

The Brackett News

Tigerettes fall short against George West
See story, Page 7

15 year, No. 48

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Sierra Club opposes management plan Attorney urges water board to address natural resources

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

Members of the Sierra Club are not strangers at the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District board meetings.

But they have remained silent. That is, until this past Thursday. Stuart Henry, lead attorney for the Sierra Club, told board members he was not satisfied with the district's management plan.

"Quite frankly, the Sierra Club intends on trying to urge the executive director of the Texas Water Development Board to reject your management plan based on the failure to include natural resources as a component," he told the directors.

According to the Texas Administrative Code, the state requires that management plans address "natural resource issues which impact the use and availability of groundwater, and which are impacted by the use of groundwater."

The original management plan said it was an objective of the district to "identify animal and plant species, including endangered species, that could be affected by use and availability of groundwater."

The statement about endangered species was taken out of the management plan.

The revised plan adopted by the board now says: "The district will annually attend a meeting of, or schedule a meeting

"Quite frankly, the Sierra Club intends on trying to urge the executive director of the Texas Water Development Board to reject your management plan based on the failure to include natural resources as a component."

Stuart Henry, Sierra Club attorney

with, the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department or the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service or the staff of those agencies to monitor the work of those agencies regarding the animal and plant species of Kinney County."

"I don't like seeing anything about endangered species," Director Hadley Wardlaw said. "It

scares me to death."

Henry said he believed the district's decision not to address natural resources was "a very severe mistake."

"The natural resources in Kinney County are dependent upon groundwater," he said. "We think you have very unique and significant natural resources

in Kinney County that are dependent and could be significantly adversely affected, or beneficially affected, depending on what you do and how you manage your resources.

Director Bob Young asked Henry what he meant by "natural resources."

"I don't think there is any question that those springs are a natural resource," Henry said. "There are also historic resources in Kinney County that, in my view, under the definition of natural resources, come within the definition that the Water Development Board has used for natural resources."

"When I discuss natural resources, I'm particularly emphasizing or thinking about particu-

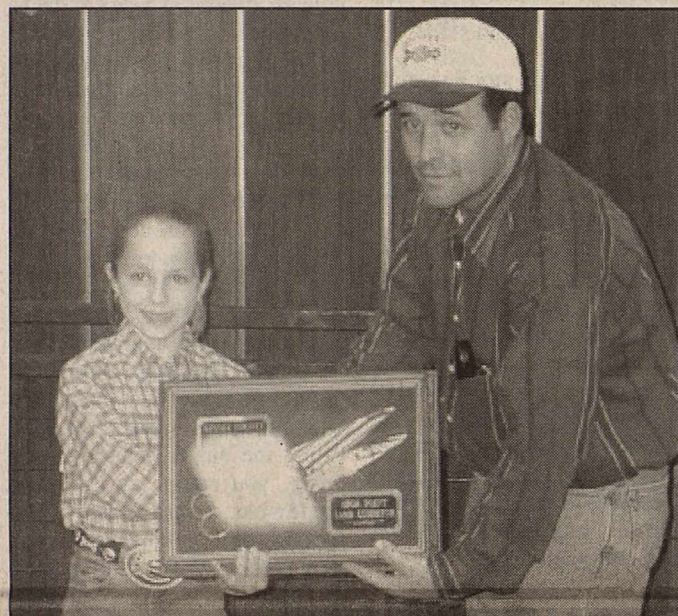
larly the natural resources associated with springs or creeks," he said. "Included within that would be wildlife and environmental water quality."

"My view is that, generally speaking, a lot of folks don't think that Kinney County has much natural resources to effect. I don't agree with that."

Henry said the Sierra Club is concerned about water issues in Kinney County.

"We think groundwater in rural areas, particularly groundwater in Kinney County and groundwater in the Edwards overall, is important for maintaining the quality of life in the rural areas, as well as maintaining the environment that rural areas enjoy," he said.

Kinney County Livestock Show



Stock show winners

Top left: Jessica Dunbar (left) is presented the Silver Shearers Award by Jimmy Ballew at the 49th Annual Kinney County 4-H and FFA Livestock Show Saturday. The award is given annually to the high-point exhibitor of market lambs and breeding sheep. Tony and Nancy Frerich donated the award in memory of Molly Audrey.

Top right: Whitney Massingill (left) is presented the Doug Taylor Memorial Top Hand Award by Rex Taylor. The award is given to the most outstanding 4-H or FFA participant in the livestock show. The Taylor Family donated the award.

Left: Bailee Allen (left) is presented the Joey Key York Award by Joe York. The award is given annually to the overall showman of the livestock show. Mr. and Mrs. Joe York donated the award.

Photos by J.J. Guidry

See additional photos, Page 6

City Council refuses recall

By J.J. GUDRY
Editor

When the Commissioners Court was approached about recalling Wes Robinson from the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Directors, the county leaders expressed a desire to have the issue worked out inhouse.

The Brackettville City Council agreed on Tuesday.

Council members Camilo Cruz, Mary Flores, Francisca "Chica" Garza, Tomas Gomez and Johnny Samaniego all voted against a resolution seeking the recall.

Bill Haenn, chief appraiser, and Mike Holley, chairman of the board, requested the recall because Robinson had not attended the last three meetings.

Board members Richard Slubar and Tim Ward also missed the three previous meetings, and Director Tom Ertle missed one. Slubar's term has since expired.

The Commissioners Court asked Haenn if Robinson was being singled out, and he said he did not seek Ward's recall because he had called and explained why he would not be able to attend the meetings.

During a special meeting on Jan. 29, Holley told the commissioners he would make the school district aware of Ward's absences.

"I have discussed Mr. Ward's attendance with the school board president (Henry Lutz) and it

was his decision not to take any action since Mr. Ward is a long-time director on our board with a long record of attendance," Haenn told the City Council on Tuesday. "These were unusual circumstances on his account."

The Appraisal District policy is to meet bimonthly, but the Property Tax Code requires the directors to meet quarterly at a minimum. Haenn said the board has not met since Aug. 14 and is not in compliance with the statute.

Robinson maintains that the attempted recall was politically motivated.

"This has absolutely nothing to do with whether I attended the last three meetings," he said. "It's regarding the fact that I did not vote for the budget and on several occasions I've corrected inaccuracies that were stated to the board. That's what this is about."

Flores asked Haenn if he had a personal conflict with Robinson.

"No ma'am," Haenn replied. "Myself and the chairman of the board are making the council aware of the situation. Four months now, we have been unable to have a meeting."

Flores urged the Appraisal District to set a regular meeting date to establish consistency.

"You do not have set dates for meetings," she said. "Take the city for instance. We know for a fact that we have our meeting every second Tuesday of the month." ■ See CITY/Page 7

INSIDE

Shanae Simmons

Imagine standing in a lavishly decorated home filled with all that is fine and expensive. Imagine this home costing around \$25 million. **Opinion/Page 2**

Chuck Hall

I first noticed slight noises in the night. A sound, something like a far away scratching, a prisoner tunneling his way to freedom. **Opinion/Page 2**

Roger Baker

"Covenant" is a word we don't use very much anymore except in religious terms. It refers to a serious agreement between man and God. **Religion/Page 9**

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15th year, No. 48

Courthouse to be featured on magazine cover Commissioners approve hazardous materials survey, roofing project

The Kinney County courthouse will be featured on the cover of *County Progress* magazine.

County Judge Herb Senne made the announcement Monday during the Commissioners' Court meeting.

"Every month *County Progress* features one of Texas' courthouses on the cover, and we have scheduled Kinney County to be the cover of our October 2004 issue," said Becky Frost, the magazine's business manager.

The current courthouse and the 1879 courthouse (now the Las Moras Masonic Lodge building) will be considered by the State Board of Review for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places during a meeting on Saturday in Austin.

The National Register is the federal government's official list of historic properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition and assists in preserving the nation's heritage.

The commissioners continued efforts Monday to complete its

master plan to restore the courthouse.

The court approved a bid of \$4,800 from Raba-Kistner Consultants of San Antonio for a hazardous materials survey.

The bid includes \$1,700 for an asbestos survey, \$1,600 for a lead-based paint survey and \$1,500 for an indoor air quality survey.

The commissioners also tentatively approved a bid from Bentley Sheet Metal and Roofing of San Antonio for \$111,862 to repair the roof of the courthouse.

At least some of the roof repairs will be absorbed by insurance funds.

Both the hazardous material survey and roofing project are eligible for the Texas Historic Courthouse Preservation Program.

The program was established by the Texas legislature through a grant in 1999, and has funded 50 million in 1999, 50 million in 2001, and 45 million in 2003. The program funds 85 percent of the project and the county funds 15 percent.



The Kinney County Courthouse will be featured on the cover of the October edition of *County Progress* magazine, County Judge Herb Senne announced on Monday.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Sierra Club challenges local control

The Kinney County Groundwater District has brought back the endangered species issue, only this time they brought reinforcements — the lead attorney for the Sierra Club.

Last week he told the district during their meeting that he'll be asking the Texas Water Development Board to reinstate "natural resource language" into the district's groundwater management plan. I guess he doesn't believe in local control.

Pro-endangered species language was deleted from the plan in late 2003 and language protecting agriculture was added. Prior to that meeting, the district was presented a large petition, signed by county residents, asking for these changes.

It appears the district, after alienating local citizens through their rules and conduct over the past two years, has reached outside the county for an ally. Unfortunately for all of us, they turned to the Sierra Club and, after last week's meeting, it seems the Sierra Club may be turning on them.

The attorney said the Sierra Club will protest sections of the management plan at the state level. However, he hinted at offering the district assistance in

fighting those who oppose the plan, including some local landowners, such as myself, who filed a legal motion for the management plan to be reconsidered.

The management plan lacks groundwater recharge. This recharge data may be the difference in permit applicants fully enjoying their historic water rights or losing them.

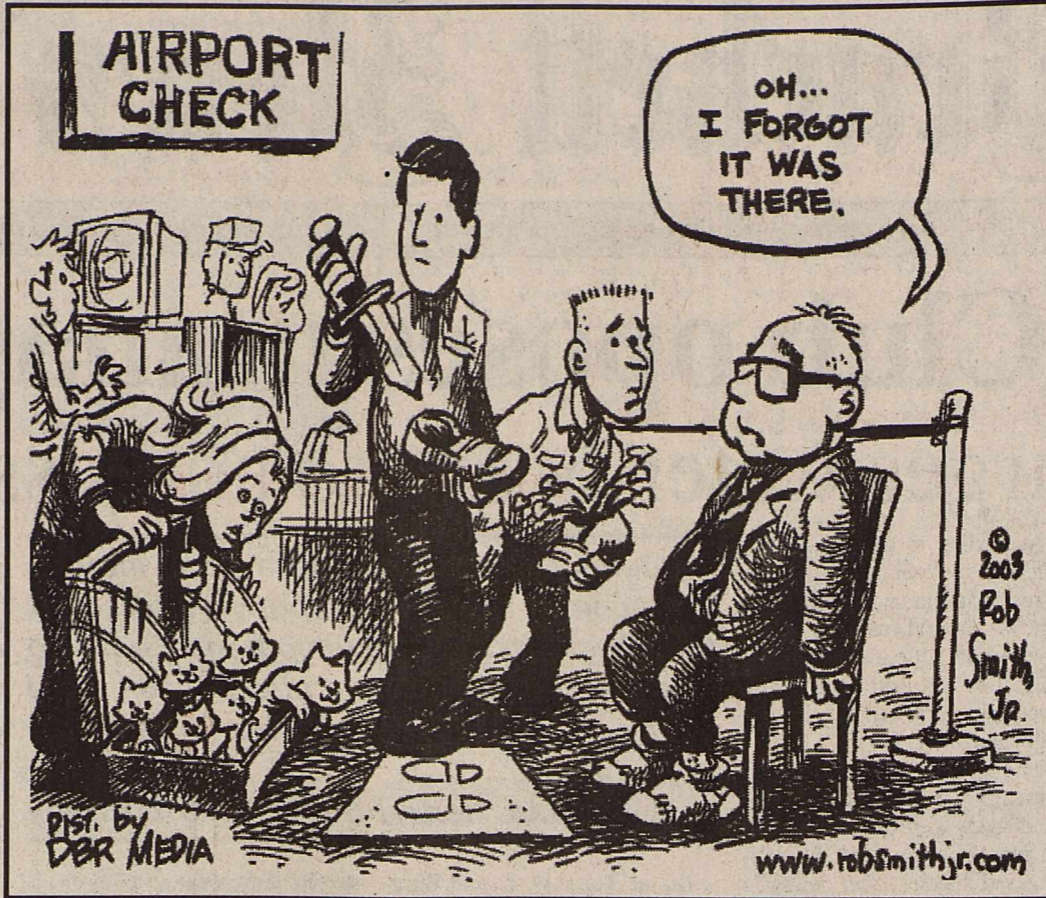
Legally, the board can deny our rehearing request, thereby denying local landowners the water rights they have historically used and paid for in the cost of the land.

If the rehearing is granted and the Sierra Club steps in, the landowners may end up fighting the district and the multimillion budget of the Sierra Club. Regardless, the local landowners lose and this region will lose.

As for the district, the Sierra Club's intervention may be by design, but I hope not.

I was always told to be careful who my friends were, because many times you are judged by the company you keep. How appropriate and true, as Kinney County sees its groundwater board working with the Sierra Club.

Jennifer McDaniel



Teen Spirit

Shanee Simmons

Who needs a lot of money?

Imagine standing in a lavishly decorated home filled with all that is fine and expensive. Imagine this home costing around \$25 million. While your mind is coloring this extraordinary picture, why not add fine dining, daily massages, pedicures, facials and drinks that cost \$3,000 a bottle. Doesn't sound particularly cheap, does it?

Recently I was watching a television show called, "The Fabulous Life Of: Hot, Young Pop Stars." This was a show worthy enough to turn any Average Joe into a green-eyed monster. Not only was one toured throughout the homes of these, shall we say, well-pampered post-teens, the audience was shown the daily lives and extravagant practices of young, good looking pop idols.

During the entire show, my fingers itched to flip channels out of disgust of such wasted wealth, but I just couldn't do it. It was horrible yet intriguing all at the same time.

I hated how these celebrities' nights of partying cost enough to put me all the way through college, plus a few years of medical school. I was also irritated by the fact that people struggle to make barely enough money to support their families, and these 19 to 24 year olds never worry the least about money or lack thereof, and how they could basically use money as some green pigmented toilet paper if they desired.

Basically, what I am saying is, I was ticked that these very fortunate people are rolling in the dough with their great cars and airplanes, and I am still riding the bus to school. Obviously, you could say that this, somewhat Average Joe, was turned green, not as in cash, but more in the envy category.

Of course, after watching this show, I went into my ranting and ravings about how spoiled they all were, and how ridiculous their spending was. I mean, come on, \$3,000 for a bottle of some drink. Some even had shampoo made out of caviar.

After being livid in my own home, I went over to see some friends who had seen the show and we shared our repulsion with one another, reminiscing about other horrible shows like "Rich Girls" and "The Simple Life," both involving pairs of girls who were born into wealth and ignorance about what it is to live in middle-class America.

Eventually, after spending much time pouring out all I had to say about these "spoiled" people, I stopped and realized that I was just as bad as them. Not only was I acting like a whiny little baby, but after I paused my own envious fit, I thought about all the people in Third World countries, who unlike me, do not get the opportunity to have clean water, along with food, clothing and all the other things that could make a person "spoiled."

I realized that I was the one acting as if I were mistreated by some harm done against me when I was born into a country where I am allowed to have an education, freedom of religion, and just live comfortably. Or even into a home where I don't have to worry about where my next meal is coming from.

After thinking a bit, I felt pretty guilty and realized that I have far more wealth than many others in this world, so why was I whining.

Just like the saying, there was a man who had no shoes, but then he met another who had no feet. There is always someone above you, but also, on the contrary, below you.

Now that I realize, I may not be a Britney Spears, but I have everything I need and that should be satisfying on its own. I mean really, who needs caviar shampoo?

Texans talk education

Mother Goose tales, Big Chief writing tablets, Aesop's Fables, Dick and Jane books ... these classic schoolhouse mementos instantly conjure up images of childhoods long since past.

For many of us, our first step toward success in life was through the doors of a public school where these classic tools helped us learn the three "R's" — reading, writing and 'rithmetic.

In 1980, the Department of Education was formed with the directive to "ensure that all have equal access to education and to promote excellence in our nation's schools."

In my annual survey, I posed the following question about the state of our nation's education system: "In January 2002, the president signed into law historic education reform, the No Child Left Behind Act. The legislation encourages innovation, teaches students based on what works and makes schools accountable for achievement. As we implement the reforms, it is important to ensure they continue to enhance our system of public education and meet the needs of our nation's children. In your opinion, what should we be doing to improve our public schools?"

That question provoked strong opinions, as Texans far and wide are clearly concerned with the education of their chil-



Capitol Comment

Kay Bailey Hutchison

When it comes to student testing, 63 percent of you felt we needed an increase, with the remainder thinking we needed a decrease.

Equal numbers of you felt that, while we should pay teachers more, we should also require teacher testing in their field.

And I received hearty support for the need to add creativity in curriculum and teaching methods, as well as for the idea of giving performance bonuses to teachers and schools.

Below is a small sampling of the feedback I received on this important issue:

- Increase student and parent accountability. *Harvey, Houston*
- Offer vouchers for children in schools that don't perform. *Delaney, Georgetown*
- Increase the use of charter schools and allow schools to compete for students. Allow parents and students to choose from schools in their district. *Sean, Houston*
- More instructional teaching and less classroom worksheets. *John, Allen*

There's a mouse in the house

I first noticed slight noises in the night. A sound, something like a far away scratching, a prisoner tunneling his way to freedom or a well-digger thousands of feet below the earth. It could only mean one thing: A mouse.

A mouse had found his way into my home. I have a large dislike for those creatures. They're hard to get rid of once they are in.

I don't understand how it was possible for a mouse to get within a hundred yards of my dwelling place. You see, my wife has over a dozen cats. Oh, she claims most are not hers. They are just "strays."

Right. Hers or someone else's, they still should do their catly duty and protect my house from mice!

Back to the inside problem. I bought two old-fashioned type traps and two packs of the new



But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

and improved version: Sticky Paper. I was impressed with the product. I worked hard to get the covering paper off of the sticky trap. It was sure to do the job.

But why take a chance? I put both out where the rodents were suspected to be. Then I put another in an adjoining closet. Still one more in a spot I had trapped a mouse a few years back.

Now I was ready. Make your move Mr. Mouse. Say your prayers.

I arose early the next morning. Like a fur trapper of yes-

There is a big difference between testing and teaching. Better pay encourages better teachers and more men to enter into and stay in the profession. *Nancy, San Antonio*

Get the unions out of the classroom. *Ray, Spring*

Many students are uninspired by their teachers and their ability to properly instruct. *Larry, Azle*

Encourage smaller class sizes, especially in primary grades. *Mary, Brownsville*

Creativity is so important to the development of our children. *Kerry, Boerne*

Give each teacher more flexibility in the classroom. Each student is an individual and requires different ways of teaching. Most teachers should be more creative. Testing should be done but it is not the most important thing. A great teacher once told me that most important thing you can give any child is a love of learning. *Vickie, Fredericksburg*

As we begin our third year under No Child Left Behind, the Department of Education will continue to tackle the challenges facing our nation's education system.

In December, the Department of Education announced that 26 Texas schools had been given the Blue Ribbon Award. We will continue to work until all of our schools are "Blue Ribbon" schools.

I eagerly rushed to check my trap-line. I had managed to catch not one but two of the beasts. I'd say I had done well.

OK, put everything back like it was, and the problem is solved.

Wait. Something bothered me. Why did those mice look so small? They weren't quite what I'd call mature. Where were Mr. and Mrs. Mouse? Were they still about? In the house?

OK, let's reset the traps. After a few days of sprung traps, moved sticky paper and continued noises, I knew my job was only half done.

I managed to catch eight mice over the course of the next week. I hope that's all of them.

And what did I do with the dispatched mice? I put them out for the felines to eat. If you think they touched one, then you could be wrong.

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PERSONNEL: Jewel Robinson, Publisher; Dimple Henry, Office Manager; J.J. Guidry, Editor; Kathy Wilson, Typist/Advertising.

releases is noon Tuesday.

SUBSCRIPTION: Subscriptions and change of address should be sent to: The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Be sure to give both old and new address when requesting change.

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

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

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.

Classified and Legal Notice advertising deadline is noon Tuesday. Deadline for news

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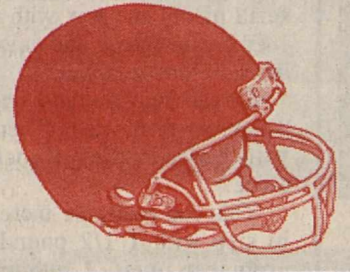
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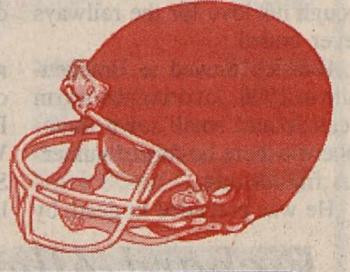
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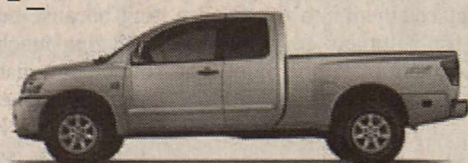
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OBITUARIES

Rick Bacon

Rick Bacon died Saturday, Jan. 10, 2004, in Amarillo. He was a resident of Panhandle. He was born Aug. 19, 1948.

Bacon played high school and college basketball, and graduated from West Texas State University in 1970. He had worked for the U.S. Department of Agriculture for the past year as a farm service agent.

He is survived by two sisters,

Barbara Graham of Columbus and Wanda Johnson of Goodnight, and a brother, Ken Bacon of Carrollton.

Services will be 1 p.m. Saturday at Martin Baptist Church in Clarendon, with Rev. Darrell Burton officiating.

The family requests memorial donations be made to the Don and Sybil Harrington Cancer Center.

James Bruce Hensley

Small in stature, big in heart, always with a friendly smile and a good word to say. James Bruce Hensley, born Nov. 13, 1915, died peacefully Jan. 6, 2004, following a heart attack suffered on Dec. 25.

Hensley married Eunice Corine Clemens on June 25, 1938, in Amarillo, where they raised their three children, Bob, Darla and James.

He retired from Burlington Northern Railroad in 1976, though his love for the railways never ended.

Hensley moved to Brackettville in 1998, favoring the warm weather and small town atmosphere, where he forged numerous friendships.

He was preceded in death by

his wife, mother, Erie Hensley, and sisters, Ora Mae Fidler and Beulah Jones.

Hensley is lovingly survived and remembered by his three children and their respective spouses, 10 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, one niece, one nephew, and countless friends and neighbors.

Per his wishes, no memorial service will be held, and his remains will be scattered from the bridge over the Las Moras Creek on Fort Clark Springs.

Those wishing to honor his memory may send a charitable contribution to the Arthritis Foundation, P.O. Box 96280, Washington, DC 20077-7491 or St. Labre Indian School, Ashland, MT 59004-1001.

Richard Allen Mountain

Richard Allen Mountain passed away on Nov. 30, 2003, in Las Vegas. He was born on Nov. 4, 1912, to George and Maude Mountain in the small town of Cherryvale, Kan.

He was preceded in death by his wife of 44 years, Ruby Alene Smith.

Mountain's frail health during his public school years fostered a lifelong love of reading and the study of history. He graduated from Bradley University in 1941. His major fields of study were history and education.

In June of 1943, Mountain was drafted into the U.S. Army and served in the Pacific Theater. He received the Asiatic Pacific Service Medal, World War II Victory Medal, Good Conduct Medal and the Bronze Service Arrowhead.

After the war, he returned to the University of Illinois on the G.I. Bill and earned a master's degree in library science. Mountain worked at the research library of the Caterpillar Tractor Company in Peoria, Ill., for six years. The next 20 years were spent as the head librarian at the Naval Missile Center in Point Mugu, Calif.

Both Richard and his wife

Ruby served as role models for many young adults in the various Masonic and Shrine organizations, traveled extensively and were activity members of the Masons and Shriners.

During his years in Brackettville, Mountain was an active member of the community. He was a member of the V.F.W., the Brackettville Rotary Club, the Kinney County Library Board, the Fort Clark Historical Association, the Kinney County Historical Association, Las Moras Masonic Lodge and Order of the Eastern Star.

Mountain served his local lodge as master in 1989 and served as chairman of the Masonic Cemetery Committee for a number of years. He was a Mason for 55 years. He was also a life member and endowed member of Las Moras Lodge. He received the Golden Trowel Award in 1996, which is the highest award a lodge may bestow upon one of its members.

His known survivors include two nephews, Michael and Steven, and two nieces, Barbara and Patricia.

Masonic gravesite services will be held at 1 p.m. Saturday at the Las Moras Masonic Cemetery.

BRIEFS

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church's annual bratwurst fry set for Jan. 25

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church will host its 10th Annual Bratwurst Fry from noon to 2 p.m. on Jan. 25 on the church grounds, located on the corner of Fort and Henderson Street.

Plates are \$6 each and \$3 for children under 12, and include bratwurst, buns, German or American potato salad, baked beans, sauerkraut, desserts and coffee, tea or lemonade. Carry out will be available.

For tickets, contact any member of the church or call 563-2347. Tickets will also be available the day of the fry. The proceeds of the dinner will have matching funds by Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church welcomes all people for services. Communion is served every Sunday as part of an outreach to all believing Christians. The church has Sunday services at 9 a.m. with Sunday School for all ages following at 10:15 a.m.

Women's group to meet Monday

Jennifer Baggett will be the keynote speaker Monday at the Christian Women's Association luncheon at Saint Andrew's Episcopal Church, located on the corner of Fort and Henderson Street.

Baggett is the wife of Bo Baggett, an Army reservist. Capt. Baggett was called to duty in April of 2003, and has been serving in Afghanistan in connection with the War in Iraq ever since. He is currently serving in Bagram, Afghanistan, working in civil affairs and leading reconstruction teams in the area. He is expected to return to Brackettville the first week in February.

Mrs. Baggett will share their personal story and how prayer and faith has helped to sustain their family.

The Christian Women's luncheons are held monthly in area churches, and are open to anyone. Lunch is \$5, which includes a drink and desert.

Robinson speaks to Garden Club

Genie Robinson was the guest speaker last Thursday at the Mountain Laurel Garden Club's monthly meeting. The group had 24 members and two guests in attendance.

Refreshments were served by Joanna Werner and Jo Entriken. The group will meet next on Feb. 12 at 9:30 a.m. at the Adult Center. Rick Taylor, a biologist from the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department, will be the guest speaker.

Fort to host chili cook-off Monday

Fort Clark will host its Fourth Annual Chili Cook-Off Monday at noon at the RV Park. The event is a fundraiser for the Fort Clark Festival.

The public is invited to attend. Tickets are available for a \$5 donation, and include music, drinks and all the chili you want. Tickets can be purchased at the cook-off.

Honoring Our Leaders



Photo by J.J. Guidry

School Board Recognition Month

Members of the Brackett ISD Board of Trustees were honored Monday night as a part of School Board Recognition Month. Superintendent Bobby Templeton, teachers, students and parents presented autographed footballs to the board members. Templeton said the footballs were representative of the team work between the trustees and the rest of the BISD community. Trustees include Henry Lutz (from left), Sarah Terrazas, Jim McDaniel, Lloyd Lee Davis, Sondra Meil, Mark Frerich and Ronnie Hobbs (not pictured).

BISD HONOR ROLL

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

High School

All-A Honor Roll

Seniors: Elizabeth Ballew, Amanda Davis, Dietrich Davis, Hector Febres, Sarah Meyer, Emily Petrosky, Ashley Smith, Star Smith, Blanca Talamantes, Ashley Thourot and Beau Watkins.

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

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

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

A-B Honor Roll

Seniors: Stacey Castilla, Chestin-Hatley-Clark, Stephanie Coronado, Tony Jamail, Christopher Lehnert, Arnold Pinales, Nataly Rodriguez, Anthony Rosetti, Elijah Woolsey and Caitlin Wylie.

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

Sophomores: Valentin Barrutieta, Dana Bonner, Jessica

Crane, Ramiro Pina and Billy Steelman.

Freshmen: Dolores Cano, Robert Davis, Allison DeBosque, Diana Hernandez, John Moore, 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, Daphne Hunt Conrad Moore and Bianca Stewart.

Seventh grade: Samantha Moore and Laura Swinson.

A-B Honor Roll

Eighth grade: Travis Bonner, Amber Castilla, Israel Dehoyos, Doolie Fernandez, Maricela Paredes, Gabriela Talamantes and Anolda Watkins.

Seventh grade: Laura Adams, Emily Calk, Rebecca Mann and Maribel Rivas.

Elementary School

All-A Honor Roll

Sixth grade: Cheyenne Billings, Charles Conoly, Brooklyn Gose and Katie Yeager.

Fifth grade: Kelsey Bruce, Bryan Calk, Haley Hale, Janine Rex, Sahara Rodriguez and Sofia Viesca.

Fourth grade: Tyler Coates, Lauren Duncan, Britany Hale, Nevada Payne and Daulton Woodson.

Third grade: Priscilla Aguirre, Brooke Brown, Calli Campos, Cesar Castillo, Ryan Clark, Meghan Flores, Yeika Garcia, Briana Garza, Selina Gerardo, Sariah Guartuche, Roldando Gutierrez, Lucas Hurt, Ethan Justice, Austin Pettett, Adam Resendez, Selene Talamantes and Marissa Villarreal.

Second grade: Judy Adams, Korlee Allen, Arturo Castillo, Clay Flores, Dolores Garza, Javier Gomez, Hannah Johnson, Steven Maldonado, Garon Rueda, August Stephenson and Shelby Schuster.

First grade: Webb Ashley, Peyton Bonner, Gabrielle Brown, Morgan Brown, Blake Duncan, Maddie Frerich, David Ortega, Bryce Slubar and Davis Wade.

A-B Honor Roll

Sixth grade: Chris Blake, Cynthia Bland, Steven Brinker, Alexis Buecher, Bryan Chacon, Ryan Clark, Brianna Escamilla, Sarah Gonzalez, Ramon Gutierrez, Lauren Hernandez, Anan Martinez, Aracely Martinez, Elena Molinar, Elidia Molinar, YeMi Moore, JayProulx, Raul Rivas, Andy Schmidt and Isaac Talamantes.

Fifth grade: Katie Bowlin, Sarah Davis, Stella Guajardo, Ward Kerr, Ayland Letsinger, Tyler McDonald, Victor Ro-



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

Crab dip is easy and inexpensive

It's so nice to have days slowed down to a fast run. I love the excitement, joy and love felt beginning at the end of October until after the New Year. But I find it takes more out of me each year.

While visiting and sharing with our local meat market manager, he let me sample a dip that he was going to serve at a party. It became an instant "must have" for my files. It is super easy and inexpensive!

Crab Dip

1 12-ounce jar cocktail sauce
1 pound imitation crab meat
8 ounces cream cheese, softened to room temperature
minced onion to taste

Break the crab meat into small pieces and mix with softened cream cheese and onion (if desired), and mix well.

Spread into a small baking dish or casserole dish. Then top with entire bottle of cocktail sauce.

This can easily be increased in size with 1 1/2 pounds of crabmeat plus 12 ounces of cream cheese, or 2 pounds of crab meat and 16 ounces of cream cheese. Use only one bottle of cocktail sauce for all.

The results?

It tastes like shrimp cocktail!

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Thursday, Jan. 1

3:43 p.m., A woman reported that two men were about to get into a fight at a residence on N. Beaumont Street.

Friday, Jan. 2

7:55 p.m., A woman reported an intoxicated individual at the Senior Apartments on W. Spring Street.

Sunday, Jan. 4

11:56 a.m., A man reported damage to a fence behind his residence on E. Louise Street.

12:07 a.m., Deputy Ron Ring reported that the Bike Shop on E. Spring Street had been broken into.

4:17 p.m., Thomas Steven Kellum, 50, of Jasper was arrested by DPS Trooper Bobby White on a warrant for parole violation. The warrant was later dropped.

Monday, Jan. 5

4 a.m., Gregorio Jaue Camacho, 36, of Mexico was arrested by Deputy Cody Shannon on an outstanding warrant out of Dallas county. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

12:55 p.m., A woman reported that someone had hit her vehicle at the Post Office.

2 p.m., Juana Marquez, 31, of Brackettville was arrested by Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter for

making a terroristic threat. She was released the same day on a personal recognizance bond.

Tuesday, Jan. 6

3:06 p.m., Carlos Antonio Perez, 29, of Houston was arrested by Constable Bobby Guidry on outstanding DPS warrants for failure to appear, no insurance and having an unsecured child. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Wednesday, Jan. 7

3:45 p.m., A man reported that an individual had locked their keys inside their vehicle at the LaFonda Ranch.

7 p.m., A woman said she had a busted water pipe at her residence on W. El Paso Street. City officials were notified.

9:31 p.m., A woman's daughter called to report that her mother's boyfriend was beating up her sister at their residence on E. First Street. Deputy Ring was dispatched to the scene. The mother said her boyfriend struck her 14-year-old daughter in the face and was choking her. He fled the scene and Ring was unable to locate him. The mother called the Sheriff's Office the next morning and said her boyfriend left what she suspected was marijuana and marijuana paraphernalia behind at her resi-

dence. Ring took possession of what appeared to be a green leafy substance, some cigarette rolling papers and two partially smoked hand-rolled cigarettes and placed them into an evidence bag for shipment to the Texas Department of Public Safety for proper identification.

Friday, Jan. 9

12:08 p.m., Luis Flores Jr., 42, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ring for assault with bodily injury. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

Saturday, Jan. 10

3:10 p.m., A Sentry Alarms employee reported an alarm sounding at Alamo Saddlery on Highway 693.

6:37 p.m., A woman requested that the Sheriff's Department put her residence on the nightly check list. She stated that she was having problems with her next door neighbor at the Kinney County Estates.

9:46 p.m., A woman requested assistance at her residence on N. Brown Street in reference to possible domestic problems. Deputy Shannon was dispatched to the scene and spoke to the woman, who had fingerprint impressions and scratch marks on her neck, and spots of blood on her shirt col-

lar. She said her live-in boyfriend became upset with her when she would not give him the keys to his truck. She said she tried to prevent him from driving because he was intoxicated. The man punched the windshield of her car, shattering it. She said he then choked her, before he grabbed his keys and left. A warrant was issued for the man's arrest.

10:40 p.m., A DPS dispatcher reported five cars about 5 to 10 miles west of the Cline checkpoint trying to race.

Sunday, Jan. 11

4:02 p.m., Felicia Miranda Flores, 20, of Uvalde was arrested by Deputy Manuel Pena for possession of marijuana. She was released later the same day after posting a \$1,200 bail bond.

5:45 p.m., Antonio Reyes Jr., 45, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Ring for driving while intoxicated, open container and for an outstanding warrant out of Lubbock County.

He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was still being held at press-time.

11:20 p.m., Ervey Rodriguez, 40, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputies Shannon and Gutierrez for driving while intoxicated. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail, where he was being held at press-time.

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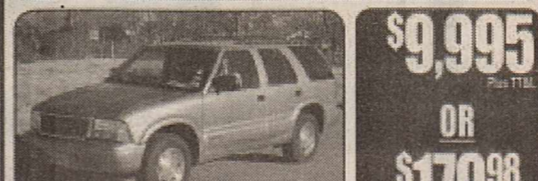


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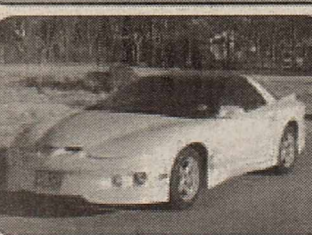


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• Automatic • Cruise & Tilt • 44,300 miles
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* \$1500 down + TT&L at 6.5% APR for 60 mos. W.A.C.

•Car of the Week•

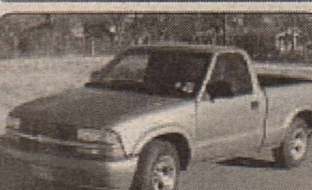


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\$259.89
Per Mo.

2002 Pontiac Firebird

• Auto • V-6 • Leather • Pwr Locks & Windows
• AM/FM/CD • 19,900 miles • T-Top SN # 5100
* \$1500 down + TT&L at 7.5% APR for 60 mos. W.A.C.

•Truck of the Week•



\$6,895
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\$119.81
Per Mo.

2000 Chevrolet 5-10

• Automatic • 4 cyl. Engine • 28,700 miles
• AM/FM/CD SN # 5102
* \$1000 down + TT&L at 6.5% APR for 60 mos. W.A.C.

| | | |
|---|--------------|----------|
| 2003 Pontiac Vibe..... | 2,439 miles | SN50293A |
| 2003 Olds Alero..... | 24,015 miles | SN 5083 |
| 2003 Chevrolet Monte Carlo..... | 29,341 miles | SN 5091 |
| 2003 Buick LeSabre Custom..... | 29,426 miles | SN31813A |
| 2003 Pontiac Montana..... | 25,396 miles | SN 5093 |
| 2003 Chevrolet Silverado HD Ext. Cab..... | 15,716 miles | SN70333A |
| 2003 Chevrolet Suburban..... | 23,507 miles | SN 5099 |
| 2003 Chevrolet Trailblazer..... | 18,515 miles | SN 5074 |
| 2003 Chevy Trailblazer Ext..... | 16,791 miles | SN 5104 |
| 2001 Oldsmobile Alero..... | 28,030 miles | SN 5107 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Ext. Cab..... | 33,980 miles | SN32083A |
| 2002 Pontiac Firebird..... | 19,945 miles | SN 5100 |
| 2002 Chevrolet Silverado Reg. Cab..... | 32,431 miles | SN71003A |
| 2001 Chevrolet Ext. Cab..... | 61,984 miles | SN70024B |
| 2001 GMC Sierra Crew Cab..... | 44,468 miles | SN70584A |
| 2001 Chevrolet Suburban..... | 43,290 miles | SN31743A |
| 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab..... | 62,100 miles | SN60193 |
| 2001 Chevrolet Silverado Ext. Cab..... | 46,116 miles | SN 5067A |
| 2001 Mazda 626 4 Door..... | 44,095 miles | SN31593A |
| 2001 Pontiac Aztek..... | 35,249 miles | SN 5064 |
| 2001 Chevy Silverado Ext. Cab..... | 54,478 miles | SN30534A |
| 2001 Chevrolet Blazer..... | 43,562 miles | SN 5097A |
| 2000 Chevrolet Ext. Cab..... | 63,462 miles | SN 5106A |
| 2000 Chevrolet 5-10 Pickup..... | 28,674 miles | SN 5102 |
| 2000 Chevrolet Venture Van..... | 45,749 miles | SN 5070 |

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Clay Threadgill (left) is presented the High Point Exhibitor Award by FFA Sweetheart Dana Bonner. Threadgill had the champion market hog, champion meat goat doe and reserve champion meat goat.



Beth Ballew (left) is presented the award for champion fine wool lamb by Robert Elledge. Ballew also had the reserve champion crossbred lamb and reserve champion medium wool lamb. In addition, she won a senior showmanship award.



Cody Robinette (left) is presented the Most Improved Feeder Award by Stanley Dunbar. This award is given annually to the livestock exhibitor who has shown the most improvement in his or her project.



Emily Petrosky (left) is presented the award for champion rabbit doe by Phillip Calk. Petrosky also had the reserve champion rabbit buck and won the senior showmanship award.



Tyler Coates (left) is presented the award for champion crossbred lamb by Dana Bonner. Coates also had the champion medium wool lamb.



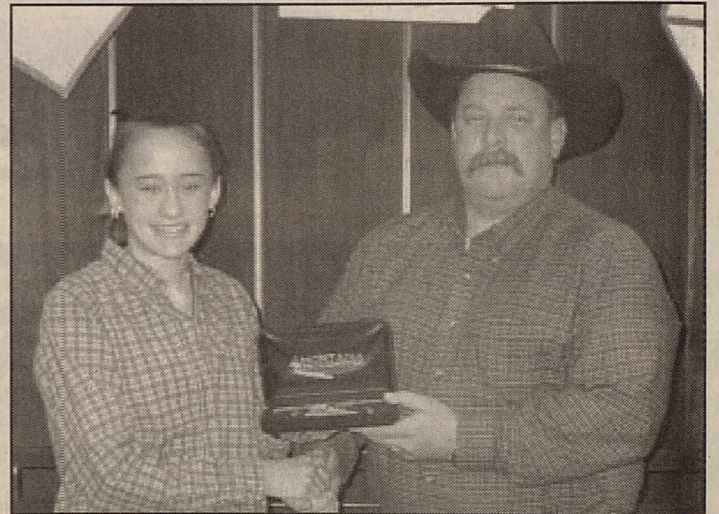
Summer Allen (left) is presented the award for champion steer by Tommy Clark. Allen also won the junior showmanship awards for steers and lambs.



Taylor Dunbar (left) is presented the award for reserve champion fine wool lamb by Lindsey Brotherton. Dunbar also won the junior showmanship award for fine wool lambs.



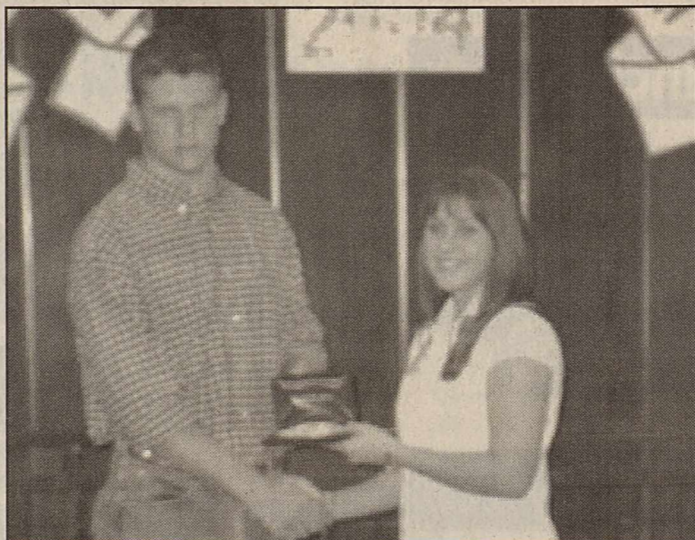
Whitney Hobbs (left) is presented the award for champion meat goat by Danny Samaniego. Hobbs also had the reserve champion meat goat doe.



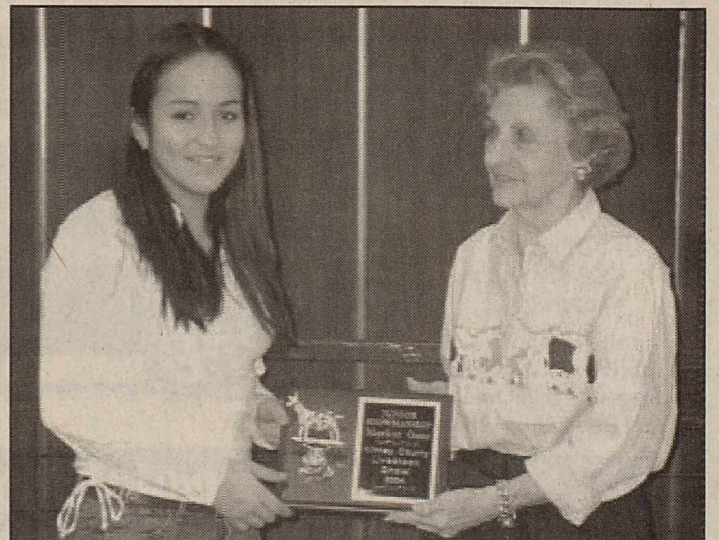
Daphne Hunt (left) is presented the award for champion rabbit buck by Alan McWilliams. Hunt also won the junior showmanship award for rabbits.



Sammie Stewart (left) is presented the junior showmanship award for market hogs by Wanda Whitworth.



Dietrich Davis (left) is presented the senior showmanship award for steers by Dana Bonner.



Julie Castillo (left) is presented the junior showmanship award for meat goats by Wanda Whitworth.



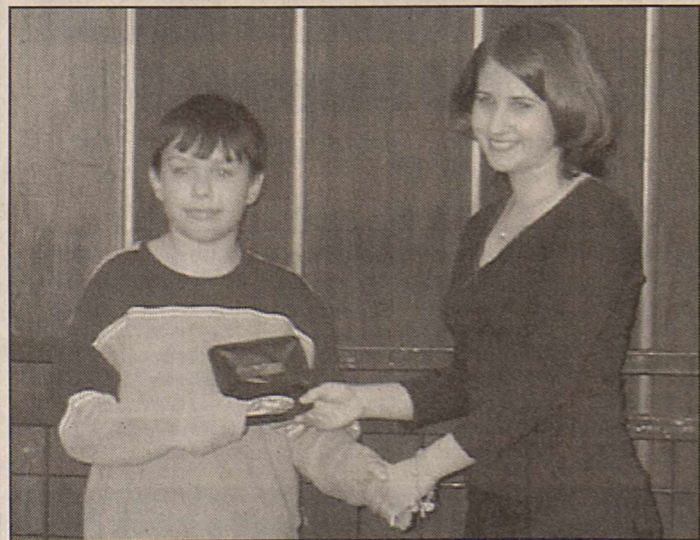
Hayley Harris (left) is presented the senior showmanship award for fine wool ewes by Jennifer Harris.



Natalie Aguirre (left) is presented the junior showmanship award for meat goat does by 4-H Sweetheart Emily Petrosky.



Mason McWilliams (left) is presented one of two senior showmanship awards he won for meat goats by Ronnie Hobbs.



Ward Kerr (left) is presented the award for champion meat pen by Emily Petrosky.



Banner Kerr (center) is presented the award for reserve champion meat pen by Maggie Kerr (left) and Dana Bonner.



Bryan Calk (left) is presented the award for reserve champion rabbit doe by Emily Petrosky.

Tigerettes fall to George West

The shots just didn't fall for the Tigerettes on Tuesday.

Brackett made only 8 of 26 field goals, falling to George West 46-27 in District 30-2A basketball action.

The Tigerettes are now 14-4 overall and 1-1 in conference action.

Stacey Castilla and Ashley Smith both scored six points for Brackett. Courtney Frerich finished with five, Stephanie Bonner and Shanae Simmons each had four and Ashley Castillo had two points and five steals.

Brackett opened its district slate on Friday with a 49-31 victory over Natalia.

Bonner and Emily Valenzuela each had 10 points in the contest, Smith scored nine, Frerich had seven, Amanda Davis tallied five, Jessi Crane pitched in four and Castilla and Castillo both had two.

Frerich pulled down 12 rebounds in the game, while Castillo had 11 boards and six steals. Smith also had four assists.

Junior Varsity Girls

Brackett's junior varsity girls' basketball team kept its perfect record intact with a 28-27 overtime win over George West on Tuesday.

The Tigerettes are now 11-0 on the season.

Kara Yeager paced Brackett with a game-high 13 points and four steals.

Nadine Terrazas finished with six points, Timmeke Simmons scored three, and Juliann Ashabranner, Alanna Conoly and Danika Schmidt all had two.

The junior varsity girls defeated Natalia 30-26 on Friday. Simmons was the top scorer

ROUNDUP

with 14 points, while Yeager finished with seven. Schmidt scored four, Ashabranner and Conoly had two apiece and Lola Cano added one.

The Tigerettes posted a 41-15 victory over Class 3A Pearsall on the road on Dec. 30.

Lisa Morgan paced Brackett with 10 points and four steals. Dana Bonner scored seven, while Simmons had six points and seven rebounds.

Yeager finished the contest with five points and four steals. Cano and Brandy Smith both had four points, Ashabranner scored three and Terrazas added two.

The J.V. girls also picked up a 40-28 road win over Knippa during the holiday break.

Smith led the Tigerettes with 11 points and seven boards, while Simmons had eight points and eight rebounds.

Terrazas scored seven points in the contest, Yeager had six, Jessi Crane finished with four and Ashabranner and Cassie Mata each added two.

Junior High Boys

The Cubs' A team won the championship Saturday at the Nueces Canyon junior high tournament.

"The guys have been working real hard and have been improving every game," Brackett coach Rod Blount said. "All of the guys played very good defense in both games. Jesus Balderas had 23 steals in the tournament."

The Cubs opened the tournament pouncing Rocksprings in a 53-9 victory.

Travis Bonner paced Brackett with 13 points. Israel DeHo-

yo and Balderas also finished in double figures with 11 and 10 points, respectively.

Albert Flores and Lane Nowlin each had seven points, Kevin Bonner pitched in three and Josh Kluzek added two.

Brackett claimed the title after defeating Nueces Canyon 39-17 in the championship game.

DeHoyos and Nowlin each had 10 points in the contest, Travis Bonner scored seven, Balderas finished with six, and Kevin Bonner, Flores and Kluzek all had two.

Brackett's B team took third place honors in the Knippa tournament on Saturday.

The Cubs came up short in the opening round, falling to Knippa 31-27.

Brackett was leading 26-24 after three periods, but the Rock-crushers outscored the Cubs 7-1 in the final stanza.

Fermin Villanueva paced the Cubs with 13 points, while Manny Rosas scored nine and Robert Salmon had five.

Brackett edged Batesville 28-27 in the third place final.

Villanueva finished the contest with 12 points. Salmon chipped in eight for the Cubs, Steven Rivera had five and Sam Childress added three.

Eighth Grade Girls

The Cubettes took second place in the Nueces Canyon tournament on Saturday.

Brackett opened the tourney with a 38-12 victory over Rocksprings.

Daphne Hunt led the way for the black and gold with 15 points. Whitney Gum finished with eight points and Elva Garcia had five.

Gum, Meghann Davis and

Maricela Paredes each had three steals in the contest.

In the finals, Brackett fell to Nueces Canyon 38-20.

Davis scored nine in the game. Garcia finished with five and Gum and Ashley Stephenson both had two. Davis grabbed five steals, and Gum and Anolda Watkins had two apiece.

On Monday, the Cubettes fell short against Comstock, 47-38.

Bailee Allen paced BJH with 15 points and seven boards, Bianca Stewart had eight points and three rebounds, and Hunt finished with seven points and five boards.

Julie Castillo grabbed eight steals in the game. Allen finished with four, and Hunt and Stewart had two apiece.

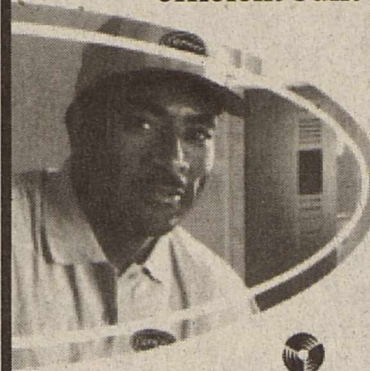
Brackett picked up a 20-16 win over Utopia last Thursday. Allen led the Cubettes with eight points, eight rebounds and three steals.

Davis finished with six points and six rebounds, while Hayley Harris had eight boards and two points.

Gum and Castillo also scored two points. Castillo, Garcia and Harris also had two steals apiece.

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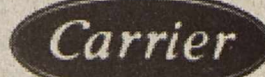
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Continued from Page 1

month." Robinson said: "I don't make it a habit of not going to meetings, but it's very difficult to get yourself into a routine when there is no set schedule. It's much easier if you know these are the days that you are going to meet," he added.

Haenn said the dates were established in January and the meetings were set for the second Tuesdays of the month. But Flores pointed out that all the meetings did not fall on the second Tuesday of the month.

"Ma'am, the dates were changed by the Board of Directors," Haenn said.

The chief appraiser said the agendas for meetings are posted at the district office and courthouse 72 hours in advance and mailed to the members of the board at the same time.

Thank You

I sincerely appreciate all the calls, visits, food and cards sent during my recovery from surgery.

Cubic Kurtz

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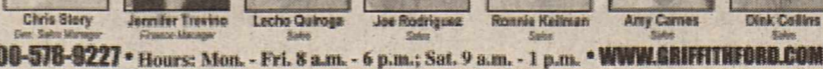
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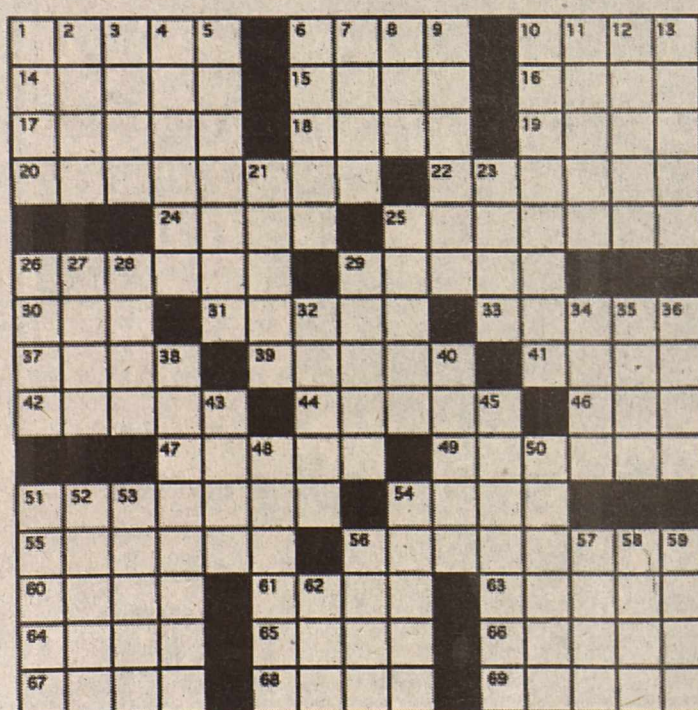
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26 Island 66 Warning
ruler sound
29 Red foods 67 Proceeded
30 Shade 68 Tall pole
31 Dinner 69 Playing
table cards
article
33 Suit



ROARING TWENTIES

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

Today's Category: Lakes, Seas, Oceans, and Rivers

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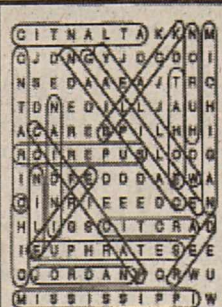
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Jan 15.....Juanita Talamantes Jan 19.....Wesley Wilson
Jan 16.....Stoney Burks Jan 20.....John Reyes
Jan 16.....Nancy O'Brien Jan 20.....David Seargeant Jr.
Jan 17.....Agnes Camp Jan 20.....Tommy Seargeant
Jan 19.....Chuck Endris Jan 21.....Hortense Hernandez
Jan 21.....Andy Perez

Roaring Twenties Solution:

- 1. Arctic 11. Michigan
2. Atlantic 12. Mississippi
3. Black 13. Nile
4. Caspian 14. Ohio
5. Erie 15. Ontario
6. Euphrates 16. Pacific
7. Galilee 17. Red
8. Huron 18. Superior
9. Indian 19. Tahoe
10. Jordan 20. Yellow



ASTROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Try not to take your work problems home with you. Family members won't appreciate this. Later in the week, social life is favored.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You're quite spontaneous this week. This is especially true on the social scene. However, it's not a good idea to use the same approach at work.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You feel a need for some private time this week. However, don't let your enthusiasm cause you to proceed too quickly. Work out the details first.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You're full of new ideas and plans. However, don't let your enthusiasm cause you to proceed too quickly. Work out the details first.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Tune in to your own instincts. Sometimes, it's best to trust intuition. Over the weekend, a friend contacts you out of the blue.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You're captivated at the novel idea proposed by a friend. It's important, though, that everyone understands what's required. If not, a minor disagreement could occur.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) A new moneymaking venture captures your attention. Investigate this thoroughly. It could work out quite well for you in the long run.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) It's best to keep everything in moderation this week. Whether this involves your diet or your finances, it's a successful strategy. This weekend, take advantage of your creativity.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Curb a tendency to be impatient this week. While you want to get things done, it's not wise to do so too quickly. If you do, you could end up making sloppy mistakes.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You receive inspiration from some surprising sources this week. Someone you'd underestimated particularly impresses you. Later, behind-the-scenes maneuvering at work is in your favor.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) If you're not pleased with the way your home looks, make plans to do some decorating. Be sure, though, to get the input of family members. Together, you come up with a mutually acceptable new look.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You don't make as much progress as you'd like on the work front. You're blessed, though, with a spate of new ideas. Once you begin to implement them, you're unstoppable.
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Koenig enjoys new home at First Baptist Church

By J.J. GUIDRY
Editor

There is a new pastor in town. Darin Koenig is now leading the congregation at First Baptist Church.

"This church is wonderful," Koenig said. "The people at First Baptist are very loving and supportive. They have a desire to reach people that I have not seen in many churches."

The 29-year-old hasn't wasted any time settling into his new job. Koenig's top priority has been working on the church's Global Church Strategy.

"This will allow us to work with other churches in Texas, our nation and our missionaries serving overseas to reach people with the message of Jesus Christ," he said.

Another project Koenig has been working on is TeamKids. The weekly programs are from 7 to 8 on Wednesday nights.

Koenig said he made the choice to join the ministry while growing up in Portland, Texas.

"While in high school, I was studying to be a trauma surgeon. That was my goal from the time I was a young kid," Koenig said.

"After my junior year of high school, I went through a period of searching and struggle.

"At the end of that time, I felt that God was calling me to vocational ministry. I accepted the call and began preparing to become a minister," Koenig added.

Koenig grew up as a member of the First Baptist Church of Portland.

"I continued to study the Bible and I remained a Baptist because the Baptist faith remains closest to what I believe the Bible teaches about the New Testament Church," he said.

After graduating from Gregory-Portland High School, Koenig earned a bachelor of science degree from the University of Mary Hardin-Baylor and a master's of divinity with Biblical languages from the Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary. He now is preparing to begin work on a doctorate of ministry degree.

Koenig and his wife, Nocona, have one son, Dalton, who is 21 months old.

Nocona grew up in Kyle and taught special education for four years in Arlington. She is cur-



Darin Koenig is the new pastor at First Baptist Church.

rently a full-time mother and is building her Mary Kay business.

Koenig said there has been some adjustments in his move here, but he said his family is enjoying their new home.

"Nocona and I love Brackettville and Kinney County. It was a hard adjustment after living in Fort Worth for four years, but we love the people and the pace of life," he said.

Sovereignty over all is in the hand of God

"Whataya think of this move to take God out of our Pledge of Allegiance?" Dave asked.

"As a Christian, of course I'm disappointed," Allen replied.

Dave ratcheted up his criticism: "Just who do they think they are? Judges are legislating from the bench. And what's so disturbing is that we have no redress because these unelected judges place themselves above our elected representatives. Doesn't it bother you, Al?"

"Sure it does, Dave. There's a whole raft of things that should be bothersome to every Christian. Like taking the nativity scene from schools and public property, and denying school children the opportunity to sing Christmas carols. It's obvious that a few people are trying to completely secularize our public institutions."

"So what's the answer?" Dave asked.

"Well," Allen said. "For one thing, it's time for Christians to get really involved in our churches and in our community institutions like our schools."

"But on the flip side we need to support Christian schools all over the nation and insist that our denominational authorities make an enormous investment in Christian education at every level."

"I agree. But what can one



Empowering Families

Dr. Donald Smith

person like me do?" Dave questioned.

"There are lots of things Dave," Allen began. "Determine to lead your family to God and do a good job of teaching your children. Then find a volunteer opportunity where you can minister to other families."

"More fundamentally we must realize there are misguided people who think by removing any mention of God that He somehow will cease to exist. But all the attempts to remove Him don't diminish Him one little bit."

"Long ago a very wise man said that sovereignty over everyone is in the hand of God. It is God who gives majesty to the rulers and it is God who can take it away. (Sirach 10:5,14, Romans 13:1-7)

"And, one more thing: The quiet words of the wise are better heeded than the shout of a ruler of fools." (Ecclesiastes 9:17)

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.

Church celebrates Covenant Sunday

"Covenant" is a word we don't use very much anymore except in religious terms. It refers to a serious agreement, either ratified by God or between man and God.

In Christian terms, we understand our agreement between the Creator and the church to be a covenant. But most of us also make our own private agreements with God.

Certainly all of us in times of stress have made promises to God that we have no true intention of keeping. The student who wishes for a better grade, the child who hopes his misbehavior goes unnoticed or unpunished, the guilty spouse who hopes for one last, permanent reconciliation — all of these moments are ripe for making agreements in haste that we discard when the crisis is past.

Sometimes the best time to make a promise is when there is no crisis and no outside pressure. We can grasp the situation

calmly and make our decision with a clear mind.

A tradition in the international Methodist church has been to formally renew our personal covenants with God on a regular basis, often at the start of a year well after the busy days of the Christmas holidays.

Unlike New Year's resolutions, these covenants cover deeper ground than weight-loss promises or another attempt to stop smoking.

The original "Methodist," John Wesley, started his pupils on a course of self-examination and rededication that culminated each year in a special covenant service.

Though this tradition is still kept in other parts of the world, American Methodists have often ignored this tradition. It's been many years since First United Methodist of Brackettville has celebrated a Covenant Sunday.

Just reading the Wesleyan Covenant makes it clear that this



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

is no simple affirmation of faith — this is a pledge of everything to God's service. Here are just a few lines of the prayer that Methodists use as their covenant with God:

"Lord, put me on whatever task You will; rank me with whom You will. Put me to doing; put me to suffering. Let me be employed for You, or laid aside for You, exalted for You, or trodden under foot for You. Let me be full; let me be empty. Let me have all things; let me have nothing. I freely and heartily resign all to Your pleasure and disposal."

You might guess that very few Christians are willing to share

these words of solemn commitment to God's purposes. And in truth, in some parts of the world, Covenant Sundays show a significant drop in attendance, but at least the congregants understand the solemnity of the pledge they are asked to make.

At First United Methodist we're stepping up to the challenge of serving God in today's world and we're marking that commitment by our own Covenant Sunday.

Anyone in the area who would like to witness this service is invited to attend this Sunday at First United Methodist at 109 James St. at 10:45 a.m. on Sunday. And then please stay for a pot-luck luncheon in Slator Hall. Please bring a dish to share if you are able.

We invite any baptized Christian to join with us and renew their own covenant as we pledge our lives to Heaven's King and then celebrate the Lord's Supper.

Christ has obtained eternal redemption for his children

"But Christ being come a high priest of good things to come, by a greater and more perfect tabernacle, not made with hands, that is to say not of this building.

"Neither by the blood of goats and calves, but by his own blood he entered in once into the holy place, having obtained eternal redemption for us.

"For if the blood of bulls and of goats, and the ashes of an heifer sprinkling the unclean, sanctifieth to the purifying of the flesh. How much more shall the blood of Christ, who through the



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Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

eternal Spirit offered himself without spot to God, purge your conscience from dead works to serve the Living God?

"And for this cause he is the mediator of the New Testament." (Hebrews 9:11-15)

Praise God!

Don't allow yourself to go to sleep angry

Anger in a box. That is what you have when you choose to hold in your anger and not forgive.

"Be ye angry and sin not, let not the sun go down upon your wrath." (Ephesians 4:26)

"Be not hasty in thy spirit to be angry, for anger resteth in the bosom of fools." (Ecclesiastes 7:9)

By this God is telling us that to allow yourself to go to sleep with anger in your heart is sin. God also calls this person a fool.

Today's scientists have discovered that anger releases toxins in the body that, if allowed to stay there, cause sickness to the body, such as arthritis, headaches and can even be the precursor to diseases such as cancer.



Gateway Ministries

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Allowing anger to rest in your heart punishes yourself, not the other person.

Jesus got angry, but he did not sin when he whipped the money changers out of the temple of God. (Matthew 21:12)

Jesus did not allow his anger to take root and fester. Instead he forgave them. He forgave them to the point that he laid down his life for them and for

you and for me.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people. For in himself that suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted." (Hebrews 2:17-18)

"And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. And he is the propitiation for our sins; and not our sins only, but also for the sins of the world." (1 John 2:2)

Jesus taught us to pray "forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors." (Matthew 6:12)

In other words, you want God

to forgive you of what you owe him, to forgive your sins and trespasses, in return he requires that you forgive others their trespasses and sins.

It is a win-win situation when you take that box of anger, wrap it in a bow and give it as a sacrificial act of your will, place it on the altar of God and release it to him.

It takes your hands off the situation and allows God to move in the other person's life and it frees you from unhealthy toxins from building up in your own body.

It allows you to rest in Christ and be in peace. (Matthew 5:8, Romans 12:18-21, James 3:18)

Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

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DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT. Teams and Solos check out our new pay plan. Owner/Operators, Experienced Drivers, Solos, Teams and Graduate Students. Call 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729).

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DRIVERS! MILES! MILES! Miles! Longhaul, regional, lease operators, Friday paydays, in-cab E-mail, family voicemail. Class CDL/A, 6 mo. OTR, 1-800-745-9670, www.continentalx.com

DRIVERS - NEW PAY package. Start at .34 cpm. Guaranteed home time. Dedicated, regional available. Driving school graduates and Owner/Operators welcome. USA Truck, 1-800-237-4642.

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DRIVERS-REGIONAL-10 states (70%). Home weekly, \$600-\$800. OTR - start .32 cents, 6 months experience w/CDL/A. Owner/Operators - OTR .83 cents loaded and empty. Call Bob, National Freight, 1-800-666-0380.

OWNER/OPERATORS, IF you own your own truck, Fikes Truck Line is looking for you. We have the need for 15 Owner/Operators in the Texas area! Cargo and liability insurance furnished, Comdata fuel card, home week-ends by choice, weekly settlements and direct deposit, permits furnished and much more! Small fleets welcome! 1-877-321-0186.

SUNSET LOGISTICS-OWNER/OPERATORS needed to haul scrap metal/aggregate materials in end dumps. Trailers available. Home weekly. 100k potential. 98% Texas. Call Scott at 1-888-215-HAUL.

THE INDUSTRY'S TOP pay just got BETTER. Company driver pay going to .43 cents. Owner/Operators pay going to .88 cents! Heartland Express, 1-800-441-4953, www.heartlandexpress.com

LOOKING FOR A job as a driver? Find the best positions in the state right here in the classifieds!

FINANCIAL SERVICES

\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ - CASH NOW for structured settlements, annuities and insurance payouts. 1-800-794-7310, J.G. Wentworth J.G. Wentworth means cash now for structured settlements.

CASH FOR STRUCTURED settlement/annuity payments. It's your money! Get cash now when you need it most. Oldest/best in the business. Settlement Purchasers. 1-877-Money-Me.

FOR RENT

16 X 84 TRAILER, 3 BR, 2 bath, scenic view overlooking creek, no kids. Maybe 1 small dog. \$600 mo., \$300 deposit, 1st and last months rent. 830-234-3612.

49'ER, UNIT 417 - 3 bedroom, 1 bath, for rent \$375 per month, fully furnished. Rick 210-274-7975 or 830-563-2713.

IN BRACKETTVILLE, 3 bedroom, 2 bath unfurnished. Large garage and family room. Appliances included. \$675 plus utilities. O'Rourke Realty, 830-563-2713.

FOR SALE

1998 GMC VAN: Regency, fully loaded, \$9,200.00. 563-9790

2000 GMC SONOMA pickup - extended cab, 51,600 miles, excellent condition. Asking \$11,000 OBO. 830-563-2742 evenings.

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

REDUCED TO SELL - 1 bedroom, 1 bath house with separate bedroom and bath. Separated by an enclosed breezeway with w/d connections. 2 car carport with 2 storage sheds on 2 lots in FCS - \$13,400. 830-743-0625.

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WOLFF TANNING BEDS - Affordable - Convenient. Tan at home. Payments from \$25/month. FREE color catalog. Call today. 1-888-839-5160.

GARAGE SALE

MOVING SALE - 152 Oak Lane Jan 17th, 9-12. Furniture, clothes, toys, misc.

O'Rourke Realty
Paul & Elsa O'Rourke
P.O. Box 670
Brackettville, TX 78832
(830) 563-2713

Unit 27 - On 2 golf course lots - 3 bed, 2 baths, 1999 double-wide in beautiful condition has a wood-burning fireplace, several made to order features, large detached building and garage plumbed for a bathroom. Must sell Only \$62,500.

Colony Row House - Shown by appointment only.

Unit 1 - 2 bed, 2 baths for sale/rent.

Unit 14 - 2 bed, 2 baths, den, rock and wood exterior, deck overlooking the wilderness. Great buy at \$38,000.

Commercial lots in Brackettville
orourke@the-i.net

MISCELLANEOUS

VHS VIDEO TAPES recorded to DVD, \$15.95. LP's, cassette tapes, 8 tracks and 45's recorded to CD, \$12.95. Call 563-3443 or visit our web site at www.VintageSounds.biz.

SURGERY AFTER 1999? Complications, serious injury or death after Abdominal Aortic Aneurysm, Stent or Bypass surgery? You may be entitled to MONEY DAMAGES! James Rolshouse practices law in MN, associates with lawyers throughout the U.S. 1-800-820-4167, www.surgery.rolshouselaw.co

REAL ESTATE

47.29 ACRES SW of Rock-springs. Electricity, native and exotic game, hogs, turkey. \$1,762 down, \$346/month or TX Vet financing. 1-830-257-5572, texasranchland.com.

RUIDOSO, NEW MEXICO 140 acres only \$49,900. Adjacent to National Forest, elk, deer, small game. Abutting ranch preserve for added permanent open space. Great sportsmen area. Absolutely beautiful setting and land. Remote and private but with year round road access and still an EZ drive to exciting Ruidoso. Best financing ever. 1-866-350-5263.

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ASIN TALE SIREN
WENT SPAR TREYS

Ken Barnett Real Estate
P.O. Box 1035
103 W. Spring St.
Brackettville, TX 78832
830-563-2446

- Townhouse lot 116, unit 1 furnished.
- Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.
- Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.
- The Master Condominiums: 2 Bd/1 bath fully furnished - Large Garage Space included for Only \$41,500.00
- Unit 15 Ft. Clark Springs: 2 br/2 bath Mobile - Roof cover, Carport Golf Cart Shed - Fully furnished \$34,500.00

Have Buyers - Need Listings! Ken Barnett - Pat Owens - Melissa Davis

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830-563-2997
104 A-E Spring

Spacious home on corner lot, approx. 1,900 sq. ft., FP, hot tub, carport, storage!

Unit 14: RV lot with metal cover & small apartment!

Unit 27: Nice 2BR, 2B mobile home, 16' x 76', custom built, extra insulation, all appliances!

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Historical Homes For Sale on Colony Row in FCS.

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- 3/3/2 In the Oaks Over 3000 SF Priced Right!
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Guess What? THE WAIT IS OVER!

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council's Child Care Provider Services has open enrollment and is now taking applications for child care openings.

There is NO waiting list!

If you have a job, if you are attending school or in training, you may qualify. Give your local workforce center a call today, and see how WE can help YOU.

Middle Rio Grande Workforce Center
201 E. Spring Street, Brackettville, Texas 78832
830-563-2021

The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For more information please contact our voice telephone number 830-876-3533 or our TDD number 830-876-1260.

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Own your own part of the Texas Hill Country for as little as \$695.00 down and \$116.69 per month at 8.75 % financing. Based on 20 acre tract with minimum down payment.

Leona Ranch, located 15 miles north of Brackettville, Texas, has an abundance of whitetail deer, javelina, turkey, quail, dove, rabbits and squirrels. Other non-game species include feral hogs, wild Spanish goats, racoons, ringtails, fox, bobcats and a few mountain lions.

The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for wildlife.

For information call (830) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (830) 563-2077 evenings.

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