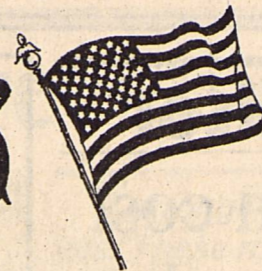


The Brackett News



Tigerettes top Canyon 29-11

See story, Page 5

10th year, No. 45

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Briefs ...

Old Quarry Society to present play Saturday

The Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts will present its annual Christmas play on Saturday at 8 p.m. at Post Theater on Fort Clark Springs.

This year's presentation is "Christmas Attitudes" by Randy Galvin.

"As its title implies, 'Christmas Attitudes' shows us how we think about Christmas," said director Lynn McNew. "It is suitable for audiences of all ages. Not many Christmas plays are funny. This one is - rather, these are."

There will be no admission charge, and refreshments will be served following the conclusion of the play.

Band to perform at First Baptist Church tomorrow at 7:30

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 tomorrow at 7:30 p.m.

The group is made up of Gary Mizell, 21, Chris Reed, 17, Steve Miller, 15, and J.D. Miller, 13.

Local band performs carols Sunday evening

Carolyn Kay and Roadhouse, a local country and western band, will perform Christmas carols at St. John's Missionary Church on Sunday, from 5 to 6 p.m.

The band features local musicians Clyde Hepline, bass and vocals, and J.J. Guidry, drummer.

Other musicians include lead vocalist Carolyn Pape-Prevatt and steel guitarist Len Prevatt of Del Rio, and lead guitarist Albert Fernandez and fiddle player Dickie-Walker of Uvalde.

Community Unity to feature Santa Sunday

Santa Claus will be on hand Sunday 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.

Christmas baskets delivered Wednesday

Plans are underway for the 1998 Kinney County Christmas basket program for the needy, according to Brackettville Lions Club officials.

Last year, over 111 families in Kinney County received Christmas baskets, including 361 individuals, 116 of which were children under the age of 12. There were over 300 boxes of food and toys, valued at over \$2,500, delivered.

This year's Christmas baskets will be delivered on Wednesday morning.

BISD hosts Kite Day

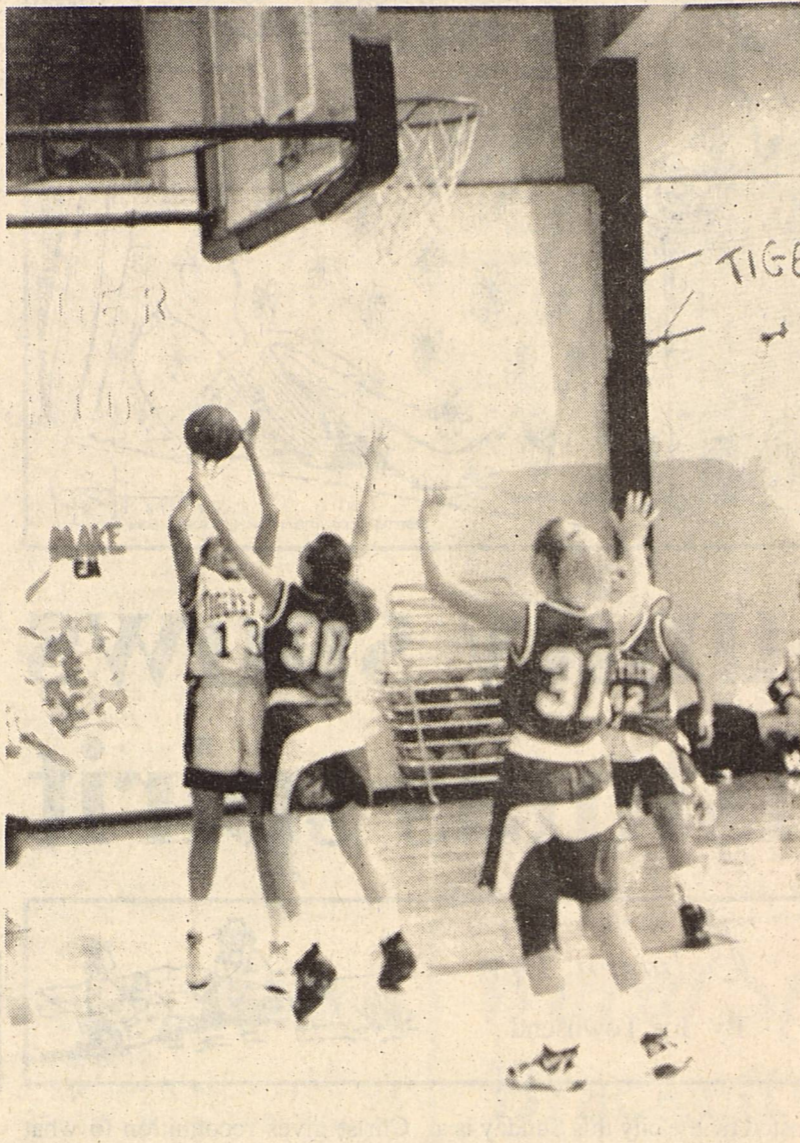
The Brackett Independent School District will host its annual Kite Day today at Fort Clark's Rendezvous Park.

The day will feature kindergarten and fifth grade from 8:30 to 10:30 a.m., first and fourth grades from 10:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m., and second and third grades from 12:30 to 2:30 p.m.

Poster winners will also be announced during the Kite Day activities.

TxDOT makes travel information available

The Texas Department of Transportation has travel information available concerning road conditions. Motorists can call TxDOT's road information hotline at 1-800-452-9292 or visit its website at www.dot.state.tx.us for information.



Brackett forward Duquesa Hunt (13) puts up a shot during the Tigerettes 29-11 victory over Nueces Canyon on Tuesday night. See related story, Page 5. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Officials move ahead with detention center

Construction expected to begin in February

CiviGenics moved a step closer to building a 500-bed detention center in Kinney County Tuesday after the City of Brackettville agreed to sell the entity water.

The Brackettville City Council approved a one-year contract to provide water services to CiviGenics, a Massachusetts-based company.

"There hasn't been any road blocks in the way," said Bob Prince, marketing director with CiviGenics. "We've had a few hurdles, but we've cleared them. There's nothing to stop the project."

Kinney County officials have approved a proposal from CiviGenics to construct and operate a 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

"There hasn't been in any road blocks in the way. We've had a few hurdles, but we've cleared them. There's nothing to stop the project."

Bob Prince

limits.

Prince said the project should take about 10 months to complete once construction begins.

"That's a considerably short amount of time," he said. "We were anticipating about 14 months."

Prince said CiviGenics still has to approve the final financing plans of the project. He said he expects the construction of the facility to begin by Feb 1.

Under the one-year contract approved Tuesday, the city will provide CiviGenics with up to 1 million gallons of water a month

for the same rates charged to citizens - \$7.35 for the first 3,000 gallons and \$1.25 per 1,000 gallons in excess of the first 3,000 gallons.

"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," Prince said.

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."

Kinney County Judge Tommy Seargeant is scheduled to present an update concerning the new detention facility during a special Commissioners Court meeting tomorrow afternoon, beginning at 2 p.m.

Alderman calls number of city holidays 'a joke'

A Brackettville councilman called the number of city holidays 'a joke' during a regular meeting Tuesday night.

"No business shuts down 19 days out of the year, so I don't know how the local governments can justify it," Alderman J.J. Guidry said. "It's a joke."

The City Council approved 19 holidays for 1999 and the Kinney County Commissioner Court agreed to 16 holidays this week.

The county's four commissioners - Freddie Frerich, Joe Montalvo, Paul O'Rourke and Joe Williams - unanimously approved the 16 holidays after eliminating three proposed dates, including Nov. 24, Dec. 22, and Dec. 30.

Guidry was also at the Monday morning's Commissioners Court meeting and asked that the holidays be cut.

Cliff Fritter, the county's road and bridge supervisor, asked the commissioners to add Cinco de Mayo and Diez y Seis to the list of holidays.

"We are in South Texas and we used to be part of Mexico," Fritter said. "We ought to celebrate their holidays."

City officials had originally proposed 14 holi-

■ See CITY EMPLOYEES/Page 3

Government Holidays

Holidays observed by Kinney County and the City of Brackettville for 1999:

- 1. Jan. 18 Martin Luther King Day
 - 2. Feb. 15 Presidents Day
 - 3. March 1 Texas Independence Day
 - 4. April 2 Good Friday
 - 5. April 19 San Jacinto Day
 - 6. May 31 Memorial Day
 - 7. June 18 Day before Juneteenth
 - 8. July 5 Day after Independence Day
 - 9. Sept. 6 Labor Day
 - 10. Oct. 11 Columbus Day
 - 11. Nov. 11 Veterans Day
 - 12. Nov. 12 *Day after Veterans Day
 - 13. Nov. 24 *Day before Thanksgiving
 - 14. Nov. 25 Thanksgiving
 - 15. Nov. 26 Day after Thanksgiving
 - 16. Dec. 23 Day before Christmas Eve
 - 17. Dec. 24 Christmas Eve
 - 18. Dec. 30 *Day before New Year's Eve
 - 19. Dec. 31 New Year's Eve
- * Only city offices will be closed.



The City of Brackettville has purchased a 1999 Ford Crown Victoria for \$21,109.75 for the police department.

Police Department begins operations

Brackettville's Police Department is now fully operational, officials announced at Tuesday's regular City Council meeting.

"I've spent a lot of time familiarizing myself with the community," said Ron Ring, the city's chief of police.

Ring said that he has given over 30 citations "in a little over a week."

"A lot of people think they are going through Indianapolis when they drive through here," the police chief said.

Ring said he spends about 60 percent of his time on duty working the stretch of Highway 90 that runs through Brackettville.

"I work the school zone at noon and from 3 to 3:30 every weekday that I work," he added.

Brackettville City Councilman Wes Robinson told Ring, "You've been visible and that's good."

Alderwoman Mary Flores added, "I hear a good report from the people out there about (Ring's) performance."

Conservationists use fire as a tool

By Patsy Callnan
Contributing Writer

(NRCS).

Crumley was the guest speaker at last Thursday's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting.

For thousands of years nature used fire to clear the land of brush and cedar which will multiply and crowd out needed grasses and also

use valuable water supplies in the process.

For many years, conservationists thought that fire was a bad thing, and fighting fires became a top priority of the NRCS.

Without the fires, the cedar and brush began to take over valued ranch land. It was decided to use fire as a tool. Of course, its use had to be modified and carefully supervised.

"You can't just go out and set ranches on fire," Crumley said.

When the idea was first submitted to the ranchers, some were skeptical and wary of the process. Having seen the positive results, many are lined up for the burns.

Control of the fire is a must and there are several ways this is done, he said. Winds and weather play a large part of when a burn takes place. Sometimes the burn area is circled with fire and then the fire works toward itself and extinguishes itself as the burn becomes complete.

One of the drawbacks of these burns is loss of fence posts. Sometimes the land on both sides of the

"It is still a very good idea to report fires that seem out of control and let the authorities check it out."

James Crumley

fence will be plowed and sprayed with water (known as a wet line technique), and then back fires set.

If you see a man on a four-wheeler with a flame thrower on the back creating a wall of fire, more than likely it is Crumley.

"It is still a very good idea to report fires that seem out of control and let the authorities check it out," Crumley said.

Another function of the NRCS is the writing of grants. Small communities depend on grants for big ticket items that a small tax base is unable to cover.

Some of the things that have been supplied by grants to Kinney County are a new fire truck, an EMS unit, and a van for the Aging Services Center.



Herb Senne (left) introduced James Crumley at last Thursday's Brackettville Rotary Club meeting. Crumley, the guest speaker at the meeting, is a district conservationist with the Natural Resource Conservation Service. Photo by Eric McMaster

INSIDE

Joe Townsend

To see all the emphasis on the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ gives recognition to what his coming means to the world. **Opinion/Page 2**

Taylor Stephenson

The Christmas season brings home our children and grandchildren. As our children get older, it takes grandparents to the children. **Lifestyles/Page 4**

Tigers fall in 2 OTs

Nueces Canyon capitalized on two Brackett turnovers in the last 14 seconds as the Panthers edged the Tigers 45-43 in double OT. **Sports/Page 5**

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Letter to the Editor

Liberal welfare can cost Americans their freedom

I was intrigued by Steven LaMascus' article on liberals versus conservatives.

It reminded me of what I heard on the radio that was supposed to be from a book that had been written by someone shortly after our forefathers first came to this country. I don't remember studying about it in my history lessons, I went to school in the '40s, and I'm sure it isn't being taught in schools now. It certainly isn't within the beliefs of our liberals.

The story said that early on some governor had decided that all land should be worked by all able bodied persons and that all proceeds would be distributed according to each one's needs.

Needlessly to say, this didn't go over well with the workers who had to work hard to support those that didn't work and receive no additional rewards for their labors, and very soon there were fewer workers and very little produced to eat. This was our first welfare system, socialism or liberalism.

Since that system didn't work, the governor decided that each

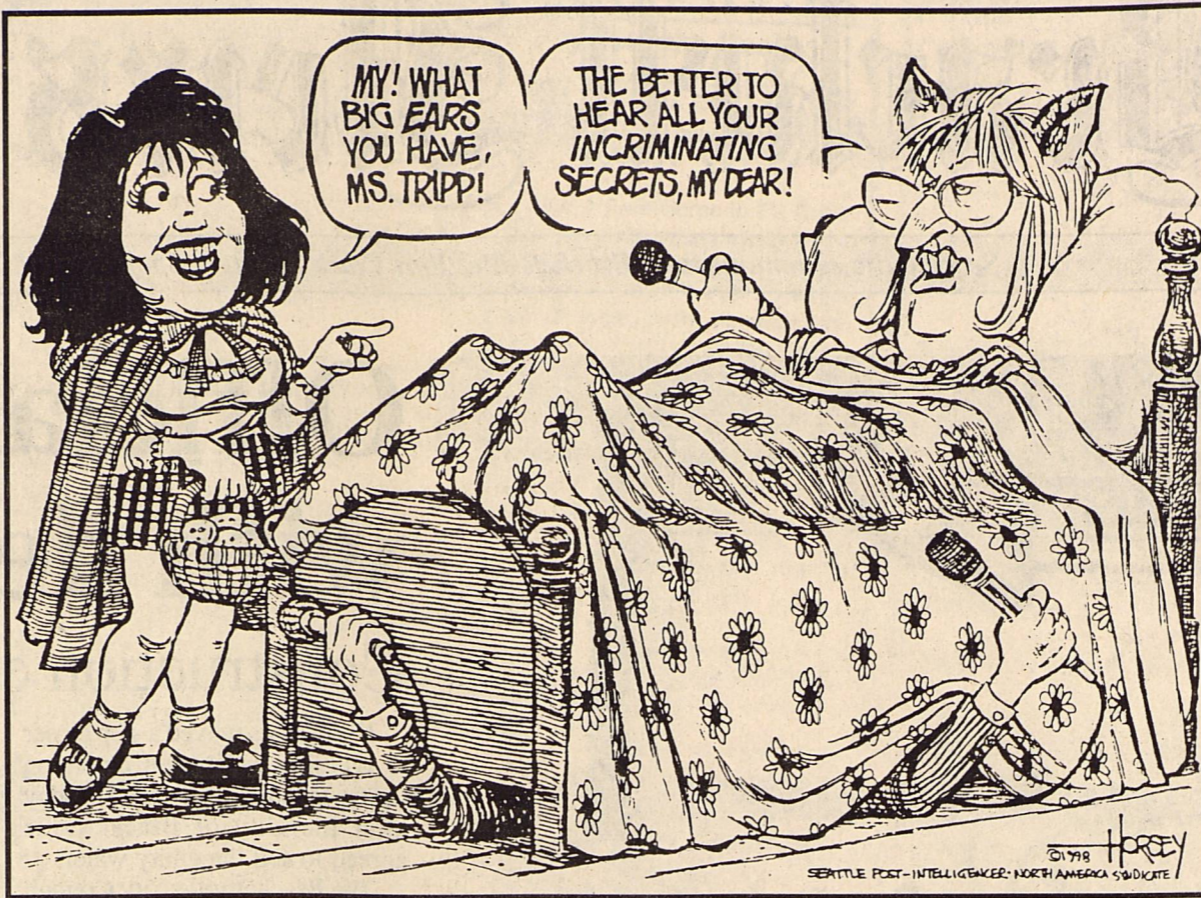
worker would be allotted his or her own plot of land to do with what they desired. Then those that worked could eat what they produced and with any excess, trade with the Indians, sell or give to those in need. Here is where capitalism came into being.

Capitalism and the freedom to do as one wants is what has made this the greatest country in the world. It has withstood the test of time while many socialist countries are going broke and looking to us to bail them out.

I would only hope that one day the liberals in our government would take a lesson from history and other countries to see that when they give somebody something for free, it's not free, with it they destroy people's dignity.

Welfare and charity is great for the really needy, it should be voluntary. But to create a society where people expect the government to take care of their every need will eventually destroy our freedom. Think about this at the next election.

Roland Boysen



But I could be wrong

By Chuck Hall

And have a good day

I was reminded today of an old saying: "We can complain because rose bushes have thorns, or we can be thankful because thorn bushes have roses."

Let's keep our eye on the ball, OK? Let's remember that when life hands us lemons, make some lemonade.

No one said the road of life wouldn't have bumps. Sure you've had a bad day. So have I. Get over it. Turn the page and go on. No whining allowed.

Nobody wants to hear your sniveling. Suck it up. Smell the roses. No, better still, plant some roses.

Live your life as though there were no tomorrow. There might not be. Live your life to the fullest, with every nerve and fiber in your entire body. And love with all of your heart and soul! Don't be content to watch from the sidelines!

Somehow this sounds familiar. I've probably written it all before in a previous article. Oh well, I needed to write it again. I needed to read it again. But I could be wrong.

Community shows its Christmas spirit

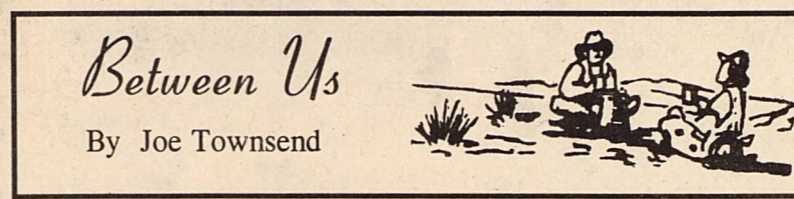
It is thrilling and exhilarating to see the enthusiastic celebration of the Christmas season.

As I drove around and saw the way so very many people have decorated their homes, it was thrilling.

Never have I seen such elaborate displays both in Brackettville and Fort Clark. This shows the enthusiasm with which so many people commemorate the birth of Jesus in Bethlehem.

The emphasis and special programs in the churches, while expected is nevertheless wonderful to note.

The community celebration



Between Us

By Joe Townsend

hosted by the city this Sunday is a fine highlight of the season. The Christmas basket program is a fine adjunct to other festivities.

It's a real joy to observe all the activities, but an even greater joy to participate. Kudos are due to all who are making this Christmas season outstanding.

To see all the emphasis on the celebration of the birth of Jesus

Christ gives recognition to what his coming means and has meant to the world.

Nothing but sadness can epitomize the feeling to all whose warped minds and stubborn hearts refuse to allow them the full joys of Christmas and the blessings concomitant in following Jesus Christ, the redeemer of all who trust him.

Remember the true meaning of Christmas

By Steven R. LaMascus
Contributing Writer

You can sure tell that Christmas is near. Everywhere you go you see decorations, brightly colored lights, Santas, reindeer, fake snow, gifts wrapped in gaily colored shiny paper - and sale signs:

"Giant X-MAS SALE - 25% off selected merchandise."

"Shop YMART for all your X-MAS gifts."

I have an idea! Let's get all the businesses in the United States to have a sale where nothing is marked down and 25 percent of the gross goes to the Red Cross or Salvation Army. The stores would still make the same percentage. Right?

I personally hate the use of "X-Mas" for Christmas. It is totally meaningless and lessens the meaning of the season. I further detest the overt commercialization of the most holy of times.

The meaning of Christmas has been lost, abandoned in favor of blatant profit making, greed and avarice. This is a travesty, not to mention an affront to God.

About 2000 years ago, a baby was born to a Jewish girl. She was betrothed to a young man, but they had not yet consummated their marriage.

She was a virgin, or so he thought. Then when he found she was pregnant he was shocked. He didn't know what to do. At first, he thought about divorcing her. Being a nice guy, he would do so quietly to preserve as much of her dignity and his honor as possible. That seemed to be the only solution.

Then he had a dream. In his dream, an angel came to him to explain that his wife, Mary was her name, had not been unfaithful. In fact, she had found such favor with his God, the God of all creation that she had been chosen from among all her people to be the mother of the Messiah, the Savior.

This was to be a birth like no other. It was not of man, but of God, a holy miracle of virgin birth. His wife would give birth to God's son and they would name him Jesus. He would be Immanuel, which means "God with us."

I'm sure Joseph, Mary's husband, was incredulous. I certainly would have been. But he accepted that he and his wife had been chosen by God and determined to do what God asked.

Even Mary was awestruck. She went to see one

of her relatives, who was also pregnant (with a child that would grow up to be John the Baptist). Mary told her story and they both rejoiced. Who wouldn't?

It is apparent that neither Mary nor her cousin knew what kind of joy and pain they would experience as the result of their blessings.

About that same time, the Roman emperor decided he wanted to know how many people he had under his rule so he called for a census. He ordered all Israelites to return to their home towns to be counted.

Joseph and Mary obediently undertook the trek to Bethlehem. Unfortunately, when they arrived, they discovered all the hotels were full and were forced to take shelter in a stable. It was no Holiday Inn, but it was shelter and, under the circumstances, they were happy to have it. It looked like Mary was going into labor.

In due time the baby was born. They had no baby clothes so they wrapped the baby in rags and laid him in the hay manger the animals ate from. What an inauspicious beginning. The Savior of the world, the Messiah, God in human form spent his first night as a human baby in a horse feeder.

We don't know much about Jesus' early life. Some scholars think Joseph died when Jesus was a teenager. We are given a glimpse or two in the New Testament, but primarily we pick up the story again when Jesus is about 33. His ministry lasts approximately three and a half years.

Isn't that miraculous? In just over three years, a man who was born in a barn brought us hope of eternal life and changed the world for all time.

That is what Christmas means - not fancy gifts, not toys, or clothes, or fake pine trees decorated with cheap lights and glass ornaments. It does not mean some fat guy in a red flannel suit driving a team of flying venison.

It means the birth of salvation. It means the death of sin. It means the redemption of the world. It means the birth of the most important man in the history of the universe. It means life, death, and resurrection.

So when you give gifts this Christmas, and as you open yours, remember what they commemorate. Remember that cold winter night 2,000 years ago when the very heavens gave thanks to God for the birth of the King. And then say a prayer for the ultimate gift - the only son of God.

Tax Tips

By Roland Boysen

Here are a couple of new options for you teachers covered by 403b plans and other employees covered by 401k or other employer pension plans.

You can now make a \$2000 tax deductible IRA contribution for a non-employed spouse or each can make a \$2000 contribution to a non-deductible ROTH IRA.

Since this one is not deductible, the advantage comes later - all earnings are never taxable, even when you withdraw the funds. You must leave funds in at least five years and be 59 1/2 years old to avoid early withdrawal penalties. There are a few exceptions to this rule.

If you think you can retire on Social Security, even if Congress can keep it alive that long, forget about that. Plan now.

When the number of retirees gets close to the number of workers, can you imagine how much FICA they will have to pay to support their grandparents?

Also consider putting \$500 into your 7-year-old child's Educational IRA, 11 payments by age 18 at 10 percent earnings equals \$9,260 for college. If this child has some earnings he or she can put into a regular IRA instead of spending it, college could be paid for.

Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

There is a fine lady here who is not flashy and outspoken, but who goes about her life calmly, quietly and persistently.

She has faced tragedies and traumas, but has never let them deter from continuing to live her life.

She spent many years as a waitress and was one of the finest. She now works in the public sector and is capable and efficient in her position.

To know her is to like her. Every word I've ever heard about her has been good. Surely Betty Moses is an Unsung Hero.

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Obituaries

Winifred 'Wynn' L. Crane

Winifred "Wynn" L. Crane of Kenai, Alaska, died Dec. 7, 1998 at Central Peninsula General Hospital. She was 73 years old.

Crane was born Aug. 16, 1925 in Palestine, Texas. She received a bachelor's degree in education.

She moved to Alaska in 1950, living in Anchorage from 1950 to 1970, then moving to Kenai to work for the Kenai Peninsula School District.

Wynn taught elementary education for more than 35 years. She retired in 1986.

Wynn is survived by her sons, Dean Crane of Kenai, Don Crane and wife Lena of Anchorage, and Doyle Crane of Anchorage; daughters, Cathy Simpson and

husband Ken of Kenia, Susan Senter and husband Thomas of Anchorage, and Ruth Brown of Kenai; her son-in-law, Sam Brown of Kenai; her sister, Caroline Gannon of Ruffinready, Calif.; her brother, W. A. "Bill" Elom and wife Jean of Taft, Calif.; 16 grandchildren and numerous in-laws.

Funeral services were held on Dec. 12 at Solid Rock Bible Camp in Soldotna, Alaska. Additional services were held at Fidler Funeral Chapels in Spearfish, S.D. Interment followed at Spearfish Cemetery.

Funeral arrangements were under the direction of Peninsula Memorial Chapels.

Aldine Hodges Edwards

Aldine Hodges Edwards of Fort Clark Springs passed away Tuesday, Dec. 15, 1998. She was born Oct. 20, 1911 in Del Rio.

Edwards was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Jack G. Edwards.

She is survived by her sons, Jack G. Edwards Jr. and wife June of Quemado, John W. Edwards of Brackettville, and Richard G. Edwards and wife Heather of San Antonio; seven grandchildren and

seven great-grandchildren.

Aldine and Jack Edwards ranched in and around Edwards County over the years and were distributors for the San Antonio Express-News in Uvalde for more than 22 years.

Funeral services will be held tomorrow at 2 p.m. at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church in Brackettville. Interment is at 4 p.m. at Hillcrest Cemetery in Uvalde.

Margaret M. 'Maggie' Walker

Margaret M. "Maggie" Walker, age 86, of Brackettville died Dec. 3, 1998.

A native Texan, Walker was born in Mercedes, Texas on Dec. 16, 1911.

After attending the University of Texas, she was a school teacher and a bookkeeper.

She married Ransom P. Walker on Oct. 31, 1932. He preceded

her in death.

Walker is survived by her daughter, Helen Marie Jones and husband John; her son, Bob Walker and wife Viva; her brother, Bedford May and wife Edith; four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

The family requests, in lieu of flowers, that donations be made to the American Cancer Society.

Sheriff's Report

Monday, Dec. 7
11:50 p.m., A Smith Security officer at Fort Clark Springs reported a car swerving on the road. He said the driver appeared to be intoxicated. Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism was dispatched to the scene. He escorted the man home.

Tuesday, Dec. 8
4:24 p.m., A 911 caller reported an accident across from the First United Methodist Church. Chief Deputy Sheriff Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene.

Thursday, Dec. 10
3:42 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that two girls were fighting at Brackett High School. Chief of Police Ron Ring was dispatched to the scene. He met with two school administrators. The two 15-year-old girls said the fight started because one accused the other of using drugs.

Friday, Dec. 11
7:19 p.m., A 911 caller reported a possible poacher. Game Warden Henry Lutz was informed of the situation.

Saturday, Dec. 12
1:34 p.m., Jesus Rodolfo Camarillo, 39, of Eagle Pass was arrested on an outstanding warrant for speeding by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Camarillo was released the same day after paying a \$113 fine.

Sunday, Dec. 13
11:33 a.m., A Brackettville man called 911 to report a domestic disturbance at a residence on W. Rufus Alley. Police Chief

Ring was dispatched to the scene. Upon arrival, he found a woman standing outside of the residence with her children. The oldest child said that his parents were arguing. He talked to both individuals and found no signs of physical abuse. Both parties said they wanted a divorce but neither was willing to leave the premises.

8:30 p.m., An anonymous caller reported shots being fired at the top of the hill on Edwards Street. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He could not locate anyone firing a gun.

Sunday, Dec. 13
10:45 p.m., A woman came into the Sheriff's Office to report a domestic dispute. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He met with a woman who said she wanted to leave the house but her husband wouldn't let her. Chism spoke with the man and he agreed to let his wife spend the night at her sister's house.

10:50 p.m., An anonymous caller reported a fight at Mario's Bar. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. Upon his arrival, he noted several vehicles leaving the premises. He went inside the bar and was informed that the individuals were out back. He found several men standing outside but none were fighting. He noticed a red mark on one man's face. The man said that someone had hit him over a pool game, but he did not know who it was. Chism closed down the bar for the rest of the night.

City employees receive 19 holidays

Continued from Page 1
days, but Ralph Gonzalez suggested adding five to the list. Gonzalez, Mary Flores and Tencha Pena voted in favor of 19 holidays, while Guidry and Wes Robinsom opposed.

"We got the TML calendar, which they send us every year, and ran through the holiday schedule," City Secretary David Luna said of the original proposal.

Gonzalez suggested adding Friday, June 18, and Monday, July 5, to the list of holidays since Juneteenth and Independence Day fell on the weekends.

"If a holiday falls on a Saturday or a Sunday, I believe we should give it to the city on a Friday or a Monday," Flores said. "Everybody celebrates the Fourth of July. Why shouldn't the city?" Guidry responded: "People will celebrate the Fourth of July on Sunday, so why should we give them Monday off? I don't see why they need an extra day off because the holiday falls on a Sunday."

Gonzalez also proposed Nov. 12, the day after Veterans Day, along with Dec. 23 and Dec. 30.

"Nov. 11, which is Veteran's Day, falls on a Thursday," he said. "I don't see anything wrong with giving them the Friday off

too. I just can't see working Thursday and then coming back to work on Friday."

Guidry proposed 10 holidays for the city.

"I strongly have a lot of faith in our employees," Flores said. "These men work hard. I have nothing against our employees taking more than 10 holidays."

"I think the employees work hard too, but I think most of the employees get a more-than-fair wage, plus they get good benefits and good vacation time," Guidry said.

"I strongly have a lot of faith in our employees. These men work hard. I have nothing against our employees taking more than 10 holidays."
Alderman Mary Flores

The alderman said the city employees on salary average over \$27,000 annually, and he said vacation time for employees ranges from one to five weeks a year.

"I think we should be trying to bring the number of holidays more in line with society," Guidry said. "It's not a slap against the employ-

ees. It has nothing to do with the employees. It has to do with responsible decision making and having the holidays for the city reflect the holidays that are taken off by the businesses in town. Why should the city and the county have more holidays than anybody else?"



The Brackett Fighting Tiger Band presented its annual Christmas concert Thursday night at the Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Warm Springs Rehabilitation Brackettville Outpatient Clinic

Physical therapy services are now available for Kinney County area residents.

Warm Springs Rehabilitation, in keeping with our 61 year history, is focused on providing Brackettville and Ft. Clark with quality Rehab Care.

The Warm Springs Rehab. Clinic is located at 201 James St. (United Medical Center Bldg.). To access our services, come by the Clinic, or call us at 830-563-2434 or 830-774-0997 (Del Rio).

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Christmas is a warm season



Dana Bonner (from left), Bailee Allen, Courtney Frerich, Whitney Hobbs and Juliann Ashabraner represented Kinney County at the District 10 4-H Food Show last week in San Antonio. Frerich placed fourth in the fruits and vegetables category with a broccoli and rice dish.

Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Briefs ...

Exchange program seeks area representatives

World Heritage, a non-profit student exchange program, is seeking local area representatives to volunteer their time and skills to provide students from several countries, including Germany, France, Mexico and the former Soviet Union, with local program support.

Community representatives plan an annual student orientation, meet with the local high schools, provide support counseling for participants, screen potential host families, and meet with the exchange students on a monthly basis. Representatives also attend an annual training workshop and report to the regional coordinator.

If you are interested in becoming involved in the World Heritage International Student Exchange Program or would like to find out what other opportunities are available, contact Terry Holtorf at (303) 694-0112 or at (800) 888-9040.

Warm Springs Center makes presentation

Members of the Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center made a presentation at the Brackettville Rotary Club luncheon meeting last Thursday, announcing that services are now available locally.

The rehabilitation center offers physical therapy, occupational therapy, speech therapy and behavioral medicine as needed. Medicare, Medicaid, workman's compensation, insurance, TRC and Champus are accepted.

Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center is located in the United Medical facility and can be obtained by physician referral. They are here on Tuesday and Thursday from 9 a.m. to noon.

Guests at last week's Rotary Club meeting were Patick Gasman, Luis Garza, Dr. Jane Baslow, John Montoya, Jim Runyon and Brian Townsend.

Poetry forum to be held tonight at Library

A poetry forum will be held on the first Thursday of every month from 6 to 7:30 at the Kinney County Library so poets can share their work and writing tips.

Those attending will learn how to find poetry publishing companies, how to copyright, how to find poetry contests, and how to create poems and collections.

"The goals of the forum are to share and do public speaking at our local schools, nursing homes and other civic community functions, and to compile and publish our own poetry collections," said Georgiana "Gigi" Montgomery Brooks.

Duplicate Bridge Club attracts eight tables

The Fort Clark Springs Duplicate Bridge Club met Tuesday at the Adult Center with eight tables playing the Mitchell Movement.

Fred and Nina Clayton won first place in the north-south division, while Mac and Marie McCandless were second, and Betty Ebert and LaVerne Schaefer finished third.

In the east-west division, Mary Edgar and Nancy O'Brien claimed first place, Joyce Bell and Bob Barnett took second, and Joan Strothers and Gerdie Trautwein were third.

Uvalde SAR Chapter hosts business meeting

The Uvalde Sons of the American Revolution Chapter No. 53 hosted a luncheon and business meeting at the Holiday Inn on Saturday. Guest speaker Perry W. Steele of Kerrville spoke of his experiences in Cuba.

Members present were from Sabinal, Reagan Wells, Uvalde and Brackettville, including Clem McKelvy and his wife Pat, and prospective member Allen McCord, with wife Clara.

Advertisement for Lions Club Thrift Shop, open Saturday 9-2. Includes the Lions Club logo and text: "Your support of the Thrift Shop helps support the Lions Club community projects."

Advertisement for BFCU's Visa, featuring a low 6.5% APR. Text includes: "Let BFCU's Visa Take You Where You Want to Be" and "BORDER FEDERAL CREDIT UNION 600 E. Gibbs St., Del Rio, TX Call (800) 580-3503"

The Christmas season brings home our children and grandchildren. As our children get older, it takes grandparents to the children.

Whether you are coming to Brackettville or visiting the children, it's a season that warms the heart. If you can't be with your family and friends this year, remember the words of a song that brought a few tears and then lots of joy to me.

"I'll be home for Christmas, you can count on me. Christmas Eve will find me where the love light gleams, I'll be home for Christmas if only in my dreams."

Your dreams can re-create Christmas memories, and you can relive those glorious days of Christmas Past.

This Christmas, I took the time to read "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens and "Christmas Memory" by Truman Capote.

The Dickens book as you recall was about Scrooge and his humbug attitude. It was about a man transformed to a caring, sharing spirit filled man.

The Capote book brings back a memory of simpler times and the making of fruitcakes at Christmastime. The cakes were given to those who had brought sunshine into the lives of a young man and an elderly lady. The book is about the gathering of pecans, saving pennies, and sharing.

Maybe you will want to read

Graphic with text: "Making a Difference" By Taylor Stephenson, BISD Superintendent. Includes icons of a computer, a person, and a lightbulb.

these classics this Christmas.

At home, our Jones Elementary Christmas program was a huge success. Teachers, accompanist Lynn McNew and music teacher Roxana Gonzalez directed a children's performance that was unequalled.

The little ones sparkled when they sang songs of Christmas. Costumes and stage props enhanced their performance. Jacquelyn Conoly's "Birthday King" was sung better than I have ever heard it sung.

The show stopper was the closer, "Silent Night," with lights out and a procession of candles. The auditorium bathed with a glow from candles and from the children's faces was filled to capacity with folks who came to have their hearts warmed by the children. We weren't disappointed.

Thanks to Mr. Schooler and the Jones Elementary staff for a great music program.

The Christmas Unity gathering will be held this Sunday night on the grounds of City Hall. It does magical things to you as you enjoy the hospitality of the city staff and volunteers.

There'll be presents for the children and cookies, coffee, hot dogs and Christmas fun. Be there, you'll be glad that you went.

Take the time to remember those who are less fortunate. A sack of toys, a Christmas ham, a warm coat, some underwear or a T-shirt for the children in our community will bring rewards to you that exceed your gift. I'll help direct your gift to those who need it, if you so choose.

Christmas food baskets are being planned and will be delivered on Wednesday. The community can be proud of this project.

The lead service club for this project is the Lions Club. I know there are many individuals and service clubs that donate food and money for the needy of Brackettville. Our student athletes will help deliver the baskets.

I'll close with a message that I found on a beautiful Christmas card: "We build our dreams for tomorrow upon our hopes for today, that our children may forever live with a song of peace in their hearts."

May all the joys of the season be yours." Have a great week!

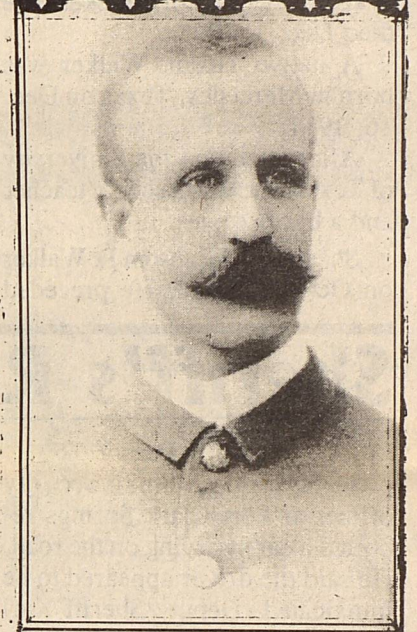


Celeste Hill, a seventh grade student at Brackett ISD, attended auditions at Hobby Middle School in San Antonio for the Region XI orchestra, sponsored by the Texas Music Educators Association. She was among 90 middle school violinists auditioning for 28 positions. Hill qualified for second violin, third chair. She participated in two days of rehearsals under the direction of conductor Randy Johnson of Alamo Heights ISD, and performed with the Region XI Middle School Orchestra at O'Conner High School in San Antonio last month.

FOOTSTEPS ECHO

The Fort Clark Diaries and Letters of Major General Francis Henry French

Courtesy of his descendants



Francis Henry French was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 27, 1857. Deeply impressed from his youth by the stirring deeds and stories told by veterans of the Civil War, he realized his ambition for a military career by entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he graduated 12th from the Class of 1879. He was assigned as 2nd Lt. of "E" Company 19th Infantry and came West. Following service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the regiment moved to Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, where Lt. French was detailed as the Regimental Adjutant. In December of 1882, the 19th Infantry was posted to Fort Clark.

At Fort Clark, on January 1, 1883, Lt. French began diaries, which he faithfully maintained for the next 30 years.

Friday, Dec. 17, 1886

Mattie's 21st birthday; may she have many very happy returns of the day. It was quite a pleasure not to go to drill this morning. Mail brought a letter from home enclosing three of my photographs and the bundle of papers, and a letter from Forsythe at Brown. My overcoat came also this morning, fits well and appears to be entirely satisfactory. Went down to the store with Hammond to buy programmes for the Monday evening hop and got a check there to pay for overcoat. Played tennis until lunch. Had French class afterwards and as successful a meeting as before. Think we can derive great benefit from this class. Went over to town afterwards to see about getting some wax for the hop room floor and to get a postal note to pay for sword knot. Went to Commissary on returning and then wrote to pay for overcoat and for sword knot. Had charge of the company at dress parade as Capt. Vance was on guard. Fowler and Geary called after dinner. Had to excuse myself at eight o'clock to escort Miss Coleman to Mrs. Guard's where the Cercle Francais had a meeting. It was not as profitable as before on account of the English which was spoken. Neither Mrs. Williams nor Kendall was present to correct mistakes and the rest of us dont know enough to do so.

Saturday, Dec. 18, 1886

Did not have to go to reveille this morning. Capt. Vance being on guard. Mail brought a letter from Lula and some retained papers from Fort Brown. Read the papers from home and went down to the Quartermaster's this morning to see about having the programmes printed for next Monday evening. After lunch looked over the papers in the Library and then commenced a letter to Mrs. Hall but did not have time to finish it before retreat. Gave Ives one of my photographs today. Intended to make a number of calls this evening but Col. Jordan, Eckerson & Ives came in and kept me until tattoo. After this

call went up to Gen. Smith's and sat there a while until Miss Coleman came in when she sang for me and we ran through the Mikado as there is some talk about getting it up here.

Sunday, Dec. 19, 1886

Attended inspection as usual this morning. Mail had nothing for me. Commenced letter home this morning but stopped to go over into Ives' house where we talked over a drive whist party that we two purpose to give between Christmas and New Year. After lunch completed letter home and commenced letter to Lula after taking a bath. That pain in my back commenced again this afternoon and bothered me a great deal until after dinner when Dr. Harris gave me a plaster that soon relieved it. He says it is only a local inflammation of the stomach. Duff came in from Del Rio this afternoon with Mrs. Godwin and Miss Howard. Called on him before retreat. Did not go to church on account of my back. Completed letter to Lula after dinner and took it down to the store to send over to town by their porter when he went home as the orderly had already gone with the post mail. Went up to Maj. Morris' to call on Mrs. Godwin and Miss Howard, but latter was out walking with Duff. Completed letter to Mrs. Hall after tattoo enclosing one of my photographs. Dr. Harris came in afterwards and sat quite a while chatting.

Monday, Dec. 20, 1886

The mail brought me a letter from home this morning. After guard mounting went over to the hop room and worked until noon cleaning it out with the aid of a fatigue party. Met Miss Howard who was playing tennis. She seems just as bright and agreeable as of old when she visited in Leavenworth during our tour there. She, Mrs. Godwin and Duff were at lunch. After lunch completed preparations at the hop room. Did little decorating as there was so few things to dress the room with. Resolved not to around to borrow curtains and things as has been done before, on account of the annoyance to all concerned. We ought to buy curtains and other things to be kept constantly in the hop room. Looked over the papers in the Library after fixing the room, and then finished attaching the pencils to the programmes. Before going to dress parade this evening spoke

to Capt. Vance about escorting a young lady, but he declined. So hereafter shall not take any advice from him in regard to such matters. After dinner went over to hop room to complete arrangements, to Miss Jordan's to engage to act as her escort, to Hammond's a moment and to Capt. Vance's. Put on citizen dress suit and took Miss Jordan over to the first full dress hop. Everything passed on pleasantly but it seemed to me that there was not as much life as at our german. Felt tired and was glad when the thing was over.

Tuesday, Dec. 21, 1886

Baby is one year old today. Hope that her life may be a long one with abundant prosperity and happiness. After guard mounting returned the flags and guidons from the post hall. Mail had nothing for me. Spent most of the morning playing billiards at the store with Geary and Harris. Took lunch with Mrs. Guard, Ives also being present when we talked over the prospective drive whist party and other entertainments. Sat a while after lunch and then came home and cleaned spots off of blouse which was becoming quite shabby. Dr. Harris took me out for a ride then which was very enjoyable. We had a long talk about matrimony. Like him exceedingly. Chaplain Merrill called after dinner and disgusted me by his talk. Speaking of cigars, he regretted that he had not sent to a friend in the custom house who would have mailed him plenty of cigars for nothing, these cigars being some seized from smugglers and never reported. In other words he would have been receiving stolen property. And he spoke of helping these men to get their positions, so that they owed him such favors. Later, called with Dr. Harris on Mrs. Eckerson & Mrs. Taylor who was not visible, and then he called on the Fowlers while I went into Lesters. Sat with Hewitt until tattoo and came near going to sleep there. Harris came in for a few minutes chat but did not stay long. Tried to read but went to sleep in the chair feeling tired after last night's hop. The Del Rio people went back today but will be in for New Year's. Capt. Vance went for a four day's hunt today leaving me in command of the company.

Wednesday, Dec. 22, 1886

Received nothing in the mail today. Commence to look for my Christmas box every day now.

Spent a few minutes in Hammond's after the mail came and then after stopping in the office a while went over to the Library and read the papers until lunch. After lunch went down with Dr. Schwartzkopf & Geary to look at some condemned horses which are to be sold tomorrow. Was thinking of getting one to drive as the Doctor thinks there is a fine one for this, but am afraid I cannot afford it just now. Wrote letter home after this and took a bath before retreat. After dinner called on Walcutt who is confined to his house by a sore foot. Dr. Harris and Capt. Weeks came and called until tattoo. After this went to Hammond's and played two games of piquet and had some fine mince pie and a glass of sherry there. Received an invitation to eat Christmas dinner at Gen. Smith's and was very happy to accept it.

Thursday, Dec. 23, 1886

Another day without a mail for me. Ives sent around the invitations for our drive whist party which is to occur one week from tonight. Must pitch in and get everything ready so as to make it a grand success. Expressman had bill of lading of my box but it has not been received yet; look for it tomorrow. Sat in Walcutt's house a while this morning and then attended an auction sale of condemned horses and mules down at the Q.M. warehouse. After lunch played tennis until near four o'clock, escorting Miss Jordan home afterwards. In the evening went over to the Library and was much pleased to read in the New York Herald that Capt. Wharton has at last been retired promoting Vernou and Ives and leaving me at the head of the list. Must write to Father to ask him to see Mr. Edgerton and request him to try to get Spencer retired. Called on Miss Jordan and at Gen. Smith's before tattoo and at Mrs. Cunningham's afterwards. Escorted Miss Coleman home from Mrs. Cunningham's. The Garretts were at the General's and leave tomorrow for their home.

Tigerettes top N.C. 29-11

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

The Brackett Tigerettes outscored the Nueces Canyon Lady Panthers 19-2 in the third quarter en route to a 29-11 victory Tuesday night.

"We got off to a real slow start, but we had a real good third quarter," Brackett coach Gregg Nowlin said. "We finished the game real strong."

LaToya Wright scored a game-high 13 points to pace the Tigerettes, who improve to 9-5 on the season.

"LaToya played well," Nowlin said. "We had a little bit of a height advantage so we tried to get the ball inside. She did a good job on the pick-and-roll with Lindsey (Brotherton)."

Wright hit a turn-around jumper with 5:15 left in the contest to give Brackett its biggest lead of the game at 29-6.

"We got off to a real slow start, but we had a real good third quarter. We finished the game real strong."

Gregg Nowlin

Jennifer Ashabranner finished with nine points for the Tigerettes, while Gracie Terrazas scored three points, and Duquesa Hunt and Tricia Robinson both scored two.

Brackett led 8-4 at halftime before exploding with a 10-point run. Wright hit a jump shot in the paint to cap the spurt, giving the Tigerettes a commanding 18-4 advantage with 5:37 remaining in the third period.

The Tigerettes are off next week for Christmas. They resume action on Dec. 29 as they face LaPryor on the road at 2:30 p.m.



Brackett's LaToya Wright (24) keeps the ball from going out of bounds Tuesday night. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

Panthers top Tigers in double overtime

By J.J. Guidry
Sports Editor

Nueces Canyon capitalized on two Brackett turnovers in the last 14 seconds Tuesday night as the Panthers edged the Tigers 45-43 in double overtime.

The Tigers (3-7) went up 43-40 with 59 seconds left on a free throw by Phillip Juarez, but the Panthers scored the last five points of the game. It was the third time Brackett led by three points in the second OT period.

In the first overtime period, Damian Toms sank a three-pointer with 1:19 left to give the Tigers a 37-34 advantage.

But Nueces Canyon's Winston Wright responded with a trey with eight second remaining to tie the contest at 37-all.

The Tigers had a chance to win the contest with free throws, but could not convert.

The Panthers led by five at 32-27 with two minutes remaining in

regulation, but the Tigers rallied to send the game into overtime.

Steven Hagler converted on a three-point play with 1:24 remaining, and then Toms hit a pull-up jumper with 48 seconds left.

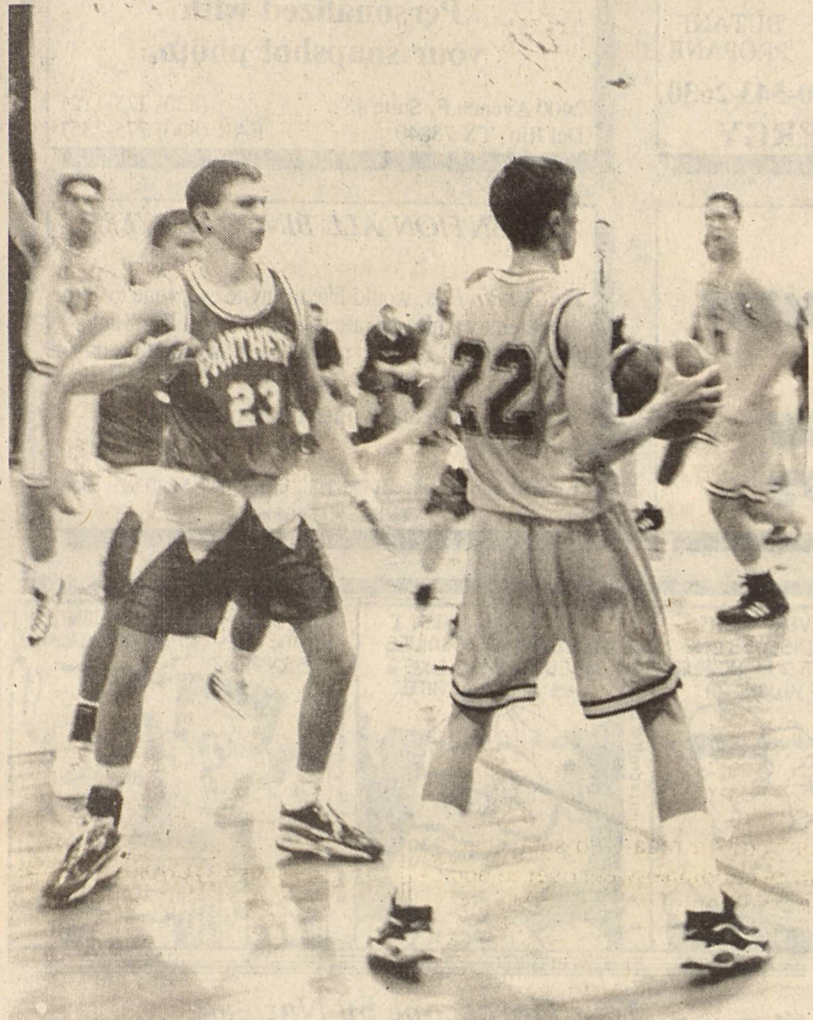
Toms paced the Tigers with 15 points. Hagler also scored in double figures with 11 points.

Phillip Juarez scored seven points for Brackett, while Schiller Hill and Coty Williams each had five.

The Tigers led 24-19 when Juarez hit a jumper in the paint with 3:17 left in the third period, but Nueces Canyon closed the quarter with a seven-point spurt to take a 26-24 lead into the fourth.

Brackett took its biggest lead of the contest with 58 seconds remaining in the opening stanza as Juarez's turn-around jumper gave the Tigers an 11-3 advantage.

Brackett will resume action on Dec. 29 with a road game in LaPryor at 4 p.m.



Brackett forward Jacob Hughes (22) looks for an opening in Nueces Canyon's defense Tuesday. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

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Briefs ...

J.V. Tigerettes pick up fifth-straight victory

The Tigerettes picked up their fifth-straight victory Tuesday with a 27-15 win over the Nueces Canyon Lady Panthers in junior varsity basketball action.

The two teams were tied at 6-all at intermission before the Tigerettes (6-1) broke the contest wide open in the third quarter as they outscored the Lady Panthers 10-0 in the period.

April Crumley and B'Ann Gomez each scored six points for Brackett, Susannah Davis had five, Carissa De los Santos chipped in four, Queta Garza and Erica Meyer each had two, and Helen Flores and Marty Payne added one apiece.

The Tigerettes resume action on Jan. 2 as they host the Leakey Lady Eagles in a 1 p.m. contest.

Del Rio A.D., football coach give resignations

Del Rio's athletic director and head football coach both announced their resignations Tuesday morning during a press conference at the San Felipe-Del Rio Consolidated Independent School District's board room.

Athletic Director Lupe DeHoyos, who has been a part of Del Rio's athletic system since 1959, will retire at the end of the school year. Joe George resigned as Del Rio's head football coach, effective immediately. He headed the Rams' football program for four years.

Strong start lifts Tigers to win over Panthers

The Brackett Tigers' junior varsity jumped out to a 12-3 lead after the opening stanza Tuesday night and never looked back as they defeated the Nueces Canyon Panthers 31-26.

Juan Flores paced the Tigers (3-1) with nine points, Sam Hunt scored eight, Eric Allen finished with seven, Tony Rubio pitched in three, and Tony Molinar and Jamie Montalvo each had two.

Brackett will travel to LaPryor on Dec. 29 to face the Bulldogs. Tip-off is scheduled for 1 p.m.

Sacred Heart rallies for win over Cubettes

Sacred Heart outscored the Brackett Cubettes 10-3 in the fourth period en route to a 24-16 victory last Thursday in seventh grade basketball action.

Ashley Smith was the Cubettes leading scorer with seven points, Allison LaMascus had six points, Stacy Terrazas added two, and Beth Ballew made a free throw.

The eighth grade Cubettes (4-0) will compete in the Nueces Canyon tournament on Jan. 2, and the seventh grade team (2-3) resumes action on Jan. 7 as they face Sacred Heart on the road.

Slow start hampers Cubs against Sacred Heart

Sacred Heart jumped out to a 26-7 first half lead as they picked up a 36-25 victory last Thursday over the Brackett Cubs' seventh grade team.

Nathan Luna scored a game-high 14 points to lead the Cubs, Matt Jackson had four points, Arnold Pinales, Jason Smith and Jesse Smith all had two, and Jose DeLeon added one.

The eighth grade Cubs (4-0) will compete in the Nueces Canyon tournament on Jan. 2, and the seventh grade team (1-3) resumes action on Jan. 7 as they face Sacred Heart on the road.

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For more information, call 775-2133, after 4:00 P.M. Tues. - Sun.. License #1-74-0606584



Super Crossword

ACROSS
1 French Sudan, today
5 Pluck
9 Fancy appetizer
13 Abbreviated address
17 Heron's kin
18 Portend
19 Men's hat style
21 Try again
22 Podiatrist's favorite dish?
24 Unlocked
25 '82 Disney film
26 "Die Fledermaus" maid
27 Gas gauge
29 European
31 Limerick's land: abbr.
32 Actress Moore
34 Why the podiatrist never married?
38 Acted as arbiter
42 Spine start
43 Tend the garden
44 Suffix with "spal"
45 PDQ, politely
47 By means of
48 Presque -, Maine
52 Like an unsuccessful

DOWN
2 podiatrist?
3 Chong
4 King Mark's bride
5 "Saint Joan" monogram
6 Most capacious
7 Eric of Monty Python
8 Choppers
9 Featherweight Willie
10 Citrus cooler
11 Pick-me-up
12 Before this time
13 Clubber Lang's portrayer
14 Cliff hanger?
15 Cherish
16 French impressionist
19 Bore no grudge
20 Confuse
23 --do-well
28 Velvet finish
30 Poem of praise
33 Stew ingredient
35 Mayberry moppet
36 Blue hue
37 Bank's backup: abbr.
38 Designer
39 North Carolina campus
40 Deer child
41 Wonka's creator
46 TV's "Real --"
49 Hoaxes
50 Carpenter's device
51 Polythymia's sister
53 Tidy
54 Horace's "Poetica"
55 Colossal
56 Rock's -- for Fears
57 Director Lubitsch
58 Year, in Yucatan
61 SHAEF commander
64 Actress
65 Wrath
67 "The -- Daba Honeymoon"
68 Join
70 Ryan's daughter
71 Stadium
72 Pottery defect
74 Hobby-shop purchase
75 Move slowly
76 Fingga's fellow
78 Sue -- Langdon
81 News org.
85 Old hands
87 Pasternak character
88 Tree spray
89 Hand-me-down
91 Forsaken
92 Actress Menken
93 Pianist Lupu
94 -- music
95 In a mischievous manner
96 Knight's quaff
102 Undwile
103 Uncovers
104 Lurie or LaPlaca
106 King Guzzle's domain
108 Famed loch
109 '87 Warren Beatty film
110 Pool shot
111 Beethoven wrote one
112 Do a double take, perhaps
113 " -- Call You Sweetheart"
114 Alex Haley work
119 Mend, as a bone
121 Top-notch purchase
122 Chalky cheese
123 Autocrat
125 --jongg
127 Justice Fortas
128 Bandleader Lewis
130 Ideologue's suffix

MAGIC MAZE

ANGLE

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

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

Adjacent Central Complementary Directed Exterior Face Interior Oblique Obtuse Plane Reflex Right Solid Spherical Straight

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
While you have attracted the fancy of a local admirer, be careful. Your new fan is not as sincere as you believe. You spend some time doing last-minute holiday shopping this weekend.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
When a lucrative deal comes your way, don't hesitate to say yes. Rely on friends and family to boost your confidence. This weekend, spend some quiet time alone before the hectic holidays really set in.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
Some are tempted to be unfaithful. The consequences could be disastrous. It's best to consider just what you have at home.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
While you're ready for a lifelong commitment, a partner might not be. Don't let that interfere with your concentration at work. Be patient, and love will rule.

LEO (July 23 to August 22)
A rekindling of romance dispels an impasse you've reached with your significant other. It's a good time to plan a quick, romantic getaway. However, wait until the holidays are over for this.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Put aside self-doubt and feel free to tout your accomplishments. You've achieved more than you think. Bigwigs subsequently reward your hard work.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
Be patient if a friend keeps you waiting for an important meeting or social affair. The friend eventually arrives with good news. Family togetherness fits the bill this weekend.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
A romantic dilemma has you confused. However, you're missing what's staring you right in the face. By week's end, all is happily resolved.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Stay behind the scenes for career advancement. It is best to put your cards on the table and be upfront with loved ones. Expression of ideas reaps rewards.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Don't allow stress to come between you and a friend. A work issue has nothing to do with that personal issue. Someone close to both of you has good advice.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
A partner's idiosyncrasies are getting under your skin. You need to be more patient and understanding. The problem is worse than you think.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Your sense of judgment when holiday shopping is off. It's best to wait a bit before making those purchases. A child is on his best behavior in anticipation of holiday goodies.

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HUNTIN' HUMOR

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 17Josie Aguirre
Dec. 17Amber Carrow
Dec. 17Josefina Estrada
Dec. 17Jack Frerich
Dec. 17Gracie Mata
Dec. 17Lorraine Osborne
Dec. 17Diane Wilson
Dec. 18Carol Benefield
Dec. 18Darwin Crane
Dec. 18Darla Fuller
Dec. 18Wayne Meyer
Dec. 18Joe Sandoval
Dec. 18Jessica Taylor
Dec. 19Charles Endris
Dec. 19Lois Endris
Dec. 19Enemencia Starzel
Dec. 19Roger Workman
Dec. 20Jean Hood
Dec. 20Juan Reyes
Dec. 20Darlene Shahan
Dec. 20Julia Terrazas
Dec. 21Clay Hunt III
Dec. 21Shelley McDaniel Jost
Dec. 22Arabala Abrego
Dec. 22Evelyn Estes
Dec. 22Don Hood
Dec. 22Richard Pena
Dec. 23Victor Abrego
Dec. 23Johnie Beard
Dec. 23Sergio Cardenas
Dec. 23Diana Flores
Dec. 23Daniel Molinar
Dec. 23Elena Molinar
Dec. 23Elidia Molinar

Where is Christianity in politics?

By Rev. Ken F. Sellers Jr.
First United Methodist Church

Politics! There was a time in this country when most of those who represented society in public office did so because of their love for this country's freedoms. The pay wasn't all that good, but the satisfaction at having served their community faithfully and well was all that was needed. Most big-time politicians today (not all mind you) - Republicans, Democrats, liberals, conservatives, whites, blacks, browns,

Jews, Christians, women, men - are lured into government office by the money, the fame, the power, or lust of another variety. The recent impeachment hearings have shown us, once again, that the agenda in Washington is partisan politics, not the good of the nation or the will of the people. The manner in which these Representatives have conducted themselves - Democrats and Republicans - reflects little Christian compassion, as they make malicious remarks about each other and about those who have come

before them as witnesses. Jesus tells us that the second great commandment is to love our neighbors as ourselves. Loving others means treating them with respect and placing them before yourself. When our thoughts of another are mean-spirited or judgmental, we have forgotten our Christian heritage. I suspect that many of those on the Judiciary Committee call themselves Christian, but one would never know by watching them.

Christmas is a time of the year which should humble us, since we are reminded that the "reason for the season" is our eternal salvation. The child whose birth we remember on Dec. 25 would probably never get elected to any political office in this country. He wouldn't give his allegiance to the Devil for greater rewards, so it isn't likely he would sell his soul to party politics! Go! And be the Humble, Loving Church! Now!

Giving is the heart of Christian faith

By Rev. Joe Townsend
Frontier Baptist Church

"For unto us a child is born - Unto us a son is given." This was the prophecy of Isaiah some 600 years before the first Christmas. This is the other side of Christmas. Jesus Christ was conceived by the Holy Spirit and born of the virgin Mary. This was the coming of the son of God. Never was there a birth like this one. This birth was announced 600 years before the event. It was looked forward to by the saints. It was a remarkable birth occurring in a stable with a manger for a crib.

It was announced by angels. It was signaled by a star. It was told by shepherds. It was marked by admiration of the wisemen. It was unique, it was a miracle birth by a virgin. This all added to one fact: "A Son is given." Never such a gift. He was the son of God. He was sent forth by God, his father. He came in "the fullness of time." Human life had become meaningless to the Romans. Morals were non-existent. The synagogues had become centers for extortion of the worshippers. Judaism was dear. He came into humanity. God clothed in human flesh. He came as a gift from God. "Unto us a Son is given."

He came to bring the joys of Christmas. He came that man might have life more abundant. He came to give himself a "ransome," that sin might be forgiven and redeemed by faith in him. God gave. Giving is the heart of the Christian faith. Giving is the secret of the joy of life. Sunday will be the celebration of Christmas at Frontier Baptist Church. A special program will be presented with a number of people participating. Worship will be followed by the Annual Christmas Dinner. All are cordially invited to worship and enjoy the blessings of the day. Come and see.

Make Christ present in the values of our world

Submitted by
St. Mary Magdalene Church

In a world similar to ours, 700 years before Christ, all the kings descended from David were worthless and weak, resulting in much immorality, idolatry, violence and hatred. In spite of this, Isaiah preserved a hope that a descendant of David - a blossom from the dead stump of Jesse - would bring justice, peace and joy for the world. Not only people, but even the animals would live in harmony with each other. We are still struggling to help bring about this kind of world. But this demands a conversion of heart for each person. Jesus Christ cannot come unless we open our hearts. Ask yourself: "What am I doing to avoid this sin such as gossip, bad language, flippant use of God's name, temper, anger, impatience, selfishness, greed, gluttony, materialism, misuse of sex?"

If we want Christmas and the beautiful prophecy of Isaiah fulfilled, we must first have Advent - a reform of our lives. If we want a glorious reign of Christ, the Messiah, we must begin with his total reign over our hearts. We must make a clear path for him right into our hearts. The greatest obstacle to this is in sin and selfishness. We must live and make present the values of Christ in our world wherever we go. This involves rooting out of our sins. St. Paul in his writings to the Romans encourages us. He says that in spite of the many crises and struggles that God's people experienced, yet they persevered in hope. Their example must encourage us. We must live in patient hope until the Lord comes in glory. Then Christ will have an open path into our hearts. You are invited to worship with us at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

Expectations come with Advent season

By Rev. Nathan Lafrenz
Our Redeemer Lutheran Church

Advent is a season of expectation and anticipation. Much of our society is full of expectation and anticipation of the coming of Santa Claus. The church tries to keep alive the real meaning of Christmas, which is of course the celebration of the birth of Jesus Christ. But if during Advent we, even with good intentions, focus solely on the coming of our Savior, we too will have missed all of the meanings of Advent. Advent, above all, is the expectation that God will fulfill his promises, all of his promises. Certainly, the promise of the Messiah is the key promise of Advent. But also during Advent

we await the second coming with the expectation that God will fulfill his promises to complete building of his Kingdom here on earth. We also trust that he will fulfill his promises of abundant life. God promises us he will never abandon us. Paul promises us that nothing can separate us from the love of God. No matter what loss we have suffered, no matter what the pain, no matter what the problem, God will fulfill his promises to us. May we as Christians trust in God's promises to us during this Advent season. I invite you to worship with us on Christmas Eve at 7 p.m. for our candlelight service. Please also join with us in a potluck at 5 p.m.

Don't make Christmas offensive

By Pastor Charollette Corey
Gateway Ministries

Christmas time not only brings pictures to mind of gift giving and receiving, but also of gift buying. Too often it becomes a time of greed and giving or taking of offense. This is just the opposite of the spirit of Christmas. Instead of leading people to Christ, too often it becomes a time of taking the name of Christ in vain. Using the name of "Christian" yet acting like a child of the devil is like using the living word of God without faith and causing it to become dead works. Christ means "The Anointed One" and "His Anointing." If you are producing offense to others or are becoming offended by others during your shopping, you are giving way to sin and setting a bad example for those who are not Christians and need Jesus. Much opportunity is given to develop patience and long suffer-

ing during the Christmas season. It is a great exercise of faith to watch over your actions during this time. The Apostle Paul said in Acts 24:16, "Herein do I exercise myself, to have always a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." The word "offense" (Greek, aproskopos pronounced ap-ros'-kop-os) means inoffensive, not leading into sin, faultless, not led into sin, void of or without offense. "The New Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary" gives the meaning as something that outrages the senses; attack, assault; displeasure; sin, misdeed; and an infraction of law: crime. Surely, to take offense or give offense meets with all these definitions. Give yourself and others the best gift of all by having "a conscience void of offence toward God, and toward men." Count it all joy! Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Readings from the book of John

By Rev. William P. Adams Sr.
St. John's Missionary Church

"Verily, verily, I say unto thee, We speak that which we do know, and testify to that which we have seen; and ye receive not our witness. "If I have told you earthly things, and ye believe not, how shall ye believe, if I tell you heavenly things? "And no man hath ascended up to heaven, but he that came down from heaven, even the Son of man who is in heaven. "And, Moses lifted up the ser-

pent in the wilderness, even so must the son of man be lifted up. "That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life. "For God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. "For God sent his Son into the world not to condemn the world, but that the world through him might be saved," John 3:11-17. Merry Christmas, Brackett News staff. Praise the Lord!

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Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting
Mission Kids grade K-5
Youth grades 6-12

Bus and Church information call church office at 563-2245
Pastor: R. D. Holloway

HEALTH

Women with epilepsy face distinct challenges

About half the estimated 200,000 people in Texas diagnosed with epilepsy are women. And as with many other chronic health problems, women and men face different challenges in dealing with the disorder characterized by any of several types of seizures. Often, women with epilepsy notice a relationship between their hormonal cycles and seizures. Deana Loe of Austin certainly did when she first experienced problems as a 17-year-old high school senior. "I seemed to have problems around my cycle," she said. "My parents didn't really know what was wrong until one day I had a seizure in front of my dad." Even after visiting doctors, Loe said she didn't get a lot of answers. Betty Flores, director of the Epilepsy Program at Texas Department of Health (TDH), says that greater awareness and education of the public and of health care providers are as essential to the treatment of the disorder as is medication, especially for women. Among the concerns for women with epilepsy are that seizures, and the medications that

control them, present several risks for those who are pregnant and their babies. In addition, women taking anti-seizure medication may have lower fertility rates and sexual dysfunction. Seizures often begin for women at puberty, adding to an already stressful time, while seizure control for postmenopausal women ranges from better to worse. And because of their longer life expectancy, women are more likely to develop epilepsy later in life than are men. Epilepsy is a general term for a variety of seizure disorders - disturbances in the electrical activity of the brain. About one person in 10 will have some type of seizure at some point in life, and one person in 100 has some form of epilepsy. In many cases of epilepsy, no cause can be found. For others, the disorder can be linked with strokes, head or birth injuries, brain tumors, poisoning such as lead poisoning, infections and heredity. About 85 percent of those with epilepsy can achieve full or partial control of their seizures. Flores emphasized that epilepsy is a chronic problem that for many

people can be successfully treated. Usually one or a combination of any of 20 anticonvulsant drugs can control seizures, but in some cases treatment includes brain surgery, electronic stimulation of the brain, or a specialized high-fat, low-carbohydrate diet. The disorder is still serious and people can die, especially from prolonged seizures. Of particular concern to many women is pregnancy and birth. "Women with epilepsy need to consult with an obstetrician or gynecologist and a neurologist before planning a family," Flores said. "Oral contraceptives have a higher failure rate in women who take anti-epileptic drugs. And pregnancy may necessitate a change in dosage and/or the type of medication. "But more than 90 percent of women with epilepsy have a normal, healthy child," she added. For Loe, getting answers to her questions and being able to learn from others has helped. She has been part of an epilepsy support group for about a year. "I would tell others now that it is good to get a second opinion and that they need to be sure that

they get all their questions answered," she said. "That's where a support group is so good." Loe said that despite the problems, she is lucky that she can drive, enjoys a good work atmosphere and has the full support of her family. TDH works with the Texas Affiliate of the Epilepsy Foundation of America and other regional epilepsy groups to help people learn more about the disorder and how it does and does not affect people. TDH's Epilepsy Program offers services to people with epilepsy who are not eligible under Medicaid or Medicare or who are uninsured or underinsured. These services, used by about 6,000 Texans in 160 counties, include diagnosis and treatment, a case management system, personal and vocational support services plus public awareness education. Some of the warning signs associated with epilepsy include: short attention blackouts that look like daydreaming; sudden falls for no reason; dazed behavior; brief inability to talk or communicate; and odd changes in the way things look, sound, smell or feel.

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88

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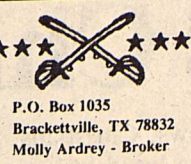
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5 acres close to town, fenced, owner financing, \$8,000.

Stop in & see the good selection of dolls, childrens books and gifts at LET'S PLAY, for the young & young at Heart!

FOR SALE

FACTORY CANCELLATIONS - STEEL Buildings!! 25x42, 30x50, 40x48, 45x70, 55x120, and 60x225. Will sell for balance owed. Delivery and financing available! Call: 1-800-211-9593, ext. 19.

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

WOLFF TANNING BEDS. Tan at home. Buy direct and save! Commercial/Home units from \$199.00. Low monthly payments. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1310.

GARAGE SALES

3 FAMILY GARAGE sale - Unit 31 Lot 10, Sofaly's res. Furniture, washer, dryer, clothes, etc. Sat., Dec. 19th, 8:00 - ?

GARAGE SALE ACROSS from Post Office. Open Fri. 1 to 6, Sat. 9 to 12. Furniture, exercise equipment, clothes and more.

TO FIND THE best garage sales in Kinney County, check The Brackett News' classifieds first!

HEALTH

MEDICARE RECIPIENTS ARE you using a nebulizer machine? Stop paying full price for Albuterol, Atrovent etc. Solutions. Medicare will pay for them. We bill Medicare for you and ship directly to your door. MED-A-SAVE 1-800-538-9849.

MOBILE HOMES

5 BEDROOM, 2 bath, A/C, all kitchen appliances, with 5 acres. Choice land. Well, pump, electricity. Call 1-888-611-7711.

CITY LOTS PERFECT for mobile homes. All utilities available, owner financed. For information regarding land and new mobile home, call 1-888-611-7711.

"FIRST TIME BUYERS Program." No credit, no problem! Qualify by phone, 1-800-756-7711.

NEW 16 WIDE, must sell, 3 bed, 2 bath, lots of extras. 219 per. mo. 1200 dn. 10.49 apr - 240 mo. Call 1-800-611-5866.

OWNER IN JAIL, make up three payments and assume loan, 210-674-1794.

"RELOCATING" TAKE OVER payments on 5 bedroom, 3 bath home, 1-800-756-7711.

"SUPER SALE" ALL 1998s must go. "Free" washer, dryer, skirting, 60" color TV with purchase of new home, 1-800-756-7711.

"TAKE OVER PAYMENTS" on 1999 18X80, 1-800-756-7711.

MOBILE HOMES

THE HUD HOME is here. Call 1-888-611-7711.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

THE MIDDLE RIO Grande Development Council is requesting proposals from certified long distance carriers eligible to provide long distance services for offices located within the following counties: Dimmit, Edwards, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde and Zavala. All proposals are to be submitted by January 15, 1999, 10:00 a.m. at the following address: Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Director of Administration, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 307 W. Nopal - P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Proposal packets may be obtained by contacting Gloria Perez at the Middle Rio Grande Development Council Central Office, VOICE or TDD telephone number 830-876-3533. 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. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

SERVICES

HILCONET INC. INTERNET Access, serving Brackettville. Get connected! Sign up with the best! Call (888) 251-3784.

DO YOU HAVE a service you would like to advertise? For the best results, advertise in The Brackett News' classifieds! Call 563-2852 today.

After-Christmas Discount Prices NOW!

You don't have to be Santa Clause to save big money at Ricks Furniture. Just take a look at these exciting values. All are ready for delivery!

OPEN TONITE 'TIL 8PM

SAVE 35%-65% THIS WEEK!

Cash Free Christmas! NO DOWN PAYMENT NO PAYMENT 'TIL MARCH '99 NO INTEREST 'TIL MARCH '99

*With Low Monthly Payments After March 1, 1999. Imagine savings of 20-52% with free delivery and low, low monthly payments. Now you may purchase up to \$825 for as low as \$25 a month, up to \$1575 for only \$50 a month, up to \$2325 for only \$75 a month. Let one of our experts show you how affordable new furniture can be! Subject to credit approval, entire stock included.

La-Z-Boy Largest Selection Starting At \$199

Office Chairs For Dad Starting At \$88 IN BOX

Sleeper Sofa Save 1/2 Price \$499 Regular Price \$1199

Cherry Curio Cabinet For Mom \$149 Lighted Cabinet With Glass Shelves

Broyhill Dining Room Server 1/2 Price \$199 Regular \$599.95 Hurry 1 Only

Lane Cedar Chest Perfect Gift For Someone Special Starting At \$399 Regular \$749.95 Hurry 1 Only

Grandfather Clocks Great Selection Starting At \$699

Carpet Your Home Starting At \$5.95 SQ. YD.

Leather Chair & Ottoman \$119 Leather Reclining Chair & Ottoman. Black in Box.

CHRISTMAS HOURS Mon-Fri 9-8, Sat 9-6 * Regular, list & original advertised price are offering prices only and may or may not have resulted in sales. Advertiser merchandise may be available at these sale prices in future sales events. Interim markdowns may have been taken on original prices, offer may end at any time.

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