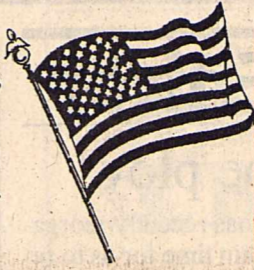


The Brackett News



Brackett to play in N.C. Tourney
See story, Page 4

8th year, No. 43

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Briefs ...

Luz named medical director of EMS

Dr. Agustin Luz was named medical director of the EMS Monday morning at a special commissioners court meeting.

County Commissioners Freddie Frerich, Cordelia Mendeke and Paul O'Rourke approved the measure.

Absent from Monday's meeting were County Judge Tommy Seargeant and Commissioner Joe Montalvo.

The court also heard a request from Cyndee Kendrick Monday for the use of the Civic Center parking lot or other county property for dog obedience classes. No action was taken on the request.

The commissioners court's regular meeting is Monday morning at 9.

Christmas musical is coming to town

There will be two performances of the Christmas musical "Dr. Newheart's Christmas Care" for Kinney County residents.

The first performance will be on Friday, Dec. 13, at Fort Clark Springs Town Hall, beginning at 7 p.m.

The final performance will be Sunday, Dec. 15, at Brackettville's First Baptist Church at 11 a.m.

The Christmas musical, directed by Dana Antoine, features leading characters Annie Ash as Dr. Newheart, Stephanie Wallace, as Nurse Philpot, and many children with prominent roles as patients.

Voices to perform

The Voices of Fort Clark Springs will present Handel's "Christmas Messiah" in concert on Sunday, Dec. 15.

Under the direction of Lynn McNew, and accompanied by Cathi Conrey, the concert will be held at Town Hall on Fort Clark Springs beginning at 7:30 p.m.

Handel's Messiah is probably the most famous oratorio ever written. James Dasher's arrangement includes the most familiar and appropriate numbers for Christmas: "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," and the "Hallelujah" chorus to mention a few.

Soloists for the production are McNew, Hector Jimenez, Lee Herron, Pat Strother and Jan Nelson.

Cookies and punch will be served after the concert. No admission will be charged, however, a free-will offering will be taken.



Members of the Brackett High Class of 1997 were all smiles at Supper with Santa Monday evening. Top row, from left: Beau Smallwood, Jessica Payne, Bonnie Hughes, Amanda Meek and Ramon De Leon. Middle row: Courtney Harrison, Heather Corey, Zandra Negrete, Santa Claus, Christina Reschman, Naiya Garcia and Lindy Las Mascus. Bottom row: David Melancon, Amy Bader, Michelle Robbins and Chica Garza.

Plans are under way for Kinney County's Christmas Basket Program for the needy

By Peter Pohl
Contributing Writer

Plans are under way for the 1996 Christmas baskets for the needy.

Last year, over 95 families in Kinney County received Christmas baskets. This resulted in over 300 boxes of food and toys, that had a value of over \$2,400, being delivered.

The following donors came together to provide the needy funds and supplies: First Baptist Church, Mr. and Mrs. Walter Bauguess, Fort Clark Community Council, Kinney County Chamber of Commerce, Brackettville Lions Club, Mr. and Mrs. Descheemaker, Knights of Columbus, Preceptor Theta Sigma Sorority, Fort Clark Men's Golf, Fort Clark Women's Golf, Mr. and Mrs. Louis Bell, Beta Epsilon Omicron, Mr. and Mrs. Voracek, Mr. and Mrs. Crumpler, Mr. and Mrs. Faulken-

berry, members of the Fort Clark Historical Society, Fort Clark Art Club, Brackett High School Student Council, First United Methodist Church adult Sunday school class, Mountain Laurel Garden Club, Fort Clark Springs Association, Alamo Village Trading Post, B&S Grocery, First United Methodist Church, Anna L. Owen, Carol Benfield, Marshall and Norma Connors, Brackettville Rotary Club, B. Peter Pohl, Betty Inman, Ruth Wilks, Burger & Shake, Howard Peck, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas Powell, Border Patrol, VFW Post 8360, Catholic Church, Catholic Youth Group and the many individuals who contributed toys and food items.

The Lions Club plans to make delivery of this year's Christmas Baskets on Saturday morning, Dec. 21, and hope that all of these businesses, churches, individuals, and civic organizations can once again support this program as well

Last year, over 95 families in Kinney County received Christmas baskets. This resulted in over 300 boxes of food and toys, that had a value of over \$2,400, being delivered.

as many new sponsors, who would like to become a part of this wonderful project.

Collection boxes are being placed through out the community for those who would like to donate non-perishable food items or toys.

This Saturday, those who would like to donate nonperishable food items or toys for the Christmas baskets can bring them to the Lions' Thrift Shop. The Thrift Shop will be open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Trustees OK bid to light athletic fields

By J.J. Guidry
News Editor

The Brackett School Board agreed to spend \$115,691 to light the district's baseball, softball and football fields at a special meeting Monday night.

Liteco Electric of Waller turned in the low bid for the lighting project.

Bids were also received from Hendrix Electric of Abilene and Urban Electric Service of Carrizo Springs.

Superintendent Taylor Stephenson said this was the district's next step in the construction of the new baseball and softball complex.

"It will be quite an improvement to our complex," he said. "When the board made a commitment to do this project, they knew that they would put in lights at some point in time.

"All three of the fields will be done the same. We will have concrete poles. The poles will have new light fixtures on them and they will have underground wiring.

"The poles will also have more lights to light the fields according to current specifications for ball fields," he added.

Each of the poles has a 25-year guarantee.

"They can withstand wind velocity of 125 miles per hour, so they are sturdy enough that nothing is going to happen to them," Stephenson said.

Without lights at the baseball and softball fields, the local ball teams have had to play day games,

which is an obstacle in getting home games. With day games, teams have to leave school early to travel to Brackettville.

"I think it's real exciting for our community and for the program," Athletic Director Roy Rokovich said. "I think it's going to be real positive. It's all for the kids.

"One of the things we looked at is that lights will allow us to have more home games. That's what is real practical about it. We have to travel so far to play, especially in district, and it's tough."

In putting lights at the baseball and softball complex, the school board also decided to replace the lights at the football stadium.

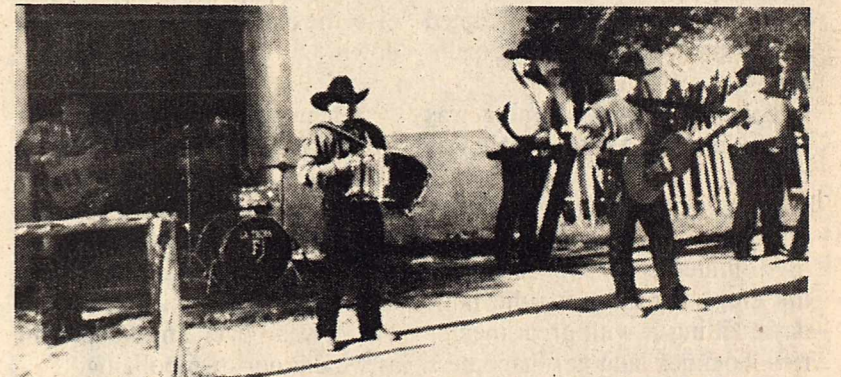
"The football field lighting is really inadequate," Stephenson said. "It is dim. There are not enough light fixtures.

"The press box will be completely rewired. It will be a very nice system. It will last us for many, many years into the future."

"I think it's going to be super," said Rokovich, Brackett's head football coach. "They are going to put the poles behind the stands. It will help the view of the crowd.

"Overall, I think it will help a lot. Just the lighting itself will be so much better. It will brighten up the field. It's something that has been needed.

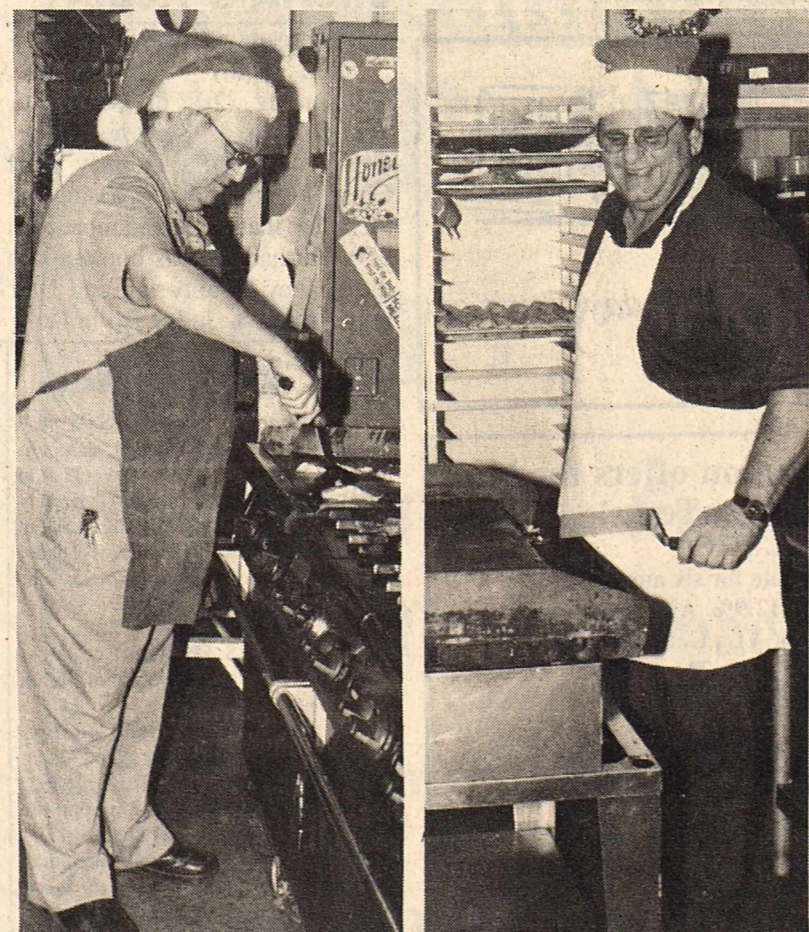
"I'm just real happy with the people of this community coming together to help with the baseball and softball complex," he said. "As the athletic director, I'm real happy with the support they give our kids."



The Tejano Group La Tropa F filmed a music video for "El Sheriff" at Alamo Village Monday. Photo Special to The Brackett News

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■ Joe Townsend	The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for senior citizens given by Val Verde Nursing Services was another outstanding event. The Civic Center was comfortably full. The meal was an enjoyable delight. Opinion/Page 2
■ Taylor Stephenson	The crunch has begun to get "stuff" done before the holidays. On my block, neighbors are hurriedly getting out the outside lights to signal the start of the season. Community/Page 3
■ Tigerettes fall short	The Lady Panthers hot shooting led to 41 first-half points Tuesday as Comstock topped the Brackett Tigerettes 69-47. Sports/Page 4
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SUPPER WITH SANTA



Don Sims, left, and Pat Melancon were busying making pancakes at Supper with Santa Monday. Brackett News Photos by J.J. Guidry

Weight Watchers forming community group meetings in Kinney County

Losing weight safely and effectively will soon be easier than ever for residents of Brackettville as Weight Watchers begins signing up members to attend weekly community group meetings.

Community group meetings offer the same Weight Watchers program that has helped members achieve their weight loss goals for more than 30 years. The difference is that meetings are held at convenient community locations such as churches, schools and civic associations rather than at traditional Weight Watchers centers. By offering meetings in these locations, members can participate in the Weight Watchers program without a commute to a distant city or suburb.

At the meeting, Weight Watchers will introduce the new Freedom Plan, a bold new weight loss plan that requires no food scale, features larger portions and gives members the option to "take the weekends off."

With the support of the group, Weight Watchers offers a behavior plan, teaching effective weight management skills that create positive life-style habits, and a recommended activity plan that helps members burn more calories.

"Members of our community groups not only learn how to lose weight and change habits, they also have fun while they are doing it," said Area Director Sheila Falk.

"What could be better than creating an extended family where you can share in the success of your peers and benefit from their tips and words of encouragement?"

"Through the years, we've learned that community groups actually help members achieve great success while having fun at the same time," she added.

Currently, more than 40 community group meetings take place on a weekly basis in towns from Perryton to Brownwood in West Texas, and from Orange to Del Rio in South Texas.

New groups are offered in six-, eight- and 10-week sessions (depending on the size of the group enrolling) with a cost of \$69 per person. Once a community group is established in an area, meetings will continue to be held as long as interest remains high.

Those wishing to start their New Years resolution now can call 1-800-651-6000 to find out about community group meetings in Brackettville.

Weight Watchers of South Texas Inc., founded in Houston in 1967, is one of the largest Weight Watchers franchises in North America, serving South, Southeast and West Texas, as well as Santa Barbara County, California. Meetings are held annually in more than 100 cities and annual membership exceeds 100,000. Its franchisor, Weight Watchers International Inc., is headquartered in New York.

Letters to the Editor

Is this just another Adobe ploy?

To all citizens, governing entities, and social organizations, Ann Vaughn is no longer an employee of Middle Rio Grande Development Council. She is solely employed by Adobe Eco-Systems and its affiliate Texcor.

The change of employment has been left unclear giving the public the impression that she still is a MRGDC employee. Is this another Adobe ploy?

Since Adobe has absolutely no credibility, do they think they could bring in Ann Vaughn under the guise of a smooth operator, and deceitfully influence us?

Please be very aware that any promise made by Ann Vaughn under the employment of Adobe will not be valid. The end results will still be the devastation of our land, water, air, and health; all for the greed and love of money.

The ultimate responsibility of keeping our environment clean rests with all of us, you and me.

As Adobe has recently reorganized, it is again time for us to regroup and re-unite in our opposition of the Adobe landfill. Write or call Governor Bush and our state representatives. Let us again stand united against these greedy dumpers.

The city of Spofford will not negotiate for any type of settlement in a small confidential meeting such as Adobe has proposed to our attorneys.

The city of Spofford, together with all the citizens of our community, including Fort Clark, Brackettville, Kinney County, and the nine county region that passed Resolutions of Opposition and hundreds who signed the petition, can not and will not sell out. I should say Not. No mas no!

We pledge our support to Laughlin's Air Force Base opposition. Let us see how Adobe fares with a federal military training entity.

Jessie "Tootsie" Herndon

Slashing tires becoming common

There are some people in this town that seem to get a real big kick out of hurting people.

There are many ways of doing just that, but the senseless act of slashing tires is becoming more and more prevalent in our fair city.

This is an act of just plain meanness. There is no gain made by the perpetrator. There is only a feeling of violation left with the victim.

I know the people that do such a useless, barbarian, and cowardly act couldn't care less what any

citizen writes in the paper. I just wish there was some way to catch these mindless fiends and put them where they belong.

I moved away from the "big city" for this very reason. I thought that in a small South Texas town this kind of ruthless deed would not take place. I have found out different.

I hope the ones that have done this to my son have satisfied their jealousy and will leave the tires of Brackettville, Texas, alone for a while.

Judy Hooker

The good ol' days may be gone, but are long from being forgotten

When I read the Baldwins' letter about the Fort Clark Springs Campers' World office, I had to go over there to see for myself.

My husband and I spent two winters there and always told people to come on down to the park to see how great living at Fort Clark can be.

You could go over there at 7:00 a.m. and play cribbage, pinocle, etc., while watching T.V. and sipping on a good cup of coffee and munching on home baked goodies.

Someone would always have a paper and ideas were exchanged about other parks across the country.

Every Thursday evening was pinocle night. Monday night was reserved for football so the wives could stay home and watch something else.

Volunteers always decorated the entire building for the holidays, filling it with great memories. So much laughter, happiness and good company was had by all who came through the door. One always got a good impression when they entered the building and left with positive feelings.

When I walked in there last Friday, I thought I was entering the lobby of a hospital or doctor's office, so medicinal looking.

The counter was obviously built for taller people. Most people seem to be 5'4" to 5'8". The counter is not "user friendly."

What are they trying to hide back there?

The office personnel are definitely proud of their porta potties, hoses and sewer supplies. I wonder how much has been sold. All this stuff can be bought in Del Rio and none of it is emergency equipment.

I have a difficult time trying to rationalize the porta potties???

There is not even a chair to sit on. The bulletin board was a great wealth of information. Now some of the notices are censored before they get approval to be put up, or else the notices are later taken down.

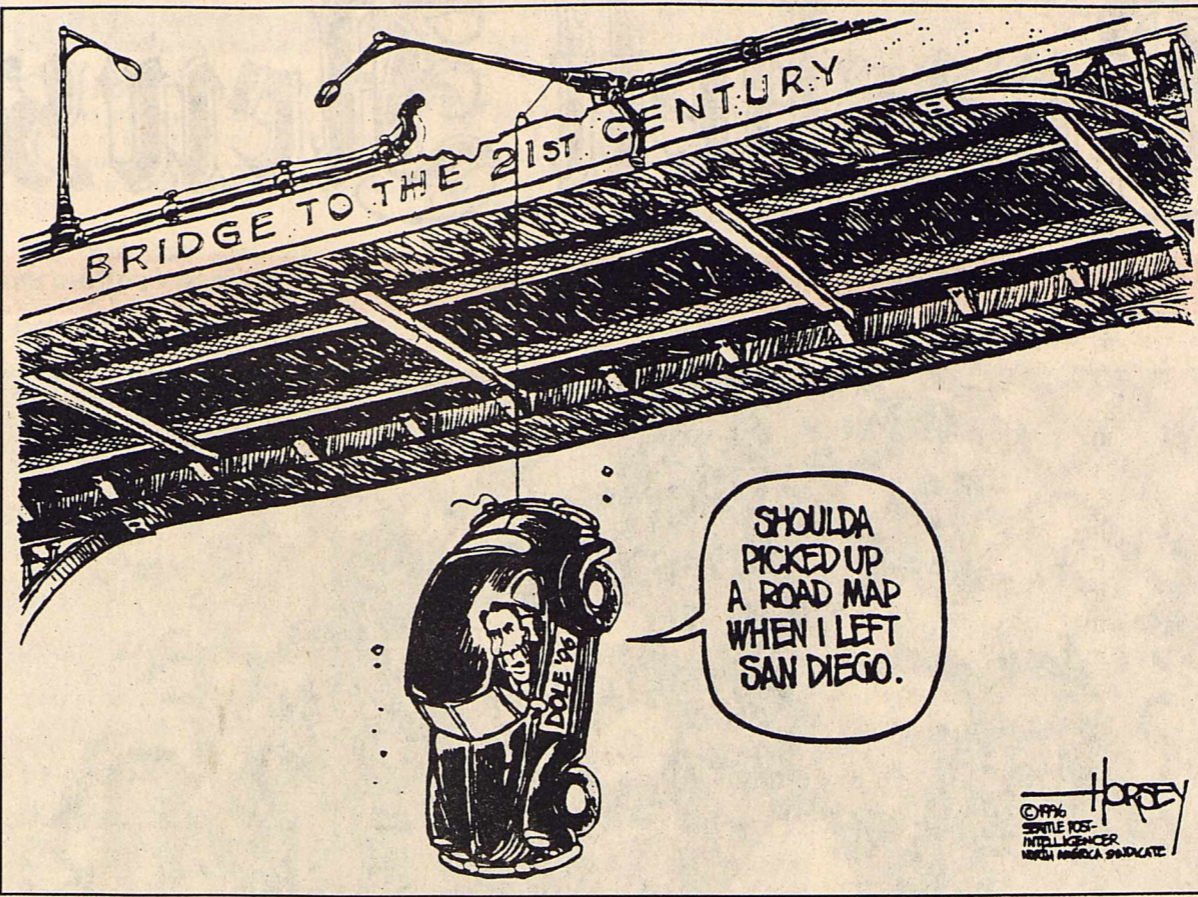
When we were there, the office was very rarely locked. Maybe the manager was not there all the time, but we could get the key and open the office so we could all visit. The last person was responsible for locking the door. There was never any vandalism as we did our own policing.

I would ask everyone to take time to go over to Campers' World office and see for yourself all the things that have occurred. Maybe the public majority can revitalize the office again.

It really was a great gathering place and I consider myself fortunate to have been there during "the good ol' days."

No more good first impression - so sad.

Kathi Warm



EPA pushes 50-cent gas tax

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23rd District

A recently disclosed Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) memo reveals the Clinton administration's desire to raise the tax on a gallon of gas by a whopping 50 cents!

In addition, the EPA memo pushes more state and local gas taxes, other energy taxes on oil and a new \$40 federal fee for your car or truck's emission tests.

What's more, the Clinton administration apparently is thinking of doing all of this without the approval of Congress.

The EPA says they can do it just by issuing regulations. Well, the EPA should forget it. We're not about to let the EPA or any other agency interpret the Constitution for us. Congress isn't going to roll over and play dead.

This secret tax plan is another classic case of big government liberals in Washington trying to control the way we live. To them, no matter how small the degree of pollution, any regulation is worth the costs. The EPA's own estimate of the costs of the new gas tax alone is \$47 billion in the year 2000.

We all want a clean environment and a healthy population. Throwing more regulations and more

government at the problem is not the solution.

The EPA's own Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee has declared the existing ozone standards to be sufficient and has stated that no public health threat exists.

Instead of more regulations, what we need are common sense solutions. The best way to protect our environment is through programs that give people incentives, not disincentives, to protect the environment.

The government needs to work with the people, not against them in determining our environmental goals.

More taxes, new taxes, either way, it's government out of control. The EPA apparently disguised their new taxes calling them "revenue recycling policies."

As if we wouldn't figure out that they were taxes. Fancy names won't hide the fact that it is still money coming out of your pocket.

Our environment is much cleaner than it was 20 years ago, and we should continue that trend. But the American taxpayer shouldn't foot the bill for a back-door environmental tax plan.

If the administration believes in what they're doing, they should be upfront and open with the American people with what's really going on.

Between Us

By Joe Townsend



Thanksgiving Dinner, an outstanding event

The Annual Thanksgiving Dinner for senior citizens given by Val Verde Nursing Services was another outstanding event.

The Civic Center was comfortably full. The meal was an enjoyable delight.

The thoughtfulness of Robert Garza and his organization shows a deep concern for the community where he grew up. The Garza family has made, and still makes, meaningful contributions to our community.

While we have been poles apart politically, I've always admired Joe Garza and his wife. For years, she kept the store while Joe was involved in his pursuits. He was a hard worker.

For years, he was up before

daylight delivering papers. Afternoon he was again busy delivering another paper. Times were never easy for the family but Joe always managed.

One has to admire a man who raises four children and sees that they get a college education. Each of these fine people are making a substantial place for themselves and a great contribution to society.

As their father before them, they have become involved in community service.

Few people will go to the expense and effort to have such a fine and far reaching event as the Thanksgiving Dinner. Kudos to the Val Verde Nursing group and the Garza family.

Allow emergency vehicles to pass

By Dava Cloudt
Val Verde Memorial Hospital

As the holidays approach, it seems like a perfect time to remind everyone in the community of their responsibility to pull over to the right and stop, to allow an emergency vehicle to pass by.

It is a law and failure to obey the law might result in the driver of the vehicle being given a citation for failure to pull to the right and stop until the emergency vehicle passes by.

Emergency vehicles are police cars, fire trucks, ambulances, vehicles from the sheriff's office, motorcycle policemen.

Please, remember when you drive, and one of the above vehicles is approaching you, from either way, follow the law, pull to the right and stop until the emergency vehicle has passed by. They just might be trying to get to you, or someone you love!

Sheriff's Report

Wednesday, November 27
5:00 p.m., Alberto H. Hernandez, 20, of Nacuapo, Mexico, was arrested by Kinney County Sheriff's Deputy Karl Chism for criminal trespassing and theft, less than \$500 and more than \$50. Hernandez was booked into the Kinney County Jail and later magisterated by Judge Alvin Hall.

The Brackett News

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



Capitol Comment

U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Texans target defense issues

Make no mistakes about it, the federal government's duty of "providing for the common defense," as the Constitution stipulates, is a top priority for a majority of Texans.

My annual questionnaire, which your newspaper so graciously published this past summer, posed this question to readers: "Congress has increased defense spending by \$7 billion over the President's budget this year. Do you favor these increases?"

Sixty-four percent of you favored that increase, and an additional 7 percent favored some increase, if not that amount.

"Defense is the most important function of the federal government. We must have strong, functional armed forces," one reader commented on his questionnaire.

Another reader expressed an assumption that I believe most Texans share: "That the United States should have the most powerful and best-equipped military in the world is a given."

One writer worried, "The President has tried to cut our defenses to the point where it is unsafe for our country. I am very concerned about the down-sizing of the military at the same time we have extensive troop deployments overseas."

There also was some ambivalence about the immense sums we spend to keep our country secure.

"I support this spending if it is necessary to defend our country. But I wonder about buying all those unnecessary planes," one woman wrote.

"I would have increased it, but perhaps not by \$7 billion," said another.

"I approve of this increase, but we have to try to cut the waste, and make defense acquisitions more efficient at the same time," one respondent wrote.

And some are resigned to a certain amount of inefficiency in the system: "I am a Navy veteran of World War II, and I can see no reason to cut defense spending. I do hate to see the stupid contracts drawn up by the Pentagon, but apparently there is no help for this problem, as it has been going on for well over 50 years."

Many Texans who answered the questionnaire had specific priorities for defense spending.

Many, many of you have strong opinions about where defense spending should be targeted.

"America should not try to police the whole world," a reader wrote.

"If we are spending so much on defense, can we find better ways to use our military, such as fighting the war on drugs? I feel our president is not serious about drugs," another respondent wrote, expressing a frequent theme.

Others wrote, "We should close our borders, bring home our troops from abroad and use them to defend our borders," and, "We have too much criminal drug activity here, on our own borders, to take care of. This is what the military is for, to protect U.S. Borders."

Finally several Texans wrote, "Don't put our military under U.N. commanders."

I was very impressed with the insights so many of you have into this important issue.

My belief, like the large majority of yours, is that we have been the world's greatest superpower because we have been strong, and we have been prepared. Military readiness is one of the key responsibilities of the federal government. We must never allow our country to be weak militarily.

It is my job to ensure that we are spending our defense dollars efficiently and wisely. I will do everything possible to achieve peace through strength.

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Smoke From Nakai

By Nakai Breen

I will wrap up the talk about the majestic bird, the Eagle.

After reaching the mountain, the Eagle man would take off all his clothes and put only a blanket on. He would then fast and pray for at least four days. On the fifth day the Eagle man would set out to see if he could kill a deer. If he succeeded, he would cut the entrails out and sat them on the four quarters of the universe. The Eagle man would conceal himself and wait for the mighty one to come. While waiting he would start praying and singing in a low tone, the song to call the Eagle to come. As soon as the Eagle was killed, the Eagle man stood near the Eagle and prayed to the creator for letting him kill the Eagle, then he would stand upon the Eagle and asked forgiveness and he would talk to the spirit to soar and come back and replenish.

After all the ceremonies are done on the high cliff, the Eagle man returns home. He tells the warriors that a snow bird, the heavenly one has left to fly high again and that the body will be left to the worms and ants to dispose of the flesh and in four days to go and gather the feathers. As soon as the feathers are gathered, they are put inside a buck skin pouch. The tail feathers are put inside a white skin. Then a prayer is said to the slain deer and to the rest of the eagle spirits.

When the feathers are brought into camp, they are hung in what is called the feather hut. The whole settlement prepares for a day of feast and dance. The high priest will bless some food and present it to the Eagle spirit. The fire is then started. Dried cedar and herbs are burnt. The feathers are now blessed and are ready to be used.

With good spirit and good medicine. Nakai

Classified Ads Really Work 563-2852

Pete's sake

Two women were waiting in the doctor's office when a young man came in.

"Oh my goodness!" exclaimed the first woman to her companion. "Look at that boy! Did you ever see such a big nose? And his mouth is crooked. And he is cock-eyed, too!"

The second woman sat up straight and glared. "That happens to be my son!" she snapped. "Well," said the first woman, "on him, its very becoming!"

I don't know if it's true but they are telling a yarn about a certain new comer businessman at the coffee tables around town. The way I heard it, this fellow had just been transferred to our town and decided to join a local health club, where he could enjoy the steam room, but he joined by telephone and had never been to the place at all.

On his first visit, he got the wrong address and went to a certain all-women health club. No one was in the lobby when he walked in, and nobody was in the dressing room either.

He stripped off his clothes, grabbed a towel and headed for the steam room. But as soon as he opened the door to the exercise area and stepped in, he saw the room was full of women!

Thinking fast, he wrapped the towel around his head to hide his face and made a bee-line for the dressing room.

"Who was that?" one of the women asked. "Thank God it's not my husband!" another lady shrieked, staring at the naked man as he made his hasty retreat.

"He is not mine, either!" reported the gal beside her.

"Girls," announced a fourth woman, "he's not even from around here!"

Editors Note: If you enjoy these stories and comments, send for a free sample of Post Story Book. Write Pete, Box 712, Kingsport, TN 37662.

Brackettville man completes U.S. Border Patrol training

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Brackettville native Armando Talamantez graduated from the Border Patrol Training Academy in Glynco, Ga., after completing an 18-week course that included Spanish, immigration law, firearms, tactics and rough-terrain driving.

Talamantez, 25, has been assigned to the San Diego Border Patrol Sector.

Talamantez, a 1990 graduate of Brackett High School, is the son of Flavio and Mary Talamantez of Brackettville.

Talamantez earned a bachelor's

degree in criminal justice from Southwest Texas State University in 1994.

"At the academy, I received excellent training in numerous areas," Talamantez said.

The U.S. Border Patrol is a branch of the U. S. Immigration and Naturalization Service. Border Patrol agents apprehend illegal aliens and interdict narcotics entering the U.S.

The service has jurisdiction throughout the country, but operates primarily along the U.S. borders between ports of entry with Canada and Mexico.



ARMANDO TALAMANTEZ

The holiday crunch has begun

The crunch has begun to get "stuff" done before the holidays. On my block, neighbors are hurriedly getting out the outside lights to signal the beginning of the Christmas season.

Brackettville becomes even more radiant with the glow of this special time of the year. It's always a treat to prepare for the end of the year.

Thanksgiving was fun and restful. I have talked to lots of folk that spent the time with family. The turkey and trimmings, parades, and ball games make it a special time. I think any time is always special with family.

How did you enjoy the Senior Class Presentation of Supper with Santa?

The crowd was a huge one. Everywhere you looked there were helpers for our rotund, good humored Santa.

Susan Harrison and the senior class sponsors ramrodded this one. We made some bucks and gave a

MAKING A DIFFERENCE By TAYLOR STEPHENSON, BISD Superintendent

product to Brackettville children that will long be remembered. When folks work together, we can be successful.

This week, Dr. Judy Castleberry, Executive Director of Region 20 in San Antonio, has given our school district a special place of honor. We will be the feature presentation to 43 superintendents from the San Antonio area. Dr. Mike Moses, TEA Commissioner, will be present.

Our presentation will be on the Abacus Instructional Management System that Brackett ISD uses. We are a model in curriculum management to other school districts in the state.

Judy Burks, third grade teacher, will make a presentation on how

she uses Abacus to guide third grade students at BISD.

I will talk about the district wide implementation of the idea. Kay Rokovich, Abacus Clerk, will assist us in our presentations. Kay does most of the work on Abacus for teachers at BISD.

So, this is something to be proud of for our school system and staff.

That's about it. We're working hard to be the best at BISD! We appreciate your support.

Watch for the Art Council's Christmas tour of homes on Dec. 15. That night, we will have a great treat at Town Hall when the Voices of Fort Clark present "The Messiah."

Have a good one!

Moncus' Musings



MIKE MONCUS



Park Ranger, Interpreter Bastrop State Park

Even with many little problems or should I say little unresolved opportunities, my life is sweet and dreamy and many might be envious of it. I walk in the woods when I want, could ride my canoe in a beautiful lake any time, and my wife is happy, and though many of my little unresolved opportunities are hers too, she is happy and giving and enjoys me like I am.

Many times our camp trailer causes us many inconveniences and we bump around like in a pinball game, but how we've learned to adapt, sometimes the intimacy is marvelous. What we lack in space we gain by shucking the nonessentials. You'd be surprised at just how many things can become nonessential.

The rain becomes more real and so does the wind and heat and cold. A very thin skin, similar to that on a helicopter, separates us from the outside world but it's enough and it allows us to learn that we're not a great deal differ-

ent from all the animals. All their simple shelters protect them and yet never separate them from the elements from which they come. Ultimately this is at the same time humbling and stimulating. I more often than I would in a conventional home, one that blocks out the outside, hear the wind and go out. I realize the teepee, the yurt, the hogan, and the igloo served happy people who appreciate natural things. More conventional and modern people also appreciate nature but living apart from it conforms their bodies to the world that is shelter more than openness.

I know I long for space in a home that sets in a lovely location but many times I'll be wondering about simple homes that cost so little but provide so much and never actually remove you from some very sweet reality. Thin skinned homes are not as horrifying as you imagine and sometimes the thinner your own skin the more kind and aware you can become through experience.

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4 GHOST AND THE DARKNESS (R) 11:15 1:45 4:15 6:45 9:15
5 RANSOM (PG) 11:40 2:20 5:00 7:40 10:20
6 SPACE JAM (PG) 12:20 2:30 4:40 6:50 9:00
7 DAYLIGHT (PG) 11:20 2:10 4:45 7:20 9:55
8 STAR TREK FIRST CONTACT (PG-13) 12:30 3:00 5:30 8:00 10:35
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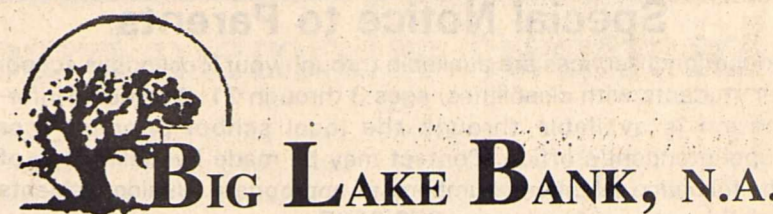
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Educational services are available through your local public school for students with disabilities, ages 3 through 21. Additional information is available through the local school principal's or superintendent's office. Contact may be made by calling one of the following telephone numbers, as appropriate. Uvalde residents call Educational Services at 278-6687. Cluster Five School District telephone contact numbers are as follows:

- Brackett ISD (210) 563-2491
- D'Hanis ISD (210) 363-7216
- Knippa ISD (210) 934-2176
- Leakey ISD (210) 232-6122
- Nueces Canyon CISD (210) 234-3514
- Sabinal ISD (210) 988-2436
- Utopia ISD (210) 966-3339

Cluster Five Special Education Coop. (210) 278-6695.

BISD Cafeteria Menu

Parents welcome to join their children at breakfast or lunch. There are 15 school days in the month of December. Elementary @ \$1.10 = \$16.50. Middle and High School @ \$1.25 = \$18.75. Milk served with all meals. Salad Bar everyday. B line everyday.

Breakfast Menu

Friday, December 6
Cinnamon Orange Muffins
Fruit or Fruit Juice

Monday, December 9
Cheese Toast
Fruit or Fruit Juice

Tuesday, December 10
Breakfast Pizza
Fruit or Fruit Juice

Wednesday, December 11
Pancakes/Syrup
Fruit or Fruit Juice

Thursday, December 12
Potato & Egg Taquito
Fruit or Fruit Juice

3 choices for breakfast daily.
1. The printed menu.
2. Cereal, toast, fruit or fruit juice.
3. Two toasts, fruit or fruit juice.
Grades 6-12 are offered an extra Bread/Grain product everyday.

Lunch Menu

Friday, December 6
Turkey Pasta
Corn on the Cob
Garlic Bread
Fresh Fruit

Monday, December 9
Hot Dog
Vegetarian Beans
Potato Salad
Pumpkin Cake

Tuesday, December 10
Lasagna
Choice of Vegetable
Fruit

Wednesday, December 11
Cheese Burger
Burger Salad
Oven Fries
Sweet Potato Cake

Thursday, December 12
Chili Con Carne/Cheese Cup
Spanish Rice/Pinto Beans
Corn Bread/Fruit

Brackett to compete in Nueces Canyon tourney

The Brackett Tigers and Tigerettes will compete in the Nueces Canyon Basketball Tournament this weekend.

The three-day tournament features teams from Brackett, Nueces Canyon, D'Hanis, La Pryor, Utopia, Rocksprings, Knippa and Sabinal.

"I think it's going to be a good tournament," Tigers coach Gary Grubbs said. "There's going to be some quality teams there."

"We would like to win the tournament but, more than anything, we would just like to get better every game. Our goal begins on Jan. 14, that's when we open district."

The Tigers open the tourney against Sabinal at 1:30 on Friday. Brackett lost twice to the Yellowjackets last season, by scores of 61-59 and 65-63.

"Sabinal will be tough," Grubbs said. "They have three starters back from last year's team. Coach Rod (Jesse Rodriguez) always does a good job. They run a good half-court trap and a good man-to-man defense, and they don't turn the ball over much."

"I feel like we have a good chance," he said. "I think we match up well with them."

The Tigers will face either Rocksprings or Knippa in the second round. Those two teams meet at 10:30 on Friday morning.

Tigerettes coach Gregg Nowlin said he feels the girls' division of the tournament will be equally competitive.

"It should be a real competitive tournament. We want to win it. We haven't quite come together yet, but it's still early in the season. We're typically a slow-starting team."

The Tigerettes also face Sabinal in the opening round. They will meet at noon on Friday.

"I haven't heard a lot about Sabinal," Nowlin said. "They lost quite a few players to graduation. They are well coached, so they will be ready to play."

Nowlin said the team to beat in the tournament is probably the

Rocksprings Lady Angoras, who open play against Knippa at 9 Friday morning.

"Rocksprings has all five of their starters returning from last year, plus a couple of kids off of the bench," he said. "They're a well coached team."

"We beat them two out of three times last year, so if we get to play them this weekend I'm sure they will be looking for some redemption."

The tournament begins on Thursday with Nueces Canyon facing D'Hanis and La Pryor battling Utopia.

Briefs ...

Comstock rallies for 39-24 win over Tigers

COMSTOCK - The Panthers outscored the Tigers 12-3 in the fourth period Tuesday as Comstock picked up a 39-24 victory in junior varsity basketball action.

Tommy Sandoval scored 12 points to lead Brackett, now 0-2 on the season.

Coty Williams finished with six points, and Steven Hagler and Moses Villarreal both had three.

Tigerettes lose two

EAGLE PASS - The Lady Eagles swept the Tigerettes in junior varsity basketball action last Tuesday.

The junior varsity Tigerettes (3-3) lost 40-32. They trailed 11-10 at halftime, but were outscored 31-20 in the second half by Eagle Pass.

La Toya Wright led Brackett with eight points, Stephanie Terrazas and Hilda Aguirre both scored six, Laura Lee Ballew and Tiffany Eckenrod had four apiece, and Stacey Flores made two.

Brackett's freshmen dropped to 2-5 overall after falling 44-21.

Jaime Bader was the high scorer for the ninth grade Tigerettes. She finished with nine.

Michelle Melancon scored four points, while Jessica De Leon, Jania Finkenbinder, Sunni Jones and Samantha Payne all added two.

Cubs' rally cut short

Brackett put together a fourth quarter rally Monday night, but it wasn't enough to pull away from Rocksprings, as the Cubs dropped a 44-38 decision in junior high basketball action.

Rocksprings led 20-15 at the break and was up 33-24 after three quarters.

Brackett (1-1) outscored Rocksprings 14-11 in the fourth period, but it wasn't enough to pull ahead.

Damion Toms paced the Cubs with a 12-point performance and Schiller Hill poured in 10.

Sam Hunt scored seven points, Jarrett Harrison had five and Tony Rubio added two.

The Cubs will host Comstock on Monday, with play beginning after the girls game.

Cubettes fall to Rocksprings

After winning their first two games of the junior high basketball season, the Brackett Cubettes lost two hard-fought games.

Brackett (2-2) fell to Rocksprings, 44-27, on Monday night.

Erika Garcia scored 10 points in the first half and finished with 14 for the game.

Queta Garza scored six points, April Crumley, Duquesa Hunt and Marty Payne all had two and Susannah Davis added a free throw.

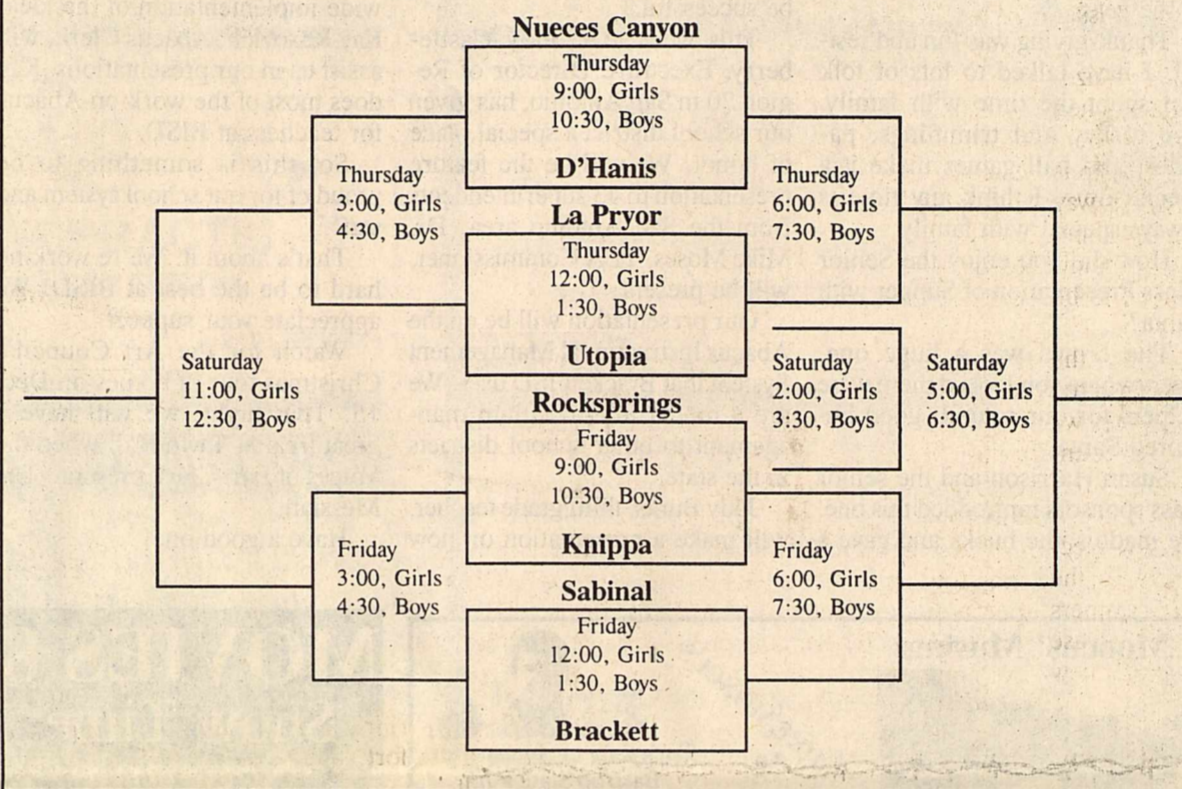
Last Monday, the Cubettes lost to La Pryor, 29-23, on the road.

Garcia scored six points, Payne had five, Garza and Hunt both pitched in four, and Davis and Mary Ann Rivas added two apiece.

Brackett resumes action on Monday as they host Comstock at 5.

Nueces Canyon Basketball Tournament

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Strong start helps Comfort to 69-47 win over Brackett

COMSTOCK - The Lady Panthers hot shooting led to 41 first-half points Tuesday as Comstock topped the Brackett Tigerettes 69-47 in non-district basketball action.

With the win, Comstock improves to 7-1 overall. Brackett falls to 3-3 overall.

The Lady Panthers converted 26 of 37 free throws while the Tigerettes were 5 of 10 from the charity stripe. From the field, Comstock outscored Brackett 43-42.

"It's tough to play defense against people shooting free throws," Tigerettes Gregg Nowlin said. "Comstock shot 81 percent in the first half and it's hard to overcome that."

"We started off cold and finally got it going in the second half, but they were still shooting free throws."

The Lady Panthers jumped out to 20-6 lead after the opening stanza and outscored the Tigerettes 21-8 in the second period for a 41-14 advantage at the break.

Brackett outscored Comstock 15-14 in the third

quarter and 18-14 in the fourth.

"I was real proud of the girls coming out strong in the second half," Nowlin said. "They could have given up, but they stayed focused and didn't quit."

Amanda Meek paced the Tigerettes scoring attack with 16 points, while Katy Hagler scored eight and Courtney Harrison had seven.

Lindy La Mascus and Reccia Jobe both had four points, Chica Garza made a three-pointer, Jennifer Ashabranner pitched in two, and Tina Meek, Patty Lopez, and La Toya Wright added one apiece.

On Friday, Brackett dropped a 59-52 loss to Eagle Pass' varsity in overtime on the road.

The Tigerettes led for most of the game, but Macarina Crowder hit a trey with nine seconds left in regulation to tie up the score at 50-all. Eagle Pass then outscored Brackett 9-2 in overtime.

Amanda Meek scored a game-high 21 points for the Tigerettes and La Mascus finished with nine.

Harrison and Tina Meek both had six points, Garza scored four, and Hagler, Jobe and Amy Bader all pitched in two.

Panthers edge Tigers for a 57-47 victory

COMSTOCK - The Tigers had their worst offensive night of the season Tuesday, scoring a season-low 47 points, as Brackett lost to Comstock, 57-47, in a non-district basketball contest.

The loss drops Brackett to 4-1 on the season.

"It was a good game," Tigers coach Gary Grubbs said. "We played hard. We didn't shoot the ball very well. We had lots of easy shots, but we just didn't put the ball in the hole."

Brackett jumped out to a 13-10 lead after the opening stanza, but the Panthers outscored the Tigers 23-18 in the second quarter to go

"We had lots of easy shots, but we just didn't put the ball in the hole."
Gary Grubbs

up 33-31 at the break. Comfort held a 10-9 advantage in the third period to take a 43-40 lead into the final quarter.

Moses Hernandez paced the Tigers with a game-high 18 points.

"Moses played real well," Grubbs said. "He faced bigger guys and did a good job of rebounding and scoring."

Ramon De Leon had 10 points for Brackett, Beau Smallwood and Rene Luna both finished with seven and Brian Flores pitched in five.

Amador Rangel led Comstock with 15 points, while Russell Goble scored 14 and Ralph Dominguez had 10.

Last Tuesday, the Tigers picked up an 81-69 victory over Eagle Pass' junior varsity.

De Leon was the high scorer with 21 points, while Hernandez had 14, Smallwood scored 12, Luna had 11, Luis Guajardo made 10, Flores chipped in seven and Josh Crumley added six.

Some Texans missing out on Super Combo license bargain

By Henry Lutz
Kinney County Game Warden

First of all, I would like to thank Cordelia Mendeke and especially Chuck Porter, both of Brackettville, who assisted me about a week and a half ago when my patrol unit broke down on the side of the road.

Ms. Mendeke assisted by offering to tow my vehicle and in trying to locate a mechanic, and Mr. Porter came out and towed my vehicle into town when a mechanic could not be found. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

The article below talks about hunting and fishing licenses, specifically one license that can be purchased to cover all of your hunting and fishing license needs at one time. This license is a good value but it may not be for everyone.

Before you buy your hunting or fishing license and any stamps, sit down and figure out what you will need and the cost of each item. Depending on your age and the hunting or fishing activities you pursue, you may not have to spend much money to purchase needed licenses.

If you do a lot of hunting and fishing, then the license talked about below may save you some money and be just what you need. Remember, licenses are available here in Brackettville at Pico's, The Jug Store, and Super S.

Speaking of the new licenses, they are a bit different and there have been some problems in issuing them.

Hunters have also complained about the size, when folded, and the many pieces left over when tags are torn off and used.

Hunters and fishermen, rest assured, that help is on the way. The benefits of issuing licenses this way far outweighs the problems. Texas, I believe, is only the fifth state in the nation to use this new technology in license issuance and there are bound to be some problems.

I have been told by "people in the know" that the problems are being studied and will be corrected soon. Hopefully within the next couple of years we will have one of the best license systems in the country.

New Super Combo License

AUSTIN - Could it be that in the whirlwind electronic revolution of hunting and fishing licenses, the introduction of a package deal that saves customers money has been missed? That seems to be the case for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department's new Super Combo license.

"It's a great value and I don't think that the average customer knows it exists yet. By having all seven stamps, you don't have to go back for any state stamps because it covers everything, it's a matter of convenience as well as savings."

Jayna Burgdorf

In its introductory year, Texas Outdoor Connection, the electronic license system for hunting and fishing licenses, state and federal stamps and tags, has met with mixed opinion.

As sportsmen make the transition from hand-written paper license to computer generated slips, it seems that all attention has focused on adjusting to the new electronic licensing sales and many customers have missed the chance to purchase the new Super Combo license.

The Super Combo license, at \$49, covers both the resident hunting and fishing licenses as well as all seven of the special use state stamps.

For those keeping track, the seven state stamps offered in Texas are the freshwater trout, saltwater sportfishing, archery, muzzleloader hunting, Texas waterfowl, turkey and white-winged dove. Purchased separately, the cost would be \$82. State stamps range in price from \$5 to \$10 apiece.

"It's a great value and I don't think that the average customer knows it exists yet," said Jayna Burgdorf, chief financial officer for the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department.

"By having all seven stamps, you don't have to go back for any state stamps because it covers everything, it's a matter of convenience as well as savings. If you're asked to go on a last minute saltwater fishing or turkey hunting trip, you don't have to worry about purchasing the necessary stamp."

TPWD officials say that it is just a matter of time before the more than 3,000 retail vendors and their employees begin communicating to their customers the value of the Super Combo.

"In a survey of combination license holders, more than fifty percent said that they are interested in purchasing a Super Combo," said Burgdorf. "So, we know that there is interest. It's just a matter of communicating with our vendors and getting the word out to customers."

New EAA board members sworn in

SAN ANTONIO - The 17 newly elected and appointed board members of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) took the oath of office Monday.

The official ceremony signals a first for the Authority, with the majority of the board elected for the EAA.

The EAA is charged by the State of Texas with managing the water pumped from the Edwards Aquifer.

The new members, elected on Nov. 5, represent the entire aquifer region.

In Bexar County, the members include Carol G. Patterson, John Sanders, Weir Labatt, Michael D. Beldon, Sylvia Ruiz Mendelsohn, Susan Kutscher Hughes and Joe Herrera.

Members representing Comal and Guadalupe counties are Rita Banda and Doug Miller.

Representing Hays and Caldwell counties are members Kenneth Barnes and Mack Martinez III.

Members representing Medina and Atascosa counties are A.O. "Odie" Gilliam and Luana

Buckner.

Representing Uvalde County are members Rogelio Munoz and Bruce Gilleland.

The two appointed non-voting board members were also sworn in: Milton Stolte and Bob Keith.

The first board meeting for the newly elected and appointed members is set for Tuesday at 6 p.m.

The EAA meets at the Authority office, located at 1615 N. St. Mary's Street in San Antonio.

Sims chosen winner of the Meritorious Service Award

WACO - Texas Senator Bill Sims, a long time friend of agriculture, has been chosen as the winner of the prestigious Meritorious Service Award, the highest accolade bestowed by Texas Farm Bureau upon a member for the demonstration of outstanding service.

The award, which requires a unanimous vote of the 13-member TFB Board of Directors, was presented to Sims, D-Point Rock, during the 63rd Annual Texas Farm Bureau Convention, this week in San Antonio.

Sims was first elected to the Texas Senate in 1983 to represent District 24 and was subsequently elected as senator of the reconfigured 25th district. The conservative Democrat will retire upon completion of his term, which ends in January.

His solid agricultural background, ranging from service as a county agent and rancher to managing editor of The Ranch Hand, the official publication

of the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers' Association for some 16 years, was the basis of Sims' advocacy for agriculture during his stint in the Texas Senate.

Sims, who holds a B.S. degree in Animal Husbandry from Texas Tech University, served as executive secretary of the Texas Sheep & Goat Raisers' Association from 1966 through July of 1995.

Texas farmers and ranchers have had a good friend in Bill Sims as chairman of the Natural Resources Committee. He also served on the Criminal Justice and Finance committees and was elected President Pro Tempore of the Texas Senate in 1992.

Sims is a member of the Texas Agriculture Council, a director of the High Plains Research Foundation and a Free Market Foundation advisor.

Sims has received numerous commendations over the years for outstanding service in the areas of agriculture, the oil industry, wildlife and for his legislative and leadership role.

Public relations and membership awards presented

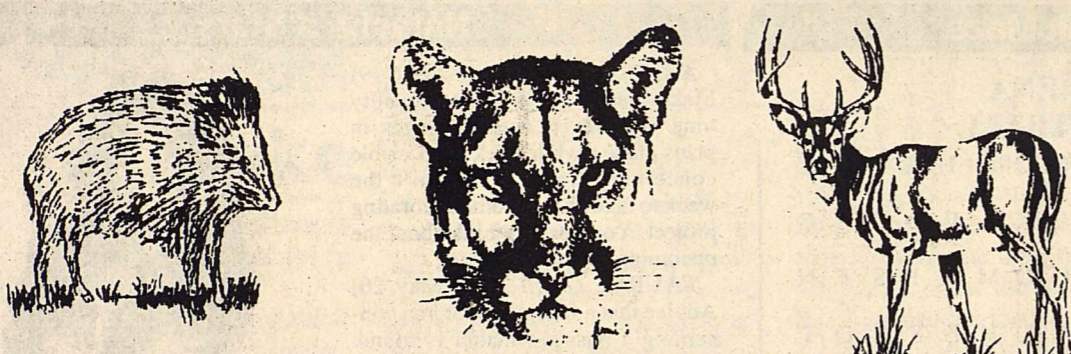
SAN ANTONIO - Awards for County Farm Bureau public relations and membership were presented here during Texas Farm Bureau's 63rd convention.

Cooke, Colorado, Frio, Gonzales and Lampasas County were recognized as being "Superior" in their public relations effort.

Judged to have done an outstanding job during 1996 in public relations activities, including media coverage and the use of organizational newsletters, were Bandera, Dawson, Menard, McLennan, Bosque, Houston, Cherokee, Washington, Fayette, Guadalupe, Lavaca and San Patricio County.

Recognition was also given to counties showing the largest gain in membership, the highest renewal percentage, the largest number of new members and the longest continuous gain.

Texas Farm Bureau finished the fiscal year with 307,560 members. TFB is the largest general farm organization in Texas.

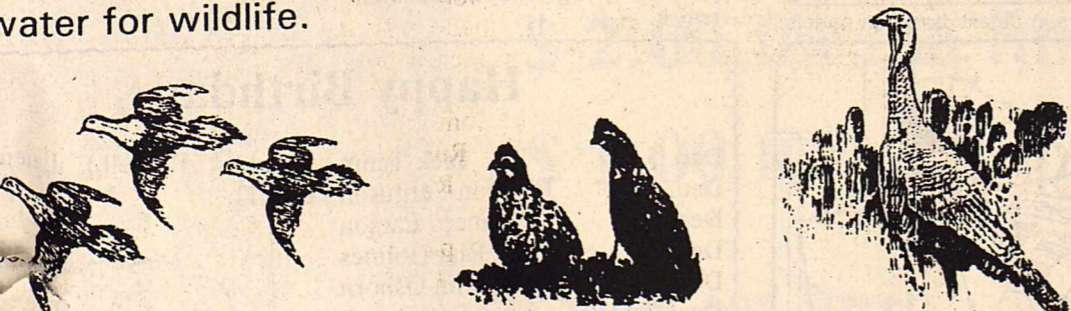


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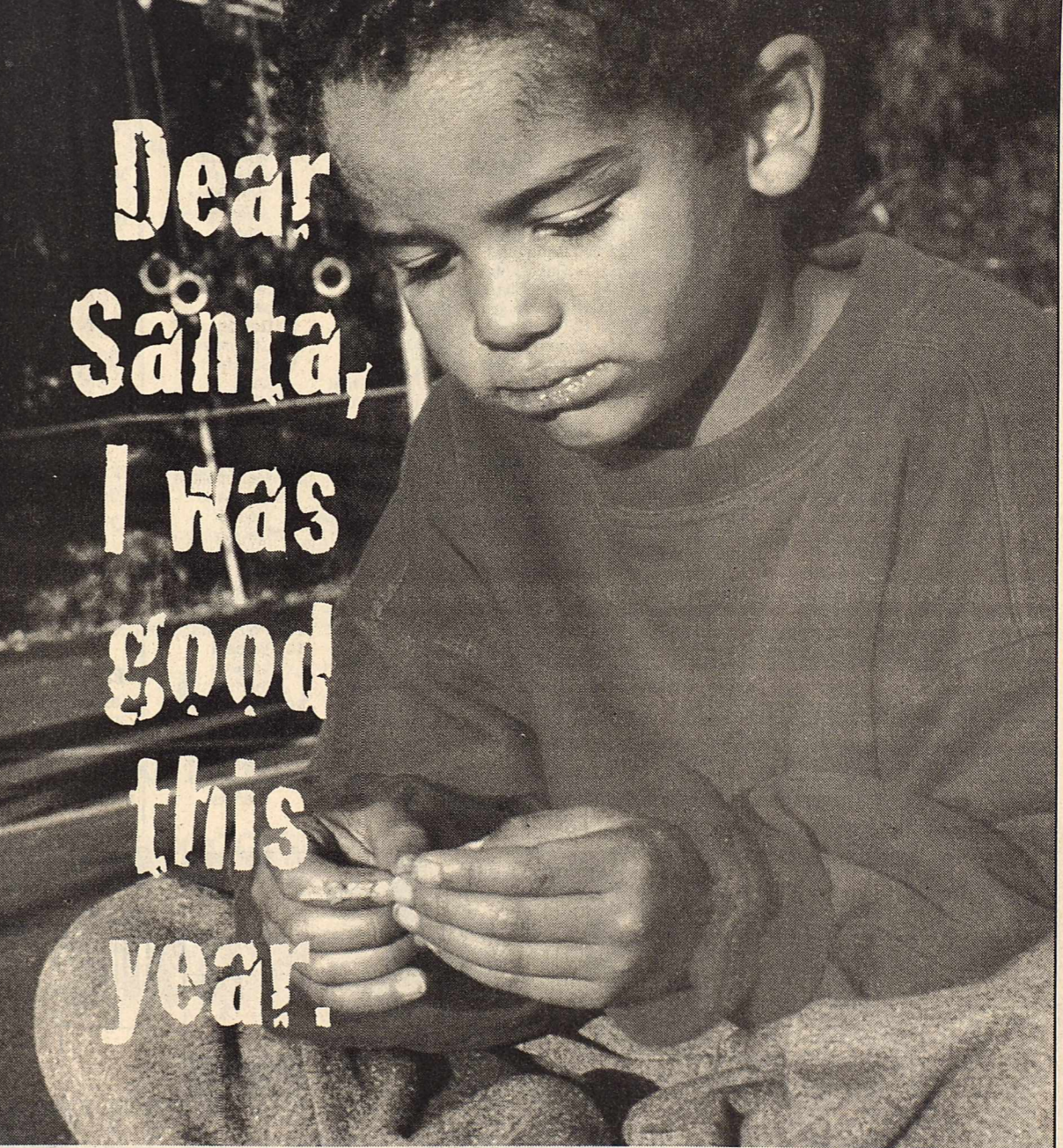
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The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub-brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for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




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Bud Breen, cowboy, ranch foreman, western movie actor, then artist has been painting pictures that capture the beauty of the open country and ranch life that he loves so well.
 Bud's Brackettville home is his studio, the kitchen table is his easel and his experiences are his inspiration.
Breen Gallery
 507 South Ann Street Brackettville, TX 78832
 M-F 8am-5pm or by appointment (210) 563-2961

Super Crossword

ACROSS	1 Completed	5 Sour stuff	9 Nourished	12 Act like an antelope	16 Storage site	17 Soprano Dal Monte	18 Chip off Woody's block?	19 "As You Like It" setting	21 Addis - partner	22 Author Anita	23 Lima or lava	24 "Big Three" site	25 Soothe	26 Traveler's aid	27 Hidalgo holiday	29 Thailand, formerly	30 Start of a remark by Milton Berle	35 Rita - Brown	36 Bury Bury	37 Item in a lock	38 Ceremonial supper	41 Pool shot	43 Dispersed	49 Mideastern gulf	50 Mr. Hiss	51 Easter plants	52 "Three - Match" ('32 film)	53 Command to Fido	54 Summoned mommy	55 Michelangelo work	56 Part 2 of remark	57 Pagan cover	59 Pontil's partner	60 Ending for "cutesy"	62 Part 3 of remark	67 Bankbook abbr.	68 Ready for a light	69 Kerr's flowers	72 Part 4 of remark	75 Stigmatizes socially	76 Shopping sites	78 "Mighty - a Rose"	79 Dryden work	80 Speaks one's piece	82 Pole star?	83 Austin or Garr	84 Florida cape	86 Start the slaw	87 Holstein homes	88 Tillis or Ferrer	89 Corrida victim	90 Pantry item	91 End of remark	102 Patisserie worker	103 Confessions of faith	104 Casserole cover	105 - lime (quickly)	106 Sgt. - Bilko	108 Confined to a cot	109 Trappist	111 Sanctioned	112 " - Inferno" ('78 song)	113 Tramp's tootsie	114 Thornfield governess	115 Sports center	116 Big man on campus?	117 Some	118 Witnessed	119 Presque - , Maine	DOWN	1 Premiere	2 Idescent stones	3 Dukes and	4 LAX letters	5 Reference volume	6 Assimilate	7 L.A. judge	8 Low regard	9 Cheeky	10 Bring bliss	11 Robert of "The Citadel"	12 Nonclerical	13 Corrective measure	14 Improvised	15 Pansy part	16 Spanish surrealist	18 Helps a hood	20 June, but not July	26 Married Mlle.	28 Particular	31 Canal zone?	32 Signed on person	33 Learning method	34 Food for Fury	38 Pageant prop	39 Actress McClurg	40 Coup -	41 Slammer	42 Make wine divine	43 "Odyssey" enticer	44 Trolley sound	45 Distress	46 Massenet's "Le - de Lahore"	47 Noun suffix	48 Dit's cousin	50 Ain't right?	51 Gruesome	54 Naish role	55 Relocates	56 Thrills	58 " - Magic Moment" ('69 hit)	59 An arm and a leg	60 Sacred song	61 Skinner or Redding	63 Present company?	64 Thin porridge	65 Did nothing	66 Maintenance person	70 Merit	71 Goes down-hill fast?	72 Bespectacled dwarf	73 Nabokov novel	74 Kyoto coin	75 Patriotic org.	76 Numskull	77 Dealt with a donut	80 In excess of	81 Count (on)	82 Songbirds	83 Moroccan seaport	85 "West Side Story" tune	86 London locale	87 Ewe said it!	89 Smokey's sibling?	90 Dancer Charisse	91 Schubert song	92 Hard on the nose	93 Nervous	94 Florida city	95 Metropolitan	96 Long and slender	97 Driving hazard	98 Be a peach?	99 Feathered friend?	100 Pointless	101 Vincent Lopez's theme song	107 Ending for lunch	110 Needle feature	111 Composer Francis
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MagicMaze

ARENA FOOTBALL

I B Y V S T S Q O L L I G D B Y
 W T R A P T M E K I F D B Y G
 W U S S Q 4 A O O M K I S F N
 D B Z T X D W C U H E S R Q I
 O N L R 8 O J M B H S K E F S
 R D C O M W A Y R O W F I D S
 V O S T E N D N U O B E R P A
 T S R U N S R E L T T A R U P
 Q P N R O O D N I L Y S A N T
 K I H F E G A R F O E C B T B
 Z Y W V U T S R 5 Q P N M L J

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

4 downs	Barriers	"Pike"	"Storm"
50 yards	"Bobcats"	"Rage"	"Terror"
8 men	Indoor	"Rattlers"	Turf shoes
Astroturf	Passing	Rebound nets	

Natasha's Stars

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) Make plans to spend more quality time with loved ones. Changes in plans made a while back are possible concerning travel. This isn't the week to take on that home decorating project. You need to think about the upcoming holidays instead.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Advice that a friend has for you concerning a business matter is sound. This week, you derive most of your pleasure from cultural or academic interests. However, your judgment is off concerning finances, particularly while shopping this weekend.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Your artistic sensibilities are acute this week. Later in the week, feel free to share good times with friends. This weekend, though, it's not a good time to mix business with pleasure.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Ideas that come to you this week are positively brilliant where your career is concerned. A community or civic project is on the agenda later in the week. Keep peace with family members who are cantankerous over the weekend.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) An inspiration you receive is directly related to business. Going out to a movie or another such quiet entertainment fills the bill as the week draws to a close. This weekend, avoid friction with a friend.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You take center stage on the social scene with great flourish this week. However, it's better to go visiting than to have people into your home. This weekend, make discreet inquiries before agreeing to any major business deals.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) It's best to do any socializing early in the week. You've been burning the candle at both ends, and you need to get more rest. Unwind and relax this weekend. In fact, if at all possible, try to go away on a renewal retreat.



SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A slight misunderstanding is possible with a family member early in the week. While socializing is a good idea, some time should be spent on finishing up that project you started a while back. Domestic chores are on the agenda this weekend.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Some are ready to embark on a new career endeavor that is rife with opportunity. Your rapport with a loved one is simply remarkable this week, so take advantage of it. Watch your wallet this weekend.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You derive most of your pleasure from pursuing mental interests this week. It's also a good time for a trip to a library or museum. This weekend, your intuition is sharper than usual.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You know how to sniff out a bargain and can get some great deals for those on your holiday list. Good taste and good judgment make up your unbeatable combination. A friend is cranky this weekend.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You are at your charming and persuasive best this week. Those around you are quite willing to let you take the lead. A creative project is favored for the weekend.
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Vision Teaser



Find at least six differences in details between panels.



Differences: 1. Picture is changed. 2. Arm is raised. 3. Tail is longer. 4. Spots are added. 5. Title is different. 6. Lampshade is changed.

Happy Birthday

- | | | | |
|---------|------------------|---------|--------------------|
| Dec. 5 | Jack Taunt | Dec. 11 | Russell E. Latense |
| Dec. 5 | Joe Don Ferguson | Dec. 11 | Virginia Cruz |
| Dec. 6 | Frances Larson | | |
| Dec. 7 | Rita Holmes | | |
| Dec. 7 | John Osborn | | |
| Dec. 7 | Fay Gooch | | |
| Dec. 7 | Becky P. Moore | | |
| Dec. 8 | Viola Peel | | |
| Dec. 8 | Carol Benefield | | |
| Dec. 9 | Pedro Benitez | | |
| Dec. 10 | Ray Smith | | |



Frontier Baptist Church
Rev. Joe Townsend, Pastor

The Christmas season is without a doubt the most important special time of the year. While some complain about Christmas becoming so commercial, in reality it is one of the most non-commercial times on the calendar. Of course the business world tries to capitalize on the occasion. One third of the years business for many stores is done during the Christmas season. However it is the motivation for the sales is the heart of the season. No season sparks as much love, consideration, generosity and good will as does Christmas.

The merchandise sold is a product of the desire to give. Almost everything sold is bought for a gift for someone. What's bad about giving presents? Where can gifts be acquired but by buying? Even the few homemade gifts are made of materials generally bought.

The generosity of people is manifest by the tremendous numbers of dollars given for needy and unfortunate people.

The real meaning of Christmas deserves our deep attention. Christmas means a father sent his son from the glories of heaven to live and die as a human being. The father was God who charged His

Son to die as a sacrifice for sins he didn't commit. His love led Him to give His "only begotten Son". God gave not just one of the family but the only Son. Be-
 reft of His Son, what a lonely existence. It was a tremendous price to bring Christmas. Christmas also meant Christ had to leave the side of the Father in heaven to tread the dusty roads do what human hands were doing. It's difficult to imagine the tremendous love down for Jesus when he became the human being in an antagonistic world.

The Son of God to be persecuted, mocked, scorned, belittled scoured, crucified; how totally unbelievable.

God the Father gave His Son; The Son left his home in heaven; just so man could be redeemed. Sin must be paid for. God cannot close His eyes to it. Every person is responsible for his own sin. Jesus came into the world that first Christmas to eventually pay the price of sin for anyone who puts his faith in Him.

This is the real meaning of Christmas.

There will be another seasonal message from the Bible, Sunday, at Frontier Baptist Church at 11:00 A.M. Come and see.

St. John's Baptist Church
Pastor Wm. P. Adams, Sr.
 210-563-2852

Though I might also have confidence in the flesh. If any other man thinketh that he hath reasons for which he might trust in the flesh, I more:

Circumcised the eighth day, of the stock of Israel, of the tribe of Benjamin, an Hebrew of the Hebrews; as touching the law, a Pharisee;

Concerning zeal, persecuting the church; touching the righteousness which is in the law, blameless.

But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ.

Not as though I had already

attained, either were already perfect; but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus.

Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended; but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before,

I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus. Philippians 3:4-7; 12-14

Praise God. Come feast with us the table is set in the Lord. Everyone is invited.

Gateway Ministries
Pastor Charolette Corey

THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN are opened for us as we send up sacrifices of praise and worship, love God with all our spirit, soul and body, and love our neighbor as yourself. It is such a privilege to have a heavenly Father that loves us so dearly that He sent His only begotten son, Jesus the Christ (the Anointed One), to die for us on the cross, to become sin, that we be freed from the law of sin and death, even as He was the "first born from the dead". It is incomprehensible to fully understand this wonderful gift of grace, THE BEST GIFT OF ALL, but it is not a gift that is enjoyed until one RECEIVES IT AND OPENS THE PACKAGE.

We joyfully and expectantly receive gifts from people of this world who have a "measure" of love towards us. How much greater still is the love which our Heavenly Father has shown towards us and the GREAT GIFT He has offered to anyone who will receive it.

God knows we are motivated by prizes. He created us in the first place. Jesus gave His life freely because He saw the end reward or prize. In Phillipians 3:13-14 the Apostle Paul writes "FORGETTING those things

which are BEHIND, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press towards the mark for the PRIZE of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" and Phil. 3:20-21 "For our conversation is in heaven; from whence also we look for the Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ: Who shall change our vile body, that it may be fashioned like unto his glorious body, according to the working whereby He is able even to subdue all things unto himself."

God hears our words in heaven. He sees and knows the things of our hearts. He is fashioning a "glorious body for each one who believes in Him as Lord and Savior. This is a very special GIFT. RECEIVE HIM, THE ULTIMATE GIFT, that you may attain the "prize" set before you.

STAND IN FAITH, REST IN HOPE, WALK IN LOVE.

P.S. The church is now accepting donations towards a New Church Facility to help minister to the needs of the community. Make checks payable to Gateway Ministries, Inc., "New Building Fund", P.O. Box 1449, Brackettville, Tx. 78832.

Please make notation if you desire a receipt for tax deductible purposes.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

Unsung Hero
 By Joe Townsend

A fine lady moved to Brackettville with her husband and family many years ago. She and her husband raised a fine family. The children by their lives and contributions to society give ample testimony to the character and good parenting of this couple. As the children grew older and established their own homes this dear

lady went to work in the offices of the school. For many years until her recent retirement she served capably in her responsibilities. She is a very accommodating and warm hearted person. She has been and is a great attribute to her husband. She is a steady and caring individual. Her life and her influence in the lives of her family have made a fine and considerable impact on her world. Surely Anne Rose is an Unsung Hero.

Obituary



Manuela G. Garcia

Manuela G. Garcia, passed away at St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Chicago, Illinois, on November 27, 1996, at the age of 94.

Mrs. Garcia was born in Spofford, Texas on February 22, 1902, to Florencio Gracia and Barbarita Ramon.

Mrs. Garcia lived in Spofford for many years before moving to Brackettville. In 1950 she joined her husband in Chicago. Her husband, Daniel Garcia, preceded her in death in 1985.

Her survivors include several nephews and nieces from the area. They are Barbarita (Bobbie) Luna from Brackettville, Fidel Garcia of Uvalde, Otomi Alvarado and Raul Garcia of San Antonio. Mrs. Garcia also has several relatives from San Antonio, Mexico, Illinois, Idaho and Kentucky.

Mass was said for her at St. Pious Church in Chicago on Dec. 2, 1996. She was later laid to rest at a Catholic cemetery.

First Baptist Church
Rev. Gil Ash, Pastor
 "The Pastor's Pen"

While in a hospital waiting room in the early hours of morning I picked up a magazine. It was like most magazines that are left at hospitals, doctors offices and other places that people find themselves for long periods of waiting. It was a year old. This magazine is one you probably have seen before and perhaps subscribe to. It was "Guideposts," "A practical guide to successful living."

The stories were encouraging and uplifting but my thoughts were not on the stories but the name, "Guideposts." When we enter life we start with the "guideposts" of our parents and even

though some of those disappear there are always others. There are relatives, teachers, neighbors and many others who usually surround us in the early part of our life to give a sense of direction, to be a practical guide to successful living. We need that! We need them! However, the "guidepost" closest to us is most often overlooked. That "guidepost" is God! We look so far beyond Him to other guides we miss seeing the closest and the best. Look for Him. "Seek Him while he may be found, call upon Him while He is near" (Isaiah 55:6).

First United Methodist Church
 Rev. Sheree Harris, Pastor

We are waiting. We are watching. As Christians that is, we are waiting and watching for the return of our Messiah. We are hoping for rebirth, new life in our own being. It is Advent.

Advent is the Christian season that begins four Sundays prior to Christmas. It is indeed a time of waiting and watching, but these are hardly passive activities for those who really observe the season. There is no room in the waiting for thumb-twiddling. Rather, the time is spent preparing even more room in the inn of our soul for Christ to live and reign. Praying, lighting candles, Bible study, reaching out to those in need are all part of preparing a place in the inn.

Watching, for Christians, is like being on sentry duty. We are looking out for the herald bringing the Good News. The herald may be a friend who offers a helping hand or a listening ear. He may be a loved one who hugs us or a stranger who speaks a kind word to us. She may be a little child who invites us to play with her or even a newborn babe still innocent and pure. Watching is being alert to hear Christ knocking at our door and knowing that

when we knock on Christ's door it will be opened.

As we actively watch and wait, we really expect something to happen. Without honest-to-God-and-ourselves expectations, all of this preparation would be mere idle ritual and our hope would be in vain. That is not the case, however, because we expect Christ to touch our lives in new ways, to give richer meaning to what we do, and to affirm and love more deeply who we are. Furthermore, we expect to become more Christ-like and to evolve more into who God created us to be.

Is there new life after life? You bet! Christians in Advent are preparing for and expecting it!

- Special Christmas Events**
 Saturday, Dec. 7 - Potluck Supper 5:00P.M. Slater Hall
 Hanging of the Greens and Children's Choir in the Sanctuary 6:00P.M.
 Sunday, Dec. 8 - Cantata 11:00 A.M. "The Wonder of Christmas" by John Peterson
 Sunday, Dec. 15 - Children's Choir and Nativity program 11:00 A.M.
 Sunday, Dec. 22 - Traditional Service of Lessons and Carols 11:00 A.M.

The Great Joy

"The wolf also shall dwell with the lamb, and a little child shall lead them." Isaiah 11:6



As you read these words from Isaiah notice the great joy which the prophet beautifully describes.

The harmony of the wolf living with the lamb is Isaiah's way of describing a supernatural event. Then in one brief phrase Isaiah explains the source of this harmony... "a little child (Jesus) shall lead them." Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk, says "The gospel of the Nativity is not merely the gently story of a virgin mother and a sweet babe lying in a manger. It is the solemn proclamation of an event which is the turning point of human history." Allow the living Lord Jesus Christ to penetrate your hearts and minds this Christmas season and experience the great joy which our Lord wants to give us.

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19 DAYS TILL CHRISTMAS

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 New Name - New Lower Prices

Church Directory

St. Andrews Episcopal Church: Henderson & Fort Sunday Church Service 10:30 a.m. Vicar: Rev. Bill Koons, 563-2071.
 Frontier Baptist Church (A Southern Baptist Church): Sunday Services 11:00 a.m., 6:00 p.m., Joe Townsend, Pastor, 563-2158.
 First Baptist Church (A Southern Baptist Church): 307 N. Ann St., Sunday School 9:45 a.m., Sunday Worship 11:00 a.m., and 7:00 p.m., Wednesday Worship 7:00 p.m., Gil Ash, Pastor, 563-2245.
 Baptist Hispanic Mission: 307 N. Ann Street, Sunday 9:45 a.m.; Wednesday 5:30 p.m.; Friday, 6:00 p.m., Eugenio Duran, Pastor.
 Church of Christ: N. Ann St., Sunday School 9:30 a.m., Worship Service 10:30 a.m., Bible Study Sunday 6:30 p.m., Wednesday 6:30 p.m.
 St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church: Masses Monday and Friday 7:00 a.m., Wednesday and Saturday 6:30 p.m., Sunday (Spanish) 8:00 a.m., Regular 10:30 a.m., Confession Wednesday and Saturday 6:00 p.m., Religion Classes Wednesday 6:00 p.m. Sunday 9:00 a.m. Prayer Meeting (Spanish) Wednesday 7:00 p.m., Father Donald La Vell.
 First United Methodist Church: "Celebrate and Witness" Fellowship 9:30 a.m., Church School Classes 9:45 a.m., Service of Worship 11:00 a.m., Choir Rehearsal Wednesday 5:00 p.m., Sheree Harris, Pastor.
 St. John's Baptist Church: Crockett at Keene St., Sunday School 10:00 a.m., Worship 11:00 a.m., Wednesday Bible Study 7:00 p.m., Worship Service Thursday 7:00 p.m., William P. Adams, Sr., Pastor, 563-2852.
 Our Redeemer Lutheran Congregation E.L.C.A.: Shafter Hall, F.C.S., Sunday 9:00 a.m. Worship, Bible Study every other Sunday 10:00 a.m., Rev. Nathan La Frenz, 563-2047.
 Templo Elim Asambea de Dios: North Street, Sunday 10:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Wednesday and Friday, 7:00 p.m., Rev. Abundio Mancha, Pastor, 563-9237.
 Apostolic New Jerusalem: 514 E. Louise St., Sunday School 10:45 A.M. and Morning worship 11:30 A.M., Missionary Meeting every 3rd Thursday of the month. Everyone Welcome! Pastor, Rudy Goodloe
 Gateway Ministries (Non-Denominational): 301 E. Spring St. (across from post office), Praise & Worship Fellowship Sunday 10:00 a.m., Bible Study Wednesday 6:30 p.m., Robert W. Corey, Pastor, Charolette Corey, Associate Pastor, 563-9331.

Answers to Super Crossword
 ARENA FOOTBALL

DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE THEM DO UNTO YOU!

The Voices of Fort Clark Springs present Handel's "Christmas Messiah"

The Voices of Fort Clark Springs will present Handel's "Christmas Messiah" in concert on Sunday, Dec. 15. Under the direction of Lynn McNew, and accompanied by Cathi Conrey, the concert will be held at Town Hall on Fort Clark Springs beginning at 7:30 p.m.

There are many choirs and audiences that would like to experience the enjoyment of Handel's Messiah, probably the most famous oratorio ever written. James Dasher's arrangement includes the most familiar and appropriate numbers for Christmas: "And the Glory of the Lord," "For Unto Us a Child Is Born," and the "Hallelujah" chorus to mention a few. Soloists for the production are Hector Jimenez, Lee Herron, Pat Strother, Jan Nelson, and Lynn McNew.

Following the concert, cookies and punch will be served and there will be a visit from a special guest. No admission will be charged; however, a free-will offering will be taken.

Plan now to highlight your Christmas season with a celebration in song by the Voices of Fort Clark Springs on Sunday, Dec. 15, 1996, 7:30 p.m., Fort Clark Springs Town Hall.

ANTIQUES
SCOTT ANTIQUE MARKET, two mammoth facilities, 2400 booths- Dec. 13-15, 2nd weekend of every month. Atlanta Expo Centers - Atlanta, Georgia, I-285 at Jonesboro Road, 614-569-4112.

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TELECOMMUNICATION INDUSTRY, NATIONAL company seeking representatives. Full or part time opportunities available. \$10k to \$20k per month potential. Ground floor opportunity. Minimum investment \$50,000 Don Webber 1-800-847-4520, Ext. 113.

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RAPID FREIGHT OF Texas, a Texas based carrier seeking OTR teams & singles. 95 or newer conventionals. Call Chuck at 1-800-607-5695.

EDUCATION
MTA SCHOOLS NEEDS motivated individuals for our truck driver training program. Offering high salaries and benefits. Job placement assistance available. For more information call 1-800-391-0777.

EMPLOYMENT
MIDDLE RIO GRANDE DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is seeking applicants for the position of Program Planner III. The position will report directly to the Director of Employment and Training. Position will be responsible for the development of the necessary program plans and/or funding requests as may be made available to the Middle Rio Grande Development Council and the Middle Rio Grande Local Workforce Board. Position will be directly responsible for generating the local workforce plan for the region working with the planning committees of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council Board of Directors and the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Development Board. Responsibilities of the position involve coordination of efforts between the Middle Rio Grande Workforce Board and other state agencies. Position will be housed in the Middle Rio Grande Development Council's office located in Carrizo Springs, Texas. In and out of region travel will be required.

Position requires a minimum of a college degree and 2-4 years experience in employment and training programs or other workforce programs. Salary range for this position is \$24,195 - \$34,044. Actual salary shall be negotiable based upon qualifications. Interested parties should send a letter of application accompanied by a resume to Ramon Johnston, Deputy Director for Administration at P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Deadline for applications is December 13, 1996, 5:00 p.m. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. For information please contact our VOICE or TDD telephone (210) 876-3533.

BULLDOZER OPERATOR to chain brush with D7E for 3 months in West Uvalde County. Apply in writing with salary requirement and references to 2143 Zercher Rd., San Antonio, TX 78209 or fax to (210) 824-7587.

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HOLIDAY HELPER Creative, Energetic, teenager will wrap gifts (your supplies or mine) decorate trees, houses & yards. Call for info 563-9944.

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CO-ORDINATOR WANTED TO serve as group packaging for Pilgrim Singles in Eureka Springs, Arkansas for February events. Christian Destiny of America Foundation 1-800-645-8588.

FULL TIME JOBS* power plant trainees *welding trainees *metal worker trainees * gas/diesel mechanics. All apprenticeship training programs fully paid. We provide all tools. High school seniors or graduates to age 34. Call 1-800-292-5547.

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RUMMAGE SALE AND CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE Sat. Dec. 7, 1996 9:00 - 3:00. St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, Church Hall.

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20/20 WITHOUT Glasses. Safe, rapid, non-surgical, permanent restoration 6-8 weeks. Airline pilot developed. Doctor approved. Free information by mail: 1-800-422-7320, Ext. 237, 406-961-5570, FAX 406-961-5577. http://www.visionfreedom.com-Satisfaction guaranteed.

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HORSES
RAY HUNT SEMINAR: "Starting the Unbroke Horse". Cowtown coliseum, Fort Worth, TX. December 13-14-15, 10:00 A.M. Admission \$25.00. 817-625-1025 or 208-587-5751.

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KEERVILLE, FIVE MINUTES from downtown to private ranches with beautiful views of homesites, hard surface roads. Two tracts 56 & 62 acres. James Kerr 1-800-451-3649.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of MILDRED B. FREEMAN, Deceased, were issued on November 27th, 1996 under Docket No. 910, pending in the County Court of Kinney County, Texas, to: LINDA FREEMAN COLE.
Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows:
LINDA FREEMAN COLE
Independent Administrator
Estate of MILDRED B. FREEMAN, Deceased
c/o W. Patrick Dodson
DODSON & LOWE
318 E. Nopal
Uvalde, Texas 78801
All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 2nd day of December, 1996.
DODSON & LOWE
318 E. Nopal
Uvalde, Texas 78801
(210) 278-4471
BY: W. PATRICK DODSON
SN # 05942400
ATTORNEY(S) FOR APPLICANT

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Texas Department of Transportation
Public Notice
The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will hold a public meeting to discuss the 1998-2000 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP) encompassing Val Verde, Maverick, and Kinney Counties.
TxDOT is proposing the three year TIP and is requesting input from the public on these roadway improvement projects. This public meeting will be held at the Texas Department of Transportation-Del Rio Area Office located at 319 E. Gibbs St. at 6:30 p.m. on December 12, 1996.
If you have any questions or comments, please contact Robert D. Austin, P.E., Director of Transportation Planning & Development for the Laredo District at (210) 712-7442.

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Kinney County Art Council's 2nd Annual Christmas Tour of Homes
Sunday, December 15, From 3:P.M. to 5:P.M.
Tickets may be purchased at The First State Bank, Fort Clark Springs Gate, K.C. Art Council members, or at the featured homes. The Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors have approved an open gate for folks who want to attend this gala event!

Opinion
This land is whose land?

By Peggy M. Venable and Dana C. Joel
Texas Citizens for a Sound Economy

President Clinton has angered the residents of Utah and proponents of state's rights in what many are calling an outrageous abuse of presidential power. Specifically, the President made a land grab of 1.7 million acres in the south-central region of Utah and declared he was turning it in to a national monument. Most of the area at issue, the size of the state of Delaware, was previously managed by the Federal Bureau of Land Management (BLM), the office that decides what part of federally owned land should be designated as wilderness area and what part should be open to development.

Clinton boasts about his action, saying he performed under the jurisdiction of the 1906 Antiquities Act and that the land now can be preserved as a new "frontier" for our children and our future.

Opponents say the President acted for political gain and seized the territory without obtaining any approval by Congress or state and local officials, without public hearings, and without completing an environmental impact statement. They say, furthermore, that the President never so much as informed Utah's elected officials or citizens of the decision until after the public press announcement, which was held not in Utah but in Arizona, far from the scrutiny and criticisms of those affected.

As Bill Howell, executive director of the Utah Association of Local Governments, was quoted in the Washington Post, "This is the most arrogant gesture I have seen in my lifetime. The only comparable act I can think of is when a country is ruled by a king and he sweeps his hand across a map and says, "It will be thus!"

At stake is a relatively small area of the

land, 40 acres, that the BLM had okayed for mining. According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the mining site is likely to contain 62 billion tons of clean, low-sulfur coal. Fifteen percent is projected to be recoverable.

That's enough to provide the state with power for the next 1,000 years. It also would create an estimated 1,000 jobs in the area and would also fuel approximately \$1 billion for primary and secondary education through a portion of revenues earmarked from development.

Utahans would not have lost their land to presidential confiscation in the first place if it were not for the fact that private ownership of land is far from common in the state.

Sixty four percent of the land in Utah is owned not by its citizens, but by the federal government.

In Kane County, the site of the land grab, 95 percent of the land is owned by the state or federal government. That's not to say residents here don't respect and treat the land as if it were their own. "The people born and raised down here feel they know how to handle this land better than the people in Washington," the local county attorney told the New York Times.

Rather than impound the land or leave it to the management of a federal office to decide its fate, President Clinton should sell the land to those who have the greatest stake in both its preservation and economic potential: the residents of Utah.

Decisions on how to manage the land would be driven not by politics, but by those who have the greatest incentive to protect it. All of us can relate to the concept of "pride of ownership" and the fact that it is human nature to give better care to things we actually own.

The land in Utah would be much better preserved and cared for if it were placed in

the hands of its own citizens.

To our forefathers who had jurisdiction over the Western lands placed in public domain, there was no question that the lands were to be turned to private ownership.

Alexander Hamilton realized the private ownership's significance on the budget; he wanted the federal sale of the land so the U. S. Treasury could collect revenue.

Thomas Jefferson supported the sale for expansionary reasons; he realized that citizen ownership would encourage Western exploration, which it in fact, did.

Utah is not the only victim of federal land control. Today, the federal government, the largest landowner in the nation, owns nearly one third of the land in the entire U.S.

In Nevada, 80 percent of the land belongs to the federal government and in California, more than half belongs to the feds. The issue should not be about how efficiently government can manage the land, whether it should mine it or turn it into a national park. Rather, the issue should be about how to turn the land over to private citizens to own and manage the land. Only when the issue is framed this way will both the environmentalists and property owners turn out to be the victors.

Recently, the federal government officials have indicated an interest in expanding the boundaries of Big Bend National Park, a threat which has South Texas ranchers concerned about their livelihood and their heritage.

The Texas legislature passed laws last session which went a long way toward protecting Texas landowners and promoting private property rights. But these laws only impact state and local jurisdictions, and cannot halt the federal governments encroachment on private property in Texas.

Texans can manage land in Texas better than big brother in Washington D.C.

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