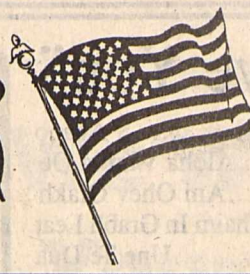


The Brackett News



This issue is dedicated in Memory of Joe Townsend

12th year, No. 1

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

14 vie for 6 board seats

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

The March, Fort Clark Springs Association Board of Directors election has 14 candidates vying for 6 places.

The only board member whose place is not up for election is Elizabeth (Betty) Gibbs.

Due to resignations of three board members in the last year, the number of places up for election is unusually high. The replacements that were appointed by the Board may only serve until the next annual election.

Chambers and Senne were appointed to replace Bill Kelly and Bob Moore. Kelly was elected in March '98 and Moore was elected in March '99. In June '99 the residing President George Cowart resigned. Cowart was elected March '98 after serving the previous year as a replacement for Mary Mitchell.

3,866 ballots were mailed out February 4th to members. Members who have more than one membership were sent a ballot for each membership.

The following names of candidates are listed in the order as they appear on the ballot: Shirley Hadsell, Carol Miller, David Gonzales, Russell Williams, Glen White, Herb Senne, Jack

Simpson, George Post, Milo G. White, John A. "Jack" Taunt, Ella Mae Chambers, Harry S. Jones, Charles "Chuck" Taravella and Rudolf V. "Rudy" Brenk.

Residing President Robert Burkepile, Secretary Don Parks and board member Jack Workman are not seeking re-election. Though many reasons were stated, overall all three have decided to pursue other interests.

"I'm tired and I feel I have put in three years of my life into the area around here for that and I decided I will just back off and do things I want to do now," said Burkepile.

"I spent many hours working for and with the board. For a long time there we were having three and four hour meetings, sometimes twice a week," added Burkepile. "It got to the point where it was tiring but I did enjoy it and I still do enjoy a lot of it being there."

"I just didn't chose to run this year, I have other things I want to do. So I decided to use my time otherwise," said Parks.

"I have put in a year, I thought I was elected for three years and then possibly when someone resigned and it was a three year seat, I thought I should have been moved up," said Workman. "But I wasn't, so I decided to back some

of the others that are running this year."

"This year I have a heavy set schedule and especially this summer back in Oregon, I might do it next year," added Workman.

Election of board members are normally staggered over a three year period for three year terms.

"It's set up and normally should be if everybody serves out their terms, two vacancies one year, two vacancies the next year and the third year there would be three vacancies," explained Genell Hobbs Executive Secretary for Fort Clark Springs Administration.

Because of this there will be three different lengths of terms for the incoming directors.

Three places will be for three year terms, one place for a two year term and two places for a one year term. The three candidates who receive the most votes will have three year terms, the next highest will receive a two year term and the next two will receive one year terms.

Election results will be announced at the Annual Meeting scheduled for 10:00 a.m., Saturday, March 25, 2000. If weather permits it will be held at the Amphitheater followed by a noontime barbecue at the swim park.

Winners of the 4 gun giveaway



Pictured from left: Top row Charlie Causey, Harry White, Manuel Pena (Wildlife Technician) and Mark Bland (Wildlife Technician). Bottom row: Stan Conolly and Tony Frerich.

The Kinney County Wildlife Damage Management Association would like to congratulate the four winners of the rifle giveaway.

Harry White, Charlie Causey,

Mickey Phelan and Jerry Steves were the winners in the four different categories of the rifle giveaway. We would also like to thank everyone who participated in the

gun giveaway. Your help made this event a success.

Our Wildlife Technicians have a never ending task of managing predators in Kinney County. We support them and commend them for all their hard work. The gun giveaway brought awareness to our technicians and the vital role they have in our community.

We would also like to thank our County Agent, Robert Elledge, for his guidance and the Texas Sheep and Goat Raisers Association for their financial support. This event has created goodwill and was deemed a success this year.

The four-gun giveaway sponsored by our Kinney County Wildlife Damage Management Association will become an annual event for residents and hunters in Kinney County.

For more information about the Kinney County Wildlife Damage Management Association call 563-2929. The Directors of KCWDMA.

Simpton speaks of Fire at Masonic Lodge future water planning proves to be false alarm

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club met for lunch Thursday, January 28 and heard Mr. Jerry Simpton, Executive Vice President of the Del Rio National Bank in Del Rio, speak about Water Planning as a member of the Water Planning Board representing one of the 16 regions in the state involved in this task. Mr. Simpton is in the banking business but explained that he graduated from Texas A&M with a degree in hydrologic engineering and because of this, has been involved during his career in areas having to do with water.

Senate Bill 1, passed the state legislature as a result of the 1996 drought. It is designed to provide a state water plan which will assure that water is available in times of drought. The state was divided into 16 regions. Each of these regions were assigned the task of assessing its locality in terms of understanding where its source of water is and what resources it can fall back on when the supply is low. Plans must be developed to

provide adequate water based on the drought of record and look to the future; therefore it is to be updated every five years.

The plans take into account the projected growth for Texas. The state presently has a population of 19 million. By the year 2050, the state projects to have 36 million people. Centers of economic base will experience the heaviest growth. What will the problems be in terms of water supply, and how can we plan to solve them when they occur? The state will be in charge of an overall plan which will evolve from the plans of the 16 regions. Zack Davis and Judge Herb Senne represent the Kinney County area.

S.B. 1 provided 20.5 million dollars to be allocated state-wide by dividing it among the 16 regions. The money was to be spent on consultations such as hydrologists and water resource engineers for each region. They were to examine the water sources in the area and recommend the best and least expensive resource from which water could be bought if

Continued on Page 4

By Dottie Cruz
Staff Writer

Brackett Volunteer Fire Department was called to the Las Moras Masonic Lodge Tuesday morning. Due to the smell of hot wiring and fear of a more serious situation developing.

Employees of Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center, located on the first floor of the building, became alarmed when the smell of hot wires became obvious. No smoke was ever seen.

Wednesday morning Fire Marshall Lingo Sandoval confirmed it had been a ballast for a florescent light that had burned out.

"When one of those burn out it gives off a terrible smell that makes you think there is more to it," said Sandoval.

The ballast was replaced Tuesday evening. Warm Springs Rehabilitation Center posted notices on the front and back doors that they would be closed February 9th for electrical problems.



Joe Townsend, long time Kinney County resident and pastor of Frontier Baptist Church passed away February 3th, in Del Rio. See related stories on pages 2 & 7

Ground breaking date set for new EMS building

EMS Update

By Carolyn Rutherford, EMS

There's a very important date coming up for your EMS ... February 14, 2000 at 9 a.m., Kinney County Commissioners Court and EMS will be hosting a Ground-Breaking Ceremony for the new EMS building at the site on the corner of Henderson and Ellen Streets. Everyone is invited!

Training update! Starting February 22, 2000, an EMT Intermediate Course...so far we have two Kinney County EMT's signed up for it--Michelle Rosas and Ricky Alvarado. After successfully completing this course, they will head our list of local EMS personnel who have advanced level training! We already have several Advanced EMT's from Eagle Pass and Del Rio who assist us on a regular basis. Aside from the Director, (me), Michelle and Ricky are striking out on a difficult and urgent task. They will bring needed advanced level skills to our patients. They will learn how to perform emergency airway procedures, such as endotracheal intubation (placing a tube down the windpipe) as well as initiating intravenous fluid administration (putting an IV line in place). The course will end the second week in May 2000. If you see these two folks, please congratulate them for their efforts to upgrade your EMS. In June, we plan to start an

EMT Basic course. We still need folks from Spofford, Brackettville, and the Kinney County area to join in this course. It will run about 5 to 6 months and includes rideouts in the ambulances and internships in the hospitals in Del Rio and Eagle Pass. The course is about 200 hours long and will be held in the evenings either two or three nights per week.

If you are already an EMT of any level, We Need Your Help! Please call the office at 830-563-9090 or come by and chat with us at the EMS Station at the EMS Station on Fort Clark.

Deep thanks go to the Lion's Club for the generous donation of our American Heart Association materials. These materials allow us to start the Kinney County Area American Heart Association Satellite Training Center. All of the items we'll order go toward low-cost training Cardiopulmonary Resuscitation to the public. Plans are in the works for two monthly CPR courses to be held at the EMS Station. If you want training at your location, just call us and see what can be done! Miracles happen...CPR makes some of those happen! It's all in your hands.

For Emergencies, Call 911!!! (Kinney County second unit to respond may have less than the Texas Department of Health minimum of certified personnel).

Briefs ...

K.C. Heritage Museum Open Saturday

The Kinney County Heritage Museum will be open Saturday, February 12th from 1:00 p.m. to 4:00 pm.

Confederate heroes day Luncheon

The Albert Sidney Johnston Chapter, United Daughters of the Confederacy, celebrated their annual Confederate Heroes Day with a Luncheon at Los Patios Gazebo in San Antonio on Thursday, January, 20, 2000.

Registrar Patsy Edwards had the honor of presenting a 50 year membership certificate to Janine Parker. A Cross of Military Service was presented for Colonel George Francis Rozelle, Jr. for his service in World War I. The Cross was accepted by his great-grandson Carter Schimpff, who is president of the local Children of the Confederacy Chapter.

Member Agnes Vondy of Brackettville was surprised by the group singing Happy Birthday to her. Agnes will be 91 years young in a couple of weeks.

An interesting program on "Leonidas Polk: Confederate Hero" was presented. The research had been done by Jeannie Dyer.

A delicious luncheon of crepes gazebo, fruit salad, broccoli, and tea biscuits were served to 46 members.

FCS Bridge Club

Ft. Clark Duplicate Bridge Club met February 1st with 61/2 tables in attendance.

Winners were: N/S 1. Fred and Nita Clayton 2. Blake and Jeanette Hinton and 3. Harry Jones and Rosetta Pingenton. E/W 1. Ann Legg and Evelyn Whitley 2. Molly Schroeder and Carol Benfield and 3. Gertie Trautwein and Joan Strothers.

A Call For Poems

Write a poem and win \$1,000.00 grand prize!

Hollywood's Famous Poets Society is sponsoring a new poetry contest, open to everyone. There is no entry fee, and nothing to buy.

To enter send one poem of 21 lines or less: Free Poetry Contest, 1626 N. Wilcox Ave., Suite 126, Hollywood, CA 90028. Or enter on - line at www.famouspoets.com.

"This is our big contest of the year," says Poetry Director Martha French. "We trust our prizes will encourage new poets to share their talent." The deadline for entering is February 29th, 2000.

INSIDE

- "The Champion" We will miss "Brother Joe" very much, but we believe his grandson, Brian, gave us a good guideline to follow. **Opinion/Page 2**
- From the Police Chief Many of us seem to think that it doesn't matter how or where one parks their vehicle. Almost get out of the street and shut the engine off and leave it. Wrong! **Community/Page 3**
- Making A Difference Congratulations to three band students for making first division ratings in the district held in Eagle Pass. **School/Page 5**

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How to say.... "I Love You"

I could be wrong!
By Chuck Hall

This is my Valentine's day special. You're right. I stole it. But I still think it's worth printing. And don't ask me to pronounce any of them. (OK, maybe the English one.)
English.....I Love You
Spanish.....Te Amo
French.....Je T'aime
German.....Ich Liebe Dich
Japanese.....Ai Shite Imasu
Italian.....Ti Amo
Chinese.....Wo Ai Ni
Swedish.....Jag Alskar Dig
Eskimo.....Nagligivaiget

Greek.....S' Agapo
Hawaiian..... Aloha Wau la Oe
Hebrew..... Ani Ohev Otakh
Irish..... Thaim In Grabh Leat
Albanian..... Une Te Dua
Russian..... Ya Lyublyu Tyebya
Turkish..... Seni Seviyorum
Finnish..... Mina Rakkastan Sinua
Hungarian..... Se Ret Lay
Persian..... Du Stet Daram
Maltese..... Jien Inhobbok
Catalan..... Testimo Molt
Happy Valentine's day. Now go love someone and tell 'em you love 'em. I love you. That's all I have to say. And all I need to say. But I could be wrong.

Air Force agrees to not increase bomber sorties in West Texas

Submitted by
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, confirmed today that the Air Force has agreed to not increase the number of bomber training sorties over West Texas.

"I made it clear to the Air Force Chief of Staff that adding any additional bomber training sorties was unacceptable and unfair to my constituents. He listened, and the current proposal will not allow even one more bomber to fly over West Texas," said Bonilla.

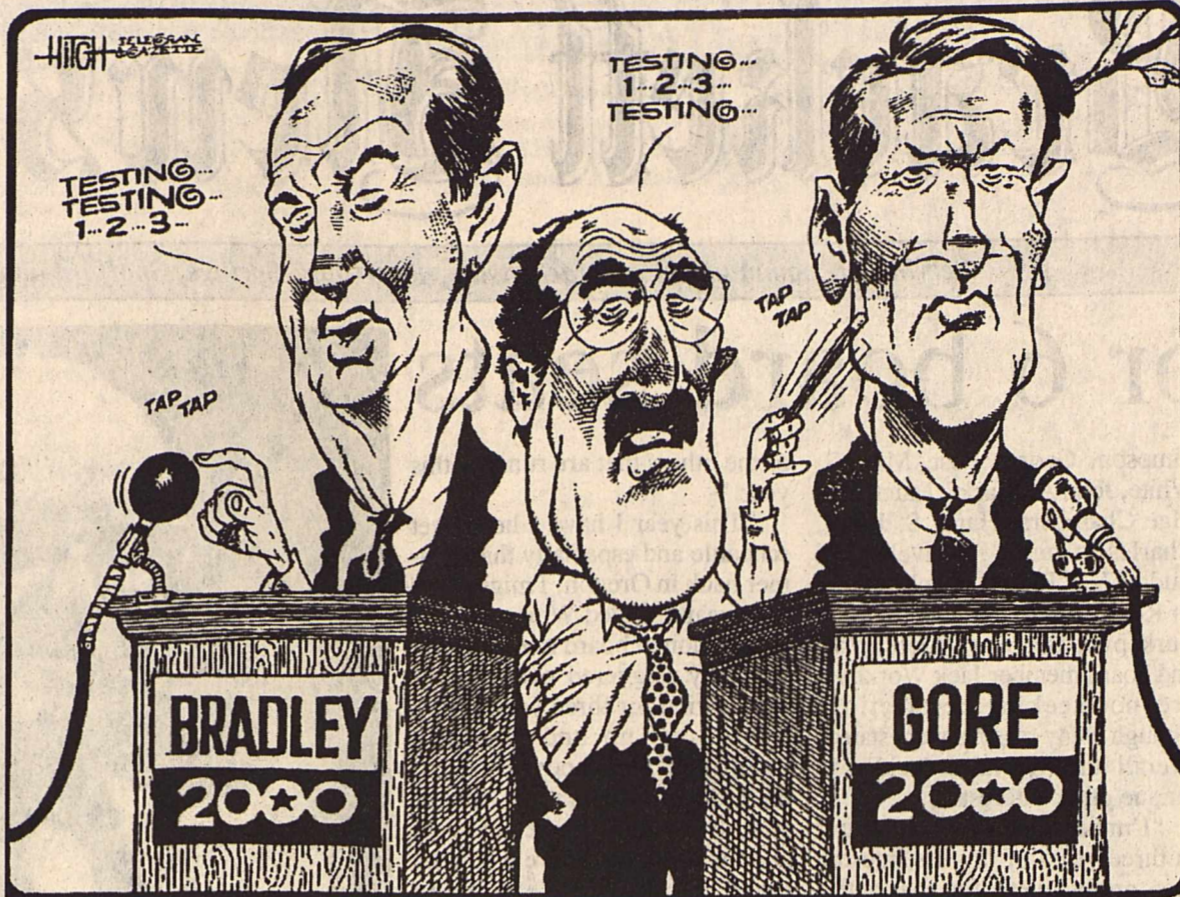
The Air Force has said that even though air space over Far West Texas will most likely be used for combat training, the number of bomber training flights will not be increased. Instead, more men and women will be trained on each bomber training

flight, therefore cutting down on the number of flights.

Last month, the Air Force released an RBTI (Realistic Bomber Training Initiative) proposal which called for an increase of 1,100 low level bomber training sorties over the 23rd Congressional District, represented by Bonilla.

In response to that proposal, Bonilla sent a letter to General Ryan. In the letter, Bonilla argued against the increase saying, "My constituents are already making a major contribution to military readiness by tolerating a substantial number of training sorties at this time." The letter was sent a week after a phone call Bonilla made to General Ryan to express his concerns.

The official announcement by the Air Force is expected to come next week.



Let them be tears of Joy

We at the Brackett News were saddened by the loss of Joe Townsend February 3, 2000. Townsend was a long time resident of Brackettville and pastor of Frontier Baptist Church.

Townsend had been writing for this newspaper from its inception February 9, 1989. He wrote Between Us, Unsung Hero and Frontier Baptist Church.

There has been an empty spot in the paper for a few months because, due to his illness, he was unable to write his columns.

We will miss "Brother Joe" very much, but we believe his grandson, Brian, gave us a good guideline to follow.

This eulogy was read by Brian's mother Judy at the funeral service for Townsend, February 5, 2000.

Philippians 4:4 reads: "Rejoice

in the Lord always. And again I will say, rejoice!" I am truly sorry I can't be there with you today. However, I do hope that you are rejoicing. Of course we will miss granddaddy, who was actually more like a father to me, but we must find comfort in the fact that he is where he has always wanted to be.

There should be no tears today, only deafening sounds of praise. A sound of praise so majestic it forces the hair on the back of your neck to stand at attention. A sound of praise that no doubt comes from you who have fought the good fight, just as Brother Joe has done for sixty years. He has screamed Hallelujahs from mountain tops, and he fought defeat until it was defeated. And today is our day to

bask in the joy of his victory.

No doubt, Thursday, February 3, there was a parade of glory on golden streets, as our God welcomed one of his own.

In Hebrews Chapter 12, Paul writes about running a race with perseverance, granddaddy ran that race, and Thursday, he won it.

A smile stretches from ear to ear when I imagine granddaddy getting to Heaven, and after 60 years of proclaiming the majesty of this place, realizing he wasn't even close.

You see, Thursday at 1:00 p.m., Joe Townsend, learned what being a Champion was all about.

So please, if you have to cry, let them be tears of joy, because my granddaddy, Joe Townsend, is indeed a champion.

Working to keep Farm Services Agency office

Submitted by
U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla

Washington, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Henry Bonilla, R-Texas, has written a letter to Keith Kelly, Administrator of the Farm Services Agency (FSA), asking that the FSA office in Glasscock County, Texas remain open. Kelly oversees all of the FSA offices in the United States.

The Glasscock county office primarily serves Reagan, Upton, and Glasscock counties. In 1998, 388 producers were served by the office, and \$3.289 million was paid out by the office. There are more than 2500 FSA offices in the United States.

In the letter, dated January 27, Bonilla says, "This is a medium workload office, not a small one, and the Texas State Food and Agriculture Council unanimously requested that it remain a stand-alone service center." U.S. Rep. Lamar Smith, R-Texas, also signed the letter.

The Farm Service Agency oversees farm commodity programs; farm ownership, operating and emergency loans; conservation and environmental programs; emergency and disaster assistance; domestic and international food assistance and international export credit programs.

Contact number for the FSA: Dann Stuart, Farm Service Agency (202) 690-0474

Mr. Keith Kelly Administrator -Farm Services Agency.

U.S. Department of Agriculture Washington, DC 20250-0501

Dear Administrator Kelly: We write to express our concerns about the possible closure of the Farm Services Agency (FSA) office in Glasscock County, Texas.

This is a medium workload office, not a small one, and the Texas State Food and Agriculture Council unanimously requested that it remain a stand-alone service center.

Glasscock County is 900 square miles in rural West Texas. To close this office would put an enormous strain on the producers not only in Glasscock, but also those who live in the surrounding counties.

We strongly urge that you not close the FSA office in Glasscock County.

Your Representatives

Governor
The Honorable George W. Bush
Box 12428
Austin, Texas 78711
1-800-252-9600

State Senator District 19
The Honorable Frank Madla
Texas Senate
P.O. Box 12068 Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

State Representative District 74
The Honorable Pete P. Gallego
1110 W. 10th Street
Del Rio, Texas 78840

Anger nature of the Beast

The Way I See It!
By Steven R. LaMascus

I was driving down the road the other day, coming home from work, nothing particularly on my mind. I was listening to a new gospel tape and driving on autopilot when my mind wandered to a situation I had experienced a long time ago.

It was a bad experience that put me in a great deal of danger and caused me quite a lot of psychological distress. Suddenly, for no reason at all I was angry. I went from that memory to an imagined confrontation with a stranger. I considered what I would do if I were confronted with a specific situation. I became even angrier. Then it dawned on me that I was getting angry, gripping the steering wheel tightly and grinding my teeth. There was absolutely no reason for my anger except that Satan feeds off that type of emo-

tion, and anger leaves you an easy target for Satan. I said a prayer to God to deliver me from this needless, pointless evil and the anger passed.

Satan is insidious, he is powerful, he is sneaky, he is immensely evil, and he is remorselessly tenacious. He won't give up. He is also arrogant. He tempted even the Son of Almighty God. What arrogance! But he is not brave. When confronted with God he flees. Your protection from anger is God.

Anger raises your blood pressure, causes headaches, makes you shake, and causes all kinds of bad physiological reactions. People who are always angry are much more likely to die young than mere laid back types. Angry people are often unhappy; they are confrontational, short-tempered, hard to please, rude, overbearing, often dictatorial, usually distrustful, seldom satisfied with themselves or other people. That is the nature of

the Beast.

My brother said something to me the other day that really hit home. He told me that the release of anger was a conscious decision. Sometimes you don't think about getting angry, but if you decide you will not be angry, usually you won't be. Let's explore what the Bible says about anger.

Ephesians 4:31,32 - "Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you."

And Ephesians 4:26,27 - "In your anger do not sin. Do not let the sun go down while you are still angry, and do not give the devil a foothold."

Do not confuse anger and righteous indignation. One is the work of the Holy Spirit and the other the work of Satan. Anger produces nothing good.

Wanted: A modern tax code

Submitted by
U.S. Sen. Kay Bailey Hutchison

Any student of American history knows that the only constant our country has known since its founding is change. Our free and open society is our greatest strength because it rewards those who spur changes for the better.

In contrast, bureaucracies are built upon steadfast adherence to the past.

Nowhere is this more true than within the tax code. Our economy and lives have evolved during the era of dynamic technological change that closed the 20th century, but the tax code too often lags behind.

Let's look at one example: the marriage penalty tax.

According to the U.S. Census Department, in 1940 women comprised one-quarter of the work force. By 1997, women were almost half the labor force. This significant change has reshaped our economy and culture for the bet-

ter. So, how has the tax code responded? With feet of clay.

More than ever, both partners in a married couple are working. Yet today's tax code actually punishes them. The standard deduction for single taxpayers is \$4,300. But for couples filing jointly, the standard deduction is \$7,300-\$1,300 less than if the couple were unmarried and filing separately. Half the married couples - 21 million in all - are unfairly taxed for being married. Most make less than \$50,000.

Eliminating the marriage penalty tax is one of my top priorities.

Let's take a look at another way in which the tax code must be modernized to better reflect changes in our economy and culture.

Today's law does not provide for sufficient pension planning for individuals - mostly women - who interrupt their careers to raise their families. In particular, there is no provision allowing "catching up"

payments to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRA) and employer-sponsored 401 (k) plans to cover time spent off the payroll.

Stay-at-home parents cannot accumulate as much in retirement savings as they could have had they worked outside the home. Or they must remain at work so they can keep participating in their retirement plans when their hearts tell them they would rather be at home.

That's not fair. The government's tax code ought to be encouraging people to save for retirement because Americans aren't saving enough today. According to treasury Department statistics, half of all American workers are not covered by a retirement plan.

And the participation of women in retirement plans lags behind that of men. According to a recent study, 52 percent of all women ages 25-54 participated in retirement savings plans compared to 58 percent of men the same age.

It is my goal in 2000 to close

this gap while encouraging all Americans to save more for their retirement. Under legislation I will be introducing, spouses who are in-and-out of the workforce will be able to make up payments towards retirement once they return to work after the age of 50. I will push hard for Congress to consider this legislation in 2000; a similar provision was unfortunately vetoed by President Clinton last year.

Changing the tax code to help people increase their retirement savings is important. That is why I fought hard to get the Home-maker IRA plan passed into law three years ago. The law allows stay-at-home spouses to set aside up to \$2,000 every year for retirement just like those who work outside the home have been able to do.

The tax code must be brought into the 21st century. Changing it to help American families build better retirement savings is a good start.

Big Mama Sez!



People are lonely because they build walls instead of bridges

The Brackett News

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Arts Council presents German Band

Saturday, February 19, 2000, will be an evening to remember. The Kinney County Arts Council will present Blasmusik Texas in concert at the Kinney County Civic Center. The concert will begin at 7:30 p.m. The Civic Center will be decorated in a beer garden setting and there will be room for dancing. Beer (in plastic containers) will be permitted. Soft drinks and popcorn will be sold on the premises.

Blasmusik Texas, also known as The Texas All-State German Band, is not a typical American-style concert band. Founded in July 1993, their purpose is to perform German and Alsatian-style folk music for the enjoyment of

both listeners and musicians. These volunteer musicians gather together from all parts of Texas two or three weekends a year to rehearse and play German band music. Most of the musicians also participate in more conventional community concert bands throughout the state, however serious concert band music will seldom be heard on their programs.

The Director of Blasmusik Texas is Herbert Bilhartz who also directs the Hermann Sons German Band of San Antonio. From 1973 to 1976 Herbert was director of the U.S. Army Band Europe, based in Heidelberg. The Band President is trombonist Duwain Pingnot of Plano. Duwain is also

a member of the Plano Community Band and the Frohsinn-Kapelle, a German band in Dallas. He is the cousin of the late Ben Pingnot of Fort Clark.

The Blasmusik Texas has made two tours of southern Germany and Alsace, in 1994 and 1999. They have also appeared at Wurmfest in New Braunfels for six consecutive years. The individual musicians in the organization carry a long line of credentials, Ph.D.'s to military musicians. However, their common goal in Blasmusik Texas is to provide a concert for the entertainment of the audience and to further their joy of playing.

Plan now to attend the concert Saturday, February 19, Kinney County Civic Center, 7:30 p.m. Tickets are \$5.00 and available at Brackettville Bank and Trust, Middle Rio Grande Job Center in Brackettville, any Arts Council member, or at the door. You can also phone 563-9229 for more information. This concert is partially funded with a grant from the Texas Commission on the Arts.

Parking properly

Reminder from the Police Chief
By Ron Ring

As I drive the streets of Brackettville, I never fail to see automobiles parked in haphazard fashion. Many of us seem to think that it doesn't matter how or where one parks their vehicle. All you need do is almost get out of the street and shut the engine off and leave it. Wrong!

Parking on city streets is not complicated and the rules are very easy to follow. When you choose to park your vehicle, you should first park on the proper side of the street. Unless you are on a one way street, the proper side for parking is the same side that you should be driving on. After you select a parking space, you should pull over to the curb, line your vehicle up evenly, no more than

eighteen inches away from the curb, place your transmission in park, and set the emergency brake, turn the ignition off and exit the vehicle. The above-described method of parking is the only legal method. It is illegal to park on the wrong side of the street; it is illegal to park in the middle of the street. It is illegal to park "head in". You should not park closer than ten feet to a fire hydrant or to the corner of an intersection.

Not only is it illegal to park in the middle of the street, it is also very inconvenient for other drivers. I have on occasion, seen parked vehicles blocking the street.

Parking laws are simple and easy to follow, if everyone obeys the guidelines we can all help make the city of Brackettville safer for our children and ourselves.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, January 31
6:43 p.m., Security Link reported alarms were sounding at the High School. Superintendent Taylor Stephenson was notified and found nothing out of order inside the building.

Wednesday, February 2
8:59 a.m., An employee of the Texas Department of Transportation reported cows were out on FM 1908 about 5 miles.

7:35 p.m., A 911 call directed Trooper Ashley to investigate why two ford pick ups were on the side of the road of Hwy 90 West. Vehicles could not be located.

Thursday, February 3
4:10 p.m., A local resident requested information on how to obtain the name of the owner for a "Bull" that was on his property. The owner was found and will pick up the animal

8:00 p.m., Michael Wayne Irle, 38 from San Antonio was arrested by Trooper Ashley for DWI

1st offense and was released the next day after posting a cash bond.

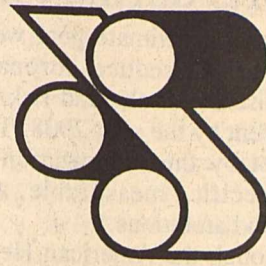
9:16 p.m., A Fort Clark Resident reported a loud T.V. and loud music coming from her neighbors house. Dispatch called security and asked them to tell the neighbors to turn down the volume.

Friday, February 4
3:50 p.m., A School Official reported a truant riding around and stating she should have been in school. Police Chief Ron Ring was notified of the situation.

7:26 p.m., A local resident reported running over a roll of wire, left on the road and scratching her car up. Chief Ring was sent to check it out.

7:27 p.m., Another local resident called and reported running over a partial roll of wire located in front of her neighbors house slightly damaging her vehicle. Neighbor didn't know who it belonged to and Chief Ring stated

Continued on Page 7



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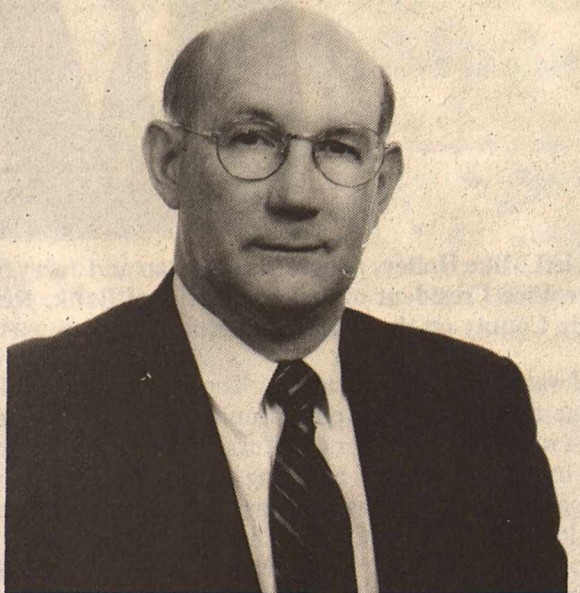
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Saving Texans: A focused direction for the new millennium

American Heart Association heightens efforts during American Heart Month
Austin-Today the American Heart Association, Texas Affiliate, launched a statewide educational campaign to help save Texans from heart attack and stroke. James "Red" Duke, M.D., Professor of Surgery at the University of Texas, Houston-Medical School, Senator Jane Nelson, Chairman of the Senate Health Committee, and Dawn Heikkila, Commissioner of the Texas Commission on State Emergency Communications were present to help unveil the association's key messages.

"For both heart attack and stroke, the American Heart Association's goal is to shorten the time between the onset of symptoms and the beginning of corrective intervention," says Dr. Duke. "Seeking prompt medical attention is critical and can be life saving. Chest pain or weakness on one side of the body may be early symptoms of a life threatening condition. Don't ignore what your body is telling you. Call 9-1-1 immediately."

Senator Nelson states "Miraculous advances in medicine have given us an unprecedented understanding about heart disease and stroke. Using that knowledge to help reduce the number of deaths from these killers in the new century is certainly a worthy goal, and I am thrilled to be part of this strategic initiative from the American Heart Association."

Heikkila added that "Beating the clock and calling 9-1-1 at the onset of symptoms of a stroke or heart attack will allow countless lives to be saved. Community edu-

cation is a critical component of fighting heart attack and stroke and I commend the American Heart Association in its efforts on this campaign. Educating the public to take full responsibility and call 9-1-1 immediately will be very helpful in saving lives."

In its 50-year history, the American Heart Association has worked hard to accomplish much in its mission of reducing disability and death from cardiovascular diseases and stroke. Over time, there have been new educational programs developed to encourage reduced risk factors and healthy life-styles for audiences of all ages and walks of life. Research has led to discoveries of new drugs, new surgical procedures, and even new ways of understanding the disease processes resulting in longer, healthier lives.

"But the fight is far from over Cardiovascular Diseases and stroke are still the No. 1 and No. 3 causes of death in the United States," says Richard W. Smalling, M.D., Ph.D., president of the American Heart Association's Texas Affiliate. "Unfortunately, stroke still continues to be the leading cause of serious, long-term disability in America."

"As a national organization, with a strong presence in our community, we have continued to grow, change and adapt to different strategies to reach our mission. However, as an influential champion of public health, we began discussion over four years ago about our direction for the 21st century," said Smalling. "The

outcome and ultimate goal were approved: to reduce coronary heart disease, stroke and risk by 25 percent by the year 2008. The goal set by the organization is time-specific, measurable, focused and ambitious."

Although the American Heart Association will continue educational programs, the association intends to shift their focus from "wellness awareness" to "wellness practice." Numerous educational program activities and educational materials are offered to address key audiences such as women, Hispanics, African Americans, seniors (55+), school children, healthcare professionals and the public in general.

The association's strategic goal is to double the number of people who will reduce risk factors such as smoking, high blood pressure, cholesterol, and physical inactivity to goal levels as established by the American Heart Association. The focus will be on reaching those who have had a previous heart attack or stroke, or have two or more risk factors.

Another strategic goal is for the association to work toward improving the chain of survival and acute care treatment. This means working to ensure that people suffering from cardiac emergencies and stroke receive treatment more quickly than ever before. Improving this access to care will happen through a campaign educat-

ing the public to recognize and respond to the early warning signs of heart attack and stroke by calling 9-1-1 first.

Why is this needed? Based on the results of a public awareness survey conducted by Gelb Consulting Group in October 1999, The findings show: • Texans are only moderately aware of the signs and symptoms of heart attacks. • Texans are much less aware of the warning signs and symptoms of stroke. • Texans do not seem to understand that there are emergency treatments for stroke and ways to reduce severe strokes and death if immediate action is taken at the onset of symptoms.

The American Heart Association is urging the public to "read the signs and raise a flag" or react by calling 9-1-1 first at the onset of symptoms of stroke or heart attack. For more information, call the association at 1-800-AHA-USA1 or look online at www.americanheart.org/tx.

The American Heart Association spent about \$451 million during fiscal year 1998-99 on research support, public and professional education, and community programs. With more than four million volunteers, the association is the largest voluntary health organization fighting heart disease, stroke and other cardiovascular diseases, which annually kill more than 959,000 Americans.

Perinatal cardiology care allows for early treatment of babies with heart defects

Houston-Once a fetus with a heart defect has been diagnosed at Texas Children's Hospital's Heart Center in Houston, a team of highly trained cardiologists prepares for the baby's arrival.

In a word, that is what perinatal cardiology is - preparation.

Most mothers go to Texas Children's Heart Center echocardiography lab following an obstetrician's ultrasound that indicates a heart defect in the unborn child. Regular ultrasounds are limited in that they give only an overall view of the fetus' development.

The echocardiograph (an ultrasound of the heart) evaluates the heart in detail: its anatomy, function and the flow of blood. Evaluating the baby's heart in detail before it is born allows specialists to prepare for giving the baby the best possible outcome.

If the fetus has problems in utero (in the womb), such as a cardiac dysfunction, cardiologists can begin treating the baby by administering medication to the mother.

"It's a matter of making the diagnosis and interpreting it to the family so they understand the implications for the pregnancy," said Dr. Nancy Ayres, medical direc-

tor of Texas Children's echocardiography lab.

Perinatal cardiology care is a constellation of the diagnosis, intervention and preparation. It can impact decisions like where a mother delivers the baby.

For example, if the echo has shown that the baby's heart has a slow rhythm, the baby may need a pacemaker implanted very soon after birth. A mother might be advised to deliver the baby at a hospital near a pediatric specialty hospital, such as Texas Children's Hospital. This speeds the transportation of the baby to a neonatal intensive care unit, where it can receive the high-quality neonatal care it requires.

Depending upon what Ayres finds during the fetal stage, she also can determine if a cardiologist or a neonatologist should be at the delivery.

"I am the baby's cardiologist and advocate. I use my expertise in pediatric cardiology to help the team devise a game plan for the best way to care for that mother, baby and family," Ayres said.

"It's a unit. It's not an isolated baby - it really is a maternal - fetal unit and a family you're caring for."

Watch your heart and brain

Cardiovascular disease and stroke are the No. 1 and No. 3 killers of both Texans and Americans. In 1996, 42,330 Texans died of heart disease and another 9,845 died of stroke.

Heredity and lifestyles are the two biggest factors that put people at risk for heart disease and stroke. There's not much one can do about heredity, but the physicians of the Texas Medical Association want all Texans to know that a few simple changes in their lifestyles could greatly reduce their risk of suffering from heart disease or stroke.

That's why TMA has launched Project WATCH, a two-year initiative to reduce cardiovascular disease and stroke by getting Texans to focus on five known risk factors for these diseases - weight, activity, tobacco, cholesterol and high blood pressure.

"It is well known that these are risks factors that can cause cardiovascular disease and they are

risk factors that people can change," says TMA President - Elect Dr. Jim Rohack, a Temple cardiologist. "The risk factors that we've targeted are ones that, with appropriate detection and control, literally can prevent the development of cardiovascular disease or actually reverse it."

Everyone needs to know his or her risk factors for heart disease or stroke. The American Heart Association (AHA) has a risk assessment quiz on its Web site (www.americanheart.org) that will help you judge your heart disease risk. Persons who believe they may be at risk for heart disease or stroke should consult their physician about beginning a program to help control these risk factors.

Once you have committed yourself to making some life-style changes, here are some tips to keep in mind: • Weight - Being overweight puts added strain on your heart and can contribute to

high blood pressure. Eating a diet low in fat, cholesterol and salt plus exercising regularly can help you lose weight and lower your blood pressure. • Activity - A modest program of exercise or physical activity can greatly reduce one's risk for heart disease and stroke. Thirty minutes of moderate-intensity exercise, such as walking, jogging or cycling, done three to four times per week is all it takes. If you like, you can supplement that activity by taking walking breaks at work, using the stairs instead of the elevator or gardening or household work. Regular physical activity helps control weight, raise "good" cholesterol levels and control blood pressure.

• Tobacco - If you smoke, quit. If you can't quit "cold turkey," reduce the number of cigarettes you smoke by one cigarette each day until you can quit. If this fails, ask your physician about smoking cessation programs. • Cholesterol - Reduce cholesterol levels

in the blood by eating health foods that are low in saturated fat and cholesterol. The American Heart Association recommends five or more servings of fruits and vegetables each day, six or more servings of whole grains plus lean red meats, skinless poultry, low-fat or skim milk and dairy products, lean fish and shellfish and beans and peas. • High Blood Pressure - Losing weight, eating a low-salt, low-fat diet, increasing activity levels, and limiting alcohol consumption all can help you lower your blood pressure.

Texas Medical Association is a professional organization of more than 36,000 physician and medical student members. It is located in Austin and has 118 component county medical societies around the state. The Association represents 85 percent of the doctors of medicine licensed and residing in Texas. TMA's key objective is to improve the health of all Texans.

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Water planning for the future

Continued from Page 1
needed. Without a detailed plan, chaos could be the result of a prolonged drought.

State-wide 20.5 million was allotted, for the research. This Region was allotted \$622,000 which was spent on consultations with hydrologists and water resource engineers. Ground water can easily be seen and its sources understood. Underground aquifers are not so easy to assess. For instance, the Edwards Trinity Aquifer has three or four different rock formations and these form different stratas.

The project has been divided in steps consisting of 12 tasks and 5 sections. The Texas Water Distribution Board appointed 16 people to be in charge of the assessments and plans from the regions. They have been working

for two years and are completing the third section which looks at the water available over the next 50 years. Section 3 reports strategies solutions and plans.

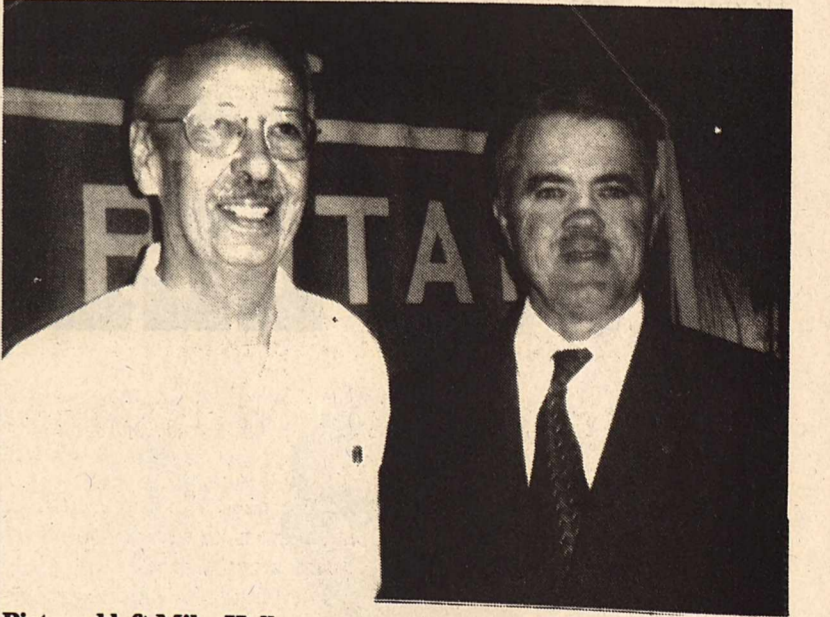
Plans are to be submitted this fall and the State is to blend the 16 regional plans into a State plan. In 2002 the plan is reevaluated for the next five years.

Regional solutions are valuable. Detailed studies provide a better understanding of how the aquifers work. The summary and findings actively affect Kinney and Val Verde County.

The advantages of this approach are that, first, the plan will come from the people who live in the affected area rather than from people who aren't directly involved. Regional solutions should be more effective. For instance Kinney County will profit from the study of the Edwards Trinity Aquifer and will understand better how it works.

A summary of the findings and activity that affect Kinney and Val Verde County tells us that the ground water supply in Kinney and Val Verde Counties is more than will be needed for the next 50 years, however, well development expense must be considered. The Edwards Trinity Aquifer recharges with rainfall. It drops with drought, but has ample storage for Kinney and Val Verde Counties.

Del Rio has drawn water from its springs, but this is a finite



Pictured left Mike Holley, program chairman and Jerry Simpton, Executive Vice President of Del Rio National Bank. Represents Val Verde County on the Water Planning Board.

amount of water. Hydrologic studies indicate a need to drill wells Northwest of Del Rio in order to decrease its reliance on the San Felipe Springs. Del Rio has no plans to look to the Fort Clark Springs.

The Area South of here (with Eagle Pass in it) is considering drawing water from the Edwards Aquifer as well as the Carriza sands in Dimmit County in its strategies.

All regions will know what the other region's strategies and plans are, and the State will attempt to solve conflicts.

The State plan will provide ample water to the people of Texas, and this will mean moving water from water surplus areas to heavily populated areas. That means those who need water will have to pay for enough to satisfy their needs. Water marketing started in 1997.

Simpton said that the plan will be finalized by the State in 2001 won't be perfect, but it will shed light on the problems that can arise and present possible solutions. It will also force the people of the state to work together for the good of the state of Texas.

Thank You
The family of Joe Townsend wish to thank all of you who have expressed sympathy in any way -- by cards -- food -- monitor expressions -- flowers and love.
Thank you so much!
We love all of you, and appreciate your thoughtfulness. Our husband and father is in heaven rejoicing in the Lord and with his many loved ones and friends who are there with him.

Three band students receive first division ratings

Making A Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Congratulations to three Brackett band students for making first division ratings in the district solo contest held in Eagle Pass this past Saturday. The students are Delaney Jaso, Ana Talamantes and Amanda Ward. Delaney and Amanda are flute players and Ana plays clarinet. Lynn McNew accompanied the students on piano. Hector Jimenez has helped students in their preparation. How about Steven Hagler? There was his name right in the middle of the large schools of the San Antonio area. Steven was awarded a scholarship to Sam

Houston State University in Huntsville where he will play football in the Fall. We're very proud of Stephen and of the football program at Brackett ISD.

This week, we're still advertising and seeking applicants for three positions: High School principal, band director and a teacher aide at the Alternative School campus. We have advertised the band and principal's positions in about six newspapers, on the Internet at sites where band directors and administrators seek employment at about 20 area colleges and at 79 school districts between the sizes of 700 and 900 students. The applications have begun to come in, but it is still early in the

process.

The regular school board meeting for February will be held Monday at 6:30 PM. Agenda items include a report from Bill Haenn on the Property Tax Divisions Ratio Study. Board members will also discuss the new athletic alignment of districts which puts us into the same district with Dilley, Natalia, Poth, Three Rivers and Pettus. The major problem with the district is the travel time especially on Tuesday nights when students have school on Wednesday.

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your accounts are available at your finger tips. It's quite an improvement. I'm proud that we are able to access this service in Brackettville. Don Ralston along with bank officials and employees deserve a pat on the back for bringing Internet banking to Brackettville.

The election at Fort Clark is one of the most interesting in many years. There are apparently six positions open on a seven person board. There are twice as many candidates as positions available. Members should think through what type of board that they would like to have and then should try to get those folks elected. Fort Clark is one of the best places in the world to live. I'm for the folks who will help preserve our way of life at Fort Clark Springs.

All for now. Have a great week!



Pictured above: The 7th grade Tigerettes basketball team finished their season with a 3rd place in the Comstock Tournament. Pictured L to R: (Front Row) Kristy Meyers, Juliann Ashabanner, Whitney Hobbs and Stephanie De Leon. (Back Row) Clarrisa Aguirre, Stephanie Bonner, Courtney Frerich and Coach Julie Bruce.

Knights of Columbus sponsor free throw competition

Forty two Brackettville students participated in the Free Throw Competition sponsored by Council #8223 of the Knights of Columbus on Thursday February 3, 2000, at the Brackett ISD gym.

The winner of the Girls Competition, by category were: Age 10-Hayley Harris, Age 11-Ashley Castillo, Age 12-Stephanie DeLeon, Age 13-Valerie Terrazas and Age 14-Vanesa Castillo.

The winners in the Boys Competition, by category were: Age 10-Adam Sandoval, Age 11-Travis Nowlin, Age 12-Tellman Davis, Age 13-Deitrich Davis, Age 14-Omar Revis.

Coaches Gregg Nowlin and Jennifer Harris presided over the event as scorekeepers. All Students participating were presented with certificates.

The winners were presented with plaques and will move up to the District Competition, which



Pictured above are members of the Knights of Columbus who sponsored a Free Throw Competition and the participants who competed in the race.

will be held at 10:00 a.m., Saturday, February 12, 2000 at the Brackett ISD gym.

Council #8223 of the Knights of Columbus will also have a fund

raiser Bar-B-Que sale at the Parish Hall behind St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church on Sunday, February 13th.

Brackett boys play in Del Rio tourney

By David Wilkins
Contributing Writer

There were approximately 22 teams participating in the Del Rio Invitational Golf Tournament on Friday and Saturday.

The Brackett Golf team played at San Felipe on Friday and Leaning Pine on Saturday.

The Tigers finished 5th overall in our division with a score of 365.

Holmes High School won with a score of 341, and Del Rio was second with a score of 344.

Manuel Madrid was our low scorer with a total of 79 on Saturday. The other members of the team that participated were Jarrett Harrison, Chase Neuman, Jeff Luna, and Elliot Stone. It was a great tournament to start getting ready for District.

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District race tightens with Tiger loss to Natalia

The Tiger Varsity Basketball team were beat at the buzzer by the Natalia Mustangs last Friday night.

Although the Tigers lead 23-17 at the half, the Mustangs rallied in the second half to get the win.

This loss brings the Tigers district record to 4-3, and their season to 14-8.

"We did not play well, and

need to finish strong these last 3 game," said Coach Thomas.

Leading scorers were Schiller Hill with 15, Damian Toms with 8, Jared Hobbs with 7, Jacob Huges with 4, Steven Hagler with 4.

The Tigers will play Centerpoint here this Friday at 5:30 pm and Jourdanton there Monday at 5:30 pm.

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Tigerettes beat Natalia 40 to 38

By Gregg Nowlin
Contributing Writer

The Brackett Tigerettes regained their winning ways, with an exciting win over Natalia Mustangs on Friday night.

The Tigerettes beat Natalia 40 to 38 in a very exciting game that wasn't decided up until the very end.

This win upped the Tigerettes season record to 15 wins and 11

losses.

The Tigerettes were led in scoring by Duquesa Hunt with 10 points, Jamie Bader with 9, Trish Robinson -7, Cuddy De los Santos-5, Queta Garza-5, Helen Flores-4.

The Tigerettes will finish their season on Tuesday at home against the Dilley Wolves. Please come out and support the Tigerettes.

JV Basketball fighting Tigers trampled Mustangs

By Ricky Creel
Contributing Writer

On February 4th, the JV Basketball team traveled to Natalia High School to take on the Mustangs. After the Tigers won the tip off they never looked back.

Both teams got off to a rough start, but the Tigers out scored the Mustangs 11 to 5 in the first period. Both the Tiger's defense and the Mustang's defense dominated the second period. There were a total of thirteen points scored between both teams.

The leading scores at the second half were David Campos with four points, Tony Molinar with four points, and Levi Duncan with four points.

Both teams warmed up the second half; the Mustangs cut the deficit to three points with an eleven point period. After the third period, the score was Tigers 26 -

Mustangs 23. "We needed a big fourth period and our kids responded," said Coach Ricky Creel.

The Tiger's dominated the fourth period, out scoring the Mustangs 14 to 6. The final score was the Tigers 40 and the Mustangs 29.

The leading scorers were David Campos with 9, Tony Molinar with 8, Jesse Davis with 7, Jaime Montalvo with 7, Levi Duncan with 6, and T.D. Smith with 4.

The JV's over all record is 5 and 5. JV's district play record is 3 and 1.

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ACROSS

- Son of Rebekah
- Make jagged
- Choreographer Michael
- Oil-drilling platforms
- Italian seaport
- Mrs. Nick Charles
- Jacket type
- Window material
- Solar deity
- Type of bacon
- Ambush
- one's patience
- At all
- "Bury my heart at Wounded"
- Toupee, slangily
- Youthful suffix
- "Long ___ and Far Away"
- Twin of 1 Across
- Deteriorating, as a condition
- Hollywood biggies
- Football game segments
- Bridge expert Sharif
- Cooking measures
- Waste maker
- Fast plane
- "Big Daddy" Burl
- Questioning cry
- Fantastic Four leader Richards

DOWN

- voyage!
- Author Weldon
- Halt
- Protect from waste
- "Song of the ___ Road" (Whitman)
- Love madly
- Pipe fittings
- 80's teen idol Springfield
- Is indolent
- Sped
- Congressional passages
- Most insignificant
- Aphid farmers
- Put up a monument
- Indian stringed instrument
- Great distress
- Jimmy Carter's alma mater. abbr.
- Urging (on)
- Electronic switching device
- Judah's son
- Windows alternative, on a PC
- Effortlessness
- Rascal
- Modicum
- Scott
- Jutlander

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63					64				65			

Human felicity is produced not so much by great pieces of good fortune that seldom happen, as by little advantages that occur every day.
 -Benjamin Franklin

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- | | | |
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| BARK | HARK | SHARK |
| BOOKMARK | LARK | STARK |
- THE WORDS READ UP, DOWN AND ACROSS.

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

FIND THE TWINS

WHICH TWO ARE EXACTLY ALIKE?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Feb. 10.....Tony Frerich	Feb. 14.....Dora Goodloe
Feb. 10.....Mary Rasch	Feb. 14.....Dolores Jones
Feb. 11.....Ethel Griffin	Feb. 14.....Hector Luna
Feb. 11.....Michael Montalvo	Feb. 14.....Jack Schram
Feb. 12.....Versie Burnes	Feb. 14.....Shirley Stephenson
Feb. 12.....Joaquin Davis	Feb. 14.....Frances Testman
Feb. 12.....Earl Love	Feb. 15.....J.B. Herndon
Feb. 12.....Regina Pena	Feb. 15.....Virginia Shahan
Feb. 12.....Ricky Sandoval	Feb. 16.....Roxie Brown
Feb. 13.....Alfred Pena, Jr.	Feb. 16.....Dedra Boutwell
Feb. 16.....Dorothy Wood	

HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21- April 20
 OK, so it's almost Valentine's Day, and you don't have any plans. Lighten up. It's time you took your destiny in your own hands. Don't wait for someone else to make plans for you. Be open to a family member's suggestions this week.

Taurus April 21-May 21
 Lightening your approach to a problem may just be the answer. You'll feel more open to share your ideas, and that in turn, will end up helping others. A close relative is feeling a little neglected. Plan some time with him/her.

Gemini May 22-June 21
 Be prepared to face trying times at work at the end of the week. Although you've made some great plans for Valentine's Day, don't be upset if they fall through. Who knows, the day may just work out better for you and your partner.

Cancer June 22-July 22
 You may find your creative imagination energized as the week starts. Take advantage of it, and you'll come up with ideas that will astound and impress everyone. Spend some time with your partner, who really needs to talk.

Leo July 23-August 23
 Once you work out some personal dilemmas, you may find your professional goals start falling into place. Be patient, and don't let up on your work goals. Have you been neglecting your cultural side? It's time to do something about that.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
 If Valentine's Day isn't very high on your list of priorities this year, maybe it's time to rethink your stance. You may be really busy at work because of tough deadlines, unbalanced work loads or coworkers' vacations, so be ready.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
 You may be able to set aside some time for yourself this week. Your family's schedule has been really hectic lately, but it looks like activities and plans are starting to slow down. So take it upon yourself to make some plans just for you.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
 Your confidence is building, and recent events have helped. Maybe this is the week for you to stick out your neck and ask for something you thought was next to impossible. Before you do, prepare yourself mentally and physically.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
 This is finally the year when you will be able to sit back and enjoy a wonderful Valentine's Day. You made your plans early, and nothing can stand in your way. Don't be too stubborn when it comes to some new ideas at work.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
 Your goal this week? Remove some of the excess stress in your life. That may mean telling a "friend" this isn't the best time to help him/her through another problem, especially when everything he/she faces is a major disaster.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
 Put up your feet and relax. Your tough schedule at work is finally slowing down, and some of the problems you've been facing at home are starting to work out. You deserve a break. Don't get discouraged by events this weekend.

Pisces Feb. 19-March 20
 Have you thought about changing your old routine? It may be the way to find a new solution to a problem that seems to have been dragging on forever. Don't forget to visit a dear friend who is in town for just a short time.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

His passing represents the end of an era

By Frank Cheaney
Contributing Writer

On Saturday, February 5, 2000, friends of Reverend Joe Townsend observed the end of an era as Bro. Joe was laid to rest in the Brackettville Cemetery. The funeral service and the graveside service were conducted by an old and dear friend of Bro. Joe's, Reverend Jack Cash, a former pastor of the First Baptist Church of Brackettville and currently a resident of Waco, Texas. Bro. Jack recounted instances from Bro. Joe's over sixty years of Christian ministry and the impact he has made on this community. He also emphasized that Bro. Joe is now free of the various sufferings which have plagued him for the past year and that he is now in the arms of the Lord. Dave Crowe delivered a moving tribute to Bro. Joe, linking him by character and wisdom with Bro. Joe's friend of many years, local rancher and luminary, Happy Shahan. Another moving eulogy, written by Bro. Joe's grandson, Brackett High School graduate Bryan Townsend, was read by Bryan's mother, Judy Hooker. A special part of the service was provided by Mike Bowlin, singing Amazing Grace *a cappella*, and then having the congregation join him in singing this dramatic and classic hymn. Frontier Baptist Church was packed to capacity, as Bro. Joe's many friends and admirers shared their sorrow at their loss, and, simultaneously, their elation that Bro. Joe has gone on to a better place than this and is now sharing

happy recollections with his friends and relatives who have preceded him to Heaven.

It's not only the religious community of Brackettville which will miss Bro. Joe. For many years, he authored a weekly newspaper column in the Brackett News and other newspapers, commenting on whatever seized his attention at the time. The columns usually were not about religious matters, although they often had a moral con-

tempt to them. Many people didn't agree with some things Bro. Joe wrote in his column. Bro. Joe didn't care! He stated his personal opinion on matters of public interest and recognized that not everybody shared his views. He called them as he saw them, there was never any doubt as to what his opinion was, and he was prepared to accept with grace any criticism which might result from the publication of his views. Many

people bought the paper, just to "see what Joe Townsend has to say today." And the columns were always well-written and thought-provoking. As Bro. Joe writes "30" to his newspaper career and to his life as a servant of humanity, many people in this community will feel a void in their lives. His passing certainly represents the end of an era in the life of our town.

I have said that I would keep thy words

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

Remember the word unto thy servant, upon which thou hast caused me to hope.
This is my comfort in my affliction; for thy word hath given me life.
The proud have had me greatly in derision; yet have I not declined from thy Law.
I remembered thine ordinances of old, O Lord, and have comforted myself.
Horror hath taken hold upon me because of the wicked who forsake thy Law.
Thy statutes have been my songs in the house of my pilgrimage.
I have remembered thy name, O Lord, in the night, and have kept thy law.
This I had, because I kept thy precepts.
Thou art my portion, O Lord; I have said that I would keep thy words.
I entreated thy favor with my

whole heart; be merciful unto me according to thy word.
I thought on my ways, and turned my feet unto thy testimonies.
I made haste, and delayed not to keep thy commandments.
The bands of the wicked have robbed me, but I have not forgotten thy law.
At midnight I will rise to give thanks unto thee, because of thy righteous ordinances.
I am a companion of all those who fear thee, and of those who keep thy precepts.
The earth, O Lord, is full of thy mercy; teach me thy statutes.
Psalms 119: 49-64.
Praise the Lord.
Bible study 3 nights 7 p.m. nightly with Pastor Bob Lockhart from Northside Baptist Church in Del Rio.
At St. John's Missionary Church, Brackettville, February 14-16.
Everyone is invited to come and share with us the study of God's word.

Champions in our schools

Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
By Lynn McNew

We have good kids in Kinney County. Now, before you stop reading in disgust, let's think about it. Do they drive too fast? Yes, so do some adults. Do they play their music too loud? Yes, but if they were playing music we liked would we mind? I, for one, like Mozart as loud as I can get it. Do we have kids in trouble? Yes, of course. Some of them are misguided and some are just plain problem kids, for whatever reason.

Kids in every generation got in trouble. I remember when I was in high school; the boys would periodically put a teacher's small car on the porch of the hardware store. Why? Because he was upset when it happened. When my kids were teen-agers, they were part of a group who faithfully "tp'd" the courthouse in our town every Halloween. Why? Because

the judge really "ranted and raved" about those kids. The ringleader of the group was the judge's daughter. However, the problems with our kids is material for another column.

Today, I want to talk about the good kids. Trust me, there are a lot more good than bad. I had the privilege of traveling to Eagle Pass with Hector Jimenez and three band students last Saturday for solo and ensemble contest. Ana Talamantez, Amanda Ward and DeLaney Ashley worked hard on their flute and clarinet solos. Their hard work was rewarded with each receiving a first place ribbon. I'm proud of them.

A young man was pictured on the front page of the paper last week. Stephen Hagler has the opportunity to go a long way with his athletic ability. Stephen was a student of mine several years ago. As long as I was at school, he would stop at the door of my room

every time he came to the elementary school and say "Hi." He has worked hard to get where he is today. I am proud of him.

This is the time of year when our young people are spending lots of days preparing animals for stock shows. This is time consuming, hard work. Will they be rewarded? I hope so, with ribbons and good prices for the animals they sell.

Every week we read about the accomplishments of our school students. I plan to make a point of congratulating these kids and complementing them on their hard work, when I see them at church or elsewhere. I plan to focus on the good things they do, not the clothes they wear or the music they listen to. I hope you will try this, too.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. God Bless You.

Crowe to preach at Froniter Baptist

By Dave Crowe
Contributing Writer

The Frontier Baptist Church is a church where everyone is welcome and I do mean Everyone.

We believe that we (you and I) are all God's children. We also know that we are all sinners, needing God.

We are not judgemental, that's left up to God almighty.

We are not concerned with your race, social standing or financial status. We just want everyone to have a place to worship and to Praise God, where they're comfortable.

Come worship with us. Consider this a personal invitation from us to you.

In Brother Joe Townsends absence I spoke 3 times in January, the 2nd, 16th and 23rd.

In the month of February, I will speak on the 18th, 20th and 23rd.

I'm looking forward to worshipping with you and your family this Sunday.

The recipe for love

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charlotte Corey

The recipe for love must include Jesus because God is love. Have you ever successfully made bread with a recipe that required yeast and then left out the yeast? The results would be very, very disappointing wouldn't it. The same applies for successful living.

You may have attended church all your life, but if you haven't loved with God's agape love, then you don't know "agape" love (unconditional love). If you haven't experienced "agape" love for yourself, how can you give it away? As a true Christian, you must have experienced God's "agape" love to understand forgiveness. How can you forgive others, unless you understand the depth of God's "agape" love for you? On the other hand, if you have experienced the depth of His love, you automatically become eager to share it with others. (I

Corinthians, Chapter 13).

Good people don't necessarily know God. People can have a good set of morals because their parents taught those morals to them and still not have Jesus as their Lord and Savior. Unfortunately, just because that person is "good" doesn't mean they will spend eternity with God and his blessings. God says that no one may enter through the "gate" unless they enter through Jesus. He is the way, the truth, and the light. It didn't say anyone else was or is (John 14:6, John 10:27-30) Words spoken by people can become corrupted or warped, but God's word never changes. God is the same yesterday, today and tomorrow.

There are even Christians who have experienced God's love in the beginning who have decided not to surrender every part of their lives to Him and then wonder why their "opportunity" to have Him overcome a tough situation has failed. One of two things has hap-

pened. Either the person didn't give the situation to God in the first place or else the person decided not to submit to His answer or timing and thought they could do a better job of it themselves. Then the person complains to God about the outcome of the situation. I tell this person, "Thank God, He is patient, kind, and forgiving, even when we "muddle the puddle", but don't blame God. Ask His forgiveness and start again."

"Agape" love will give you the strength to overcome anything that comes your way and I can guarantee you that "things" will knock on your door that will need to be handled with the recipe of God's unconditional love. If "Love" is the "bread" you plan to give a person, stir in God's "agape" love, then it will "rise" to the occasion.

Stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Continued from Page 3

He would ask local construction company about it because they had been working in the area a few days earlier.

9:54 p.m., A local resident reported a light blue truck with one headlight out was speeding around North Sheedy Street. Deputy Karl Chism went to the location.

Saturday, February 5
12:11 a.m., A local resident reported a red Camero or Trans Am driving recklessly coming into the city limits. Deputy Chism was given the details.
2:39 a.m., Michael Lee Rozelle, 49, from Brackettville was arrested by Deputy Chism for public intoxication and burglary of habitat. As of Monday afternoon Rozelle was still being held in the Kinney County Jail.

9:45 a.m., Armando Ramirez, 30 from Del Rio was arrested by Deputy Bobby Guidry for DWI 2nd offense and revocation of probation. As of Monday afternoon Ramirez was still being held in the Kinney County Jail.
10:30 a.m., A local woman called and reported she had accidentally closed and locked her screen door behind her.
8:04 p.m., Joe Anthony Garcia, 20 from Del Rio was arrested by Trooper Ashley for outstanding DPS warrants. Garcia was released the same day after paying fines.

10:49 p.m., An unidentified caller reported an estimate of 100 goats was loose on FM 2804. Owner was called and said she would take care of them.

Sunday, February 6
1:03 a.m., Two local residents came in person and requested a deputy help remove someone from their relative's house. Deputy Chism met with them at the office and left to go to the residence in question.
5:20 a.m., Uvalde Police Department notified Kinney County a robbery had occurred in Uvalde. The suspects were driving a white pickup and may have been headed our direction. DPS alerted the Border Patrol Checkpoint and requested to be on the lookout for a vehicle with that description.

Monday, February 7
2:20 a.m., Del Rio DPS reported a stranded motorist within the county line needed assistance with her vehicle. Deputy Chism never found the motorist.

Bar-B-Que Plates
Catholic Church Parking Lot
Sunday, February 13,
11:00am-1:00pm
Sponsored by
Knights of Columbus
Brisket or sausage
w/trimmings \$5.00

We are all sharing this culture called America

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

In the Gospel of Mark (1:40-45) Jesus touches a man ill with leprosy. To do so, Jesus was breaking the law of cleanliness and submitting himself to becoming an outcast like the man being healed. Jesus was willing to risk not only the contagious illness but also the ostracism of his culture.

Today, in America, we have little to fear from leprosy. There are many other contagious diseases which we need no longer fear either, because of the progress of the medical profession. I can remember a time as a child that I was warned by my cousin, who grew up in rural Texas, to be sure and not touch a "Black Person" for the black might come off on me. As I got older it was evident that not only was there a fear of the color but also of the poverty, or the crime, or the laziness associated by white folks with their "colored" neighbors. And when the streets of Detroit, Philadelphia and Watts were filled with rioters and violence, associating with "blacks" was felt to be almost traitorous to

our nation. What we feared were the things about "African-American" culture which were, and probably still are, strange to us. The cry of fear was voiced as, Go on back to Africa," like the ancestry of the white population didn't originate elsewhere also.

As Jesus was not afraid to embrace the outcast, the poor, and the dispossessed, we need to lay down our fear of people different than ourselves. Are there illegal aliens who damage ranch property near here? Are there "blacks" who commit horrendous crimes in the cities? Are there Vietnamese gangs where none existed before? Sure!

But if you look without prejudice, you will notice that whatever evil things are done by people of color, the one color you cannot exclude is White! Anglo-Americans, Hispanic-Americans, Asian-Americans-we are all sharing this culture called America. If Jesus were here, do you think he would prefer one skin color over another?

Join us at First Methodist Church Sunday at 10:45 am to continue celebrating Black History Month and cultural diversity.

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Sunday Schedule

Worship	9AM
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Wednesday Bible study in Sanctuary	7:00 PM

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Sunday P.M. 1:30
Wednesday P.M. 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

First Baptist Church (SBC)
Corner of Ann and Veltman

Sunday Schedule:
Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.
Worship Service - Childrens Church 11 a.m.
nursery provided
Choir all ages 4:30 p.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m.
Bible Study/Prayer Meeting

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Pastor: R. D. Holloway

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DRIVERS - CFI NOW hiring! OTR drivers. Company and O/O. Super teams split up to: 40c - Company, 84c - O/O. 1-800-CFI-DRIVE. www.cfidrive.com.

DRIVERS - FLATBED. NEW Year! New pay schedule. Up to 39 cpm. *Run western or 48 states. *401k, medical, dental, life. *3 years OTR/1 year flatbed. Owner operators welcome! Call Mike, 1-800-290-2327. Combined Transport.

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JESUS MANIFESTO. GOD'S plan for mankind. The first, lost, and last messages of Jesus Christ. Toll free 1-877-345-9060, M-F, 3-6 pm, or H.T.M. Publishing, P.O. Box 9455, Austin, TX 78766-9455.

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MUST SELL IMMEDIATELY! Three undelivered Arch Steel Buildings - 25x30, 40x64, 50x110. Factory direct. Priced to go! Financing available. Great workshops/garages. 1-800-341-7007. www.steelmasterusa.com.

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STEEL BUILDINGS SALE: 5,000+ sizes. 40x60x14, \$8,007; 50x75x14, \$10,105; 50x100x16, \$13,561; 60x100x16, \$15,127. Mini-storage buildings, 40x160, 32 units, \$16,534. Free brochures. www.sentinelbuildings.com. Sentinel Buildings, 1-800-327-0790, ext. 79.

GARAGE SALE

YARD SALE - Sat. Feb. 12th 10am til 7 Unit 35 lot 24 & 25. No early birds.

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COORDINATOR - FRENCH EXCHANGE organization. Begin implementing 2000 summer program for French teens. Enjoyable, part-time, flexible, in your area, good extra income. Must be organized, community oriented, good PR skills. Call LEC 1-888-837-1855. For more information see website: www.LEC-USA.com.

Rodolfo Espinosa Jr. Joins Horace Mann Companies

Longtime Zalvala County Educator and former La Pryor and Crystal City Independent School District Superintendent of Schools Rodolfo Espinosa, Jr. has joined the Horace Mann Insurance Companies.

The Horace Mann Companies were started by educators for educators in Illinois in 1945 where the corporate office is headquartered. The purpose of the company was to provide auto insurance for education association members.

In honor of the father of American Public Education, company leaders chose Horace Mann as the name of the company. Horace Mann has a multiline portfolio of personal insurance products including:

- Life
- Auto
- Homeowners
- Retirement annuities
- Group insurance & annuities.

All Horace Mann companies are rated "excellent" by the rating companies for their strength and performance. The Horace Mann companies have assets of over \$4 billion dollars.

Horace Mann has shown its dedication to the education community by offering scholarships to high school seniors who are children or legal dependents of public school employees.

Each year Horace Mann inducts several outstanding teachers selected from across the nation to its Hall of Fame.

"Espinosa commented that this change in career will allow him to concentrate more with his family, spiritual life and community services."

"Furthermore with my 27 years of service in public education I have a unique perspective concerning the financial needs of educators and their families."

Espinosa has been assigned the school districts in Maverick, Dimmit, Zavala, Kinney, and Uvalde Counties.

The Horace Mann Companies
919 East Valverde
Crystal City, TX 78839
830-374-2504

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2 bed. 2 baths, spacious game room or den, fireplace, rock exterior, carport, hot tub in porch \$98,000.

2 bed, 2 baths, washer, dryer, plenty of storage. On 3 Lots - 3rd lot optional.

3 bed. 2 baths mobile home, carport, large porch. \$28,500.

RV spaces with and without additional living space. Prices vary.

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NEW 4 BEDROOM 2 bath Danville A/C Shingle Roof, Hardboard Siding, Dishwasher, Stove and Refrigerator. Free Delivery, Setup a Tie Downs and Skirting. 260.13 per mo 10% D.P. 9.5 APR VAR WAC for 360 months. Call 774-7711 or 888 611-7711.

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Texas Department of Transportation Notice of Public Meeting

The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) will conduct a public meeting to discuss possible changes to the route selection criteria of the Texas Highway Trunk System. The Texas trunk System is a planned, 4-lane divided highway system that includes and complements the interstate highway system. The system has not changed since its adoption by the Texas Transportation Commission in 1990.

The Transportation Planning and Programming (TPP) Division of TxDOT is proposing to review the existing selection criteria codified in the Texas Administrative Code and receive comments on possible additions to the criteria at a series of public meetings held throughout the state. These changes, if adopted by the Texas Transportation Commission, could add highways to the existing system.

The meetings will be held at the following locations:

February 14, 2000 Childress Fair Park Auditorium Two blocks North of US 287 on Commerce Street Childress, Texas	February 15, 2000 TxDOT Vehicle Title and Registration-Training Building 4502 Knickerbocker Road San Angelo, Texas
February 16, 2000 Willie De Leon Civic Center 100 East Main Uvalde, Texas	February 22, 2000 Corsicana Government Center City Council Chambers 200 North 12th Street Corsicana, Texas
February 28, 2000 Walker Education Center 19th Street and Sam Houston Avenue Huntsville, Texas	

From 6:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., displays showing the current Trunk System and selection criteria will be available for review. During this time, TPP staff will be available to answer questions. At 7:00 p.m. there will be a formal presentation followed by a public comment period.

At each location, the meeting will include: (1) a discussion of the Trunk System development; (2) a presentation on existing selection criteria; and (3) an overview of the impacts of changing the criteria and the steps involved.

All interested citizens are invited to attend these public meetings. Comments regarding proposed changes to the Trunk System selection criteria are requested. Verbal comments may be presented at the public meeting. Written comments may be presented at the public meeting or may be mailed or delivered to Mr. Alvin R. Lucdecke, Jr., P.E., Transportation Planning and Programming Division, Texas Department of Transportation, P.O. Box 149217, Austin, Texas, 78714-9217, or may be electronically mailed (e-mailed) to pthurin@dot.state.tx.us. To be included in the official public hearing record, written comments must be received or post-marked by March 8, 2000.

Persons who have special communication or accommodation needs and who plan to attend the public hearing may contact the TxDOT Laredo District Office at (956) 712-7442.

PUBLIC AUCTION ABC WRECKER SERVICE

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A public auction will be held at ABC Wrecker Service
520 East Spring St. Brackettville, TX
at 2:00 p.m. on Friday February 25, 2000.

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