

The Brackett News

Thursday, January 4, 2007

Volume 18, No. 48

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Vandals strike city street signs

An unknown vandal has been pushing over city stop signs with a vehicle and has destroyed almost a dozen street signs throughout the city.

The Kinney County Sheriff's Department has launched an investigation and is actively pursuing leads.

So far, city residents that have witnessed the incidents

have not provided enough information to lead to an arrest.

A county deputy confirmed that all the witnesses have offered the same, but very vague,

description of the vehicle pushing over the signs and then driving off: A dark pick-up truck.

According to the Mayor Eduardo Esparza, the city has already replaced several posts

and signs on the East side of town where the vandalism reportedly began almost a month ago.

"I would like anyone with information to come forward," said Esparza.

City Secretary Bonnie Mayes estimated it costs taxpayers approximately \$102 to replace one sign.



Down and Out

Street signs all over the City of Brackettville have recently been pushed over by a vandal driving a dark pick-up truck.

Photos by Leigh Volcsko



Hog Wild

From Left: Livestock Show board member Tommy Clark assists stock show participant Abby Gutierrez with her hog project at a recent FFA Clinic.

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

Got pennies? Save them for FCA's Penny Wars!

Submitted By Carolyn Conoly

Brackett High School and Junior High School students will be collecting pennies (and other small change and donations) for their annual "Penny Wars" fund-raising project, held each January.

Money will be collected and counted all month, and will be used to help send students to FCA Summer Camp.

Fellowship of Christian Athletes chapters all over the country collect pennies this month, and in Brackett, the fund-raiser has raised as much as \$1000.00 in past years.

Classes compete against each other, and this year there are donation jugs at several businesses around town.

Donations are needed and welcome in any amount, since more BHS students express an interest in attending FCA's non-denominational Christian camp each year.

Last year, more than 30 students attended camp.

FCA is the largest student organization at Brackett High School. Students meet for prayer, fellowship and service project planning each Wednesday evening at 8 p.m. at the gym.

FCA's mission is to "present

to athletes and coaches, and all whom they influence, the challenge and adventure of receiving Jesus Christ as Savior and Lord, serving Him in their relationships and in the fellowship of the church."

Any adults who are interested in supporting student members and their coach sponsors are invited to join the FCA Adult Chapter.

A \$25 annual dues payment is optional, and may be mailed to Charlie and Rhonda Marquardt at P.O. Box 1482, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.

For more information, please call Carolyn Conoly at 563-3699.

Arts council to host cowboy serenade

Submitted by Luanne Pendorf
Kinney County Arts Council

Western songs and cowboy poetry will kick off this year's Kinney County Junior Livestock Show.

Cowboy Sunset Serenade, sponsored by the Kinney County Arts Council, hits the stage at the Civic Center in Brackettville next Thursday, January 11, at 7:30 p.m.

The Junior Livestock Show

will fill the Civic Center Friday and Saturday, Jan 12 and 13.

Cowboy Sunset Serenade tickets (\$5.00 for adults and \$3.00 for students) are available at all of the following: Brackettville Bank and Trust, Brackettville Cleaners, Fort Clark Member Services, Fort Clark Adult Center, and from Arts Council members.

Additional information about the concert is available from Rozetta Pingenot at 563-2195.

In addition to the annual Livestock Show BBQ, the board will be sponsoring cake decorating contest. The competition is open to anyone who loves cake decorating and this year's theme is "Agriculture".

The first place cake will be awarded \$100. The second and third place cake decorators will win \$50 and \$25, respectively.

The cakes will be judged on Jan. 13, and the proceeds donated to the scholarship fund.



Pennies for Heaven

Winter Texans Mac and Joyce Evans donate pennies to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes penny drive at the Burger & Shake. The money collected will send FCA members to camp.

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

News BRIEFS

Arts Council 4H Meeting Meeting

Kinney County Arts Council will hold its January meeting on Monday the 8th at 5:30 p.m. at the Fort Clark Adult Center.

4-H Meeting Sunday, January 7, 2007 at 6 pm at the Fort Clark Service Club

Livestock Show

Kinney County Livestock Show Friday, January 12th through Saturday, January 13. BBQ at Noon on Saturday, January 13, Civic Center.

Flu Shots

South Texas Urgent Care Center, 3040 E. Main Street in Uvalde (behind Applebees) is now offering flu shots for \$30. For more information call, 830-278-1166.

Grief Support Group

There is a new grief support group which is meeting the first Tuesday of each month in Slaton

Hall of First United Methodist Church. All who are experiencing grief are invited to come and support each other in their journeys. Call Pastor Jean Reardon at 563-2823 if you have questions. Everyone is welcome.

Recorded Rainfall

3/4" of rain recorded at The Brackett News Weather Center this week. Report rain gauge readings from your part of the county by phone 830-563-2852 or by email: tnews@sbcglobal.net. Please include your address!

Fort Clark Calendar

Thursday 01/04: Couples Golf at 1p.m., Stitching from 1-3 p.m. at RV Park, Ceramics from 1-3 p.m. at the Adult Center, Lions Club Mtg. 6:30 p.m.

at Julie's Rest. Friday 01/05: Aerobics 9 a.m., Stitching 1-3 at RV Park, Men's Bridge 1-5 in Adult Center, Bingo 7 p.m. Shafter Hall. Saturday 01/06: Swap Meet at the Adult Center 10-1, Cavalry Brigade 9 a.m. Shafter Hall, Art Studio open from 1-4. Monday 01/08: Par 3 Scramble at 9 a.m., Wood Carvers at 9 a.m., Unit 37, Aerobics at 9 a.m., KCAC 5:30 p.m. Adult Center. Tuesday 01/09: Ladies Golf at 9 a.m., Architecultural Comm. Meeting at 9 a.m., 500 Cards 6 p.m. at he Adult Center. Wednesday 01/10: Men's Golf Mtg at 8:30 a.m., Men's Golf at 9 a.m., Aerobics at 9 a.m., Tap Dance at 10:15 Post Theatre, Rec Comm. Mtg. 10:30 a.m. Adult Center, Stitching from 1-3 at RV Park, RV Mtg. 3p.m. at RV Park, Dominos at 6 p.m. Adult Center. Thursday 01/11: Garden Club 9:30 a.m. at Adult Center, Couples Golf at 1p.m., Stitching from 1-3 p.m. at RV Park, Ceramics from 1-3 p.m. at the Adult Center, KC Chamber of Commerce Mtg. 7 p.m.

at Adult Center.

Livestock Show Schedule:

Friday, January 12:
2 p.m. Rabbit Classes
4 p.m. Steer Classes
4:30 p.m. Meat Goat Doe Classes
5:30 p.m. Commercial Ewe Lamb Classes
6 p.m. Swine
Saturday, January 13:
8 a.m. Market Lamb Classes
9:30 a.m. Market Goat Classes
Noon BBQ Lunch/Cake Contest Judging
1:15 p.m. Stock Show Awards Presentation
2 p.m. Junior Livestock Show Premium Sale

WELL NEWS

BODY OF KNOWLEDGE
An aspirin tablet is 40 times more effective if taken with a cup of hot chocolate rather than a glass of water, according to Stephen Juan, author of "The

Odd Brain. PHOBIA OF THE WEEK

Tremophobia - fear of trembling
SOCK IT AWAY
If long, sweaty workouts leave your poor feet sore and blistered, those stinky socks you just peeled off could be to blame. Some sock fabrics are better than others at preventing blister-causing friction, says a study from the University of Missouri. Cotton socks chafe the most and are most apt to cause blisters at high moisture levels, while nylon and acrylic-fiber socks had lower friction levels because they tend to wick away moisture.

SECONDHAND SMOKE
There's nothing secondhand about cigarette smoke, according to the U.S. Surgeon General's latest report. Fully 126 million nonsmoking Americans breathe it in regularly, and those who are exposed at home or work increase their risk of developing heart disease by 25 percent to 30 percent and lung cancer by 20 percent to 30 percent. Even brief exposure can cause immediate harm.

Weekend WEATHER

Friday
Sunny
High:72
Low:44

Saturday
Mostly Sunny
High:54
Low:38

Sunday
Sunny
High:61
Low:37

Editors Weekly PLOG

My New Year's resolution not to swear out loud has gotten off to a less than meteoric start.

As long as I do not speak, I will be successful. My language is in the hopper. Between the Virginia-country twang, the Tex-Mex mix and the ghetto slang - I have to confess my sins more than my computer does automatic saves.

I got up on January 1, 2007, to a very quiet house. I milled around for a bit and then decided that January 1, was no holiday for newspaper people like me and went to work. I stopped and got some butter biscuits and a glass of tea from Burger & Shake and as I was sitting in the solitude of the deserted office, when the phone rang and out slipped the "S" word. This word I normally save for the confines of my car, but I was frightened. BLaaaaaH!

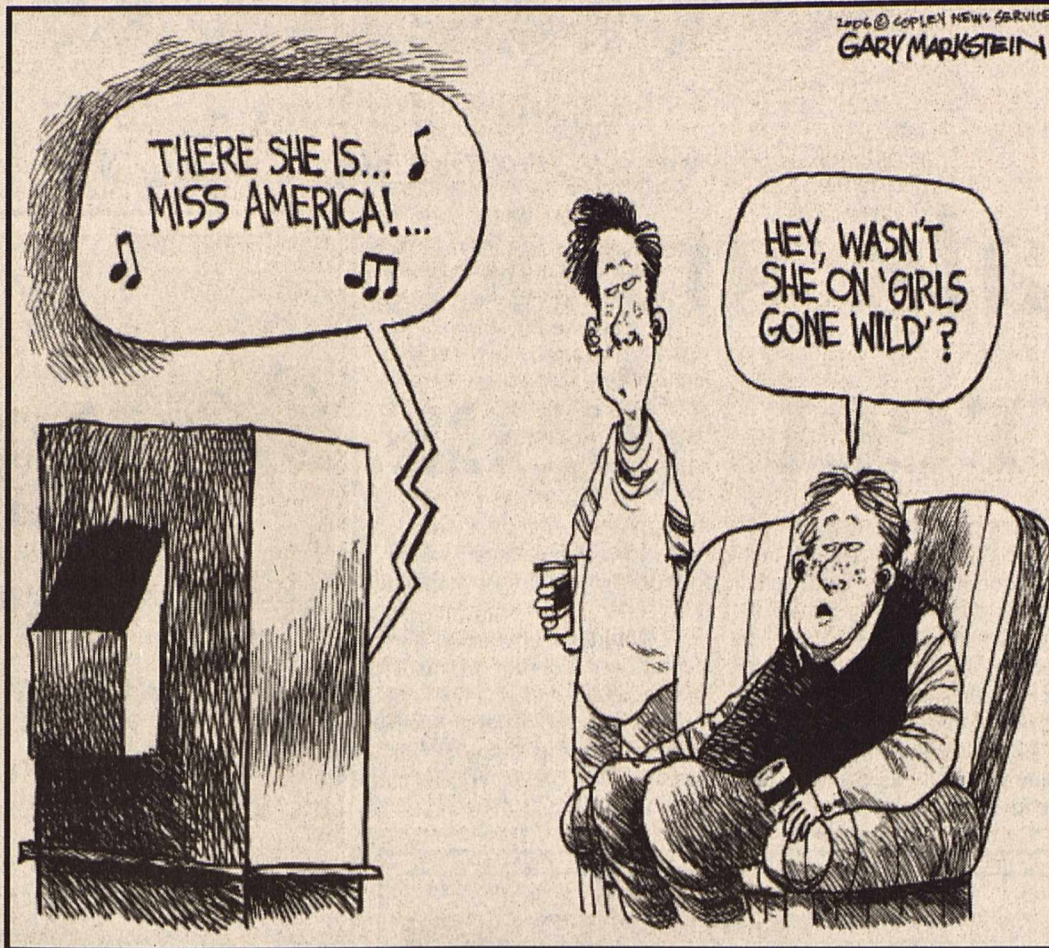
I believe I will now change my resolution to cursing out loud LESS and to make up for the aforementioned amendments to my December 21, 2006, declarations, I will now resolve to swearing LESS, exercising three times per week and stopping at all stop signs within the Brackettville City Limits. -And if you live in town, you know that this is a huge declaration only brave people - willing to really challenge themselves would promise to keep! Why don't we stop? Townies just roll right up to the invisible stop line, make a few quick head turns to the left and right and then give a full pressure stomp on the gas peddle. Rocks flying, children jumping into ditches all so we can get to the Post Office before the 9:30 rush!

One more thing before I go...I would like to thank Liz Jaso and Sissy Martin for contributing their wonderful stories of hope during the Christmas season. Two things: ONE - you are participating in this community by sharing your story and TWO - your message will go full circle and good things will happen to you. I encourage everyone to share "their story" with TBN (Not that I don't trust most of you, but all content disclaimers apply!)

Okay - last thing. Thank you to all the people that called in nominations for the Christmas Decorating Contest. It was great to see so many getting involved.

Happy New Year! Eat your black eyed peas!

Leigh V.



Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions



Emily Cooper

Once again, it's time to make New Year's resolutions.

If you can succeed in your efforts to exercise more, travel, learn a new language or any of the other worthy goals you might have, you can expand your horizons and enjoy a better quality of life.

But if you want to make an even bigger impact on your future, you may want to make - and keep - financial resolutions for the coming year.

As with all resolutions, the financial ones are easier to keep if they don't force you to drastically change your lifestyle.

So, with that in mind, here are a few attainable financial resolutions to consider for 2007:

· Increase your retirement plan contributions.

If your salary goes up this year, increase the percentage of your earnings that you defer into your 401(k) plan (or your 403(b), if you work for a non-profit agency, or 457(b) if you work for a state, county, city or other governmental agency).

With tax-deferred growth, pre-tax contributions and a variety of investment choices, these plans are great retirement savings vehicles.

Plus, since the money is taken out before it even reaches your check, you won't really "miss" your increased payments.

And in 2007, the contribution limit for these plans has increased to \$15,500. (If you're 50 or older, you can contribute an additional \$5,000.)

· "Max out" on your IRA. In 2007, you can put up to \$4,000 into a traditional or Roth IRA, or \$5,000 if you are 50 or older.

If you cannot come up with the maximum amount at once, try dividing your IRA contributions into 12 equal monthly payments and have the money taken automatically from a checking or savings account.

· Build adequate cash reserves. Try to build a sufficient cash cushion - about six to 12 months' worth of living expenses - to handle any unexpected financial needs, such as a major car repair or an expensive new appliance. By building an emergency fund, you won't need to tap into your investments. And by giving your investments the potential to grow as long as possible, you'll accelerate your chances for progress toward your long-term financial goals.

· Review your investment portfolio. It's a good idea to review your investment portfolio at least once a year.

Over the course of 12 months, your life can change in many ways; e.g., new spouse, new house, new child, new job, etc. And if your life changes significantly, your investment goals may also change.

But even if your circumstances haven't changed much in a year, you should review your holdings to make sure your investment mix reflects your individual risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term objectives.

A financial professional can help you review your investments to make sure you are still on track.

· Don't take a "time out" from investing. In every year, you can find any number of events - war, political turmoil, natural disasters, market volatility, etc. - that might motivate you to "take a break" from investing.

But the most successful investors keep on investing, no matter how gloomy the news may be.

So, in 2007, look beyond the headlines. Instead, focus on quality investments and your long-term investment strategies.

If you can achieve these New Year's resolutions, you'll go a long way toward potentially improving your financial situation in 2007 - and beyond.

Happy New Year from Iraq



From Left, MAJ Ostby, COL Adams and two General Atomics contractors at COB Speicher in Tikrit, Iraq. Ostby is the husband of BISD School Nurse Lisa Ostby.

Dear TBN, Greetings and Happy New Year from Contingency Operating Base (COB) Speicher, Iraq! I wanted to send you a short note to express my gratitude for sending me TBN. I just received the 7 Dec copy yesterday (New Year's Eve) and was thrilled to read it from front to back. As you already know the execution of the former dictator of Iraq has made world news. COB Speicher is based in Tikrit (home town of the murderer) and as you can imagine, things have been pretty "interesting." Being in a combat environment 24/7 thousands of miles from home can make any Warrior home sick and long for something from home. Thanks to you, I was able to take my mind away for about 30 minutes as I was engrossed in catching up with happenings at home. I look forward to the receipt of the next issue of TBN-a huge HOOAH! to you.

Very Respectfully,
MAJ Christopher C. Ostby
ATEC FOA VII,
Team Leader US Army Test and Evaluation Command
COB Speicher, Iraq

I am also attaching a Family Readiness Group (FRG) Newsletter. It is a periodic newsletter designed to keep our family and friends informed of our deployment. Again thanks for your support.

Team Speicher

22 December 2006

Greetings and Happy Holidays from COB Speicher, Iraq! First and foremost we would like to take this opportunity to thank all the family members and friends of the ATEC for the great support. It is comforting to know that you are safe and making the best of the separation from loved ones during the Holidays. Our deployment would not be the same without your awesome support.

Things have not slowed down for Team Speicher as we execute decentralized operations. SFC Chandler has been forward deployed to Afghanistan for approximately a month in support of Team Afghanistan. This is his second trip to the lovely area. He reports brisk weather, suitable living and working conditions and meals fit for human consumption. MAJ (XP) Bailey is dressing up in his flight suit everyday and logging those hours. He is living the aviator's dream. I am charged with holding down Team Speicher Headquarters and planning for our pending relocation and other tasks what a blast. We are all in good spirits and our morale is high.

Team Speicher had a surprise visit from COL Adams this month. It was good seeing him and we enjoyed his visit. During the visit, COL Adams warned, I mean-said, he plans on making the trip to COB Speicher about every two months. I believe he said this after a well deserved overnight stay at "COB Speicher Inn." He seemed pleased with his accommodations and the fine food establishments available at this gem of a place.

During COL Adams' stay, we had an opportunity to visit 25th Combat Aviation Brigade (CAB) where MAJ Bailey is embedded. He made time to show COL Adams the layout of the unit and introduce its chain of command. All this sightseeing can make anyone hungry, so we ended our 25th CAB tour with a dinner at the exclusive Aviation Dining Facility.

We also had an opportunity to visit several other units including Task Force Odin where MAJ Paul Weizer (former Test Officer with OTC) is serving as a Force Integration Officer. We made good use of COL Adams' visit and it was an enjoyable one. And I do believe we will see COL Adams again at COB Speicher in a couple of months.

During this month COB Speicher troops were treated with a USO concert performed by Carrie Underwood and her band. Believe it or not, MAJ Bailey and I managed to get a couple of VIP tickets with a second row seats. It was nice to let our hair down for about an hour and enjoy the show.

On a final note, below is a poem from an unknown author that I ran across years ago and kept it with me ever since. Perhaps some of you may have seen it previously. It has always helped me to put what we do everyday and our honorable profession of choice in perspective, especially during the Holidays. Enjoy! Merry Christmas and Happy New Year!

Shout-out to Lisa Ostby - Happy 14th Anniversary!
MAJ Ostby, SFC Chandler, MAJ Bailey

Team Speicher Out!
"A Warriors Christmas"
Twas the night before Christmas, he lived all alone, in a one bed room house made of plaster and stone. I had come down the chimney with presents to give and to see just who in this home did live.

I looked all about, a strange site did I see, no tinsel, no presents, not even a tree, no stockings by the mantle, just boots filled with sand. On the wall hung pictures of far distant

lands, with medals and badges, awards of all kinds, a sober thought came through my mind.

For this house was different, it was dark and dreary; I had found the home of a Warrior once I could see clearly. I heard stories about them; I had to see more so I walked down the hall and pushed open the door. The Solider lay sleeping, silent, alone, curled up in this, his one bedroom home.

The face was so gentle, the room in such disorder, not how I pictured a United States Warrior. Was this the War Hero of whom I'd just read? Curled up on a poncho, the floor for a bed? His head was clean shaven, his weathered face tan; I soon understood this was more than a man.

I realized the families that I saw this night owed their lives to these Warriors who were willing to fight. Soon around the world the children would play and grownups celebrate a bright Christmas Day. They enjoyed freedom each month of the year, because of these Warriors, like the one lying here.

I could not help wonder how many lay alone on a cold Christmas Eve, in a land far from home. The very thought brought a tear to my eye, I dropped to my knees and started to cry. The Warrior awakened and I hear a rough voice, "Santa don't cry, this is my life, my choice: I fight for freedom, I don't ask for more "My life is my God, my country, my family."

The Solider rolled over and soon drifted to sleep I couldn't control it, I started to weep. I kept watch for hours. So silent and still and we both shivered from the cold nights chill. I took off my jacket, the one made of red, and I covered this Warrior from his toes to his head. And I put on his T-shirt of gray and black, with an eagle and an Army patch embroidered on back. And although it barely fit me, I began to swell with pride, and for a shining moment, I was United States Army deep inside.

I didn't want to leave on that cold dark night, this guardian of honor, so willing to fight. Then the Warrior rolled over with a voice soft and pure, whispered, "Carry on Santa, Christmas Day is Secure." One look at my watch and I knew he was right, Merry Christmas my friend and to all a good night.

By: An Unknown Author

EDITOR'S NOTE: The Brackett News sends a free paper to Kinney County residents serving in war zones. If you know of a serviceperson that would like a paper, contact us at 830-563-2852 or tbnews@sbcglobal.net.

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The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and be on subjects of interest. 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. Letters found or believed to be written by a person other than that of the signed author will be refused. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

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Vada Baldree

Slow cookers are a real help not only to the working women, but also to those of us who are working at having fun. Have you used yours lately? If not, pull it out, dust it off and try one of these recipes this week.

Stuffed Bell Peppers

3 med. red bell peppers
2 med. yellow bell peppers
1 jar (4 oz.) spaghetti sauce, divided
3/4 lb. Italian sausage
3/4 cup uncooked instant rice
1/2 cup crumbled feta cheese
1/2 cup chopped onion
1/4 cup chopped tomato
1/4 cup minced parsley
2 Tbsp. sliced ripe olives
1/4 to 1/2 tsp. garlic powder
1/2 tsp. salt
1/2 tsp. Italian seasoning
1/2 tsp. crushed red pepper flakes

Cut tops off peppers, chop tops and set aside. Discard stems and seeds; set pepper cups aside. Reserve 3/4 cup spaghetti sauce; pour remaining sauce into slow cooker. Combine the sausage, rice, cheese, onion, tomato, parsley, olives, garlic powder, salt, Italian seasoning, red pepper flakes and

reserved chopped peppers and spaghetti sauce. Spoon into pepper cups; place in slow cooker. Cover and cook on low for 4 to 5 hours or until peppers are tender. Serves 5. If sausage is in casing, slit open and remove sausage.

Sweet and Savory Ribs

1 lg. onion, sliced and separated into rings
2 1/2 to 3 lbs. boneless country-style pork ribs
1 bottle (18 oz.) honey barbecue sauce
1/3 cup maple syrup
1/4 cup spicy brown mustard
1/2 tsp. salt
1/4 tsp. pepper
Place onion in a 5 qt. slow cooker, place ribs on top. Combine the barbecue sauce, maple syrup, mustard, salt and pepper; pour over the ribs. Cover and cook on low for 8-9 hours or until meat is tender. Serves 6-8. Freezes well.

Family Chicken Dinner

4 med. carrots, but into 2 in. pieces
1 med. onion, chopped
1 celery rib, cut into 2 in. pieces
2 cup cut fresh green beans (2 in. pieces)
5 small red potatoes, quartered
1 broiler/fryer chicken (3 to 3 1/2 lbs.), cut up
1 1/2 cup hot water
4 bacon strips, cooked and crumbled
2 tsp. chicken broth
1 tsp. salt

1/2 tsp. dried thyme
1/2 tsp. dried basil
pinch pepper
In a 5 qt. slow cooker, layer the first seven ingredients in order listed. In a bowls, combine the water bouillon, salt, thyme, basil, and pepper; pour over the top. Do not stir. Cover and cook on low for 6-8 hours or until the vegetables are tender and chicken is juices run clear. Remove chicken and vegetables. Thicken cooking juices for gravy if desired. Serves 4.

Hot Caramel Apples

4 lg. tart apples, cored
1/2 cup apple juice
1/2 cup packed brown sugar
12 redhot candies
1/4 cup butter
8 caramels
1/4 tsp. ground cinnamon
whipped cream, optional
Peel about 3/4 in. off the top of each apple; place in a 3 qt. slow cooker. Pour juice over the apples. Fill the venter of each apple with 2 Tbsp. of sugar, 3 redhots, 1 Tbsp. butter and 2 caramels. Sprinkle with cinnamon. Cover and cook on low for 4-6 hours or until the apples are tender. Serve immediately with whipped cream if desired. Serves 4.



Are you interested in being a paraprofessional at BISD?

To be considered for a paraprofessional (instructional aide) position with BISD, you must meet the requirements of the federally mandated No Child Left Behind. To be hired, applicants must meet one of the three standards:

1. Have at least 48 hours of college; or
2. Obtained at least an associate's degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality and be able to demonstrate, through a formal state assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing and mathematics.

Regional Educational Service Center 20 in San Antonio has developed a five day workshop offered to meet NCLB requirements (# 3 above). BISD will offer transportation to the workshop for any interested applicants. The \$175 fee and meals will be the responsibility of the applicant. Upon successful completion of the course, the attendee will receive a NCLB certificate that is filed with the Texas Education Agency and is accepted by the district to meet the Highly Qualified requirements. *Obtaining this certificate does not guarantee employment with BISD, but it does allow the applicant to be considered for employment.* The workshop is scheduled for January 22 - 26, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily in San Antonio. Participants must be in attendance all five days in order to take the assessment. If you are interested, please contact Paula Renken at 830-563-2491 x150 or paular@brackett.k12.tx.us

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| <p>TOYOTA NEW V6, Auto, 4x2</p> <p>'07 Toyota 4Runner</p> <p>\$415 mo.</p> <p>TOYOTA #T10972</p> | <p>HYUNDAI '07 Hyundai Tuscon</p> <p>\$18995 OR \$299 mo.</p> <p>HYUNDAI #H11040</p> | <p>COME SEE THE ALL NEW</p> <p>'07 Dodge Nitro</p> <p>\$21995 OR \$349 mo.</p> <p>DODGE #D11095</p> |
| <p>TOYOTA NEW V8, Auto, 4x2</p> <p>'06 Toyota Tundra Double Cab</p> <p>\$6000 OFF MSRP</p> <p>TOYOTA #D11095</p> | <p>'07 Hyundai Santa Fe</p> <p>\$21875 OR \$349 mo.</p> <p>HYUNDAI #D11095</p> | <p>'07 Jeep Wrangler Unlimited Sahara 4x2</p> <p>\$22441 Jeep</p> <p>JEEP #J1165</p> |

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Exercise New Years resolutions



Pat Sitzes

CHEER knows that there are readers out there who have made a new years resolution to lose weight and to exercise more. When talking to someone who works out at a gym, this person found it amusing how many people were exercising during that first week after New Year's Day, and how the crowd quickly dwindled as the month went by. CHEER wants to make a suggestion. Instead of going off the deep end on exercising, why not try the easiest exercise of all to start your new exercise program, walking. As with any exercise program see your doctor to make sure it is the right exercise for you. Walking requires a commitment to do it, and a pair of shoes which have a good arch and heel support. If you want, you could purchase a pedometer to measure how

many steps that you take. It is reported that a person should walk 10,000 steps in a day to improve our fitness level. Walking 10,000 steps is approximately five miles. If you want to join a fitness challenge to walk 10,000 steps, go to www.10000steps.org, and you will be given more information on walking for fitness using this program. Another option for those who want to exercise doing walking is joining a walking group. If you walk with other people, a person can be more motivated to stick with a walking program, and in the process make new friends within the community.

If you are interested in joining a walking group, please call CHEER at 563-5528, and we will help with organizing a group. Congratulations to those of you who are already or who have just started a fitness program. Anyone who wants to sign up for a mammogram for their anniversary month during 2007 with the mobile unit, please call CHEER at 563-5528. Remember the best protection is early detection of cancer.

Cavalry Brigade Update

Submitted by Woodie Hornburg

Charging into 2007, the Cavalry Brigade's Volunteers will be ready for the challenges ahead. With the backing of Fort Clark Springs Community Council troopers are able to clean-up or remove any mess that marks our beautiful grounds-even horse manure. Mustering will take place at

9:00 a.m. in Shafter Hall on January 6, 2007.

Details may be chosen by the volunteer according to physical condition and preference for indoor or outdoor work. At 11:30 "C.B.'s" famous chef will have prepared a mysterious delicious lunch. So, plan on January 6th at 9:00 a.m. in Shafter Hall for Cavalry Brigade's "Clean-up" project.

OBITUARY

James Dorman Lawrence



James Dorman Lawrence, age 61, passed away December 28, 2006 at his home in Conroe. A mass of Christian burial was held Wednesday, January 3, 2007 at 11 A.M. at Sacred Heart Catholic Church in Conroe with Rev. Christopher Terry officiating. Entombment followed at Forest Park, The Woodlands Cemetery.

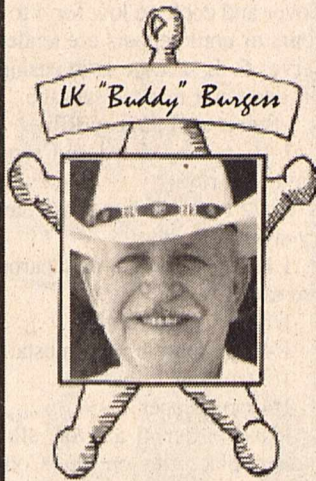
Visitation was held on Tuesday, January 2, 2007 from 6-8 P.M. in the Metcalf Chapel in Conroe, followed with a rosary at 7 P.M.

Jim was a devoted family man and mentor to many. He is also the former owner of Dailey Oil Tools, Lawrence Industries, Mariposa Cattle Company, Collier Productions, and First Surety Title Company. He lived in Conroe for the past 31 years and was active in a host of community projects such as YMCA and the Montgomery County Fair Association. He was also instrumental in the FM 3083 road extension in Conroe. Jim was a yachtsman, having raced all over the world. He earned a Master Seaman's license. He also had his pilot's licenses in both fixed and rotor-winged aircraft. He was also an inventor, song writer, hunter, sportsman and golfer.

Jim is survived by his wife, Nancy Lawrence of Conroe; daughters Melissa Priddy and husband Rob of Plantersville; Alison Spurlin and husband Jim of the Woodlands; son Collier Lawrence and wife Mary of Brackettville; sister Dorothy Johnston of Tyler; brothers Richard Lawrence of Liberty; Doyle Lawrence of Liberty; grandchildren Brooke Elizabeth and Kayla Marie Priddy; Emily Elizabeth Lawrence; and James Raleigh Spurlin.

To leave a tribute in memory of Jim, please visit www.mem.com.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Tuesday, December 19

10:01 a.m. Richard Guajardo, 43, of Brackettville was arrested for theft of service. Guajardo was released later that day on a bond of \$18,000.

10:04 a.m. A local woman called asking for a deputy's assistance because her daughter was threatening to run away. A deputy was informed.

2:00 p.m. Adam Faz, 25, of Seguin was arrested on a warrant. Faz was released the next day on a 3,000 bail bond.

4:30 p.m. A woman informed the Sheriff's Office that there were starving horses on HWY 2804. A deputy spoke to the owners of the horses.

Wednesday, December 20

3:30 p.m. A man called stating that two girls were racing up and down E. Louise St. A deputy was in route to the location.

6:12 p.m. A man called to report that his ex-wife left town with his daughter when it was his time to have custody of the child. A deputy was informed of the situation.

7:49 p.m. The Sheriff's Office was informed that a woman threatened to kill her daughter with a knife. There were witnesses to the threat and the caller was advised to write a statement.

Thursday, December 21

3:15 p.m. Three individuals came into the Sheriff's Office asking to speak to a deputy about an assault. A deputy spoke to the individuals about their situation.

3:32 p.m. A call on the radio came into the Sheriff's office of a man walking on Hwy. 90 towards Uvalde. The man had a clean record. He stated that he had gotten into an argument with his wife and decided to start walking, he had a ride coming for him from Pearsall.

8:45 p.m. Justin Luna, 18, of Del Rio was arrested for minor in consumption with a failure to appear. Luna has not yet been released.

Friday, December 22

2:35 p.m. A local woman called stating that someone had vandalized one of her buses. A deputy was informed.

3:32 p.m. A employee of Pico reported that a minor accident had occurred in the parking lot. A deputy reported to the scene.

9:10 p.m. A 911 caller reported that he car had broken down and she needed assistance. A deputy was enroute to the situation.

10:20 p.m. Louis Gray Walz, 47, of Helotes was arrested for criminal trespassing. Walz was released on a bond of \$2,000.

10:48 p.m. Edwards County Sheriff's Office radioed in stating to keep an eye on a vehicle on Hwy. 674. Minutes later the Sheriff's office received a call stating that an accident had happened at mile marker 495.2 miles south of Edwards county line on 674. The accident involved a motorcycle and the driver had been airlifted to San Antonio.

Saturday, December 23

10:30 p.m. A call came into the Sheriff's Office stating that a vehicle was driving extremely fast on Ann and Spring St. A deputy was dispatched to the location.

10:30 p.m. Roger Lopez, 17, of Del Rio was arrested for possession of marijuana. Lopez has not yet been released.

Sunday, December 24

10:21 a.m. Fernando Quiroz, 31, of Brackettville was arrested for driving with an invalid license. He was released later that day with a bail bond of \$1,500.

2:57 p.m. Ramon Sanchez, 25, of San Antonio was arrested for driving with an invalid license. He was released later with a bail of \$1,500.

6:43 p.m. A woman called requesting a deputy's assistance at her residence. She needed to get her belongings from the house, but a man in the house was arguing with her and throwing things. A deputy was enroute to the scene.

7:38 p.m. The Sheriff's Office received a call from an alarm company stating that an alarm was going off at the residence of a local rancher. Border Patrol and a deputy were notified and reported to the location.

Monday, December 25

7:50 p.m. A call was received from an alarm company that an alarm was going off at a ranch. A deputy reported to the scene and everything was okay.

11:06 p.m. A woman called stating that a truck with a loud muffler was driving fast on Beaumont St. A deputy checked on the situation.

Tuesday, December 26

10:09 a.m. A man reported that he was having trouble with his grandson.

11:32 p.m. A 911 caller stated that there was a flipped vehicle on Hwy 90 W. No one was injured but the vehicle was on fire. Ambulance, Fire Department, and Deputies reported to the scene.

Wednesday, December 27

3:58 a.m. A caller stated that loud music was coming from the Frontier Baptist Church. A deputy was enroute to the situation and spoke to the individuals.

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11:00 am Worship Service

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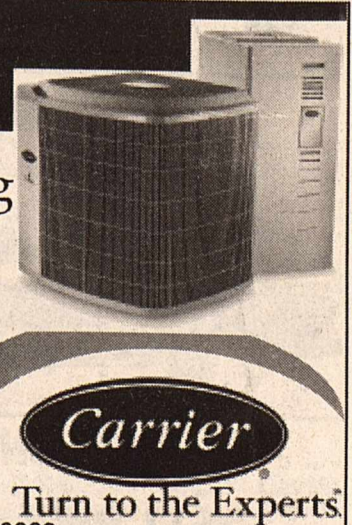
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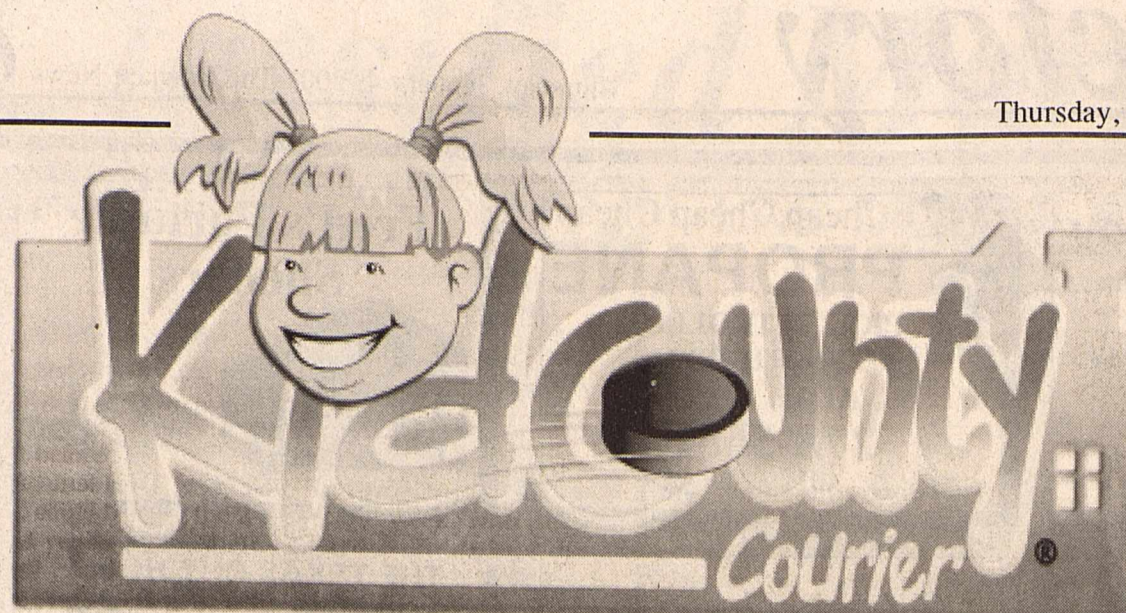
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New Year's All Around the World!

By May Forest
New Year's Day is celebrated differently all around the world.

In New York City, a world famous 1,070-pound, 6-foot-in-diameter glass ball high above Times Square is lowered starting at 11:59 p.m., or the last minute of the year. It reaches the bottom of its tower at the stroke of midnight.

- Other ball drops occur at Copacabana beach in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, and Sydney Harbor in Australia.

- In The Netherlands and other European countries, the New Year is greeted with massive private fireworks. The day also is an occasion to make bonfires of discarded Christmas trees in some countries.

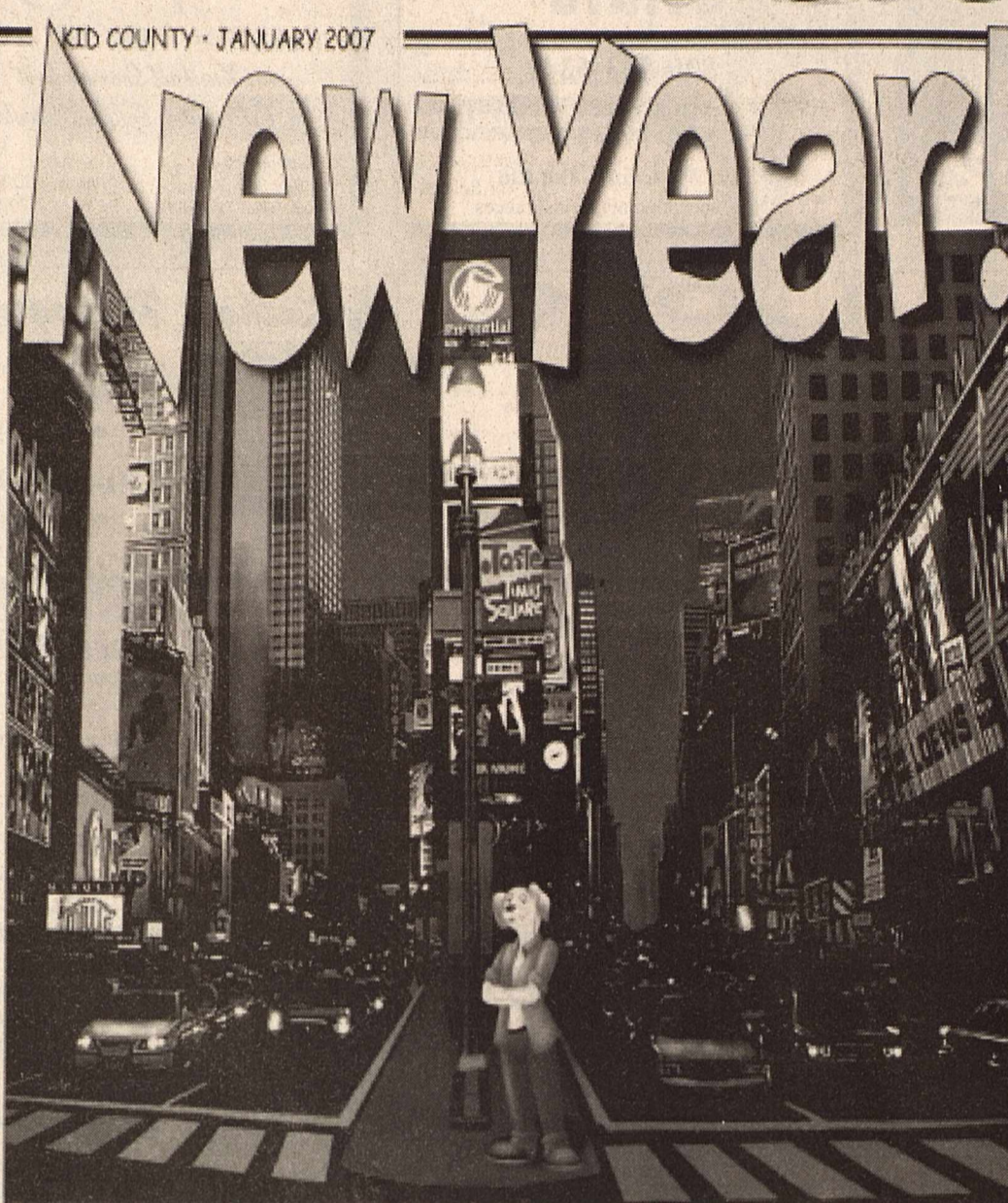
- In South Korea, the most popular way to celebrate New Year's Day is to travel to Jung dong jin, the place on the peninsula where the sun can first be seen each day.

- In some areas of China, people make intricate paper cuttings and put them in their windows for passersby to see.

- In some sections of the South in the United States, people eat black-eyed peas and turnip greens, believing the tradition brings good luck.

- In parts of Spain, it is considered good luck to eat 12 grapes at midnight.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!



Where Did the Ways We Celebrate New Year's Start?

By Sid
In most countries around the world, New Year's Day is celebrated on the first day of the year by the Gregorian Calendar, which has 365 days in each year, and one extra day every four years.

Different people from different countries celebrate this special day differently.

The first time Jan. 1 was used as the official beginning of the "new year" was in 153 B.C., more than 2,100 years ago.

Before that, March 25 was celebrated as the "new year."

The day was the vernal equinox, which is about the time the sun is directly over the equator.

It is the first day of the year in which there is more daylight than darkness.

The Romans first used Jan. 1 as the beginning of the year.

It took more than 1,500 years for other cultures to start adopting Jan. 1 as the official beginning of a new year.

SOME COUNTRIES CHANGED TO JAN. 1 LATER

When did other countries begin adopting Jan. 1 as New Year's Day?

- Germany adopted it in 1700,
- Great Britain in 1752, and
- Sweden in 1753.

- Japan welcomed it in 1873 and
- China in 1912.
- Russia recognized the date twice — first in 1918 and after trying out its own calendars, again in 1924.

IN BULGARIA, THEY MAY WAIT UNTIL SUMMER!

By Sid

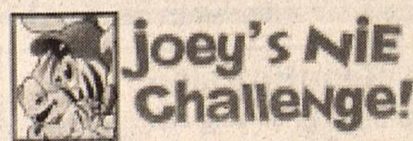
Some of the old-time Bulgarian New Year's celebration rituals (held in the summer) are still practiced in the rural areas of the country.

Preparations would start early in the morning. All young, unmarried women in the village drop rings, as well as offerings of oats and barley, into a cauldron full of spring water.

The rings are fastened with red threads

to bunches of perennial plants, such as ivy, crane's bill, or basil.

The cauldron is left overnight in the open, under the stars, and on New Year's Eve, following a ritual dance around it, the girls' fortunes are told.



In your newspaper's financial section, look at the stock listings and find out:

How much must you pay for a share of Microsoft stock?

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COUNTRY
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GLACIER

GOALS
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ATOM
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Start Something: Begin a Collection!

By Mayor Bengal
Do you have a hobby? Do you have a collection of... something?

Most people are collectors in one way or another. Personally, I have several collections, but I spend a lot of time looking for additions for two of them, mostly.

I happen to like collecting pocket knives and Pez candy dispensers. Funny, huh?

There's something about a unique or unusual pocket knife or a new Pez dispenser that makes me happy. That's what collections are supposed to do: Be interesting to you, and make you smile.

I have friends who col-

lect old postcards, coins, magazines from the early 20th century, antique books, comic books, sports cards, salt and pepper shakers, commemorative spoons — you name it, people probably collect it.

If you have a collection, how do you go about adding to it? And if you don't, now's the best time to start.

If you wait until tomorrow, you might miss out on a great addition to your new collection!



Service Directory

Thursday, January 4, 2007 The Brackett News

6

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Weekly Business Profile

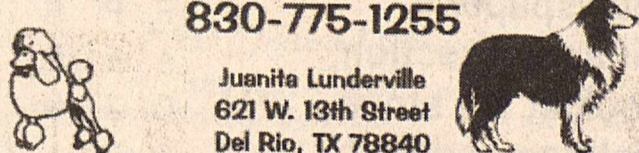
Carmen's Boutique New and Good As New Clothing and Accessories

Name: Carmen's Boutique
Address: 103 W. Spring St.
Phone Number: 830-563-2373



Carmen's Boutique has a variety of new and good as new clothing.
Carmen says, "I discovered new and good as new clothing in San Antonio. I was able to wear name brand clothing, but without breaking my budget." Because Carmen liked the idea of wearing new and good as new clothing, she wanted to share this with the people of Brackettville by helping them to look fashionable without paying those higher retail prices.
Every item of clothing is washed, ironed or dry cleaned, and checked for flaws before it is placed on the rack.
Carmen's Boutique's merchandise is constantly changing, and customers should check back frequently for what new items have appeared. She recently received some larger sized name brand clothing for you to buy.
Try out Carmen's philosophy about paying less and looking good at the same time when buying new or nearly new clothing, shoes, or purses.

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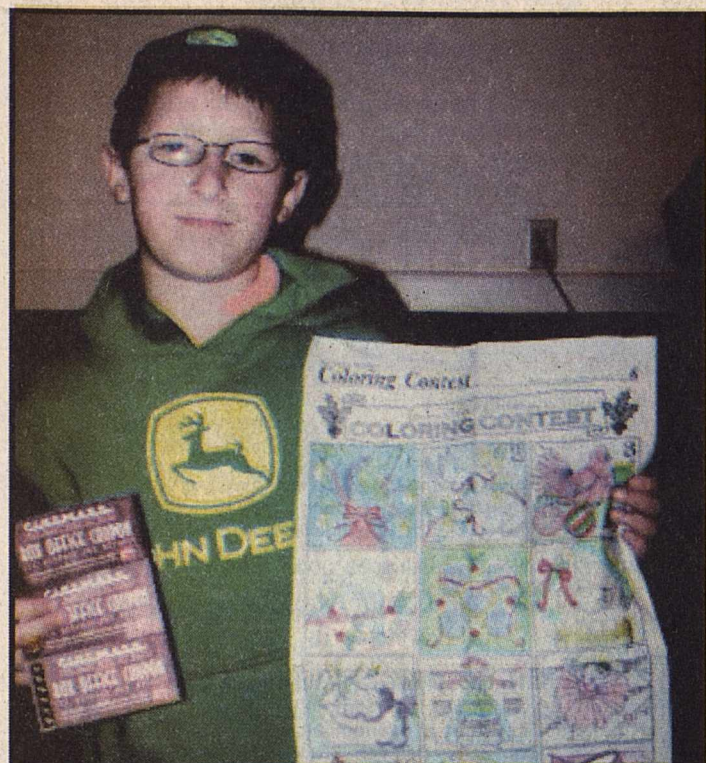
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Photos of the Week

Thursday, January 4, 2007 The Brackett News

8

Twelve Days of Christmas coloring contest winners



Above: 4th Grader Zachary Bowers

Below: 1st Grader Ethan Martin



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| 8 Kurt Meissner, M.D. Urologist 1-830-278-6251, ext. 1430 | 9 William McQueen, M.D. ENT 1-830-278-2422 Joshua Rotenberg, M.D. PEDIATRIC NEUROLOGIST David Larson CPNP 1-210-249-5020 | 10 | 11 Randall Bell, M.D. Pulmonary Diseases 1-830-278-6251, ext. 1430 Michael DeGaetano, D.O. Nephrologist 1-830-278-5386 | 12 Flavio Alvarez, M.D. Nephrologist 1-830-278-5386 Bruce Mayes, M.D. Epilepsy 1-888-606-5353 |
| 15 William McQueen, M.D. ENT 1-830-278-2422 Kenneth Stallman, M.D. Urologist 1-830-278-6251, ext. 1430 | 16 Jose Quinones, M.D. Pediatric Cardiologist 1-800-242-0008 | 17 Fernando Triana, M.D. Cardiologist 1-210-614-5400 | 18 Carlos Morales, M.D. Pulmonary Diseases 1-830-278-6251, ext. 1430 | 19 David Dean, M.D. Neurosurgeon 1-830-278-6251, ext. 1430 Flavio Alvarez, M.D. Nephrologist 1-830-278-5386 |
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| 29 William McQueen, M.D. ENT 1-830-278-2422 | 30 | 31 Mark Lee, M.D. Dermatologist 1-210-614-0402 | HAPPY NEW YEAR | |

Active Medical Staff

Please Call for Office Hours

| | | |
|-------------------------|--------------------------------|----------|
| Amadi, Fidelis, M.D. | Family Practice | 278-7105 |
| Blitar, Jamil, M.D. | Internal Medicine & Cardiology | 591-1294 |
| Carpintero, Ralph, M.D. | Internal Medicine | 278-6681 |
| Flanders, Barry, M.D. | Radiology | 278-6251 |
| Gittonde, G. V., M.D. | Surgery | 278-4568 |
| Garza, R. Steve, M.D. | Family Practice | 278-4453 |
| Green, Tanya R., M.D. | Family Practice/OB | 278-7105 |

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| Luevano, Alfonso, M.D. | Family Practice | 278-6265 |
| Lutton, Richard B., M.D. | Family Practice | 278-4453 |
| Ngafa, Nwusu O., M.D. | General & Vascular Surgery | 278-1692 |
| Preddy, John, D.O. | Family Practice/OB | 278-7101 |
| Shackle, John L., M.D. | Family Practice | 278-3118 |
| Sosa, Isaac, M.D. | Internal Medicine/Geriatrics | 278-6265 |
| Uptergrove, Kevin, M.D. | Family Practice/OB | 278-4588 |
| Uterback, Carl, M.D. | Family Practice/OB | 278-4588 |

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|------------------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| Watkins, Harry O., M.D. | Surgery | 278-3215 |
| Young, Millicent, M.D. | Internal Medicine | 278-7105 |
| Watkins, Harry O., M.D. | Surgery | 278-3215 |
| Zawadzka, Ana, M.D. | Family Practice/OB | 278-7105 |
| Gregory Baber, D.M.D. | Dental Surgeon | (830) 278-7105 |
| Bernard R. Cuevas, Jr., M.D. | GI/Surgeon | (210) 692-3636 |
| David Friedman, M.D. | Hematology/Oncology | (210) 595-5300 |

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|----------------------------------|--------------------------|----------------|
| Victor Iganbola, D.D.S. | Pediatric Dental Surgeon | (830) 278-5009 |
| Suniv Kumar, M.D. | Ophthalmologist | (830) 278-2020 |
| Rodolfo Molina, M.D. | Rheumatologist | (210) 690-8067 |
| Matthew Mossbacher, M.D. | Rheumatologist | (210) 690-8067 |
| Gabriel Rodriguez, D.P.M. | Podiatrist | (830) 278-1840 |
| Manuel A. Santiago, M.D. | Hematology/Oncology | (210) 595-5300 |
| Arlo Terry, M.D. (every Tuesday) | Ophthalmologist | (830) 278-9165 |
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