





16th year, No. 48

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

1 Section, 6 Pages

See Below

How to Help

Tsunami Victims

50¢

Livestock show Tigers named 'Team of the Year' A dozen named to All Southwest Texas Team set for Jan. 14, 15

The 50th Annual Kinney County 4-H and FFA Livestock Show will be held Friday and

weigh in of all market animals 1:30 and the premium sale at from 7:00 a.m. to noon on Fri- 2. day.

rabbit classes at 2 p.m., steer FFA exhibitors in Kinney classes at 4, meat goat doe kids County and look forward to at 4:30, commercial ewe lambs seeing you," Robert Elledge, at 5 and swine at 5:30.

Showing continues on Saturday with market lamb classes lic to attend.

at 8 a.m. and market goat classes at 9:30 a.m. The livestock show

Saturday, Jan. 14 and 15 at the includes a barbecue lunch at Kinney County Civic Center. noon on Saturday, followed The event begins with the by awards presentations at

"We value your continued Showing begins Friday with support for all of our 4-H and Kinney County Extenseion Agent said, inviting the pub-



Named to the Uvalde Leader-News All Southwest Team are the Tigers' front row from left Lito Escamilla and Clyde Adams.

Middle row from left, Cody Edwards, Noe Talamantes, Tillman Davis, and Brand Wylie. Back row from left, Charlie

EMS extends contract with **Ambulance Billing Systems**

At the recent Kinney County a viable alternative to our current Commissioner's Court a billing billing company. agreement/contract between Ambulance Billing Systems, Inc., and Kinney County EMS was signed.

The agreement is the second edition of a contract that began in December 2003.

another one year term.

According to Joe Scialdone of ABS, during 2003, "We have economies come into play when been able to optimize the Kinney County EMS collection activity for their ground ambulance transports, while working with patients regarding their EMS bill," Scialdone explained.

" In 2005, we anticipate a continued good working relationship with your county, and will begin allowing patients to use credit cards to pay their por-

"The first month ABS generated Kinney County \$17,000 in revenue from current bills and past collections from the prior billing service. Of course that amount has not since been that high. An-The Commissioner's Court other advantage of ABS is the reviewed and re-awarded the ability to generate custom reports contract to Ambulance Billing for EMS and the auditor. We are Systems, Inc., of San Antonio for very satisfied with their service and performance."

> Scialdone noted that smaller dealing with ambulance billing. "Our professional staff has years of experience billing exclusively for ambulance companies. Our structured, systematic processes ensure your calls are currently being worked. Let us worry about the payroll, overtime and 941 taxes for your billing activi-

ties." he said. He also noted that "At ABS we keep up on the current

The Fighting Tigers 2004- and Gold to the All-Southwest A State title. 2005 was named "Team of the Area Football team.

Year" in the Uvalde Leader-News' All-Southwest Area Football

it to the Region IV finals before Talamantes and Charlie Slaugh- Rueda, linebackers; Tillman The announcement made this being stopped by Shiner, who ter, running backs; Leon Davis, Cody Edwards and Brand week also named 12 of the Black would eventually win the Class Woolsey, tight end; Whitney Wylie as defensive backs.

Slaughter, Whitney Massingill, Leon Woolsey, Kody Yeager, Tres Rueda and Gumaro Martinez.

The Tigers boasted a 10-0 Southwest Team included Kody Clyde Adams, defensive lineregular season. The Tigers made Yeager, quarterback; Noe man; Lito Escamilla and Tres

Massingill and Gumaro The Tigers named to the All- Martinez, offensive linemen.



RGEC spreading Christmas cheer

tion of an ambulance bill." he added

ABS bills all insurance companies on behalf of the patient following an ambulance transport

Some points Scialdone made in favor of ABS to benefit the county were lowering overhead, spreading liablity, saving money and with an industry leader.

Kinney County EMS Executive Director Steven Burch said "I contacted ABS, visited with the owner, Joe, and felt that they were

INSIDE

Everyone who knows me is

aware that one of my many

weaknesses are sweets -

candy, cookies, pies or cakes.

Love them all in all forms and

fashions. With that in mind,

I'm going to share occasion-

ally some "Watch Out" reci-

G.G.

pes.

changes in the ambulance industry and pass these changes onto our clients. "We are members of the

American Ambulance Association, the North American Ambulance Alliance, the Health Care Compliance Association and the Healthcare Financial Management Association.

We receive numerous emails weekly concerning changes in our industry. Additionally, ABS, Inc. maintains a professional liability insurance policy."

BRIEFS

Fort Clark Ladies Golf.

League Dec. 28, 2004, game was

tee to green score. Winners were

Betty Lee, first; Marian Weber,

second and Carol Benfield,

third. League play is at 10 a.m.

First for teachers, the \$250

Second, for all Texans that

page one deductions for out of

pocket expenses has been ex-

can itemize their deductions,

sales taxes can once again be

taken as an itemized deduction.

If you have not saved receipts,

there will be a chart to use in

lieu of actual taxes paid, you can

add large items like vehicles,

RVs, boats and trailers to that

sion Office at 563-2442.

One-time show

of Dance at the Janey Slaughter

Briscoe Grand Opera House Sat-

Tickets are \$5 each. For infor-

mation call at 830-278-4184.

amount.

tended for two more years.

on Tuesdays. Join the fun!

Tax News

Ladies Golf

Standing Tall

Luisa Morales, the only female laborer who helped construct the Kinney County Detention Center, stands proudly in front of her work. Morales was assistant foreman for the project and has worked as a laborer on Calderon Elementary School, the Del Rio Civic Center, Vista Verde Medical Plaza and a host of other construction projects.

Chuck Hall

Community/Page 4

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. So very much has happened to me in the past year that I never dreamed were in the making.

Opinion/Page 2

Donald Smith

Over several weeks of counseling Josie was able to face the issue of having been raped as a child. **Religion/Page 5**

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ART

How to donate to ni victims sunan

dia can greatly assist relief ef- This is especially important for forts by letting the public know areas where bridges, roads, that the most effective way to warehouses and other infrastruchelp is to make cash donations ture have been destroyed. to known organizations.

4-H Meeting sized by relief workers, national with survivors, instead of divertvoluntary organizations active in ing their efforts to sorting, stor-There will be a Junior and disaster, the U.S. Department of ing, tracking and distributing Senior 4-H meeting Sunday,' Homeland Security's Federal goods. Jan. 9 from 4-5 pm. Officers Emergency Management Agmeet at 3:30 pm at the Fort ency (FEMA) and the Gover- may have cultures that are very Clark Springs Service Club. For nor's Division of Emergency different from ours, so it is immore information call the Exten-Management (GDEM).

cash donations to known organizations are more efficient and turally acceptable. "The Magic Medallion," is effective than donations of mapresented by the Canyon School terial goods:

• Cash donations provide flexibility to help victims of di- tive in Disaster for Texas can be urday, Jan. 8. The one-time only sasters in situations that may be reached at: www.txvoad.org. performance is at 7:30 p.m. changing rapidly.

• Cash donations minimize website can be reached at: problems involved in transpor- www.nvoad.org.

In the wake of disaster, me- tation, delivery and storage.

 Cash donations keep relief This point is always empha- workers focused on their work

• People in foreign nations portant for relief workers to have Here are some reasons why cash to purchase food, clothing and other materials that are cul-

More information is available at the following web sites: Voluntary Organizations Ac-

Also the National VOAD

Cindy Edwards

presented "Tommy Tumbleweed's Dream", a West Texas Start Program children. Christmas story to students at Jones Elementary before the purchased materials for 15 com-Christmas Holidays.

were Area Operations Manager Lineman Jorge Villarreal, Ap-Area Office Clerk Stephanie Gomez, 2nd Class Lineman chicken, and pumpkin pie. Jaime Muniz, and 2nd Class Severo Martinez.

Santa Claus and his elves visited children at local Head Start monthly dues, which are used to centers just before Christmas.

Santa" Severo Martinez, 1st Class Lineman, and elves Gilbert Rio Grande Electric Villarreal, 2nd Class Lineman, Cooperative's crew members and Daniel Garza, Apprentice Lineman celebrated with Head

The RGEC Employees' Club plete holiday meals, which were Participating in the program distributed to deserving families.

The meals included holiday Danny Samaniego, Apprentice favorites such as yams, cranberry sauce, stuffing, corn, prentice Lineman Daniel Garza, green beans, fresh fruit, mashed potatoes, gravy mix, a baked

The Employee Club also do-Lineman Gilbert Villarreal. nated \$50 to the St. Mary (Standing) Line Foreman David Magdalene Catholic Church to Meyer, 1st Class Lineman go towards the purchase of toys Nacho Aguirre, Meter Reader for the Casa Esperanza Orphan-Kyle Rose, 1st Class Lineman age in Cuidad Acuña, Coah., Mexico.

> Members of the club pay support worthy charities.



Members of Rio Grande Electric Cooperative spread Christmas Cheer last year with public school children.





I firmly resolve to . . .

Happy New Year!

It's hard to believe that another year has come and gone. So very much has happened to me in the past year that I never dreamed were in the making.

Events that occurred have changed my life forever. I will never be the same.

I have several anniversaries com- thinking. ing up. A wedding anniversary, a birthday, an anniversary of the starting of this column, and others.

I hope I remember them all. pay back. I owe lots. Like many other folks, I have also made some new year's resolutions. I have made the usual, (I probably won't).

Getting more exercise (I will for a while).

I need to find some resolutions that I know I can keep.

to keep eating. Breathing too. be wrong.

A whole new year But I Could Be Wrong

Chuck Hall

All of those happenings have Thinking. That's a good one. made me closer to my God. Yep, I'm going to do more

> But I also have to do some serious resoluting. I have some scores to settle.

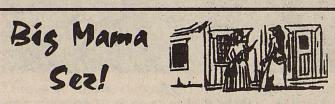
There are some people I need I have been shown more

goodness that I have shown. I have been loved more than I of course. Like loosing weight have loved. I need to settle the scores.

I need to do more acts of random kindness. I need to deepen my appreciation towards my fellow man. And lastly, I need to Let's see. Oh yes, I'm going write better articles. But I could

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR POLICY

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



Today, find a way to make changes in yourself instead of someone else. Sometimes the results are the same.



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and sang, waiting for that moment when everything would be different. Some were looking forward to that midnight kiss, or just came to socialize with their friends about the current gossip. But what really everyone needed

The stars glittered across a

velvet sky as everyone danced

and wanted was that moment that all the woes and fears of last year were forgotten, and the dreams congenial, and many came up and resolutions of a new life and felt my skirt. At first I was a This New Year's Eve, I spent the evening with some friends.

OPINION

at one friend's ranch, and chattered about what to do before try being a new Shanae." the clock struck 12. We wondered what would keep us busy until that exciting moment.

could begin.

Before the party, I had dressed up much fancier than normal. I wore a satin skirt that flowed freely to about mid-calf, a brown velvety shirt, and a jean jacket, all gifts from a particularly generous Christmas. I also carried a new digital camera, my most favorite gift, and prepared myself for much picture taking. The evening started about fair

enough.

We all relaxed and waited for everyone to arrive, as our generous host bustled about mak-



played some pool, ping pong, and watched TV. Everyone was little iffy about whether wearing a skirt would be a good idea, but now I was feeling that it was We all collected ourselves over working out well. I thought, "Well, it's a new year and I'll

> shoot off fireworks. After hearing this, I was very excited because I have always had a flare for fire and firecrackers (which about holding sparklers, not has led to some pretty interesting situations in the past), and they seemed pretty stocked up with the goods.

and drove out into some fields. There was where all the fiery magic was going to happen.

We exited the vehicles exmusic.

trying to unwrap their tightly everyone watched as we acted ing cheese dip and other snacks. bound exteriors. Some were try- like dorks. Slowly everyone arrived and we ing to light punks with matches,

but found their efforts were in at the camera and dancing, cess and we began to shoot off fireworks.

green!" our host yelled, afraid that someone would hold a sparkler too close to dry grass and set us all on fire. Of course, even after hearing this warning several times, someone lit the grass After awhile we decided to on fire (probably with a sparkler). It was just a small fire and one of my friends, standing almost right in it, stood swirling even noticing the changed temperature in her boots. I ran over, pushed her aside, and stepped on the fire with my flip flops. I We hopped into two trucks later sat and laughed at my

friend's unawareness. Then we all began to dance. I was dancing the Macarena with some girls and giggling like citedly, and turned up some crazy. My friend was standing right in front of me and filmed, We scrapped at the packages as I danced in the headlights, and

Suddenly, as I was looking whole new year.

The Way

I See It

Steven R.

LaMascus

vain, because the wind had someone ran behind me and picked up a bit. Others tried us- swooshed my skirt up. I ing the cigarette lighters from screamed and dropped my hands the trucks, but found it was to push it down, looking like an equally difficult. Finally our awkward, overgrown Marilyn host (the brains of the operation) Monroe. When I realized who it thought of sitting inside of the was, I ran after them, and was trucks and lighting the punks determined to seek revenge. with the matches. It was a suc- Later, I watched the film, and was unpleasantly surprised that it was all caught on camera. At "Don't forget, stay in the that moment I felt like maybe it wasn't the greatest idea to wear a skirt.

Thursday, January 6, 2005

By the end of the evening, when everyone was about to head home, we said our goodbyes and smiled at the night's little adventure. We had had our fun, some had got their midnight kiss, and others were juiced up on the vacation's gossip. In the end, we realized we hadn't even counted down for that moment that was supposed to change everything. But internally, we could feel the change that each of us had made over the short vacation. We had all grown a bit just after weeks of being out of school, and most of us, being seniors, had made the realization that things were about to change, because we were changing. In the end, those woes and fears of last year could be forgotten because it was a

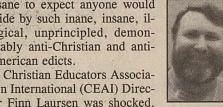
New attack on the Declaration

They just won't go away, and, insane to expect anyone would unfortunately, it's illegal to kill abide by such inane, insane, il-'em! If you think the attacks on logical, unprincipled, demonthe Boy Scouts were bad, how strably anti-Christian and antiabout the school principal, American edicts. Patricia Vidmar, of Stevens Creek School, in Pasadena, Cali- tion International (CEAI) Direcfornia, who has apparently de- tor Finn Laursen was shocked. cided that the Declaration of In- "I find it frustrating that so dependence is unconstitutional many of our well meaning adbecause it contains the word ministrators totally misunder-"God?"

Yep, that's right; Vidmar is- Amendment which meant to insued orders to Stephen Williams, hibit governmental interference indefatigable, godless minority using the Declaration of Inde-pendence and other historical blocks," Laursen said. "The Es-"God."

Explain

Commandments they don't have



of God-fearing men and women, which was founded by God-fearing men and women, and we are stand the intent of the First allowing a tiny, vocal, seemingly zone in the public arena." Amen Finnl Give 'em hea

many instances one or two malhundreds of Christians. This is other cheek! still a nation of majority rule.

acquiesce we are going to be run fault. We need to meet these

we don't have to accept their evil ery turn. It is time to do some-

ideas and morally bankrupt lack thing. In fact it is far past time

before a high school football ground; retreat no more. Stand

to. The Constitution does give them that right; but it does not give them the right to deny us ours! That's the truth and nothing anybody can say or do will change that. Anything else is a bald-faced lie. Every time some hair-brained moron states that we can't do something because it has to do with God, it is a lie and is illegal, and I don't give a hoot what liberal court puppet says differently. God is real! God a social studies teacher, to stop in religious expression and not to dictate to us how we will raise is alive! God rules! God is the and educate our children. In creator of the universe, and the giver of rights. I challenge any documents in his classroom be- tablishment Clause was never content, misanthropic atheists liberal atheist to deny me my cause they contain the word written to establish a God-free have dictated policy to literally rights! I'm through turning the

People it is time to fight! Ev

pen without a battle we are at

godless oafs, challenge for chal-

to do something. Give no more

Romans 8:31, 32 - "What,

If God is for us, who can be

roneous reflection upon the character, standing or reputation of any person, firm or corporation which may appear in The Brackett News will gladly be corrected upon being brought to the attention of the publisher.

The Brackell Rews

ADDRESS:

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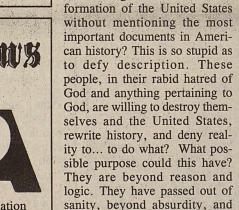
are \$20 in Kinney County, ville, Texas, under the Act \$25 outside of county but of March 3, 1878. in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas.

DEADLINES:

line is noon Tuesday for Texas, 78832. advertising to be composed for the current pub- Any erroneous reflection lication.

tice advertising deadline is tion which may appear in noon Tuesday. Deadline the pages of The Brackett for news releases is noon News will gladly be cor-Tuesday.

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teacher teach about the social part. and ideological reasons for the formation of the United States ceive dozens of complaints We are the moral majority and lenge, lawyer for lawyer, at evwithout mentioning the most monthly from public school eduimportant documents in Ameri- cators, who happen to be Chriscan history? This is so stupid as tian by faith, demonstrating of values. If we want to pray to defy description. These similar circumstances." people, in their rabid hatred of

logic behind this nitwit deci- son! But I seriously doubt the but we have to fight for that ery time we allow this to hapsion. How can a social studies well meaning administrators right. If we just roll over and

Laursen also said, "We re- over by the immoral minority.

game, we should danged well be firm, stand tall, put on the ar-Is it possible that so many of able to pray before a high school mor of God and do battle! God and anything pertaining to our school administrators have football game. If we want to hang God, are willing to destroy them- been lobotomized? Have they the Ten Commandments on the then, shall we say in response selves and the United States, all become mental midgets as rewrite history, and deny real- well as liberal eunuchs and wall in the court house or the to this? classroom, we should have that ity to... to do what? What pos- stooges? Why can they not stand sible purpose could this have? up to the liberal, anti-God crowd right. There is nothing in the against us? He who did not spare They are beyond reason and and say, "Back off jerks! We Constitution that denies us that his own Son, but gave him up logic. They have passed out of teach the truth here!"? right. If the atheists don't want for us all - how will he not also,

This kind of lunacy must be to pray they don't have to. If along with him, graciously give into the realms of insanity. It is stopped! This nation is a nation they don't want to read the Ten us all things?" NIV

Tort reform would be a great New Year's resolution

By Nathan Tabor Contributing Writer

person has been wronged, if the plaintiff is in the right, the a deep respect for the right of reforming our system of civil litigation a top priority in 2005. form. We need common-sense reforms suits, abolish joint and several when they are in the right. Unliability provisions, and limit fortunately, this whole process I have a baby due in January. outrageous punitive damage costs us jobs. When a business However, because of rising malawards that are completely out is forced to spend hundreds of of proportion to actual losses.

The number of civil lawsuits against frivolous lawsuits, it has these lawsuits have no real merit more employees. but are used simply to extort

The right to seek justice in a Reverend Jesse Jackson is an legal protection. It is nothing lawsuit. court of law is fundamental to expert at this kind of race-based more than legalized larceny, and our American way of life. If a extortion) And many times, even it needs to be stopped! sation. That's only fair. So I hold half of the money won in mal- number of medical practices. practice lawsuits ends up in the Some doctors have to pay as

thousands of dollars defending

out it. Many OB-GYN's today

Personal story: My wife and practice insurance our midwife can no longer deliver our baby.

Every day, the cost of health to practice 'defensive medicine,' This whole corrupt practice often prescribing unnecessary lic Policy.

cash payments from the person isn't about evil corporations and but expensive tests, operations or business being targeted. (The their hapless victims who need or medicines, rather than risk a

North Carolina's Senator John Edwards campaigned for Nowhere is this truer than in Vice President on the theme that cheated, or hurt by the actions 'boxcar damages' awarded by the medical profession. The rap- he came from a poor working of another, whether intention- juries are completely out of pro- idly escalating cost of liability family but pulled himself up by ally or negligently, the injured portion to the actual harm suf- insurance has reached unafford- his own bootstraps to become a party is entitled to just compen- fered. Interesting fact: almost able levels for an increasing self-made millionaire. What hypocrisy.

We need to stop these frivoindividuals to access our civil pockets of the plaintiff's attor- much as 50 percent of their gross lous lawsuits and put caps on disproportionate punitive damages. Or even better yet, move to the English model. There, if you sue somebody and lose, you pay the might be a simple solution to a complicated problem.

One thing for sure, tort reform would be a great gift for the American people!

Nathan Tabor is a conservative political activist based in filed in our courts has tripled less money to expand its opera- care in America increases be- Kernersville, North Carolina. over the past 40 years. Often tions, invest in research or hire cause physicians feel compelled He has his BA in Psychology and his Master's Degree in Pub-

Do you have something to say about a local issue? Write a letter to the editor today!

courts. But like President Bush, neys. Maybe that's why the income for malpractice insur-I still believe that we must make American Trial Lawyers are so ance. Yet in our litigious sociadamantly opposed to tort re- ety they can't afford to be with-Often innocent businesses find themselves forced to cease legal fees for the other side. This that will restrict frivolous law- have to settle such lawsuits even delivering babies altogether.

Thursday, January 6, 2005

COMMUNITY

The Brackell Hews

Brackett High School Basketball

A CARLES AND A CARLES OF	White the second s	Statute Carl Statute Stat		Contraction of the second states of the second
Jan. 7	Rocksprings*	5:00	Away	Jvg/VG
Jan. 7	Open			Jvb/VB
Jan. 11	Center Point*	5:00	Home	Jvg/VG
Jan. 11	Crystal City	5:30	Away	Jvb/VB
Jan. 14	Harper*	4:00	Away	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Jan. 18	Open		State of the second	
Jan. 21	Medina*	4:00	Away	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Jan. 25	Rocksprings*	5:00	Home	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Jan. 28	Center Point*	4:00	Away	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Jan. 29	N. Canyon JV Tourn.	TBA	Away	Jvg/Jvb
Feb. 1	Harper*	5:00	Home	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Feb. 4	Open			
Feb. 8	Medina*	5:00	Home	Jvg/Jvb/VG/VB
Feb. 11	Rocksprings*	5:00	Away	Jvb/VB
Feb. 15	Center Point*	5:00	Home	Jvb/VB
		. The states of		

* denotes District Game

Head Coaches Charlie Marquardt (boys) and Ricky Creel (girls).

Brackett Jr. High School Basketball

Salar Charles	a the same of the Party of the Party			the design of the second
Jan. 6	Center Point	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Girls A/B
Jan. 6	Center Point	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Boys A/B
Jan. 8	N.C. Tourn.	11:00	Canyon	Girls A/Boys A
Jan. 10	Hunt	5:00/6:30	Hunt	Girls A/B
Jan. 10	Hunt	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Boys A/B
Jan. 15	Knippa Tourn.	TBA	Knippa	Girls B/Boys B
Jan. 17	Harper	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Girls A/B
Jan. 17	Harper	5:00/6:30	Harper	Boys A/B
Jan. 24	Medina	5:00/6:30	Medina	Girls A/B
Jan. 24	Medina	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Boys A/B
Jan. 27-29	Comstock Tourn.	TBA	Comstock	Girls B/Boys B
Jan. 29	Rocksprings	TBA	Rocksprings	Girls A/Boys A
Jan. 31	Rocksprings	5:00/6:30	Rocksprings	Girls A/B
Jan. 31	Rocksprings	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Boys A/B
Feb. 7	Center Point	5:00/6:30	Brackett	Girls A/B
Feb. 7	Center Point	5:00/6:30	Center Point	Boys A/B

7th Grade Girls Coach - Candi Hohman, 8th Grade Girls Coach - Rhonda Marquardt Boys B Coach - Greg Voyles, Boys A Coach - Steve Hutcherson

KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Monday, Dec. 20, 2004 Reyes, 47, of Pittsburgh, Texas, was arrested for an outstanding child.

Friday, Dec. 31, 2004

public intoxication. He was re- vehicle. leased on Jan. 1, for time served. Friday, Dec. 31, 2004

8:04 p.m., Ismael Alvarez, 43, of Dallas, Texas, was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated, Second offense. He was released Jan. 2, on a \$2,000 bond.

noted that he was held up last the next day, that the sheriff's 9:00 p.m., Raul Gonzalez week in another city.

Thursday, Dec. 30, 2004 12:35 p.m., A man reported warrant of indecency with a he was behind a black Cadillac driving about 100 miles per hour. Deputy Donald Page and 8:04 p.m., Javier Alvarez, Constable Bobby Guidry were when he arrived. 19, of Dallas, was arrested for notified, but could not find the

1:30 p.m., A woman reported car and they had lost some suitthat she just caught a Red Ford cases about two to three miles Truck throwing trash out on west of Brackettville by Bader Coyote Hill. She gave a license Hill . No injuries were reported. plate number.

office would know who did it. The dispatcher said he was going to send over a deputy. She asked that he didn't. But Deputy Manny Pena was notified. Pena reported all was fine at the home

12:16 p.m., A man reported to 911 that someone had hit his

1:35 p.m., A man at the check 7:56 p.m., A man reported a point reported to Deputy Ron vehicle was broken down south Ring that there was a Silver Jeep of Pinto Creek on Highway 277. driving wrecklessly and pushing

see a Jeep matching that descrip-

TINEMARK

6

tion.

Beta Sigma Phi host rush party

home of Louise Plughoeft, with organization. eight members and six guests present.

guests, who were Betty Lee, Bar- friendship. bara Miller, Pat Callnan, Hermanson and Connie Jo Taravella.

All present were then treated to a delicious meal of spaghetti casserole, bread, salad, relishes, with tea and coffee and mini cream puffs for dessert.

ducted a short business meeting. guests shared some highlights of Sisters and their spouses and/ their lives. or guests will attend the Old on Jan. 29.

about membership and Arlys Nielson. Simpson read a poem about be-

party for prospective members guests the purpose of Beta Sigma the Great Lakes for many years. on Monday, Jan. 3rd, at the Phi, which is primarily a social

We do service projects because we want to but the main Hurron. Members introduced their focus of the organization is

Beta Sigma Phi was created Charlene Simmons, Mary by Walter Ross in Abilene, Kansas, so his wife and her friends dent. could have a cultural and social outlet.

> Sisters cast their ballots for Valentine Sweetheart.

of their experiences as members Room at the Golf Clubhouse. President Mylo Unruh con- of Beta Sigma Phi and then our

After the closing ritual was Quarry Society Dinner Theater recited, Louise gave a very in- Jan Chism, Luella Gilliland, teresting program about her Doraline Keller, Lynn McNew, Louise read a delightful poem great grandfather, Capt. Paul Louise Plughoeft, Arlys He was the owner of a schoo- Bobbie Waddill.

ing a good leader and follower. ner, the Emma L. Nielson, Members discussed for our named for his wife, which sailed

> It was hit by another ship while sailing in the fog and now lies at the bottom of Lake

Divers have discovered the schooner still intact and in good condition, except for the hole in the bow, sustained in the acci-

Door prizes were won by Jan Chism, Betty Lee, Connie Taravella and Mary Hermanson.

Our next meeting is a Valen-Several sisters shared some tine Party Feb. 7 in the Green Spouses will attend.

The March meeting will be at the home of Mylo Unruh.

Members present included Simpson, Mylo Unruh and

Children should be screened for lead

some types of pottery. It can hide to a health care provider. in the flaking paint on a windowsill, waiting for a small child to explore and taste from dirty causing learning disabilities, lower IQ scores or other physical or behavioral problems.

This culprit is lead, and young children are particularly vulnerable to damage from lead because their bodies and brains Department of Health (TDH) estimates that if all Texas children ages 1 through 5 were tested for lead poisoning, we would find 59,300 of them with blood-lead level of concern (10-19 micrograms of lead per deciliter of blood).

"Damage from lead in the blood cannot be reversed, but treatment is available to stop further damage," said Lisa Collins, health educator with the Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention

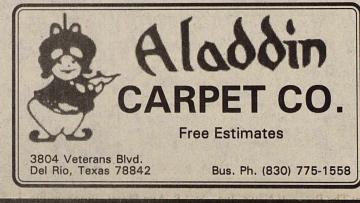
A culprit lurks in the dust cre- Program at TDS. "That's why irritability, abdominal and ated when some imported vinyl screening and prevention are so muscle pain, anemia, diarrhea or miniblinds "break down" in the important." The screening for constipation. Severe cases can sun. It can show up in tamarind lead is a simple blood test that result in seizures, nerve damage candies or leach into food from can be done during a routine visit or coma. Unfortunately, the cul-

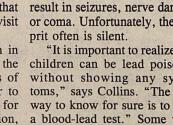
"Since lead is a problem in both urban and rural parts of the children can be lead poisoned state, we encourage parents of without showing any symphands, a toy or a pacifier. And all children age 6 or under to toms," says Collins. "The only it can steal a child's future by ask their doctors to screen for way to know for sure is to have lead," said Collins. In addition, a blood-lead test." Some vinyl other children should be tested miniblinds imported from

positive for lead exposure or if Mexico or Indonesia are coma member of the household mon sources of lead in the home. works with lead.

"It is important to realize that if any child in the family tests China, Taiwan, Hong Kong,

The only way to determine Some of the most common lead content of vinyl miniblinds are still developing. The Texas symptoms of lead poisonings are is by conducting expensive tests.





Jeta Digilia	
Preceptor Theta Sigma Chap-	
of Beta Sigma Phi hosted a	

Monday, Dec. 27, 2004 8:25 a.m., A Border Patrol

fice in reference to a deer with notified. it's back legs broken. Game Warden Henry Lutz was contacted for permission to put the that a man she knew threatened deer down.

Wednesday, Dec. 29, 2004

a suspicious vehicle outside of the locak bank. The caller reported a black vehicle with two Hispanic males, one having a tear drop on the side of his eye and the other wearing a blue hooded sweater. The caller also

Chocolate

Bon Bons

a shall

The individuals were trying to cars off the highway. Deputies flash down vehicles to stop. and Border Patrol agents did not Agent contacted the sheriff's of- Deputy Ramon Gutierrez was

Saturday, Jan. 1, 2005 2:00 a.m., A woman reported to kill her. She also said she didn't believe he would really 10:55 a.m., A man reported do it, but that if she was dead

> "The Miraculous Prayer" Dear Heart of Jesus, in the past have asked of many favors. This time, I ask you this very special one "mention favor." Take it Dear JESUS and place it within your own bro ken heart, where your father sees it. Then, in your merciful eyes, it will become your favor, not mine.

- DEE B. Amen. Sav this prayer for three days promise publication and the favo will be granted. never known to fail.

he Best Seat in Tow **MOVIES 8** 2205 Ave, F. - Plaza Del Sol Mall 775-8122 S2:0 All Shows before 6pm \$2:0 Seriors & Children, S4:30 Adults. No late show on Sunday STEREO SURROUND SOUND IN ALL AUDITORIUMS
 STEALDAUKKUOND SJONTIN ALL AUDITIONUMS

 Tickets are only valid
 10 445 730 1020

 on the date printed on the ticket. No child andre 6 will be admitted to any R
 124 43 730 1020

 FATLBERT (PG) No Passes
 1245 305 525 740 1000

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 125 515 505 755 1050

 Feature after 6 p.m.
 125 215 505 755 1050

 WHITE NOISE (PG13) NO Resses 1140 205 430
 RIES PARAMOUNT (PG)

 Passes 1140 205 430
 THE FLIGHT OF THE PHOE CLOSER (R) No Passes

 NIX (PG13) 1055 140 420

 1210 235 500 725 1010

1210 235 500 725 1010 700 940 MEET THE FOCKERS (PG13) No Passes 1115 155 450 745 1040 DAY ADVANCE TICKET SALES + NO PASSES-NO SUPERSAVERS Showtimes available of cinemark.com

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Seniors Apartments Vada Located at 600 W. Spring Street Brackettville, Texas Baldree Everyone who knows me is aware that one of my many weaknesses are sweets - candy, cookies, pies or cakes. Love them all in all forms and fashions.

Goodies

From G.G.

With that in mind, I'm going to share occasionally some "Watch Out" recipes. Huh? Well, they consist of ingredients that guarantee to contain ingredients that result in calories, poundage and desire for more of this kind of food. Welcome Aboard!!

Chocolate Bon Bons 1 cup margarine, 1 1/2 cup chunky peanut butter, 3 1/4 cups sifted XXX sugar (confectioners sugar), 3 cups crisp rice cereal, 2 cups semisweet chocolate chips, 1/4 bar paraffin.

Combine margarine and peanut butter in sauce pan. Bring to a boil over medium heat. Remove from heat. Stir in XXX sugar and cereal. Melt chocolate chips and paraffin in double boiler. Shape cereal mixture into small balls. Dip into melted chocolate, coating completely. Place on waxed paper and let stand until set.

Yields 36 bon bons.

 Refrigerator • Fully-Carpeted • • Mini blinds •

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ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for In the grid becom, when y words can be round that it the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space pro-vided 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?

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Roaring Twenties	Solution:	AY X CONTOKY OXA
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by Charles Cooper

AQUARIUS (January 20 to you don't have to take them you can't interfere. Stay out of this one.

PISCES (February 19 to ily.

ARIES (March 21 to April Try to keep the two separate. you're overreacting.

TAURUS (April 20 to May as you deem fit. Later in the difficult assignments first. week, a family member needs

ter the holidays. Resist temptation!

CANCER (June 21 to July lot more.

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LEO (July 23 to August February 18) Although a close 22) It's a good week to tap into friend is having problems, your creativity. Those with literary talents in particular to heart. You want to help, but find their muse. Over the weekend, take a much-needed break.

VIRGO (August 23 to Sep-March 20) It's a good time for tember 22) Advice on a work some introspection. Establish- matter comes from an unexing new goals and implement- pected source. However, ing plans is favored. Later, you're wise to listen closely. you focus on friends and fam- Later in the week, someone close to you is moody.

LIBRA (September 23 to 19) You're on the horns of a October 22) You're a bit senpersonal dilemma this week. sitive this week. However, do Unfortunately, this affects be careful. No one is being your concentration at work. intentionally insulting, and

SCORPIO (October 23 to 20) It's a good time to take November 21) You're still in stock of where you're going a partying mood this week. career-wise. Now is the time However, it's time to roll up to make any changes, or not, your sleeves. Tackle the most

SAGITTARIUS (Novemsome reassurance from you. ber 22 to December 21) Avoid GEMINI (May 21 to June a tendency to get in over your 20) Winter close-out sales head with a new business deal. have you tempted. However, Only agree to do what you your budget isn't up to it af- know you can accomplish. This way, no one winds up being disappointed.

CAPRICORN (December 22) You don't have to go it 22 to January 19) You need alone at home. Enlist the co- some rest after the whirlwind operation of family members. of the holiday season. If pos-Together, you accomplish a sible, schedule some down time for yourself. This weekend, pay attention to relationship concerns.

Thursday, January 6, 2005

RELIGION

The Brackell Hews

Jesus was there all the time

Over several weeks of coun- Want to talk about it?" seling Josie was able to face the child.

With Dr. Hardt's help she would always have the memories but with God's help and the healing power of the Holy instead of backward.

She had even been able to sues." forgive the person who had violated her.

some pressing questions. Josie sat silently, thinking to herself. Dr. Hardt was patient. Finally he said, "Josie, I've learned when you're silent and have that Josie." Dr. Hardt replied. look in your eyes, you're seeing something far, far away, your know," she began. "My family thought that Josie?" Dr. Hardt strengthen family, faith and edu-

"Dr. Hardt, sometimes I think issue of having been raped as a you can read my mind!" Josie laughed.

"No, I don't read minds but came to understand that she I've learned to know when you have something important you need to talk about." He smiled. "And it's good to see you more Spirit, she was looking forward relaxed when you're thinking faith. They probably would about some of your major is-

Josie looked into Dr. Hardt's eyes. She saw understanding and Still, she needed answers to patience. "Why," she said hesitantly. "Why didn't I tell my parents when it was happening? Then it would have stopped!"

"You have the answer to that, Josie was thoughtful. "You

mind's on something important. are so strong in their Christian asked.



never think something like that could happen to one of their own children.'

the right track." Dr. Hardt said. head. "But I didn't take his hand. was hard for me as a nine-yearold little girl to believe my mom and dad would still love me after what happened."

Josie paused for a few moments. "Because I felt guilty and ugly and dirty." Tears filled her eyes. " I felt like my parents would reject me if they knew. He told me nobody would believe me."

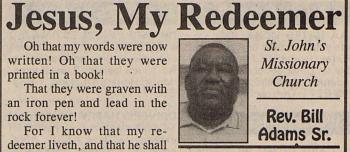
"So you bore that awful se-cret all alone?" Dr. Hardt asked.Josie smiled through her tears. "I know now," she said. "That I wasn't really alone. Jesus was there all the time reaching "That's true Josie. You're on out to me." She lowered her Josie continued. "I guess it I could have, but didn't." (To be continued)

Editor's Note: This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project "Why do you think you working in Brackettville to cation.

Oh that my words were now written! Oh that they were printed in a book!

That they were graven with an iron pen and lead in the rock forever! For I know that my redeemer liveth, and that he shall

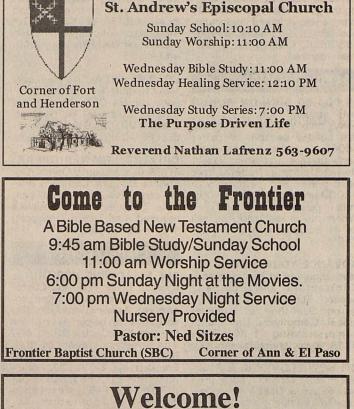
stand at the latter day upon the earth. Job 19:23-25



\$

His name is Jesus. Glory! Praise God!

563-2616



Preaching the Gospel silently First United what we say. Those who provide Methodist

Church

Rev. Roger

Baker

food and clothes for the poor clearly love the poor and find value in assisting them. Those who visit the sick take

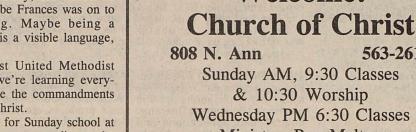
Christ's commandments to visit the sick seriously. A remark attributed to Saint Frances of Assisi is usually translated, "Preach the Gospel at all times; when necessary, use words." I think maybe Frances was on to something. Maybe being a Christian is a visible language,

At First United Methodist Church, we're learning everyday to live the commandments of Jesus Christ.

Join us for Sunday school at 9:30 and hear as we discuss the Christian life in real terms. Stay with us your prayer concerns

Jerry

Davenport



Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes Minister: Ray Melton

First United Methodist Church 109 James St - Next to the Clinic Sunday School 9 AM - Worship 10:45 Staffed Nursery Every Sunday

Completely Wheelchair Accessible. Hearing Assistance Devices Available open hearts, open minds, open doors.

Silence isn't golden when you the gap between common signs have a hearing loss. It's a diffi- and formal names. cult thing working with a hear-David and I have developed ing impairment - I have substan- a relationship through mutual tial loss of hearing on one side. patience and a desire to under-I cannot imagine a world of stand each other. My ASL signnearly total silence (although ing skills are poor but improv-

after spending two weeks with my active children, I can cer- have a dictionary that helps. tainly try to imagine it!) The last Still, getting the gist of David's few weeks I've spent a lot of time messages sometimes eludes me. with my friend, David Gilland. David can't hear, so he speaks ing for him, the beauty and eloin American Sign Language and quence of his speech can't be sometimes uses paper and pen explained to someone who to communicate.

being said if you look closely seen and experienced. and have a little understanding of the rules of grammar. Differ- to me. Preachers interpret and Numbers are counted on the fingers

doesn't sign. David's humor, One of the great things about deep emotions, passion, and pa-ASL is that it is a visible lan- tience in the face of adversity guage. You can "see" what is can't be translated - it has to be those waiting for the message get

ing. David coaches me and I

At times, when I am interpret-

Interpreting comes naturally ent parts of the head are used to explain the meanings of words to our faith in the Gospel every for worship at 10:45 and share mark masculine and feminine. written centuries ago in lan- day. We can let others "experiguage and culture.

I recognize the frustration I A "manual alphabet" bridges face with helping David commu- more by what we do than by we'll turn up the volume, too.

OBITUARY

Paul Francis Shepard

Paul Francis Shepard, 76, of Mary (Bill) Womack of Wilcox Fort Clark Springs, passed away Arizona, Dan (Laurie) Shepard

a year long battle with cancer. sota, Tom (Sharon) Shepard of

tempting to relate an important message that must be experienced to be appreciated. Too often I become focused on a single word or phrase and cannot communicate the full beauty of the message. When I fail, short-changed. In the life of the Christian,

we have opportunities to testify ence" the Gospel of Jesus. We and your joys. We'll offer you demonstrate what we believe the Gospel - and if you need it,

nicate as the same frustration I

undergo every Sunday - at-

Which fire

I saw the New Year arrive in on Friday, Dec. 31, 2004 after of International Falls Minne- a most unusual way

I was on a special trip to de-Paul was born on May 4, 1928 Lake Holiday Illinois, Joan liver some clothes and food to

D. Kearns.

Paul served his country with pride, first with the Merchant Marines and then with the Marine Corps.

In 1956, Paul joined the U.S. Border Patrol and was stationed in Douglas Arizona and Wolf Point Montana.

He transferred to the U.S. retired.

Paul was rehired back by the position was lead Fire Arms In- life. structor in Artesia New Mexico ending his career in 2002.

On Nov. 23, 1946, Paul married Wilma Schipper and together they have six children. On June 3, 1994, Paul married ily Rosa M. Villarreal in Vermillion South Dakota.

Paul is survived by his wife, Rosa, his 'brother' Larry Dodge, his children Paula (Tony)

Russano of Morris Illinois, vice to be held at a later date.

Elena Talamantez, age 92,

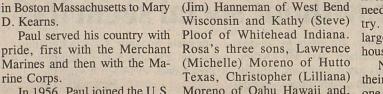
passed away Dec. 30, 2004 in Las Vegas, Nev. She was born Aug. 18, 1912 in Christoval, Texas. She was a devoted wife mother, grandmother, greatgrandmother and great-greatgrandmother.

She dedicated her life to her County Cemetery family and friends. Her love for God sustained her throughout her life. She was an unsung hero!

She is preceded in death by her husband Gregorio C. Talamantez; parents Samuel and Constancia Sevier.

She is survived by her daughters, Zulema Freeman; Andrea Davalos; Sylvia Skipper; Constancia Freeman. Sons Juan Talamantez and wife Mary Jane, Henry Talamantez, Richard Talamantez and wife Lydia; Filemon Talamantez and wife Lily. She had 150 grandchildren and 30 great-grandchildren 15 great-great-grandchildren

Visitation will be today until 9 p.m. Sunset Memorial Oaks Chapel Brackettville, Texas. A rosary will be recited at 7 p.m. A Mass of Christian burial is



Moreno of Oahu Hawaii and, Antonio (Monalisa) Moreno of Taylor, Texas.

Paul is further survived by his grandchildren, Bruce, Immigration Service in 1965 to Michael, T.J., Annie, Paula, Chicago Illinois and later to Adam, Bubs, Phillip, Jennifer, Burlington Vermont where he Jami, Boomer, Shannon, and nine great grandchildren.

Paul is also survived by many U.S. Government in 1985 with close friends that he has met in the amnesty program. His final his travels and journey through

Paul was a very learned and self educated man that had a great exuberance for life.

He loved reading and spending time with his friends and fam-

Paul has lived in many states and visited almost every state in the union in his many travels.

Cremation services already took place with a memorial ser-

Elena Talamantez.

ment will fol-

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Oaks

Friday, 11 a.m. at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Inter-

low at Kinney Funeral Home Del Rio

needy people in a foreign country. The needs are so great, a large amount of poverty, little housing and bad water.

New Years is a big event in their country and almost every- as their Lord and Savior, (John one celebrates.

The traditional way is to go outdoors and stand around a wood fire.

That night I was invited to a Church service with some Christian friends and as we drove on the bumpy roads, I saw many people standing around wood fires getting drunk.

Some were already staggering down the streets. Most of the men in that large city would celebrate the New Year that way.

The Church service was wonderful with lots of music and a we are standing around. It's our time of sharing of testimonies. choice, (Revelation 3:20). See Several people accepted Christ you in Church next Sunday.



1:12), others asked for prayer, (Psalm 120:1).

It was really a rededication and praise service. After the service we went and stood around a wood fire and ate the food that the ladies brought.

It made me realize that in life there only two places, we are either with God, (Psalm 119:30-32,119:173, Matthew 12:30, Philippians 3:20) or against God (Isaiah 65:12, Philippians 3:18,19).

It just depends on which fire



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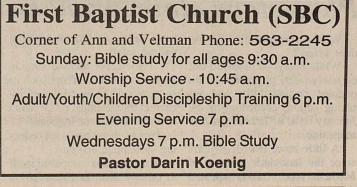
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- Consult no charge

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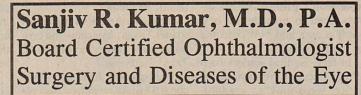


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The Brackell Hews

CLASSIFIEDS

Thursday, January 6, 2005

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EMPLOYMENT

THE FOLLOWING POSITION is open at BISD: Full-time Custodian/Supervisor. Application procedure: Applications/Job Descriptions can be picked up at the Brackett ISD, Central Office, 400 Ann Street, or request by mail, Brackett ISD, PO Box 586, Brackettville, TX 78832. For in-formation call Central Office at (830) 563-2491, fax (830) 563-9264. Applications accepted until position filled. Direct inquires to Bobby Templeton, Superintendent, bobbyt@ brackett.k12.tx.us. Brackett ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

THE KINNEY COUNTY Road and Bridge Department is currently accepting applications for the position of Equipment Operator. Employment applications and position description may be obtained from the Office of the County Judge. Interviews will be conducted by the Road and Bridge Supervisor and will continue until such time as a final selection for such position is made. Completed applications

may be hand delivered or mailed to the following location/address: Robert Salmon, Supervisor, Kinney County Road & Bridge Dept., 300 Louise St., PO Box 1219, Brackettville, TX 78832-1219. Kinney County is an equal opportunity employer. 2522, www.ubh.com.

EMPLOYMENT

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Are you prepared for a world **Texas Medicine examines patient safety**

Physicians claim primary responsibilty

Whose responsibility is pa- have been created to promote patients. tient safety?

While everyone involved can primary responsibility and are surgery on the wrong site, intaking action, according to the correct medications, or infection January issue of Texas Medicine due to insufficient hygiene. magazine.

since the landmark Institute of that patient safety was an ailing patient, the latest edition of the Texas Medical Association's official publication is devoted entirely to examining the topic.

Individuals from physicians to administrators to patients are working on solutions.

"There is nothing new about fective in health care. the medical profession's concern for patient safety," John C. Medicine Editorial Board, says profession's profession has always been to provide the best for every patient."

In fact, medical leaders such as the American Medical Assotions years before the IOM report, the magazine notes.

"I think the IOM report gave it a substantive kick in the fanny or push from behind," Nancy W. Dickey, MD, president of the Texas A&M University Sys-Texas Medicine. "It made headlines.

It was no longer an issue simply talked about by the profession. It was on the public's mind tracking of medical procedures. and lips."

tals are changing for the better, to improve systems rather than ceive two hours of continuing according to Texas Medicine. simply to identify one single hu- medical education credit in eth-Hospitals are employing systematic changes from prohibiting certain abbreviations in medical charts, to developing standardized care for situations like heart attacks and pneumonia, to implementing new procedures and of themselves probably are to eliminate wrong-site surger- minor, but when they come to- cal society in the nation, repreies.

Texas Medicine lists panels of health care experts such as the National Patient Safety Foundation (NPSF), patient-originated advocacy groups, and the Texas Patient Safety Alliance - of which

patient safety.

Part of the focus is on reduc-

A little more than five years ing systematic errors. Medicine has compared itself

Medicine report (IOM) indicated to other industries like aviation Hospital installed a direct "red to glean what can be beneficial.

Since the subjects are patients rather than planes, unique challenges are present.

Studies are underway to determine whether a "close call" reporting system similar to the aviation industry's would be ef-

As Dr. Jennings notes in the magazine, "The basic quality Jennings, MD, chair, Texas assurance and improvement processes that have been employed in the magazine. "Our elsewhere do apply to the practice of medicine.

Some other examples of possible care and best outcome strides Texas physicians and hospitals have taken, according to Texas Medicine:

 Houston's St. Luke's Episwith a bar code on it; medication labels also bear bar codes. Medical staff must match the two bar codes prior to giving a patient his or her medications.

 Other hospitals and physielectronic medical records, which the magazine says will improve safety by improving accuracy, communication, and

• Texas hospitals use root Texas physicians and hospi- cause analyses of medical errors man error. Josie Williams, MD, director of the Rural and Comber observes, "You normally find three or four events that in gether allow an error or a catastrophe.

HeartCare Partnership, devel- has 120 component county oped an electronic tool to help physicians follow evidencebased practice guidelines to im- 1853 is to improve the health of TMA is a founding partner - that prove care for post heart-attack all Texans.

A

• The Travis County Medi-Their tasks include finding cal Society established an Ad certainly help, physicians claim ways to eliminate errors such as Hoc Wrong Site Wrong Procedure Committee in 2003 to create a standard policy for all Austin-area facilities to use the same pre-surgical markings and procedures.

> • Dallas' Parkland Memorial line" telephone system on certain patient floors, connecting the central monitoring system and nurses. Each knows that when the red line is used, the situation requires immediate attention.

> Texas Medicine describes, is on patient empowerment and improving physician-patient communication. Ideas range from the best ways for physicians to communicate complex treatments to patients, to the practice of "Signing Your Site," in which patients and surgeons confer and mark the region where surgery is to be performed.

Dr. Williams advises, "Beciation were moving on solu- copal Hospital requires patients come an active participant and to wear an identity wristband partner in your health care, don't be a recipient of health care. Be an active partner in your (health care) team."

The challenges are many, TMA Trustee Michael E. Speer, MD, says in the magazine. "The tem Health Science Center, tells cians are shifting from paper to reality is that 48 percent of the general population in the United States has impaired ability to understand the written word; 21 percent cannot understand written instructions at the third-grade level," he writes.

TMA physician members reics for reading the issue and completing a questionnaire. TMA is munity Health Institute at Texas the only state medical associa-A&M and an NPSF board mem- tion publication in country providing such a service to its members

> TMA is the largest state medisenting more than 39,500 physician and medical student mem-TMA, through its bers. It is located in Austin and medical societies around the state. TMA's key objective since

have to think about it. Sooner or later, you will have to face it. Can you honestly say that you are Profits in Real Estate, A Guide for the New Inprepared for retirement? If not, you are not alone.

More than 66 million Americans haven't saved as much as a nickel for their retirement. With baby boomers set to retire in droves in the next the long term value of this type of investment," few years, people are going to have to start facing up to reality.

A recent "Baby Boom Retirement Savings Index" published by Merrill Lynch shows baby boomers are saving only 38.2 percent of what they need to maintain growth-adjusted living standards in retirement.

The time to for boomers to aggressively plan for retirement is now.

With the future of Social Security uncertain, Another part of the focus, it is not only boomers that should concern themselves with retirement. Social Security was a hot topic in the 2004 election. While the election is over, the problems remain. The system needs a change or a growing bulge of baby boomers will find the cupboard empty. Most Gen Xers have little faith that the Social Security benefits will even be there when it is time for them to collect.

To make matters even worse, company-provided private retirement plans are vastly underfunded and some are shutting down and transferring the burden to the Pension Guaranty Agency.

Recently, it came to light that a United Airlines default could force a crisis in that agency.

It is becoming clear that many people will be receiving far less than they counted on. Both baby boomers and Gen Xers are in need of a wake-up call. So, how do average people protect themselves?

A disciplined savings and investment plan would be a good idea but few have the disposanswer can be found in the booming real estate time to get into Real Estate.

At some point in your life, you are going to market," suggests Suzanne Caplan, business writer, consultant and co-author of Building Big vestor.

> "Lots of people are rushing in to real estate to make spend-able dollars now and forgetting about says Caplan. "Gurus teach that the money earned from rental units is cash flow when it is really operating capital, money to use to pay for repairs and overhead if a unit goes vacant." While this reckless approach may appeal to some, Caplan and her partner Wade Timmerson teach a much more conservative approach to new investors.

> "I see the real possibility that investors could build a portfolio of rental units that will be there to supplement their retirement when the time comes," says Caplan. "Properties can be purchased with little money down, rented with positive cash to operate the business, the mortgages are being paid off and the appreciation in their value is the silent profit." So, how soon before these real estate investments start turning a profit?

> "Over a decade, it is very possible to acquire a six figure portfolio and when the mortgages are paid, the cash is clearly available as income," Caplan explains. "Then, the retiree is assured of a check coming in each month and no longer has to rely on political decisions to determine the quality of their golden years."

> While some view real estate as a means to "get rich quick," experts are starting to realize that real estate is a legitimate vehicle for retirement income

If you still want to receive money in the mail every month and not depend on getting it from Social Security, real estate may be your answer. Interest rates are low and values continue to rise able dollars to accomplish this goal. "A better at record rates. There has never been a better



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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.