

"Dear Santa: North Pole"

Submitted by
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

When I was a boy, I would write a letter to Santa every year. I would usually ask for a toy gun, a football, or some new game. I would address it to "Santa: North Pole" and send it on its way. Oh, how times have changed.

A friend's granddaughter told me privately that she was taking no chances on the mail room at the North Pole this year. She wrote her letter to Santa, then faxed copies to her grandparents.

When you take your child to the store to sit on Santa's knee, there's a good chance your "Santa Representative" was hired from a company whose whole job is to supply Santas who are guaranteed to have had drug tests and background checks.

And gone are the days of simply staring out the window until way past dark, trying to see Santa's sleigh. Now the local TV

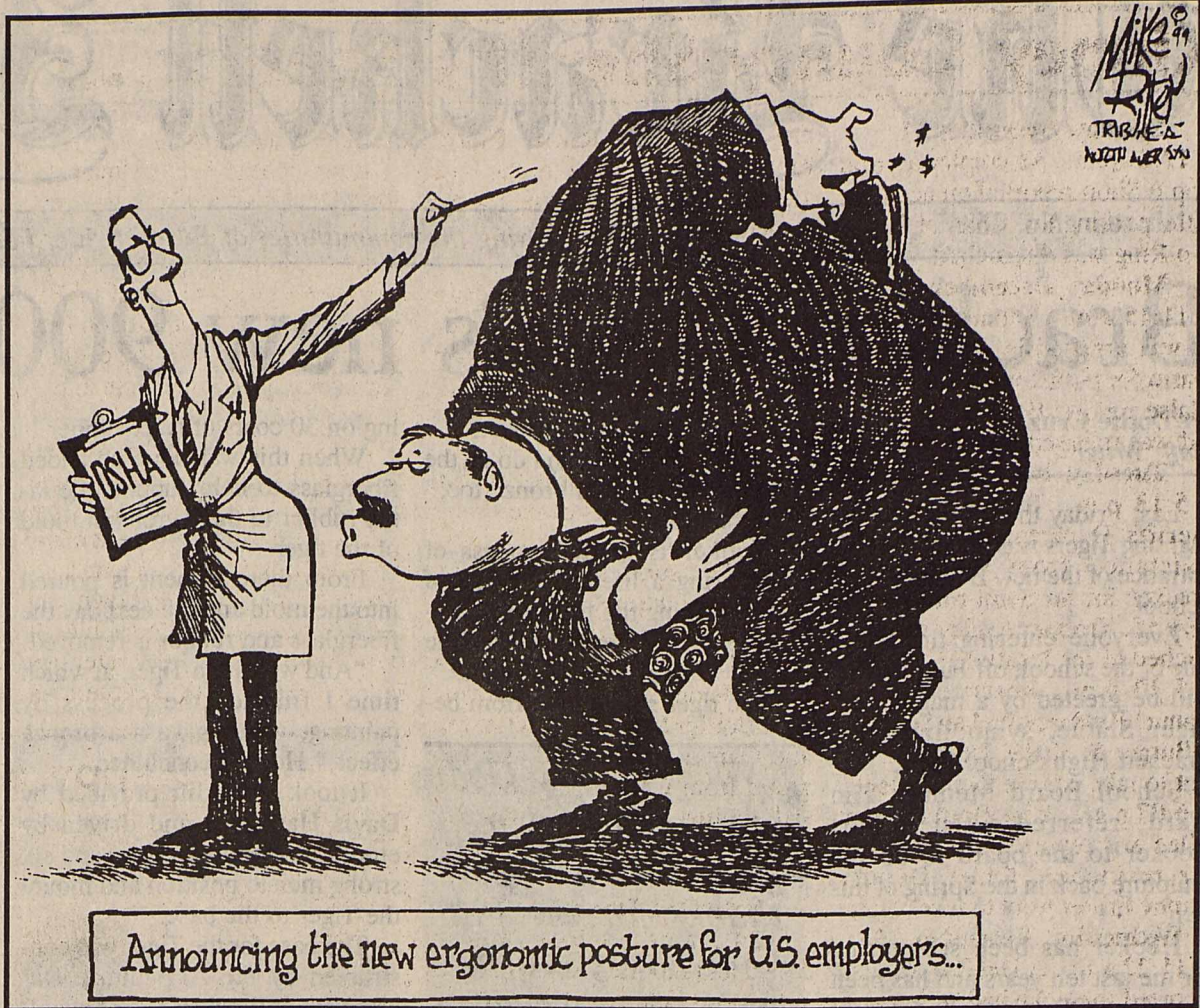
station breaks in with hourly reports, and on Christmas Eve you can log on to the Internet to see exactly what his coordinates are.

Still, no matter how much Christmas has changed, the spirit of it is as alive as it was back in the fourth century when Saint Nicholas was supposedly tossing little bags of gold down the chimneys of the poor in what's now Turkey.

Every Christmas, millions of Americans step in where St. Nick left off. They give to churches, they give to charities, and they give to their neighbors. Police departments across the nation take part in toy drives every year, distributing them to poor families right before Christmas. The young men and women of the U.S. Marine Corps spend hours in shopping malls and outside of stores, standing ready to take donations of toys as part of their "Toys for Tots" program. The Salvation

Army places Angel Trees in every corner and kettles on every sidewalk. And Project ABC matches families with other families who have children with expensive medical problems. The sponsoring families go out and buy gifts for the families they've adopted, as well as everyday things like pots and pans or canned food. Then, a couple of weeks before Christmas, the presents are delivered. Hundreds of thousands of families across our country repeat their own similar traditions every year.

The amazing thing about the generosity we see around the holidays is that somehow, every year, without rules, regulations, or government oversight, caring Americans are doing their best to see that the 20 million or so children in the United States will receive a Christmas present. That is the spirit of Christmas, and the spirit of America.



Announcing the new ergonomic posture for U.S. employers...

Tax-cut priorities The most Holy of all days

Submitted by
Kay Bailey Hutchinson

"I always like to go to Washington. It gives me a chance to visit my money." -Bob Hope.

Last summer Congress passed what I thought was a fair and balanced tax relief bill, a definite improvement for America's hard-working taxpayers.

It included some elements I view as critical. The first and most important of those was elimination of the marriage tax penalty.

Other significant tax-reduction provisions of the bill included:

- Phasing out the death tax, which is critical to maintaining our family farms, ranches and small businesses.
- Allowing those over age 50 to make catchup payments to pension plans, such as 401 (k)s, and Individual Retirement Accounts. This would benefit in particular, women who return to the workforce after raising children.
- Increasing the maximum allowable contribution to Individual Retirement Accounts to \$5000 from \$2000.
- Providing additional personal exemptions to those giving long-term care to elderly family members.

These tax cuts were possible because the federal budget is expected to show a \$3 trillion surplus over the next 10 years. Congress had devoted 75 cents of each surplus dollar to protect Social Security and Medicare, pay down the national debt and fund national defense and education priorities. The remaining 25 cents of each surplus dollar would be returned to the taxpayers who sent it to Washington.

Sadly, the President vetoed this bill and insisted on maintaining the status quo. This means that next year we will resume the fight to do away with the tax on marriage, and other counterproductive taxes, once again.

In fact, lowering taxes will be the focus of even more strenuous efforts in 2000. And eliminating the marriage tax penalty will still be at the top of my tax-relief agenda. Abolishing this tax alone would save Texans an estimated \$1 billion over the next three years.

I also believe it is important for Congress to provide broad-based tax relief for all taxpayers, so next on the agenda would come a 10 percent, across-the-board tax cut to ease the burden on all Americans.

Two other areas of tax relief priorities, as well: reducing the inheritance and capital gains taxes. The bill President Clinton vetoed would have phased out and finally repealed the inheritance, or death tax. While it generates only 1 percent of all federal tax receipts, that revenue is offset by administrative costs and receipts lost from payroll and other taxes that disappear when small businesses are destroyed by the tax and jobs are lost after a death in the family.

The capital gains tax is a bad idea as well, are: Americans pay taxes on their salaries or incomes. If they have anything left to save and invest, they are taxed at a rate as high as 20 percent on what their savings have earned. Capital gains taxes discourage the creation of new businesses and get in the way of the growth of existing enterprises. They are a drain on America's economic vitality.

This has been a brief overview of my tax-cut priorities. I would like to know what Texans think should be changed or eliminated. Please write my office with your comments and suggestions.

Our address is: Senator Kay Bailey Hutchinson - 284 Russell Senate Office Building - Washington, D.C. 20510. Attention: Tax Cuts.

We want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry, Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.
Love,
Chapo & Henry

The way I see it!
by Steven R. LaMascus

As you may have noticed by now, if you read my feeble attempts at writing, I am a very opinionated, extremely conservative individual. I was asked once, by someone who obviously didn't know me very well, if I had an opinion on whatever subject was being discussed, and the rest of the people in the room, who obviously did know me well, almost died laughing. I was once told that in the world of conservatism I am about 2 steps to the right of Attila the Hun. I am rather proud of that analogy. So it won't come as any great shock to most of you to find that I have a definite aversion to the misrepresentation or commercialization of anything patriotic or religious. I hate Fourth of July sales, Thanksgiving sales, Christmas sales. I hate the terms Turkey Day and Xmas.

What is Xmas anyway? I looked it up in my thesaurus and it wasn't there. What does it mean? It simply removes the name of the Savior of the World from the description of the most holy of holidays (the root for holidays being holy days). Xmas? Maybe it is a has-been mas? You know, an ex-mas. Now if we can just figure out what a mas is we've got it whipped.

Christmas is arguably the most holy of all days. This Christmas is the celebration of over 20 centuries of Christianity. Jesus of Nazareth was born sometime around 3 or 4 BC; no one is absolutely sure of the year of His birth. He lived just over 33 years. For the first thirty years of His life He lived as a man, a carpenter. He waited patiently for the word from His father, God, that He should begin His real work on earth. When John the Baptist began his work as "a voice calling in the wilderness, make straight the path for the Lord," Jesus knew that the time had arrived. John was the herald, announcing the arrival of the King.

In the three years that He performed miracles, healed the sick and lame, and preached the New Covenant, Jesus was constantly derided by the vast majority of the Jews. When He began His ministry He formed a core of devoted believers. When He was crucified the Jews thought their troubles were over. Jesus was buried in a borrowed tomb. The leaders of the Jews, knowing from the prophecies that the Messiah must be resurrected, and thinking that the disciples might try to steal the body and claim it was resurrected, placed guards on the tomb.

Three days later the tomb was again empty. No one could explain the sudden disappearance -

except His disciples, of course, and even they had trouble believing the truth. Thomas refused to believe it until he had touched the wounds in Jesus' hands and side. The leaders of the Jewish Temple bribed the soldiers who had been assigned to guard the grave to say that the body had been stolen while they were asleep. These were the same soldiers who had been assigned there to prevent that very thing. In fact the body had not been stolen; it had been resurrected from the dead by God.

It is now 2000 years later and that small core-group of 12 disciples has grown to over a billion. The birth of Christ the Savior, His following death on the cross, and His resurrection and ascension to the right hand of God are the very essence of the Christian faith. The glory of God is at stake here and it angers me greatly when I see the sacrilegious non-word Xmas. It is defamation and belittlement of the greatest event in human history to call this holy day Xmas. It is Christmas, the day we celebrate the birth of Christ, The Messiah, The Savior, Jesus of Nazareth, Immanuel. It is celebration of the day the earth was offered salvation. Please do not desecrate that day by referring to December 25th as Xmas.

Big Mama Sez!

Do what you can, with what you have, where you are.

The Brackett News

Member of

ADDRESS: Editorial and publication offices are located at 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Telephone: (830) 563-2852. Fax: (830) 563-9538.

PERSONNEL: Jewel Robinson, Publisher; Dimple Henry, Office Manager; Dottie Cruz, Staff Writer; Lamascus, Outdoor Writer

SUBSCRIPTION: Subscriptions and change of address should be sent to: The Brackett News, P.O. Box 1039, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Be sure to give both old and new address when requesting change. Annual subscription rates are \$20 in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas.

DEADLINES: Advertising deadline is noon Tuesday for advertising to be composed for the current publication.

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From
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Merry Christmas
From
Kinney County Wool & Mohair
W. Spring Street 830-563-2471

Kinney County Sheriff's Report ...

Sunday, December 11
12:07 p.m., An employee from Stop n Shop reported an accident in the parking lot. Chief of Police Ron Ring was dispatched.

Monday, December 12
11:15 a.m., Kenneth S. Ford, 36 was arrested by Deputy Karl Chism for public intoxication and a false report. Ford posted bond and was released the next day.

Tuesday, December 14
5:13 p.m., Edwards County Sheriffs Department requested assistance from DPS and a wrecker for an Semi-rollover on Hwy 55. Trooper Ashley was dispatched to the location.

5:20 p.m., Reserve Deputy Manuel Pena reported an accident at Burger & Shake. Unit 205 was sent to take care of the accident.

6:07 p.m., A Spofford resident called and reported a burglary at her residence. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter went to investigate.

Wednesday, December 15
11:22 a.m., A Del Rio resident reported someone had stolen a 35 caliber lever action deer rifle from his truck sometime Saturday or Sunday.

4:00 p.m., EMS reported a local resident attempted, twice, to intentionally hit the ambulance. Chief Deputy Fritter was advised.

6:05 p.m., Frankie Lumbreras, 34, from Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Lozano for three outstanding DPS warrants. Lumbreras was still being held in the Kinney County Jail, as of last Tuesday afternoon.

Thursday, December 16
8:44 a.m., A local resident reported he was having a domestic problem with his son and needed help. Police Chief Ron Ring went to the location.

8:45 a.m., A woman reported a family disturbance at her parents apartment. The brother was causing the disturbance with his sister over the care of their Mother. Police Chief Ron Ring spoke with both of them and the brother left the premises.

2:32 p.m., A traveler reported in person that a gray Ford Pick up with a welding rig was driving recklessly on Highway 90. Trooper Wylie was advised of the situation.

7:21 p.m., A local resident reported six goats on Highway 131

close to the York Ranch. Unit 4 reported the six goats on the East side were closer to the Flores Ranch. Owner was contacted.

Friday, December 17
7:30 a.m., A local woman called and reported, that Friday morning, 12 dogs were in her yard and had killed her son's pet goat. She spoke to City Manager David Luna about the situation.

7:48 a.m., Chief of Police Ron Ring went to the residence where earlier a pack of dogs allegedly killed her son's pet goat. Ring checked out the area and took photos and notified animal control.

10:45 a.m., Juan E. Chicas, 28 from Mexico was arrested by the U.S. Border Patrol Agents Garrett and Garcia and charged as a Fugitive from California. Chicas is still being held at the Kinney County Jail as of Tuesday afternoon.

Saturday, December 18
12:02 a.m., A local woman called and reported an abandoned vehicle on Fulton and Beaumont. Deputy Chism informed the owner. He knew where his vehicle was because the A-Frame had broken and said he would take care of it the next morning.

1:10 a.m., The Border Patrol checkpoint advised the Sheriffs department that a woman called them and requested they detain her 16 year old daughter if she came through the checkpoint. Because the daughter had allegedly eloped with her 18 year old boyfriend.

8:50 a.m., Travis Delbert Hoerman, 52, from Pleasanton was arrested by Trooper Slubar for DWI 1st offense. Hoerman posted bond on the 21st and was released.

9:20 a.m., A woman called and reported that someone had hit her car. Chief of Police Ron Ring went to the scene.

9:25 a.m., Chief of Police reported the accident was a hit & run. The owner came out and found the dent in her car and reported it was not there the night before. Ring took photos and filed a report.

12:37 p.m., A local woman requested assistance with removing a visitor from her house. Chief of Police Ron Ring went to the scene and spoke with the man. He said he would stay at his Mom's house because the woman was

drunk and hadn't slept.

12:48 p.m., A local man reported that his sister and her husband were arguing and he was concerned for her well being. Deputy Guidry and Chief of Police went to their residence on Fort Clark and spoke with the couple. The husband spent the night in Del Rio with his parents.

2:00 p.m., A local woman called and reported that someone had found a checkbook on West Fulton. There was one check missing. Also missing was a piano keyboard, brand name unknown and color of black and white. Chief of Police Ron Ring and Deputy Bobby Guidry searched the area

but didn't find anything else.

7:17 p.m., A woman reported hitting a deer and it was wounded. May need to be put out of his misery. Game Warden Henry Lutz was called in. He reported he couldn't find the wounded deer.

Monday, December 19
5:15 a.m., Border Patrol Checkpoint requested assistance from DPS to come to the checkpoint because they were holding two intoxicated individuals. Dispatcher called the checkpoint back to let them know the Trooper was on his way and reported back the individuals had gotten away and crossed the county line into Uvalde.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From the Service Center

Open 7:00 A.M. 563-2661 Road Service
Matt Bland

Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous New Year!

Kinney County Chamber of Commerce

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To Cherished New Friends,
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Happy Birthday

Elena, Danny & Elidia Molinar 8 years old on December 23rd.
From Brother Tony, Sister Tanya & Parents Tony & Elena Molinar.

Wishing you peace and joy at Christmas and throughout the new year.

From: Rio Grande Electric Co-op
Directors & Employees

HO, HO, HO!

Have the merriest of holidays! Greetings from
Bob & Gladys Burkepile
To all our Friends & Neighbors

Season's Greetings
from
Archie's Landscaping & Lawn Maintenance
Archie & Jill Woodson

Season's Greetings
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
SOUTHWEST SERVICE COMPANY

Tom & Anita Ertle

Ring in the Season

<p>1999 SENTRA GXE</p> <p>MSRP.....15709 Rebate.....1214 Brown Disc.....1000</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 5.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8241</p> <p>\$13,495*</p>	<p>2000 FRONTIER KING CAB PU</p> <p>MSRP.....16656 Rebate.....1161 Brown Disc.....1000</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 5.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8481</p> <p>\$14,495*</p>
<p>2000 ALTIMA</p> <p>MSRP.....18027 Rebate.....1000 Brown Disc.....1032</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 3.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8412</p> <p>\$15,995*</p>	<p>2000 DESERT RUNNER XE V6 KING CAB</p> <p>MSRP.....18627 Rebate.....832 Brown Disc.....500</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 5.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8444</p> <p>\$17,295*</p>
<p>2000 FRONTIER CREW CAB XE</p> <p>MSRP.....19792 Brown Disc.....1297</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 5.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8309</p> <p>\$18,495*</p>	<p>2000 MAXIMA GXE</p> <p>MSRP.....23269 Brown Disc.....1774</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 5.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8419</p> <p>\$21,495*</p>
<p>2000 XTERRA SE 4x2</p> <p>MSRP.....24477 Brown Disc.....1482</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 6.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8431</p> <p>\$22,995*</p>	<p>2000 PATHFINDER XE</p> <p>MSRP.....28248 Brown Disc.....3503</p> <p>APR AS LOW AS 3.9% Up to 60 Mos</p> <p>#8284</p> <p>\$24,745*</p>

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Have you seen a Javelina lately?

Guns, smoke and Campfires
by Steven R. LaMascus

When I first moved to this area in 1969 javelinas were common. I hunted on a ranch near Cline and nearly every time I went there I saw javelina. I loved the little desert pigs and became intimately familiar with them. I learned that in spite of their fearsome reputation and awesome dentition they are about as dangerous as a pet hamster. The poor little creatures are nearly blind, not very bright, and not extremely sporting to hunt with a rifle. I have never personally shot a javelina while hunting. They are just too tame and too easy a target. I wouldn't mind hunting them somewhere they were extremely numerous, but I would only do so with a bow or maybe a handgun. With a modern high-powered rifle they are about as challenging as hunting tortoises with greyhounds, and therein lies the problem.

The limit on javelina is two per year. However, there is no tag on the license for them, as there are for deer and turkeys. This means that there is no way to track whether or not a hunter has killed one or twenty. This coupled with the fact that javelina are herd animals and tend to mill around when shot at, allows unscrupulous hunt-

ers to shoot a whole herd if the desire strikes them. I have heard numerous times of someone who shot eight or ten javelinas from a single group. I have also seen lots of the little pigs lying in the ditch where someone had thrown them after deciding they didn't want to mess with cleaning or skinning them. This causes me grief and frustration. It has also decimated the local population of javelina. I have not seen a javelina in the wild in Kinney County in many years. The places where they were once common are now devoid of the animals and their little pointy-toed tracks are conspicuously absent. I am sad and the brush is less than it was because of their absence.

There is a solution to this problem, however. I suggest that the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department quit depending on the questionable honor of the average hunter to kill no more than two per year. Instead, just add the javelina to the list of game animals for which a tag is needed. Set the limit at one per year. There is no need for anyone to kill more than that and the tags would help keep the public honest. If there is a real need for population control in a particular area additional tags can be issued to the landowner. It is simply ridiculous for the State to set a limit on javelina and then give

their law enforcement officers no way to enforce the limit. It is like telling us that we can drive only fifty miles an hour and then refusing to give the Highway Patrol radar or speedometers in their cars. Then they have to depend on John Q. Public to keep his speed within legal limits. Well let me tell you, it ain't gonna happen!

The javelina is not a fur-bearer, nor a predator, nor a varmint. Neither is he a pig. He is a peccary. Our version is the collared peccary. He is a valuable citizen of the brush and desert of South Texas and as such he deserves the status and protection of any other game animal. Let's give him that protection before it is too late.

Be alert for deer on the highway

A little on the Wildlife side
by Henry Lutz

Once again it is time for the annual warning to motorists to watch for deer. Motor vehicle collisions with deer are increasing as deer movement across roads increases. Motorists should be alert for deer on both rural roads and in urban areas especially during the holiday season as more people get on the roads.

Deer often move and feed in groups. If a motorist sees one deer, they should be alert for others nearby that may not have appeared yet. It is a good idea to look in the direction the deer came from and not focus on the deer that's already crossed the road.

Deer blinded by headlights at night do not react as they normally would during the day. It is not uncommon for deer to reverse their direction or stop abruptly when approached by a fast moving vehicle.

During the breeding season, bucks chasing does are distracted


and can become victims of collisions because their natural defense mechanisms that might alert them to danger don't kick in.

It is against the law to pick up or possess the carcass of a deer or other game animal that was hit by a vehicle on a public road.

I want to end this column with a joke about hunters that was sent to me by email:

Two hunters were dragging their dead deer, by the legs, back to their truck. Another deer hunter approached pulling his along too. The lone hunter said to the pair "Hey, I don't want to tell you how to do something....but I can tell you that it's much easier if you drag the deer in the other direction. Then the antlers won't dig into the ground." After the lone hunter left, the 2 decided to try it. A little while later one hunter said to the other, "You know, that guy was right. This is a lot easier!" The other added, "Yeah, but we're getting farther away from the truck!"

Merry Christmas!



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Happy New Year

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Wishing You and Your Family a Safe and Happy Holiday Season

Christmas in Brackettville, 1999!

Making a Difference
by Taylor Stephenson

Christmas in Brackettville, 1999! For those who are here for the last Christmas of the 1900s, you know it is a special place to be. There is a warmth about the folks who live here that most communities do not have. If you have been lucky enough to live in Kinney County, you have already experienced this warmth which I'll call "community." We have a community spirit that makes you want to be a part of life here. We need to keep that love of community uppermost in our minds as we move to the new millennium.

The Community Unity celebration sponsored by the City of Brackettville is a grand example. David Luna, city employees and board members did a great job decorating the grounds with happy Christmas lights. There was Santa, and he was a busy man handing out gifts to the children of Brackettville. The choirs sang Christmas carols that lifted our spirits. I was delighted to find roasted hot dogs, marshmallows and lots of cookies. The civic organizations of Brackettville helped make this grand event a success. Thanks to the City of Brackettville for continuing a community building evening.

It will be nice to be home for Christmas. My children and grandsons are coming in from Missouri and California. There's no place like home for the holi-

days. For many years, I taught in New Mexico while my family lived in San Antonio and Midland. I can remember that special feeling in my heart as I drove home on Christmas Eve. Seems as if I would hear, "I'll be Home for Christmas" being sung as I balanced emotions between the tears of coming home to the joyful smiles of seeing my family. By the time I reached San Antonio, I too was singing the carols of Christmas at the top of my voice. So, it's a time for memories of Christmas past as well as the celebrations of Christmas present.

What will Christmas future be like in Brackettville? I predict the same spirit will dominate our community and that we will continue to live in the best place in the world to raise kids and to enjoy life. To do this, we all need to remember that we're team players in this community. What one does has an effect on all of us. We have our share of the problems, but with a team spirit, no problem is insurmountable.

The moon on December 22 is scheduled to be the brightest in 133 years. I write this before that date; so I can't verify that one. It

will be fun to watch the moon in all of its splendor announce the Winter Solstice. Our community has been decorated to the hilt! Take the time to check out the array of lights from folks who share their Christmas Spirit.

Merry Christmas. Have a grand week. I'll close with an old Irish Blessing that has been copied from an Internet Site, Heartwarmer4u:

May peace and plenty be the first

To lift the latch on your door,
And happiness be guided to your home by the candle of Christmas.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

With Special Thanks To All My Customers & Friends

Hair By Diane Diane & Brandi Wilson

Hagler All-State honorable mention

Submitted by
Bo Hagler

The Class 2A All-State high school football team was released and one of the Brackett Fighting Tigers has made the elite team. The team is voted on by The Associated Press Sports Editors based on regular season performance.

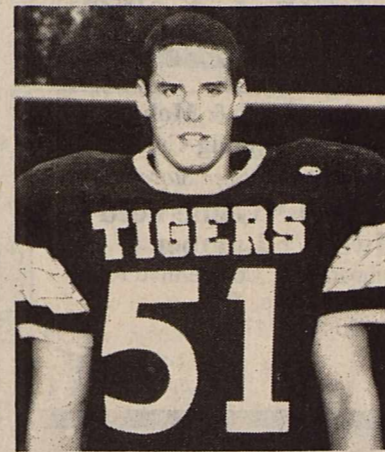
Steven Hagler, Senior at Brackett High School, was voted as an All-State Honorable Mention Defensive Lineman. Steven was also recently elected as The Most Valuable Defensive Player in the District 30-AA and made the District 30-AA First Team off-

sive lineup. Steven is an All-Southwest Texas State recipient and last year received first team all-district honors on offense and defense as well as the 1998 Male Athlete for Brackett I.S.D.

Hagler has been a member of the Tigers for the past 4 years and served as a team captain this year.

Steven is currently a member of the Brackett Tiger basketball team, National Honor Society, F.F.A. and plans to participate in track before graduating in May of 2000. He plans to attend college in the fall and pursue his football career.

Steven's proud parents are Mr. and Mrs. Rick Hagler.



Pictured above: #51 Steven Hagler, Captain of the Tigers Football Team and recipient of numerous athlete honors.

Life and times of Judge Roy Bean

by Ella Chambers
Contributing Writer

Rotarians were given an enjoyable history lesson by Ms. Lee Lincoln of the Whitehead Museum on Thursday, December 16, 1999 at their regularly scheduled luncheon.

Ms. Lincoln had chosen the life of Roy Bean as her "lesson" for the day.

The luncheon ended about twenty minutes later than usual only because most of those in attendance had meetings to attend and a job that needed to be attended to that afternoon. Ms. Lincoln kept her audience totally captivated with her candor and knowledge of Judge Roy Bean's life.

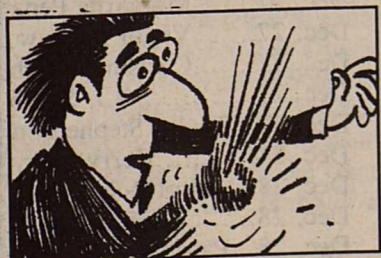
She began with his birth in Kentucky into a very poor household. Told how he and other brothers had left home at early ages to earn a living in California where another brother had migrated to earlier.

Roy seemed to have developed a fondness for beautiful women at an early age. This would cause him to leave California and several other places he lived for short periods before settling in San Antonio where he married and had several children, but again he had some circumstances that would compel him to leave San Antonio and eventually settle in Langtry where he became the very colorful and historic Law West of the Pecos.

Ms. Lincoln brought some of the historical documents and pictures the Whitehead Museum has secured relating to Judge Roy Bean.

She touched briefly on the Lily Langtry period of Judge Bean's life, dispelled some myths and affirmed other facts in the ongoing research that she is involved in.

Why he finally lived in Del Rio where he was buried along with one of his two sons, why his burial site was moved to the museum grounds and the route some of the displays have taken before finding a home at the Whitehead museum.



The musical directive *prestissimo* means in the fastest possible tempo.

First Baptist Church (SBC)
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from the
Publisher

&

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Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday		
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10 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i>	11 Dr. M. Singer <i>Ophthalmologist</i>	12	13 Dr. S. Fisher <i>Ophthalmologist</i> Dr. A. Dinesman <i>Ear/Nose&Throat</i> Dr. G. Warner <i>Urologist</i>	14 Dr. G. Warner <i>Urologist</i>		
17 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i>	18 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i>	19	20 Dr. R. Evans <i>Ophthalmologist</i> Dr. A. Dinesman <i>Ear/Nose&Throat</i> Dr. G. Warner <i>Urologist</i>	21 Dr. D. Dean <i>Neuro-Surgeon</i> Dr. G. Warner <i>Urologist</i>		
24 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i>	25 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i> Dr. K. Bloom <i>Ped. Cardiologist</i>	26	27 Dr. S. Fisher <i>Ophthalmologist</i> Dr. A. Dinesman <i>Ear/Nose&Throat</i> <i>No Urologist</i>	28 <i>No Urologist</i>		
31 <i>No Ophthalmologist</i>						

To schedule an appointment with any of the above physicians call (830) 703-1730. All physicians see patients at the Val Verde Regional Medical Center, 801 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas (new wing of the hospital). Easy access through South entrance of the building.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
From: Bruce Drilling Gordon, Julie & Kelsey

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The Del Rio Elks would like to invite everyone to come out, enjoy a pleasant afternoon, and win Big Bucks playing Bingo. Bingo is played each Saturday starting at 2:00 P.M. at the Lodge, Hwy. 90 E, San Felipe Spring, RD. and is open to the public.
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Your Horoscope by Natasha

ACROSS
1 Drinks like a dachshund
5 Faction
9 Plays for pay
13 Macadamizes
18 Modern Mesopotamia
19 Holy headgear
20 Blow
21 Shakespearian setting
22 "Swan Lake" skirt
23 Thames town
24 Rational
25 In a macabre manner
26 Start of a remark by Linda Perret
30 Stain
31 Request
32 Famed loch
33 Part 2 of remark
37 Picnic crasher?
38 Ordered mosaic
44 Fiddling emperor
45 Bathday cake?
47 Yearning
49 He'll give you a squeeze
50 Pianist Gould
52 Luau instrument
53 Vice follower
54 Swerves
56 Wapiti
57 Sicilian rumbler
59 Wyeth subject
60 Kind of soup
61 Urban problem
62 Team scream
63 Isinglass
66 Liquid
67 Part 3 of remark
73 — Krishna
74 Parka feature
75 Take in
76 Banister
77 Racetracks
79 Onion roll
81 Office plant
82 Nile
85 58 Down, for one
86 Ladd or Lane
87 — canto
88 Scout rank
90 Vane dir.
91 A bit brisk
93 Birds of prey
95 Marble feature
96 Weaver's need
98 Mellows
99 Humongous
101 Part 4 of remark
103 Beige
105 Beige
106 Prepare to shoot
107 End of remark
115 Ooze
117 Dr. — (Austin Powers' nemesis)
118 Poverty
119 TV's — "People"
121 Kitchen implement
122 Romeo or Juliet
123 "— homo"
124 Emilia's husband
125 Lama turf
126 Just playwright
34 Bear's advice
35 Arduous journey
36 "Too — Go (Steady)"
37 Fossey's friend
6 Savors the stuffing
7 Type of shoe
8 Basil or Morrison
9 Lend a hand
10 Metallic sound
11 Sharp taste
12 Rushed
13 Hammer parts
14 Put the cuffs on
15 — dire (oath)
16 Photographer's abbr.
17 For instance
21 Thin covering
27 Manhattan coll.
28 Jerry — Dyke
29 Tagore's homeland
33 "Picnic"
34 Bear's advice
35 Arduous journey
36 "Too — Go (Steady)"
37 Fossey's friend
38 "Wild Strawberries" director
39 Descend upon
41 Michener opus
42 Poet Amy
43 Atelier
46 Police acronym
47 Opera's Mario — Monaco
48 Sixth sense
51 Verne captain
53 Chariot or tricycle
55 Kind of pudding
58 Peter of reggae
59 Witch
61 Food fish
62 Some tires
64 Tenor Franco
65 Out of range
67 Difficult
68 Cigar city
69 Crossworder's need
70 Portable
71 Like Marvell's mistress
72 You can dig it
78 Cul-de —
80 Some
81 Not many
82 "A Death in the Family" author
83 Lingerie item
84 School supplies
86 Unearth
87 Marsh
89 Schubert song
92 "66 Paul Newman film
94 Car part
97 Crewel tool
99 Musical Pearl
100 Hostelry
102 Baby butter
104 Circus sights
105 Sing like Sutherland
107 Wished
108 Architect
109 Connecticut town
110 Actress
111 Mirror
112 Fairy-tale start
113 1492, e.g.
114 Wise guy?
115 Health club
116 Ford of football
120 Mauna —

SPORTS FOOTWEAR

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

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

Boots	Hiking boot	Ski boot	Spurs
Crampons	Hip boots	Sneaker	Tennis shoe
Flippers	Ice skate	Snowshoe	Water ski
Golf shoe	Roller skate	Spikes	

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A co-worker might be touchy. Stay on top of assignments. You'll be enjoying an extra-busy social life during the holidays.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You have much to do in order to complete holiday-related tasks. Tie up loose ends, and then prepare for new starts. The weekend is fun! **GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) You'll be feeling more self-assured, and that confidence will last for weeks. Proceed with your plans. Be careful in your use of credit.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) The week starts a cycle that will favor your financial interests. Be alert for new opportunities. Someone's inconsiderate remark could hurt your feelings this weekend.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Adroit diplomacy might be necessary at work. Be sensitive to the feelings of others. Communicative powers are at a peak.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Home is the center of activities, and that will continue in the weeks ahead. You'll be making an important domestic decision soon. You might find a friend moody over the weekend.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You'll be busy with last-minute preparations. The holiday period should be an extra-fun time for you. There also will be an emphasis on romance.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) You begin a period in which you'll be especially productive on the job. You'll also be getting recognition for your efforts. This weekend, sensitivity is vital.



SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Partnership interests will be emphasized in the weeks ahead. You'll be reaching an important agreement. This weekend, have holiday fun without going overboard.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Guard against making insensitive remarks. Let others know you're serious and dependable. The coming weeks will bring financial opportunities.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Good news might come from an adviser. At home, a loved one needs extra consideration. The coming weeks will bring you more than one travel opportunity.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) You'll be making connections that will prove helpful to you in business, now and in the coming weeks. This weekend, guard against self-indulgence and overspending.
YOU BORN THIS WEEK are able to communicate your ideas efficiently. You have a strong sense of responsibility and high ideals. You are also a champion of other people's rights. Developing tact would ease your path.

HOCUS-FOCUS BY HENRY BOLTIKOFF



Find at least six differences in details between panels.
Differences: 1. Santa's boots are black. 2. Building is shorter. 3. Boy's coat has pocket. 4. Car wheel is black. 5. Boy's coat.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 23.....Victor Abrego	Dec. 27.....Margarita Pena
Dec. 23.....Johnnie Beard	Dec. 27.....Victor Poppaw
Dec. 23.....Sergio Cardenas	Dec. 27.....Christina Smith
Dec. 23.....Victoria Cruz	Dec. 27.....J.J. Smith
Dec. 23.....Diana Flores	Dec. 27.....Taylor Stephenson
Dec. 23.....Daniel Molinar	Dec. 28.....Kerry Barry
Dec. 23.....Elena Molinar	Dec. 28.....Hortencia Castro
Dec. 23.....Elidia Molinar	Dec. 28.....Tiny Castro
Dec. 24.....Tom Beatty	Dec. 28.....Patricia Garberick
Dec. 24.....Sam Ferguson	Dec. 28.....Jessie Garcia
Dec. 25.....Michael Gass	Dec. 29.....Clarisa Aguirre
Dec. 26.....Dorothy Clark	Dec. 29.....Joan Boutwell
Dec. 26.....Pat Foster	Dec. 29.....Myrna Gonzalez
Dec. 26.....Pam Melancon	Dec. 29.....Judy Hooker

Only you can write the end of this story

Gateway Ministries
by Pastor Charolette Corey

The Gift was placed at the tree. It was wrapped with Love. The Giver had sought the finest, the purest, the most expensive gift of all, because his love was so deep for the one he was offering it to.

Nothing but goodness filled the package. Every facet of the gift selected was to bring joy, beauty, success and long life to the person it was selected for. He had to sell all he had to purchase The Gift, but it was worth it because he pictured the joy and freedom it would bring. He pictured the embrace he would receive when The Gift was received. With pride and eagerness he extended his arms with The Gift. He had endured everything to purchase it and now here it was, all ready.

Standing there, waiting, waiting for the person to receive and open his gift, he waited breathless for the person to receive it, but to The Giver's surprise and heart-break his gift was never received, never opened, never enjoyed by the one he loved so dearly.

Tears began to fall from his face as the person walked away, unthinking, with hardened heart, even swearing. Didn't the person realize that he had sold all he had to purchase it! It was non-returnable. It was a done deal. It was a contract that was forever settled. Because of the law, he could not go back and say, "I'm sorry, I made a mistake. The person didn't want this."

You must give back to me the price I paid. You must undo the arrangement that was made."

The pain and agony The Giver

suffered could never be touched by the hand of a doctor. Yet, he still loved the person. He left The Gift for the person, hoping one day, any day before the person died, that the person would receive his gift and open it to see the beauty of what he had bought.

Only you can write the end of this story because The Gift began wrapped in swaddling or strips of cloth, lying in a manger. The price was his life. The Gift is eternal life through receiving Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior.

Receive The Gift today. It is the best Christmas present of all and it is free to those who believe. It will bring peace and good will to you. Merry Christmas!!! Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

How great His love is toward you

Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
by Lynn McNew

Over the last six months or so that I have been writing this column, I have had many people tell me that something I have written really touched them. I'm glad this is so—my purpose has always been to express my own thoughts and feelings and in the process to possibly awaken some thoughts and feelings in others.

So today, I want to send you my Christmas greeting.

If our greatest need had been

information,

God would have sent us an educator.

If our greatest need had been technology,

God would have sent us a scientist.

If our greatest need had been money,

God would have sent us an economist.

If our greatest need had been pleasure,

God would have sent us an entertainer.

But our greatest need was for-

givenness,

So God sent us a Saviour.

This Christmas may you see and know anew just how great His love is toward you! Please spend some time during this busy week to read Luke's gospel story of Christ's birth, preferably aloud with the rest of your family.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. There will be Midnight Mass on Christmas Eve. Merry Christmas and God Bless You!

Luke 2:8-14

St. John's Missionary Church
by Rev. William P. Adams

And there were in the same country Shepherds abiding in the field, Keeping watch over their flock by night.

And, Lo an Angel of the Lord came upon them, and the glory of the Lord shone round about them; and they were sore afraid.

And the Angel said unto them. Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people.

For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior, who is Christ the Lord.

And this shall be a sign unto you; ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes, lying in a manger.

And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly host, Praising God, and saying,

Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men.

St. Luke 2:8-14. Praise the Lord.

Christmas Day Service 10 a.m., St. John's Missionary Church. Everyone is invited. 116 West Crockett Street. Also 7 p.m., nightly services December 26th - 31st.

Merry Christmas to All.



A cheery hello!

Just want to offer a sincere "Thanks" for your patronage and to wish you well!

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Wish you a Merry Christmas

& Happy New Year

Travis & Mitch Wilson

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Sunday Schedule

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Wednesday
Bible Study in sanctuary 7:00 PM
Pastor: Nathan Lafrenz 830-591-1614

Obituaries

Molly Ardrey

Molly Ardrey, 63, passed away Thursday, December 16, 1999 at her home. She was born June 19, 1936 in Huntington, West Virginia.

She lived in Marion, Ohio where she graduated from high school. She attended the University of Florida and was member of Chi Omega. She was also a performer in The Cypress Gardens Water Ski Show.

She then left Florida with her sister Dolly and went to New York City, as The Ardrey Sisters Singing and Dance Act.

Their career included being a part of The June Taylor Dancers, opening for Jackie Gleason, Dean Martin, and Jerry Lewis and appeared on the Ed Sullivan Show.

She and Harvey Kaplan were married November 28, 1960 in Manhattan, New York.

Molly was a board member of Fort Clark Springs, a member of the Kinney County Appraisal Board for two terms and attended St. Andrews Church.

Survivors include: Sons Kevin and wife Carol Kaplan of Corpus Christi; Seth and wife Molly Earl Kaplan of Brackettville. Granddaughters Hannah and Rachel of Corpus Christi. Sister Sally Ardrey of Venice, Florida. Nephew Brady Fitzgerald of Jacksonville, Florida and her Aunt Fran Randall of Brackettville. She was preceded in death by her parents Mable and Wren Ardrey.

Services were held at the St. Andrews Episcopal Church last Saturday, December 18th.

Sharon Toft Trant

Sharon Toft Trant, 68, of Brackettville, Texas passed away Monday, December 20, 1999 in Nix Hospital, San Antonio.

She was born April 21, 1931 on the Toft Ranch in Brackettville. Survivors son: Robert Lee Trant, Jr. and wife Debbie, Brackettville. Daughter: Kimberly Trant Ilse & husband, Dudley, of Uvalde. Grandchildren: Derek & Brandon Hale, Uvalde; Ashley Ilse, Uvalde. Sister: Janice Mendive & husband, Larry of Arlington. Several nieces and nephews. Preceded in death by her husband, Robert Lee Trant, Sr.; and parents, Harold & Wilhemina Toft.

Memorials may be made to St. Andrews Episcopal Church or the charity of your choice.

Services were held last Wednesday, at St. Andrews Episcopal Church.

Eleonora Frerich

Eleonora M. Frerich, 89, of Brackettville, Texas passed away Sunday, December 19, 1999 in Uvalde Memorial Hospital.

She was born May 5, 1910 in New Braunfels, Texas. Survivors are her son, Jack Frerich & wife Gladys of Brackettville. Grandchildren, Charles Michael Frerich of Brackettville, & Bonnie Marie Kincaide & husband Tim of Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. Great-

grandchild, Daylon Miller of Oklahoma City. Numerous nieces, nephews and cousins also survive. Preceded in death by her husband Leonard Frerich & son James Frerich.

Funeral services were held Wednesday at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

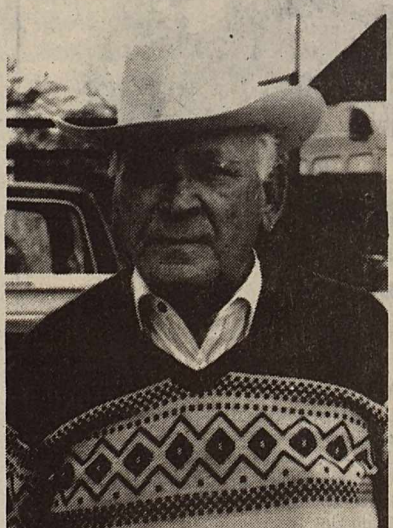
Pallbearers were Charles Michael Frerich, Tim Kincaide, James Voss, Tony Frerich, Raymond Frerich & John Frerich.

G. C. Talamantez

G. C. Talamantez, age 92, passed away Tuesday, December 21, 1999 in Uvalde.

G.C. was born January 12, 1907 in Brackettville. He is survived by his wife of 71 years, Elena S. Talamantez and eight children. Sons: John and wife Mary Jane Talamantez of Brackettville; Richard and wife Lydia Talamantez of San Antonio; Filimon and wife Lily Talamantez of Pecos and Henry and wife Pam Talamantez of Abbott, Texas. Daughters: Sue Freeman and Connie Freeman both of Brackettville, Andrea Davalos and husband Frank of San Antonio and Sylvia Skipper of Las Vegas, Nevada. He is also survived by 5 generations of children and grandchildren.

G.C. was County Commissioner for 33 years. He also took over his Father's shearing crew for the same amount of time.



G. C. Talamantez

Visitation will be at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church today at 6 pm, Rosary will follow at 7. Funeral services will be Friday, December 24th, 2 pm, at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church, burial will follow at Brackettville Cemetery.

Thank-You

Saturday the 18th of December the Las Moras Hispanic Organization delivered sixty-one Christmas Baskets to citizens of Brackettville and Spofford.

We would like to thank the following Organizations and the individuals who made this possible. Ft. Clark Men's Golf Club, Ann Malin, Bob and Joyce Williams, Kinney County Chamber of Commerce, Brackett Border Patrol Welfare and Recreation Assn., Seminole Indian Scouts Assn., Dick and Norma Reivitt, Betty B. Schlatterer, Fort Clark Arts Club, Newell and Jo Ann Mayberry, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, Rotary Club, and Brackett ISD.

The Las Moras Hispanic Organization is very appreciative of all who contributed to this program

To the Citizens of Brackettville, Spofford and Ft. Clark, We Wish You All A Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year.

The Las Moras Hispanic Organization

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year From the "Tamale Kid!"

For the local news that's important to you, subscribe to The Brackett News. Call 563-2852 today!

Welcome!
Church of Christ
808 N. Ann 563-2616
Sunday A.M., 9:30 Classes - 10:30 Worship
Sunday P.M. 1:30
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

We're probably not on your Christmas list.

Most people prefer not to think of a hospital during the holidays. But, some will have to. There will be injuries and illnesses...and babies will be born.

At Uvalde Memorial Hospital, over the 24 hours of both Christmas Day and New Year's Day, 350 dedicated people will be doing just what we do every day, just in case you need us! Some of us will celebrate early with our own families, and some late, so we will be here should the need arise. Some of you won't think about us at all because you'll just know we're here.

And that makes us very happy!

Service is Our Mission

"Well" wishes from the Board of Directors, Medical Staff, Auxiliary and Employees of Uvalde Memorial Hospital.

"May you and your loved ones be blessed with happiness and good health the whole year through!"

UVALDE MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

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