat in Val Verde County, etc will be opened on January 09, 2004 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractors' list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. Bidders must submit prequalification 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 contracts(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 11667. 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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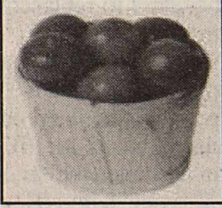


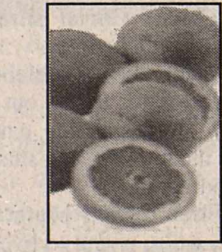
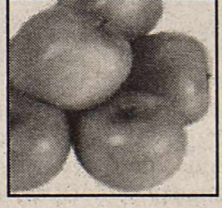
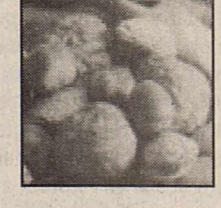
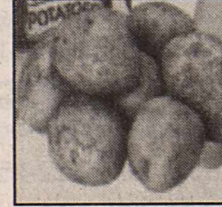

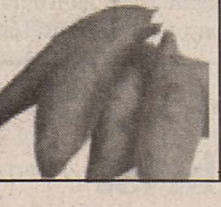

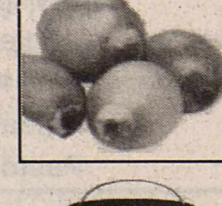
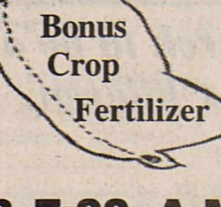
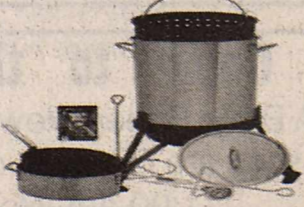
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**FRESH FRUIT FRIDAY**

<p><b>RED APPLES</b> \$.39 LB \$18.50 CASE</p> 	<p><b>GRANNY SMITH GREEN</b> \$.49 LB \$21.50 CASE</p> 	<p><b>PEARS</b> \$.49 LB \$23.50 BOX</p> 
<p><b>RED GRAPEFRUIT</b> \$.33 LB \$13.29 CASE</p> 	<p><b>Golden Apples</b> \$.45 LB \$20.00 BOX</p> 	<p><b>PECANS \$1.49 LB</b> <b>WALNUTS \$1.39</b> <b>SALTED</b> <b>PEANUTS \$.89 LB</b></p> 
<p><b>RED POTATOES</b> \$1.39 LB</p> 	<p><b>NAVEL ORANGES</b> \$.33 LB \$15.00 CASE</p> 	<p><b>SWEET POTATOES</b> \$.30 LB \$14.00 CASE</p> 
<p>50% Off All Plants Poinsettias Excluded</p> 	<p><b>YELLOW ONIONS</b> \$.25 LB</p> 	<p><b>BONUS CROP FERTILIZER</b> Your Choice \$3.00 10-20-10, 13-13-13, 20-3-3, 15-5-10</p> 
<p><b>MORRON TURKEY FRYER</b> \$39.88 6258834</p> 	<p>Bonus Crop Fertilizer</p>	

**FRUIT PRICES START 11/21/03 7:00 A.M.**  
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