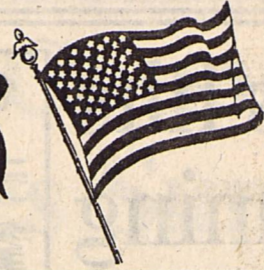


The Brackett News



Basketball teams eye SWTJC titles
See story, Page 5

10th year, No. 44

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1 Section, 8 Pages



City of Brackettville employee Eddie Garza puts up Christmas decorations on the city streets. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Water contract proposed for new detention center

The Brackettville City Council will consider providing water services to a proposed detention facility in Kinney County at its December meeting.

The proposed contract is between the city and CiviGenics, a Massachusetts-based company.

Kinney County officials have approved a proposal from CiviGenics to construct and operate a 500-bed detention center here. The facility would house federal inmates.

The facility is proposed to be built on land owned by Joe York Jr., located on Highway 131, approximately 1.3 miles south of the Highway 90 intersection, which is outside of the Brackettville city limits.

Bob Prince, marketing director with CiviGenics, first addressed the Brackettville City Council two months ago.

"Certainly, we would need a large supply of water," Prince said. "We're requesting authority to hook on to the water supply of the

"We certainly can't move forward with this if we're not assured of the utility connection. If we can't get this clearance soon, we're going to be stymied on proceeding to the next step."

Bob Prince of CiviGenics

city. We'll run the water line from the hookup out to our service.

"If we can take the same type and same size facility from other areas as a benchmark, probably our water service would be somewhere in the neighborhood of \$1,800 to \$2,500 a month."

County Judge Tommy Seargeant said he anticipates the detention facility using between 70,000 and 75,000 gallons of water per day.

The Brackettville City Council took no ac-

tion at the previous meeting, when officials proposed to negotiate a contract.

"As far as the facility goes, I'm for it 100 percent," Mayor Pro-Tem Ralph Gonzalez said. "I'm also in favor of getting going on this as soon as possible. We need to get it done."

Prince said an agreement would be needed before CiviGenics could proceed with plans for the detention facility.

"We certainly can't move forward with this if we're not assured of the utility connection," he said. "If we can't get this clearance soon, we're going to be stymied on proceeding to the next step."

Prince said the facility will employ approximately 100 people with an annual payroll of about \$2.1 million.

"We want to bring in as few outside persons as possible," he said. "What we can, we certainly would like to hire local, from the upper tier to the newest employee."

Briefs ...

Kinney County Jail passes inspection

The Kinney County Jail passed an inspection by the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess announced this week.

"The jail passed standards without a mark against it," the sheriff said.

Shannon J. Herklotz, an inspector with the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, said there were "no deficiencies noted."

Following a review of the report by the executive director of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, a certificate of compliance will be issued to the Kinney County Jail.

Community Unity to feature Santa Dec. 20

Santa Claus will be on hand Sunday, Dec. 20, for the Fifth Annual Community Unity, which will be from 6 to 9 p.m.

Community Unity, a project sponsored by the City of Brackettville employees, will also have food, drinks, music and singing.

Crosby recognized

The U.S. Border Patrol's Brackettville station presented its quarterly outstanding student award to Brackett High School junior Colby Crosby this week.

Cloud seeding appears to be successful in Kinney County

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Cloud seeding appears to be successful in Kinney County, according to Bill Cauthorn, who is the chairman of the Texas Border Weather Modification Association.

Cauthorn, who is the CEO for Del Rio Bank & Trust, discussed rainfall enhancement Thursday at the Brackettville Rotary Club meeting after receiving an invitation from Herb Senne, the group's program chairman for December.

During the drought that plagued the area recently, Kinney, Val Verde and Maverick counties applied to Texas Natural Resource Conservation Commission for a permit to seed clouds for rain. The commission issued the permit and paid a half of the money needed for the project.

Due to the absence of appropriate cloud formations, limited opportunities to seed occurred. However, after mid-July, 25 successful missions were flown in the three-county area. Approximately half of the missions were flown in Kinney County.



BILL CAUTHORN and HERB SENNE

Cloud seeding is a science. It has been going on for around 25 years and quite a bit of data has accumulated.

The association intends to monitor program effectiveness over at least a five-year period. Experience has shown that rainfall yield from a specific cloud formation can be increased by 30 percent or more when properly seeded.

"We will probably never completely control the weather, but it

can be modified," he said.

With the help of radar telemetry, clouds that contain rain can be identified, then seeded with silver iodide and a small amount of salt. Ice crystals form causing the cloud to become heavy, and rain fall out of it.

The Lower Colorado River Authority has used rain enhancement in five counties for 20 years, and the rainfall has increased there 45 percent during that time.

One thing has been discovered:

Seeding clouds in one area does not rob another of its rain. In fact, more rain may occur there.

The Titan Radar System tracks the planes used in seeding, as well as the clouds. Everything the aircraft has done is on record. A crew with a meteorologist stay on standby watching the radar when the weather is promising, even if it means staying all night long.

Drought is not the only reason to manipulate the weather. Storm clouds can be seeded to reduce severe thunder storms.

In Kansas, funds for weather enhancement are paid for by insurance companies. They pay for hail suppression. As a result, insurance rates have been lowered.

Representing Kinney County on the Texas Border Weather Modification Association's nine-member Board of Directors are Jimmy Bader, Henry Fuentes and Bob Young.

The program is funded in Kinney County by the West-Nueces Las Moras Soil and Water Conservation District, Kinney County, the City of Brackettville, Fort Clark Municipal Utility District, and the Del Rio Bank and Trust.

Conference focuses on new teaching techniques

Second and third grade teachers from Jones Elementary returned this week after attending a national reading conference in New Orleans.

The reading conference stressed the latest techniques in teaching children how to read.

The teacher's trip to the national conference was funded by the reading grant that was recently awarded to Jones Elementary School.

"Teachers who attended the national reading conference came back with new ideas about the teaching of reading to young children," said Brackett Superintendent Taylor Stephenson.

"A couple of ideas that I have heard were the use of learning centers which stress reading and writing. The use of poetry to teach children to think and understand the English language was a major topic at this conference."

"Brackett ISD wants to be on the cutting edge of education," Stephenson added.

INSIDE

■ **Joe Townsend**
Just when it seems the bottom has been scraped by inane rulings by bureaucrats, here comes one even more ridiculous.
Opinion/Page 2

■ **Ivey home featured**
The Ivey house is one of four homes to be featured in the Kinney County Arts Council's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes Sunday.
Community/Page 3

■ **Brackett tops Sabinal**
Brackett won three out of four games against Sabinal. The Tigers claimed a 58-34 victory and the Tigerettes won 50-41.
Sports/Page 5

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Simple Mirror brings Christian message

By J.J. Guidry
News Editor

Simple Mirror is anything but a stereotype of Christian music. The four-man acoustic rock band brings a Christian message, but with a '90s sound.

The Uvalde band will perform at the First Baptist Church of Brackettville on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m.

"I like to think of us more as a band of Christians rather than a Christian band," said Steve Miller, the 15-year-old lead singer for Simple Mirror. "A lot of people, when they hear the term 'Christian band,' it will turn them off to the music completely."

"When we go and play a concert, we don't like to preach to people. We just like to present our views and what we believe to be right through our music."

Miller, Gary Mizell, 21, and Chris Reed, 17, were in an alternative rock band before forming Simple Mirror in August.

"We just kind of wanted to break off and start a different mu-

"There wasn't any other choice but to be a Christian band because of our beliefs."
Gary Mizell

sical style, more acoustic really," Miller said.

"There wasn't any other choice but to be a Christian band because of our beliefs," said Mizell, the group's drummer. "Basically, it is where God has led us."

Miller's 13-year-old brother, J.D., has recently joined the group as a bass player.

The band is hoping to someday sign with a major label, but for now Miller said the group is "just trying to play as much as we can and spread our message."

Miller said the group is trying to keep focused on its goals, noting that the Christian music industry has turned into a business.

"The industry is definitely getting bigger but a lot of it is getting corrupted," he said. "We want to do this for a living and

we want it to be a business, but we don't want to start overlooking the ministry part of the music."

The group performs almost all original songs, but occasionally throws in a cover tune by Jars of Clay.

"We're really blessed in the fact that several of us are pretty prolific song writers, Steve especially," said Reed, who plays guitar and is a background singer.

The members of Simple Mirror often share their testimonies during their performances.

"We've all lived pretty interesting lives up to this point," Reed said. "I'm a 17-year-old alcoholic, and that's not something you expect to hear from someone in a Christian band."

"As a teenager especially, you can get so depressed and it seems like there's nothing out there. You turn to things like alcohol, drugs and sex, and all the other things that the world offers you. We're just trying to tell people, you can always look to these things, but you're still going to have that



Simple Mirror, an acoustic Christian rock band made up of Chris Reed (from left), Gary Mizell, Steve Miller and J.D. Miller (not pictured), will perform at the First Baptist Church on Sunday, Dec. 18, at 7:30 p.m. Photo Special to The Brackett News

void."

Miller said spreading the word through music is what's making his life complete.

"A lot of people are under the false assumption that all Christian music is just kind of cheesy. For

a lot of Christian music that's true. But there is a lot of great music that is very innovative.

"Not only are we trying to send a positive message, but we want to come up with a style of music that people enjoy," he added.

Ivey's residence featured in Art Council's Obituary Annual Christmas Tour of Homes Sunday Yeackle

By Woodie Hornburg
Contributing Writer

This year's Kinney County Arts Council's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes will feature four homes displaying their Christmas decor, including the home of Gerald and Hazel Ivey.

The Kinney County homes will be open on Sunday from 2 to 5 p.m.

Tour homes are identified on Colony Row, Crockett Road and Bowie Street by eye-catching Christmas trees made of wood, which were designed and painted by Wylie Simmons of Fort Clark.

The Ivey home is located on a specialty lot and was built by Harry Miller Jr. in 1982.

The ranch style house's exterior is composed of rock quarried in the Brackettville area. The

foundation is part of Fort Clark's former stables - a horse trough is still standing at the back of the lot.

The yard is xeroscaped with river rock in the front and pebbles in the back.

When you cross the threshold into the entry way, you view a vast spacious living room. On the far side resides an unusual earth stove, which can also be converted into a fireplace. It rests regally on a slab of marble that came out of the old Waco courthouse. A wall of rock backs the stove and hearth and holds heat for hours.

The two bedrooms each have a full wall sliding-door closet, plus a walk-in closet and full bath.

Beyond the living room is a 40-foot by 14-foot tiled sun room with the decor ranging from comfortable formal to southwest to the Ivey's collection of iron. Their collection runs from Lladro and



The Ivey house is one of four homes to be featured in the Kinney County Arts Council's Annual Christmas Tour of Homes on Sunday.

Winberg to whimsical iron and metal animals and various smaller favorites.

This house was built mainly for entertainment and is wired with a sound system that allows all of the rooms to be individually controlled.

Christmas is Gerald's and Hazel's favorite holiday and they

enjoy decorating inside and out. Their niece started their Santa collection years ago, so their theme is not altogether modern. This year a small tree will display some of their collections.

The Ivey's plus the home equals a relaxing environment for gracious living.

Tickets for the Annual Christ-

mas Tour of Homes are \$5.

Tickets may be purchased from members of the Kinney County Arts Council or obtained at the homes included on the tour.

Donald Thompson Yeackle, 49, passed away Nov. 15, 1998 in San Luis Obispo, Calif. He was born March 12, 1949 in Birmingham, Ala.

Yeackle, who owned a travel service, was a member of the Elks Lodge for 10 years.

He is survived by his wife, Grace M. Yeackle of Los Osos, Calif.; his daughter, Anna K. of Washington D.C.; his son, Jefferson N. of Los Osos, Calif.; his parents, Henry and Marian Yeackle of Fort Clark Springs; and his brother, Henry Yeackle III of Del Rio.

Yeackle's body was cremated. A memorial service was held at Benedict-Retty Chapel in Morro Bay, Calif.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, Dec. 1

12:15 p.m., A Del Rio DPS trooper reported that a motorist said she had hit something on Highway 90, approximately 12 miles west of Brackettville, and had a blowout. The woman said there was an 18-wheeler in front of her and she believed it spilled some diesel on the roadway. Chief Deputy Sheriff Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene. He said the woman had fixed her tire and was back on her way to Del Rio. He noted that the truck-tractor had spilled a little diesel on the shoulder of the highway.

6:24 p.m., U.S. Border Patrol officials reported a three-vehicle accident west of the Cline checkpoint. Three people were injured in the accident. The vehicles were blocking an overpass. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched to the scene, along with Kinney County EMS, the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department, and wreckers from Del Rio and Uvalde.

Wednesday, Dec. 2

1:30 a.m., U.S. Border Patrol officials reported six to eight goats in the middle of the roadway on F.M. 693. The owner of the goats was notified of the situation.

2:31 p.m., A motorist called 911 to report that she had an automobile accident two miles north of Spofford on Highway 131. Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess and DPS Trooper Richard Slubar were dispatched to the scene.

Thursday, Dec. 3

1:11 p.m., A Kinney County man reported a travel-trailer near the city's brush area on F.M.

2804. He said the door to the travel-trailer was open. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched to the scene. He found nothing of value inside the trailer, but noted a large amount of animal droppings inside it. Fritter secured the door to the travel-trailer.

3:24 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported a disabled vehicle on Highway 90, a half-mile west of the Cline checkpoint.

5:10 p.m., A motorist reported a black angus cow on Highway 90, east of Brackettville. The owner of the cow was notified of the situation.

5:45 p.m., A Kinney County man reported a man in a house with a gun. Reserve Deputy Sheriff Manny Pena was dispatched to a ranch on F.M. 1572, but it was a false alarm.

9:12 p.m., An employee of Enterprise Rental requested assistance for a customer, who was driving a 1999 Dodge Durango. The driver of the vehicle received assistance from U.S. Border Patrol officials. The vehicle was towed to the parking lot at the Sheriff's Office.

9:40 p.m., A Brackettville woman requested assistance while she obtained some personal property from her grandmother's residence. Chief of Police Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene and accompanied the woman.

10:12 p.m., An employee at Penny's Pizza reported problems with someone using the business' water faucet. Police Chief Ring was dispatched to the scene.

Friday, Dec. 4

11:15 a.m., A motorist re-

ported a red Dodge pickup driving recklessly on Highway 90, travelling west towards Del Rio. DPS Trooper Tony Ashley was notified of the situation.

4:41 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that her son's foot was stuck between two trees. Sheriff Burgess was dispatched to the scene and helped free the child's foot from the trees.

Saturday, Dec. 5

1:00 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported that her son was driving while intoxicated. deputy Sheriff Karl Chism was notified of the situation.

1:10 a.m., Michael Simeon Ford, 23, of Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Chism and charged with driving while intoxicated. Ford was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.

11:10 a.m., A resident at the Senior Apartments reported a horse grazing near the complex. Police Chief Ring was informed of the situation. He met with the owner of horse, which was removed from the property.

4:50 p.m., Carla Beth Keeney, 31, of Uvalde was arrested by DPS Trooper Juan Lozano and charged with possession of a controlled substance. She was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Keeney was released the same day on a \$5,000 personal recognizance bond.

9:15 p.m., A Brackettville man requested assistance in removing a man from his property. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. The man was already gone.

The complainant said he did not want the man back on his property.

Sunday, Dec. 6

12:15 p.m., A Kinney County man reported four illegal aliens on F.M. 1572. U.S. Border Patrol officials were notified of the situation.

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I GUESS ONE MANS JUNK IS ANOTHER MANS TREASURE.

I GUESS ONE WOMANS HUSBAND IS THE SAME WOMANS WEIRDO.

Super Crossword

ACROSS

1 Ordered
5 "Damn Yankees" siren
9 Defect
13 "— luego"
18 Shortly
19 Couple
20 Shake-spearean villain
21 European sea
22 Classroom oxymoron
25 Victor Herbert musical
26 Antitoxin
27 Common contraction
28 Disconsolate
30 Is, for two
31 Rock's — Speedwagon
33 Fashion oxymoron
38 Red wine
43 Tender
44 Way
45 Bk. convenience
46 Marge in the fridge
48 Actress Patricia
50 Doty inventor?
53 "Peanuts" oxymoron

108 Soprano Eames
110 Fateful 15th
112 He'll work for
115 Seafood oxymoron
118 — generis
119 Actor O'Herlihy
120 Skater Babolonia
121 No longer fashionable
125 Bear out
129 Obstruct
132 Tableware oxymoron
136 Like marble
137 Macadamize
138 Fury
139 Prettily a poodle
140 "Roots" Emmy winner
141 Toe the line
142 Formerly, formerly
143 Sacred DOWN
1 Lowdown singer?
2 Pay to play
3 Morose
4 Tolerate
5 Hosp. employee
6 Solemn statement

7 Ford or Grey mate
8 Olympic hawk
9 Bookstore section
10 — di-dah
11 Generation
12 Malicious to the max
13 "Bali" —
14 TV's "— American Girl"
15 Salmon deputy
16 Rows
17 Teen problem
21 Tumult
23 Part of EMT
24 Farm animals?
29 Nile slitherer
32 — about (approx-)
34 SAT's big brother
35 Rattletrap
36 Right a wrong
37 Bicycle trim
38 Composer John
39 Mighty mite
40 Basketball player, initially?
41 Yale
42 Set up the ball
47 Days — (yore)
49 Slender's

99 Chum
100 "Private —" ("81 hit)
102 Behaved theatrically
104 — Amin
105 1920s heavyweight champ
109 Botanist Gray
111 Tiff
113 Insect stage
114 Judd of "George & Leo"
115 "Washington Square" author
116 Remove a brooch
117 "Fantasia" dancer
119 Prima donna
122 Dog's dad
123 Trauma
127 Conceal
128 Discern
130 Vane letters
131 Strauss' "— Rosen-
kavalier"
132 Cairo suburb
133 Scientific site
134 "Hil" to Horace
135 Word with on or off

MAGIC MAZE

DIAMONDS

V K I F C A X V S O O L J L A
H E C S A X V S A T R D A P C
N L J H S F D B R Y N R B E I
Y X V T R E R P R E E D N O R
C R Y S T A L L I N E O R M F
K F I G S C E R I P T B E A A
D A B I A W F M O S Z X E W H
U C V R E T T H M L G R O D T
O E A J S N L E J I O N G F U
S T N E M E G A G N E C I D O
C S B A Y X W N O B R A C R S

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions—forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Abrasive Best friend
Carat Colorless
Crystalline De Beers
Engagements Facets
Gemstone Hard Hope
Jewelry
Mineral Rings
South Africa

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) An offbeat career proposition is made to you this week. You'll come to a decision about a school or travel matter. Social life finds you in demand over the weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You'll stand out from the crowd in some way and don't be surprised if some unusual types are attracted to you. A career matter is finally settled. A relaxing weekend awaits.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You may feel strongly drawn toward someone but may not be ready to reveal your attraction. Group activities and creative work pique your interest in general this week.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're somewhat independent and flirtatious this week. Some experiment with a new look. Be sure to complete tasks that need to be done around the house this weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Compassionate guidance is the keynote in dealings with children who are being rebellious. Recreation is high on your list of things to do. Some receive a gift.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Work left over from the office fills some of your time this week, but the accent quickly switches to pleasure with exciting romance a distinct likelihood.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) The accent is on partnership activities. Unexpected company may drop by. An impromptu party is a possibility. Some begin a decorating project.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You'll be making

ARIES (November 22 to December 21) Visits or news from grandchildren are indicated. Romance and travel make for a pleasant combination. A work colleague may appeal to you romantically.

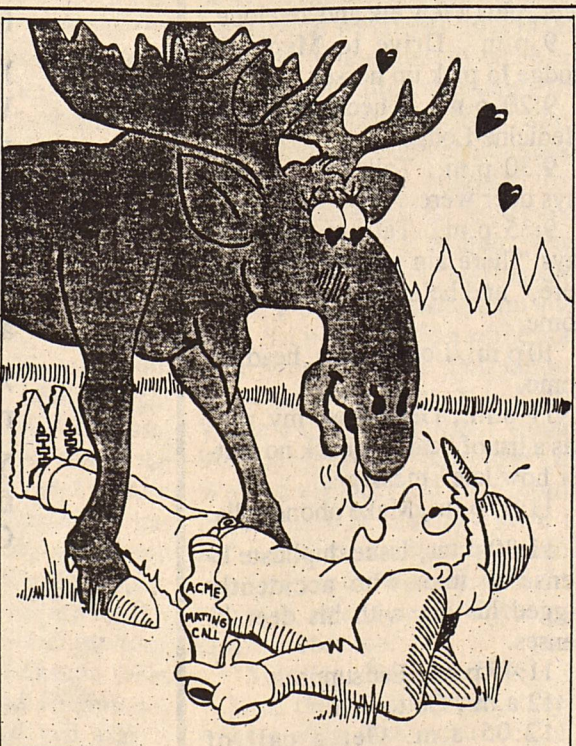
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You'll bring a work project to completion early in the week. Partners are likely to keep you guessing, but any surprises will be pleasant ones. Romance is thrilling.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You'll make your mark socially this week. Singles meet with unexpected romantic introductions. Partnership activities are highlighted.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) For a while you're closeted with your own thoughts. But the week takes an upbeat turn with unexpected romantic developments occurring. Capitalize on this over the weekend.

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HUNTIN' HUMOR



HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 10Ray Smith
Dec. 11Virginia Cruz
Dec. 11Russell Latensen
Dec. 14John Flores
Dec. 14Felix Gonzales
Dec. 15Teodoro Avila
Dec. 15Rickie Espinosa
Dec. 15Ethel Hawkins
Dec. 15Mary Sandoval
Dec. 15Plunker Sheedy
Dec. 16Mary Allen
Dec. 16Jodi Ann Cowan
Dec. 16Allen Kreiger Jr.
Dec. 16Greg Sandoval
Dec. 16Laura Tovar

