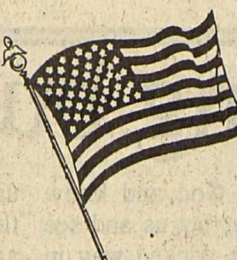


The Brackett News



Tour of homes,
Sunday, December
10th, 2 to 5 p.m.

12th year, No. 45

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Former Brackettville residents make history at Delta State

CLEVELAND, Miss. — J.J. Guidry and Brian and Jennifer Townsend have etched their names into the history books at Delta State University. The three DSU students recently wrote the words to the school's fight song.

The DSU student body will be singing the new lyrics Saturday when Delta State faces Bloomsburg in the NCAA Division II national championship game at 1 p.m. in Florence, Ala. The football game will be televised live on ESPN.

The words to the fight song are: "Hail to our Delta State, in all her glory. We sing her praises loud, and tell her story. Fight, fight with all of your might, fight for the green and white. We pledge to thee our loyalty, and a Delta State victory."

In an effort to increase student involvement at Delta State athletic events, the university's Student Government Association sponsored a contest to write words to the school's existing fight song, "Orange and Blue," which is also

the University of Florida's fight song.

A committee of university leaders selected the lyrics written by Guidry and the Townsends as the official words to the Delta State fight song.

The new words will be sung at football and basketball games when the band plays the music to the fight song, a tradition at most universities.

"I think the new fight song will start a great tradition at Delta State and people will sing it for years to come," said Susannah Jordan, a junior at DSU.

J.J. Guidry and Brian Townsend are both graduates of Brackett High School. J.J. is the son of Dick and Diane Ward and Jerry Guidry. Brian is the son of Judy Hooker.

J.J. is a junior at Delta State. He is majoring in social science education with an emphasis in political science. J.J. is chairman of DSU's Governmental Affairs Committee, vice president of the College Republicans, and sports editor of The Delta Statement, the

university's newspaper. He is a member of the SGA President's Cabinet, the Mathematics Association of America, and Phi Theta Kappa, a national honor society. He has been named to the National Dean's List and Who's Who Among American College Students.

Brian, a senior, is majoring in entrepreneurship. He is the head high school baseball coach at North Sunflower Academy in Drew, Miss., where he also coaches junior high football and basketball. Brian is an SGA Senator, secretary of the Governmental Affairs Committee, a member of the College Republicans, and a sports columnist with The Delta Statement.

Brian's wife of two years, Jennifer, is a senior financial planning major. She is a justice on the DSU Student Court, president of the Financial Managers Association, vice chairman of the Governmental Affairs Committee, and secretary of Delta Mu Delta, a national



J.J. Guidry and Brian and Jennifer Townsend recently wrote the words to Delta State University's fight song. The three students are pictured singing the song with DSU's national champion cheerleaders at a Statesmen football game.

honor society in business administration. Jennifer, who is originally from Hobbs, N.M., is also a member of Phi Kappa Phi, a national honor society.

After graduating in May, Jennifer will work as an internal auditor with FedEx in Memphis, Tenn. Brian and J.J. are both pursuing careers in coaching.

Briefs ...

Christmas program

First Baptist Church will have their Christmas Program, Sunday, December 10, 2000 at 7 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Commodities given

Commodities will be given out December 11, 2000, 9 a.m.-noon, at St. John's Missionary Baptist Church, 116 W. Crockett.

Voices Concert tonight

Voices Concert, tonight, Thursday, 7:30 p.m. at Post Theatre.

Youth Christmas dinner

St. Mary Magdalene's Youth Ministry is hosting a Christmas Dinner featuring turkey and all the trimmings this Sunday, December 10, 2000, from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. This tasty event is open to the public and will be held at the Service Center in Fort Clark Springs. Please join us for good food and fellowship!

Sons Of The American Revolution meeting

The Uvalde Chapter of the Texas Society of The National Society of the Sons of the American Revolution will meet upstairs at Fort Clark's Las Moras Inn. This meeting will be on Saturday, December 9, 2000 at 12 noon with president Charles McFarland from Sabinal presiding.

Bill Haenn will present the program on "The History of Fort Clark" and will conduct a walking tour of the quadrangle area.

Prospective members or any interested person is invited to attend.

Christmas Concert

Jones Elementary will be presenting their annual Christmas Concert on Dec. 11th at 7 p.m. in the Civic Center. The theme is "My Favorite Thing about Christmas."

Border Patrol Agents seize 348 pounds of marijuana

Del Rio, Texas - U.S. Border Patrol Agents from the Carrizo Springs Station seized 348 pounds of marijuana Monday, Dec. 4, 2000.

While agents performed linewatch duties with a canine unit approximately 10 miles down river from El Indio, the canine alerted to bundles concealed in the brush. The bundles contained 348 pounds of marijuana, valued at \$278,400. The marijuana was turned over to the Multi-Agency Drug Task Force in Eagle Pass.

Texas Department of Transportation plans highway expansion

By Amy Davis
Staff Writer

After seeing a map released by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDot) showing a relief route bypassing Brackettville, citizens of Kinney County have expressed some concern.

In October of last year, the Border Trade Transportation Task Force released its report on proposed projects in the area. On request by the Texas Department of Transportation, the task force was given 90 days to create a preliminary plan that would show the best

plan for efficient traffic flow in the area.

TxDot's Del Rio Area Engineer, Robert Parker, says the plan is basically a guideline to outline how the department should prioritize the highway projects.

"This is a plan that looks at the overall picture. We want to know how traffic will affect the U.S. once it enters into the country, so we can provide the best traffic routes," said Parker.

Parker says that in many cases, when a highway is being widened and it runs into a small town like Brackettville, a relief route is con-

structed. If the route is constructed, it will be permanent.

The proposed relief route would bypass Brackettville, about 3 miles south of town.

Many times, Parker says, cities don't want the high amounts of traffic passing through, or the hazardous materials that some trucks carry in their area, or the increased pollution from cars stopping and starting right in the middle of town.

TxDot is working toward beginning the widening project that would widen Highway 90 into a four lane highway. The department plans to begin work on the area between Laughlin Air Force Base in Del Rio, and Sycamore Creek in 2005. The plans are to then move on to the area from Sycamore Creek to Brackettville, in 2007. Parker emphasized that these dates are just a goal and depend strictly on environmental issues and funding.

Because the plans are so preliminary, there is no way to say for sure if there will even be a relief route, and it won't even be considered until 2010.

"Before any routes are chosen, we'd have to do environmental studies and get concerns from citizens. The economics of a community are a high priority," says Parker.

When the time comes, TxDot will hold public meetings for citizens, to allow them a chance to offer their views on the situation.

Because of increased traffic from Mexico into the United States, following the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), TxDot made the plans for highway expansion.



Hugo Sanchez, of Central Power and Light, changing the outlets for the city of Brackettville Christmas lights on Ann Street.

Insurance fraud hotline offered

In a continued effort to strengthen the fight against all types of insurance fraud, the Texas Workers' Compensation Commission and the Texas Department of Insurance (TDI) have joined forces to add workers' compensation fraud reporting to the existing Insurance Fraud Hot Line. The TDI Fraud Unit originally opened the hot line in September for all types of insurance fraud reporting except workers' compensation. Effective immediately, the insurance Fraud Hot Line will enable the public to report any allegation or suspicion of insurance fraud in Texas to one telephone number. By law all calls received on the Fraud Hot Line are confidential.

both emphasized the significance of this joint effort in the fight against fraud.

"Fraud and abuse committed by any participant in the workers' compensation system translates into fraud against all of us in the form of higher premiums, eventually passed to consumers," Riley said. Riley also stated that he was excited at the prospect of getting system participants more involved in monitoring the system for violators.

"The Fraud Hot Line is up and running, and is being staffed by trained investigators from the Workers' Compensation Commission and the TDI Fraud Unit," Montemayor said.

The Insurance Fraud Hot Line number is 1-888-327-8818 and is in operation Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Young donates equipment to EMS

By Amy Davis
Staff Writer

James Young, a new resident of Kinney County, donated an Automated External Defibrillator (AED) to the Kinney County EMS this week. The machine, which costs over \$2,500, was a piece of equipment needed very much because of licensing requirements for EMS units.

When Sister Catherine Young, M.D., of Eagle Pass, Young's cousin, learned that he was moving to the Brackettville area, she informed him that the county was

in need of an AED. He decided to donate the machine.

"I was down in the dumps thinking I was going to have to purchase this machine and take it out of our budget, unless there was a miracle...and there he came!" said Carolyn Rutherford, EMS Director.

The American Heart Association recommends the AED for use during a full arrest of the heart, which means the person has no pulse and has stopped breathing.

The machine sends electrical pulses into the heart in attempts of getting the heart beating once

Cubs tour the town



Tiger Cubs from left to right, Tariq Cherradi, Daulton Woodson, and Banner Kerr after earning Patch #6, "Knowing Your Community."

On Tuesday, November 27th, the Tiger Cub Den #1 of Brackettville met at the County Library Annex Building. The meeting theme was "Getting To Know Your Community."

The Cubs and their parents took a walking tour around the downtown area and learned about the community buildings and what their functions were. They learned where the Courthouse was, the Sheriff's office, The Health Department office as well as many others. After returning to the library building, the Tiger Cubs traced out a map of the area they just learned

about and described the different buildings on their map.

The cubs present at the meeting were Banner Kerr, son of Hudson and Maggie Kerr; Daulton Woodson, son of Rory Woodson and Maria Woodson; and Tariq Cherradi, son of Jene Cherradi.



Pictured, left to right, Carolyn Rutherford, EMS Director, Laura Rosas, EMT Basic, Gordon Aker, Young's friend, and James Young, AED donor.

INSIDE

The way I see it!

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we've done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

Opinion/Page 2

Empowering Families

"Mom, was I born before you and Dad were married?" Sixteen year-old Cathy was asking a question most children at some time or another wonder about.

Lifestyles/Page 4

Making a difference

The Tiger Basketball teams have started their seasons! I believe we'll see some of the best basketball ever played in Brackettville in the coming season. I encourage you to come and support the Tigers.

School/Page 3

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Accept nothing but truth and honor *The Military Vote*

The way I see it
By Steve LaMascus

Heavenly Father, we come before you today to ask your forgiveness and seek your direction and guidance. We know your Word says, "Woe to those who call evil good," but that's exactly what we've done. We have lost our spiritual equilibrium and inverted our values.

We confess that we have ridiculed the absolute truth of your Word and called it moral pluralism.

We have worshipped other gods and called it multiculturalism.

We have endorsed perversion and called it an alternative lifestyle.

We have exploited the poor and called it the lottery.

We have neglected the needy and called it self-preservation.

We have rewarded laziness and called it welfare.

We have killed our unborn and called it choice.

We have shot abortionists and called it justifiable.

We have neglected to discipline our children and called it building esteem.

We have abused power and called it political savvy.

We have coveted our neighbors' possessions and called it ambition.

We have polluted the air with profanity and pornography and called it freedom of expression.

We have ridiculed the time-honored values of our forefathers and called it enlightenment.

Search us O God and know our hearts today; try us and see if there be some wicked way in us; cleanse us from every sin and set us free.

Guide and bless these men and women who have been sent here by the people of Kansas, and who have been ordained by you, to govern this great state. Grant them your wisdom to rule and may their decisions direct us to the center of your will. I ask it in the name of your son, the living savior, Jesus Christ. Amen.

This was the prayer that was offered by Minister Joe Wright at the opening of the Kansas Senate in January 1996. It was met not with agreement and praise from the legislators, but by anger. Several of the legislators stormed out in protest. Others sat down and refused to bow their heads to the Lord. Why? Because they are just like us! They don't want to be told that they are wrong. They want to believe that they have control over their own futures. They do not wish to acknowledge that they are subject to a higher authority.

They were angry that a minister would have the audacity to point out to them, the Power Brokers, that what they were doing was dead wrong.

They were upset that he would have the temerity to invoke God to lead them in decisions that affect millions of Americans.

They were incensed that he would dare point out to them that they, and the United States of America, are not the perfect

unions that they want to delude themselves into believing they are.

But most of all they were unwilling to confess their sins. They were unwilling to confess guilt. They were unwilling to accept responsibility for the consequences of their actions. They were arrogant and defiant and unless they repent they will pay the consequences.

Joe Wright had the courage of Daniel when he stood in the senate chambers to read that prayer. He knew what kind of reception he would receive. He knew that he would be facing the lion's den. What he did not know was how it would be received by the rest of the country. He stood there in the presence of God and told those legislators the unvarnished, politically incorrect, gospel truth. And they hated him for it.

But the majority of the people supported him. I am sure it was as much a surprise to him as it was the Kansas Senate, but the ground wave of support for the truth of his prayer was overwhelming. Those opposed, less

than one percent of the correspondents, could only mumble lame excuses about the mythical and unconstitutional separation of church and state.

It makes me wonder if things are indeed as dark as they seem. In light of the current cesspool of controversy surrounding the presidential election I am still pessimistic, but I like to think that God-fearing people are still the majority in this once Christian Nation. Only time will tell. And in that interminable time we must make ourselves heard. We must try to emulate Daniel and Joe Wright and the other great Godly men of the past and tell the leaders of this country that we will accept nothing but truth and honor from our representatives. That we still believe in right and wrong and that this is still "one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all."

John 8: 31 - "To the Jews who had believed him, Jesus said, 'If you hold to my teaching, you are really my disciples. Then you will know the truth, and the truth will set you free.'"

Mend the Electoral College, don't end it

Capitol Comment
Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

The people of America sent a message November 7, but it's taking a little time to figure out exactly what it is. As we learn about dangling chads, the drumbeat is also beginning about the reform of our election process. Should we change election day from Tuesday to Saturday? Should we open and close the polls at a uniform time nationwide? More fundamentally, should we scrap the Electoral College?

This final idea would require amending the Constitution. As we consider that, we should begin by examining the intent of its Framers. Their clear vision during the Constitutional Convention of 1787 was that we remain a collection of states united in their common interests. The delegates in Philadelphia never really considered any form of electing the President that did not involve a process by which the states themselves had the final say, with the particular concern of small states holding sway throughout. The Electoral College was established as the best means by which to ensure popular expression of will, weighted by the influence of individual states. Although many schemes were considered and rejected, Alexander Hamilton pronounced of the final effort, "If the manner of it be not perfect, it is at least excellent."

He was right. Consider how closely the fortunes of both Vice President Gore and Governor Bush were tied to the decisions of the people of smaller states such as West Virginia, New Mexico and Oregon. Each candidate spent considerable time in these states. The combined population of these three states is about 6.8 million. By comparison, the Los Angeles-Long Beach metropolitan area has 15.3 million inhabitants. Would another candidate for the highest office of the land ever step foot in tiny West Virginia were the fortunes of the election based solely on the popular vote?

Presidential races in the future would instead be the pursuit of the vote in major urban

centers of the country, characterized by frequent run-off elections as proliferating smaller party candidates siphoned off sufficient votes to prevent an absolute majority.

This is often the unfortunate result in many countries around the globe and one we've avoided for two centuries. In just three of 53 presidential elections has the process established in the Constitution failed to yield an electoral majority. That's not a bad record, considering the emergence of political parties, the establishment of universal suffrage and the rapid growth of our country. What has not changed is that we remain a confederation of states with common purpose and a system with enough checks and balances that those who lose do not feel threatened or disenfranchised. Scrapping the electoral system would gravely undermine that principle.

In fact, that's why attempts to change the process will fail. The approval of the legislatures of three-fourths of the states is needed to amend the Constitution. Just 14 states could sink the proposition. Twenty states have a population of fewer than three million and would see little interest in ratifying their loss of influence over the selection of the President.

This doesn't mean there is nothing we can do to improve the process. To reach a more expeditious conclusion in a close election, we might define a finite period for the casting of federal votes. Establishing a uniform voting period tied to a single time zone (9 to 9 CST, for example) would ensure that all Americans are voting in the same real-time period. Setting the election on a Saturday instead of Tuesday should be considered.

We might also require absentee ballots to be post-marked on a specified date prior to the election. These simple changes may produce more open access and uniformity while confounding the ability of news organizations to affect the vote in one part of the country based upon early and erroneous calls from another region — as well may

By Henry Bonilla
U.S. Congressman, 23 Dist.

Many of you have expressed your frustrations over the hundreds of military absentee votes thrown out in the Florida presidential election. I want you to know that I share your concerns. This is no way to treat the men and women who serve our country.

I'd like to begin by giving you some background on the military vote and what happened in the Florida election. Pentagon figures show that more than 180,000 of our nation's 1.4 million active-duty troops are registered in Florida. Some 150,000 of those troops claim Florida as their home, but do not live there due to deployments. More than 4,000 of these Florida absentee ballots remained to be counted after election day this year.

Of the 4,000 ballots received, more than 1,500 were rejected — that's about 37 percent. Election officials report that these military overseas ballots were rejected in Florida for a variety

of technicalities, which no other ballots were subjected to. For example, signing your name as "Bob," instead of "Robert," may have caused your vote to have been tossed out. It simply is not right that the men and women of our armed services were subjected to this form of admonishing.

The bottom line is that these votes were questioned only in an attempt to reverse this election. It seems the special circumstances surrounding an overseas military voter were not as important as other factors. When these men and women signed up for service, they placed their lives in the hands of the executive branch of the federal government. The overseas deployments of our troops are not made by personal choice, but by military orders. These deployments deny our nation's defenders many comforts we take for granted, and some of the ease to exercise their rights.

A hallmark of our democracy is the right of the men and women who serve in our armed forces to vote. Unlike their fellow servicemen and women based in the United States, it is difficult for those who serve aboard ships to vote. Soldiers and sailors serving on the front lines often do not have the chance to get their mail post-marked, yet they still submit valid ballots, which should be counted. These technicalities were beyond the control of our servicemen and women. For these reasons and others unmentioned, federal, state and local governments have the responsibility to defend our military's right to vote.

In order to address the injustices committed during this election I am introducing legislation which reaffirms and defends the military's constitutional right to vote. My legislation will urge the Justice Department to fully investigate the current abuses and take all appropriate legal action to protect the future civil rights of our military and their dependents.

Our military is scattered across the globe in a time of record deployments. The thousands of servicemen stationed on ships or stationed abroad did their part in our democracy. It is now in the hands of our federal government to see that their votes are counted and to ensure that we do not repeat this event in the future.

Colorectal Cancer Education and Awareness Month (How do you educate cancer?), International Calendar Awareness Month (My calendar is acutely aware), National Drunk and Drugged Driving (3D) Prevention Month (This one I won't joke about), National Stress-Free Family Holidays Month (I need something stress-free), Safe Toys and Gifts Month (Forget safe. Just give me the gifts), Universal Human Rights Month (We have rights in the Universe?), Cookie Cutter Week (12/1-12/7) (This doesn't sound like a safe toy), National Aplastic Anemia Awareness Week (12/1-12/7) (Tell me what it is and maybe I'll try to become aware of it), Tolerance Week (12/1-12/7) (I just now got over INTOLERANCE week), Human Rights Week (12/10-12/16) (Is this a trick?), International Language Week (12/15-12/21) (Do we have an international language?), Tell Someone They're Doing a Good Job Week (12/17-12/23) (I'll be waiting.), Thursday, 12/21 is Humbug Day! (All right!!!), Monday, 12/25 is Christmas (This is Jesus' day. No joke here.), Tuesday, 12/26 is Boxing Day, also national Whiner's Day (Let's beat up the whiners!).

Of each state's total, two are chosen by the winner of the popular vote statewide, with the rest allocated to the winner of each congressional district. If this procedure were in place in every state, candidates would not only focus on individual states to cobble together a victory, but be able to spend time in potential strongholds within a state he or she might otherwise lose.

The Constitution is infused with the Framers' understanding that popular passion must be modulated to ensure true consensus in what they knew would be a country of diverse tendencies. There are many examples of this, but none more fundamental to our federal identity than the creation of the Electoral College. They knew that it may sometimes be difficult to select a chief executive through the sheer popular will, and developed a systematic process to handle those cases. Indeed, it was only after considerable deliberation and explicit rejection of every imaginable alternative that the delegates to the Constitutional Convention settled on the system.

In the heat of a closely contested election and its aftermath, we're unlikely to improve upon their work. This matter should be debated, and we should seek improvements to assure fairness and stability. However, I believe the current process is not some 18th Century anachronism ill-suited to modern times, but rather the practical expression of our essence as a nation.

We

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we

Big Mama Sez!



We are not called to live up to others responsibilities, but to our own.

Your Representatives

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Comment line 1-202-456-1111

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370 Russell Building, Washington, D.C. 20510
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U.S. Senator
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The Brackett News

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

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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.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Monday, Nov. 27
6:49 a.m., A local man reported a black GMC Pickup parked in front of his sister's residence. Someone had rang her door bell at around 3:30 a.m. Chief of Police Ron Ring was notified.

7:25 p.m., Constable Bill Linderman reported an abandoned vehicle just outside the county line. The owner was notified.

Tuesday, Nov. 28
3:25 p.m., A local man reported a couple where arguing in the middle of FM 2904, approximately 2 miles from town. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was dispatched to the scene.

5:24 p.m., U.S. Border Patrol reported a state maintained cattle guard located on FM 674 was damaged and blocking the roadway. Constable Linderman advised that the location was in Edwards County. Edwards County Sheriff's office was advised. Chief Deputy Fritter was dispatched to the location.

Wednesday, Nov. 29
6:45 p.m., A Brackettville man reported the theft of a 100 gallon diesel gas tank.

Thursday, Nov. 30
7:54 a.m., A local man reported that someone had killed one of his \$300 show goats the night before. Chief of Police Ring was dispatched to the location.

9:00 p.m., A local woman turned in the wallet of a Fort Clark Springs resident to Deputy Manuel Pena, Jr. Deputy Pena notified Fort Clark Springs Security when

the owner could not be reached.
Friday, Dec. 1

6:15 a.m., A local man reported an 18 wheeler turned over on highway 90 east, near the Justice of the Peace's office. No injuries where reported. DPS Trooper Tom Wylie was dispatched to the scene.

Saturday, Dec. 2
1:22 p.m., A Fort Clark employee reported damage to the 18th green on the golf course. Deputy Pena was dispatched to take pictures of the damages.

2:38 p.m., A 911 caller reported she was broke down 10 miles east of Brackettville on highway 90 in a Green 1995 Windstar Van. ABC Wrecker was notified.

8:50 p.m., U.S. Border Patrol reported two intoxicated people had tried to run the Cline Checkpoint. Deputy Karl Chism was dispatched to the checkpoint.

10:30 p.m., Contreras Crescensio Ramos, 52 years old, of San Antonio was arrested by Deputy Chism for DWI 1st offense. Ramos is still being held.

Monday, Dec. 4
12:20 a.m., A local woman requested a deputy be sent to her residence. She thought someone had entered the house while she was asleep. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the location.

12:32 a.m., Fort Clark Springs Security reported that a Fort Clark member had requested a deputy be sent to his residence to remove his son-in-law.

Alexander, Coe talk to Rotarians about Border Patrol history

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Rotary Club met Thursday noon, on November the thirtieth. Mr. Michael Hall, principal of Brackettville High School, and members of the team to plan and prepare for the dinner theater scheduled for December 15th, announced that dates set for the occasion conflict with dates for other Christmas activities in the community. The decision was made to revise the plans and use a Valentine theme for the dinner theater. A definite date will be announced.

November Program chairman, Dave Alexander, Patrol Agent in Charge of the Brackettville Station, presented the last program of the month. A long time friend of Mr. Alexander's and Watch Commander, Brad Coe of the Brackettville Border Patrol Station, told the Rotarians about the history of the Border Patrol.

The Del Rio area, which includes Brackettville, has had an important role in Border Patrol history. The United States Border Patrol was established in May of 1924, and the Del Rio Sector was established in 1925. In 1940, Coe explained that the Brackettville Station was located at Spofford, Texas to curb the influx of illegal aliens entering on the railroad spur from Piedras Negras, Coah., Mexico via Eagle Pass. When the aliens arrive in Spofford, they would board Southern Pacific freight trains bound for San Antonio and the interior. The Spofford Station was also responsible for intercepting aliens who entered through the Eagle Pass area and walked through the brush in an attempt to evade detection. During discussion, we learned that the small jail-like structure that still stands was the Border Patrol Station in the past.

Illegal aliens later discontinued using the railroad spur line as their main mode of entry, and the station was moved to Brackettville in 1952. Also at this time, the water

level in Spofford started to drop which was another factor prompting the change of location. The Spofford area is still kept under regular surveillance by the Brackettville Station.

Coe mentioned that during the forties, that station probably caught more draft dodgers going south than illegal aliens going north. Chief Patrol Agent, Paul Berg, head of Del Rio Sector and a Rotarian happened to be attending the Brackettville meeting and added that the Border Patrol also was responsible for the Prisoners of War housed here during the war.

From 1961 to 1977, the Brackettville Station was located in a small building leased from Mr. Allen Kreiger. This building is currently occupied by Mr. Tully Shahan's law office, located on Ann Street across from the courthouse. Coe remarked that when he saw the Shahan office he was amazed that it was so large. Today, the office is set up basically like it was at that time. This amazement at the rapid growth of the Patrol became a theme as time went on, due to the explosive growth of the Border Patrol.

In October of 1977, the station moved to a new building, which was constructed by Mr. Tommy Seargeant. The building was 40 by 50 concrete block building that provided 2000 square feet of space. A paved, covered parking area behind the building, provided space for eight vehicles. The building is currently occupied by Don's Funeral Home, which is located on Highway 90.

This building was leased from Mr. Seargeant. The on duty force in 1986 at the Brackettville station consisted of one Patrol Agent in Charge, two Supervisory Border Patrol Agents and 24 Patrol Agents. Station manpower increased during 1986 through 1990 to an on duty force of 43 agents in the fall of 1990. The astounding rapid growth is very apparent here. It doubled in size in this short period of time.

The construction of a 24-hour

checkpoint on Highway 90, east of Brackettville at Cline was completed in 1989 and was the responsibility of the Brackettville Station until 1993 when it was transferred to Uvalde.

In October of 1989, construction was started on a new Brackettville Station - an 8,000 square foot building completed in August of 1990. The U.S. Air Force National Guard Civil Engineering Squadrons based in Michigan, Illinois, Wyoming, Texas and New York, each spent two weeks working on the building until April of 1990. In August of 1990 volunteer agents from the Brackettville station continued the construction. The use of the Air National Guard resulted in a saving of over \$125,000.00.

Currently the staff consists of one Patrol Agent in Charge, one Assistant Patrol Agent in Charge, two Watch Commanders, nine Supervisory Border Patrol Agents, 19 Senior Patrol Agents and 65 Patrol Agents including three Canine Handlers for a total of 97 Agents and one secretary.

Over the years, the Brackettville Station has developed the reputation of being the best station in the Service. The type of work and the positive attitude of those who work

here are, at least in part, the reason.

During the discussion, Coe said the Agents who asked to leave this area come to regret it. He said he spent half his career trying to get to Brackettville. He really likes it, and finds it much safer than living in a city. He added that any time he has had any problem around the property which caused him to contact the sheriff, he has always found that the sheriff "knows about it - or knows it's going to happen - and knows who did it".

Several agents have chosen to live here after retirement. Coe named one who "has a set of tires and drags them around the edge of his property every day".

Brackettville Agents have always taken part in the local community. This has included 4-H, Little League, School Board, and the War on Drugs, to name a few. Agents working with the School District started the "Outstanding Student Program" and also award several scholarships to deserving seniors who plan to continue their education.

Rotarians would like to express their gratitude to the Border Patrol for the work they do and for being a valued part of our community.



Presenting the last program of the month are left to right, Brad Coe, Watch Commander, Dave Alexander, Patrol Agent in Charge. The men talked to Brackettville Rotarians about the history of the Border Patrol.

Photo contest open to residents

The International Library of Photography is pleased to announce that over \$60,000 in prizes will be awarded this year in the International Open Amateur Photography Contest. Photographers from the Brackettville area, particularly beginners, are welcome to try to win their share of over 1,300 prizes. The contest is open to everyone and the entry is free.

To enter, send ONE photograph in only ONE of the following categories: People, Travel, Pets, Chil-

dren, Sports, Nature, Action, Humor Portraiture, or Other. The photo must be a color or black-and-white print (unmounted), 8" x 10" or smaller. All entries must include the photographer's name and address on the back, as well as the category and the title of the photo. Photographs should be sent to: The International Library of Photography, Suite 101-9009, 3600 Crondall Lane, Owings Mills, MD 21117. Entries must be postmarked by January 31, 2001.

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Children learn to trust from their parents

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Mom, was I born before you and Dad were married?" Sixteen year-old Cathy was asking a question most children at some time or another wonder about. "Why do you ask?" Brenda answered. "Debbie found out that her par-

ents were not married when she was born. She is mad and angry because she says that her parents only got married because of her and she was not really wanted." "Well Cathy, to answer your question, your dad and I were married and you were wanted. God instituted marriage and he says that sex is right only after people are married. Debbie is a

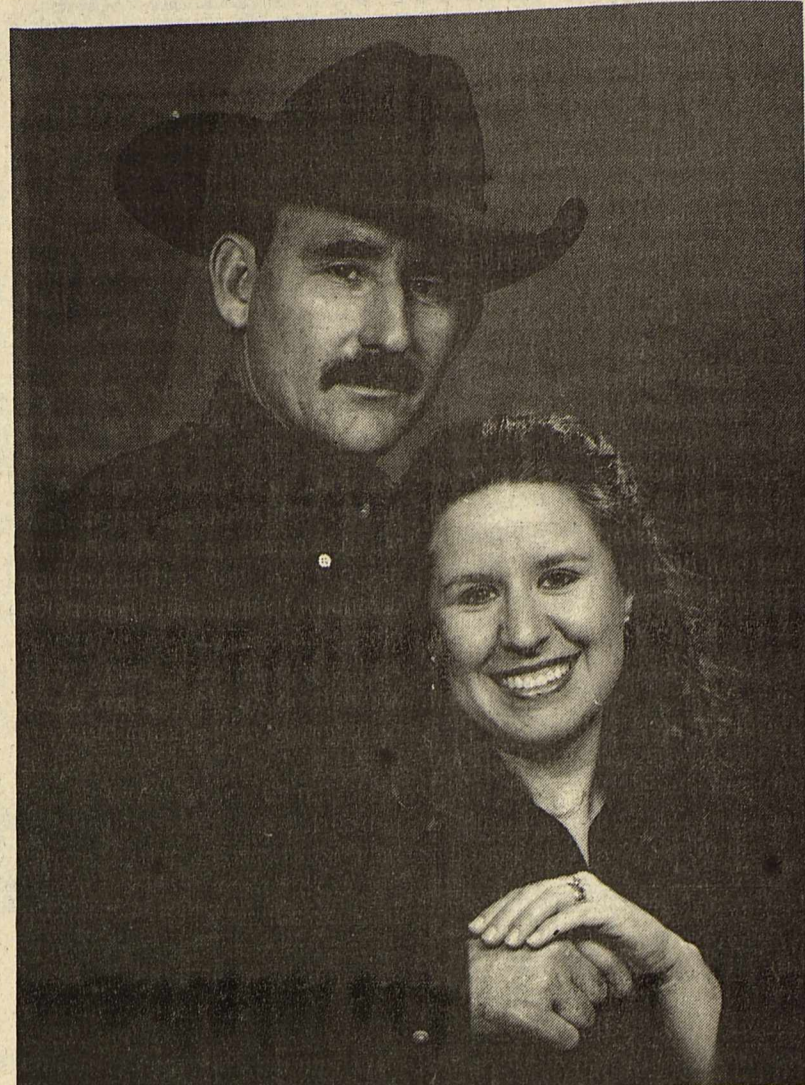
good example of one of the unfortunate things that can happen when children are conceived out of marriage. Sometimes children in such situations don't believe that they can really trust their parents. However, Debbie should not assume that she was not wanted. Maybe her parents married because they did want her and wanted to give her a complete family. You can encourage Debbie to see the best in the situation."

What is your marriage teaching your children? Marriage is so basic and fundamental to our well being that virtually every facet of children's lives is influenced to a greater or lesser degree by the kind of relationship they see in their parents' marriage. The great psychologist Dr. Erik H. Erikson

found that one of the earliest things children learn from their parents is either trust or mistrust. If a child does not find total trust in his parents he is left with a serious deficit for the rest of his life. It is a difficult deficit, but not impossible to overcome.

Children can learn to overcome the trust deficit by turning to the Father in Heaven who is, by his very nature, totally and completely trustworthy. Parents should admit their mistakes and show by their example that God is able to heal and that forgiveness is a vital way of life.

This column is brought to you by the St. Henry deOsso Family Project working to strengthen family, faith and education in Brackettville.



Tony and Nancy Frerich proudly announce the engagement of their daughter, Tammy Catherine, to Tracy Tye Beams, son of Tye and Sally Beams of Sierra Blanca, Texas. A March 24, 2001, wedding is planned at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Brackettville.

December 7, 2000
This is the ballot for replacement of 4 Chamber of Commerce Board of Director Positions coming open for 2001. Please show your approval of the following nominees by marking four or writing in your own nominees. Ballots must be returned for tallying by December 18th.
If you are a member in good standing of the Kinney County Chamber of Commerce, please send your marked ballot to:
Kinney County Chamber of Commerce
P.O. Box 386
Brackettville, TX. 78832

Joan Boutwell _____
Kenneth Hale _____
Allen Kreiger _____
Sarita Villarreal _____

Dodson presents geneology of the Texas cowboy to Society

New president Bud Buckner opened the meeting on Saturday, December 2, 2000, in the meeting room of The Kettle in Uvalde at 10:00 a.m. The group stood for the pledge to the flag of the United States of America, pledge to the Texas flag, and the invocation.

It was decided to order a reprint of the cookbook that the society published a few years ago as a fund raiser. Various officers and committee chairmen made their reports including Hawkins Huey, district representative of Kinney County.

Ron Dodson presented the program appropriately entitled "Geneology of the Texas Cowboy." He said the early beginnings were in 1525 when cattle and horses were introduced to our continent by the Spanish. The Mexicans were trained to be vaqueros. From this the word evolved to buckaroo and then finally to cowboy. During the 16th century there were herds in the Brownsville-Corpus Christi-Laredo triangle.

During this time some other new words were introduced. The quilt came into existence. The Mexicans had been using whips and the quilt was one-quarter as long as the whip, therefore quilt. These were made from rawhide. The word lariat came from the Spanish word for rope lariata. These were made from rawhide or horsehair. The first cattle in our hemisphere did not have long horns. As they adapted their horns grew longer and their feet grew shorter.

During the American Revolution cattle were driven as far as Louisiana to be used as food for the patriots. This was probably the first of the cattle drives.

At the time of the War Between The States it was said that there were more longhorn cattle than deer in Texas. Following the War, between 1866-1892, it is estimated that 10,000,000 head of cattle were driven out of Texas. The most

famous cattle drive trails were the Goodnight and Chism Trails. Few people realize that about one-fourth of the cowboys on these trail drives were African Americans.

Local members attending other than Hawkins were Louise Stone, Charolette Corey, Mary Seaver and Pat McKelvy.

A sound is a living memory

By Rocco Fortunato
Contributing Writer

A picture is worth a thousand words, but sound is a living memory!

I talked last week about how the sounds of our family's voices can mean so much to us. Imagine how it would feel if you could hear your mother's or father's voice again long after they had gone? Consider what a gift it would be to offer that opportunity to your own children.

This is the stuff "Nostalgia" is made of! Not just remembering, but "being there again".

I was especially amazed at this phenomenon when I played a very old tape that my father made at Christmas time with our family gathered. The family sang hymns and Christmas carols. I was six that year, my sister was two.

My uncles and aunts and cousins and even my grandfather was there... and I could recognize every voice. I was amazed at how well I could remember the feelings of that day. I felt them all over again. I could remember how my family was back then, not through the eyes of the six-year-old I was at the time;...rather, through the feelings, emotions, and experience of the adult I am as I listened today!

Only now could I appreciate the youth and vitality of my father's voice as he played the piano and led the singing. Only now could I fully appreciate just who my Grandfather was as I listened to

his strong, clear, young voice - proud father that he was to this gathering of his own children.

By the time I was old enough to figure what life was all about, my Grandfather was an "older man". Now as I re-experienced my memories of his voice and the feelings that went with it, I got to know my Grandfather in his youth and could finally appreciate in new ways just what sort of man he was.

Grandpa's gone now, but not in my memory!

They were all there, streaming from my unlocked memories: my Mom and Dad, my Aunt Pat, my Uncle Don, my cousins;... I could even recognize my sister who was only two. All I heard was something like "goo-gah...", but I remembered her voice.

And my own voice! Dad had me singing a carol all by myself on that tape. I was amazed. Do you remember how you thought you thought like an adult when you were six? I heard myself singing forty years ago and suddenly I could feel myself inside that six year old mind again. I began to fully realize in a new way how I was still "me", even then.

What a wonderful keepsake that tape is. And it almost wasn't. That tape was old. It was cracked and drying out and losing it's oxide. It almost fell apart on the machine. Not only that, it was losing it's sound over the years.

Fortunately, I was able to turn it into a modern Digital CD. Now

those memories will be preserved perfectly for generations.

The approaching holiday season is a great time to capture these memories. While the family is gathered you can ask Grandma to tell stories about when she was young. You can ask Dad how he met Mom. You can ask Mom what special things happened on her wedding day. Try asking each member of the family for their version of what happened on some special family reunion, vacation, holiday or even when Uncle Charlie broke his leg. Or you can ask questions about the genealogy of your family: how are we related to great-aunt Matilda?

Just get the family talking. You can catch these memories on a little cassette recorder like you would take a snapshot with a camera. Or you can take the family in for a "family portrait" at a professional recording studio and get a portrait quality family archive. Either way, a studio can make you a CD that will last for a very long time.

Try readings from children's books, Christmas stories, or the Bible. Or just pull out an album of family pictures and talk about who and what you see in the pictures.

If your family is shy about such things or needs ideas about how to get started, get in touch with me.

These are future memories. Don't miss out on them.

Agri-business training opportunity

The Leather Research Institute at Texas Tech University is pleased to announce that we will be co-hosting the 2001 Hide School, co-sponsored by the U.S. Hide, Skin and Leather Association and the Leather Industries of America. This biennial event is scheduled for May 19-23, 2001, on the campus of Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. The Hide School is a specialized training program, providing in-depth education in all aspects of animal hide commerce and technology through classroom, laboratory and field trip events. This program remains as the premier educational opportunity for those seeking a basic introduction to the leather industry. Typical attendance is 25, mostly consisting of international students.

This year the Leather Research

Institute is conducting a special program for Texas businesses and economic development representatives. The Institute will provide up to five \$800 scholarships to selected individuals representing municipal economic development groups and Texas businesses. Awards will be made on a competitive basis and will be in the form of reimbursements directly to individuals with proof of attendance/participation of at least 80% (3 of the 4 days) of the 2001 Hide School. A complete application consists of a completed Hide School application form, a completed 2001 Hide School Scholarship application and two letters of recommendation. The deadline for applications is 1 February 2001. Notice of scholarship award and acceptance to the 2001 Hide School will be made by March 1, 2001.

Please pass this information along to those individuals who would benefit their home organizations by participation in the 2001 Hide School. We are particularly keen to ensure good participation from Texas in this training opportunity and seek your support in promoting our program. If you have any questions, please let me know.

Sheep and goat predator management board to seat three new directors

San Angelo - The Commissioner of Agriculture, Susan Combs, has verified that the following individuals: John Wade of Sonora (District 1), William Edmiston, DVM of Eldorado (District 2) and Gordon Hays of Ballinger (District 3) have been elected to six-year terms on the nine-member Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board.

The Board held its biennial election Oct. 27 to elect three producers to represent its three districts encompassing 111 counties. The Texas Commodity Referendum Law, which governs this producer board, requires biennial elections and prescribes the ballot-canvassing process. Canvassing of the ballots took place on November 15, 2000. Each newly

elected director received the most votes in his district.

The new directors will be sworn in at the conclusion of the Dec. 15, 2000 board meeting. The Board meets every-other-month and oversees collection of a 20-cent per head assessment that is used to fund predator management programs.

The Sheep and Goat Predator Management Board, formerly known as the Texas Sheep and Goat Commodity Board, was formed in 1992 by a referendum vote of sheep and goat producers in the 111-county production area. To date, the board has funded approximately \$2.3 million for predator management and control programs.

How to be an Eco-Friendly Boater

"Eco-boating" means being environmentally aware while you enjoy the sport of boating.

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- 4) Use biodegradable cleaning agents when possible
- 5) Don't litter on water, Bring

- 6) When fueling, don't top tank, but do mop up fuel spills
- 7) Watch wakes and propeller washes
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- 9) Control bilge water
- 10) If fishing, practice "Catch and Release"

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Basketball teams and Christmas season in full gear Tigerettes and basketball: A winning combination

Making a difference
By Taylor Stephenson

The Tiger Basketball teams have started their seasons! I believe we'll see some of the best basketball ever played in Brackettville in the coming season. I encourage you to come and support the Tigers. The Junior High teams are also very exciting. So, check the game board in front of the gym and come and support the Tigers!

I'm ready for the presidential election to be over. There are too many strange things going on that involve a nation that split its vote right down the middle. There are wild folks and loud mouths on both sides of the issue. Those irrespon-

sible statements will cause the winner to have a tougher time governing this great nation. I care more about my country than I care about either political party. I am also having a tough time with some of the folks on both sides who are quoting scripture in support of their candidate. This was a national political election. It's time that we figure out who the winner was. I hope that we never again experience as much divisiveness as this election has created. No matter who is the winner, I pray that we will support him in his attempt to govern this greatest nation that ever existed.

This past weekend, my wife and I spent time with New Mexico friends in San Antonio. You must

know that the lights on the Riverwalk are as beautiful as I have ever seen. We took the riverboat ride at night and were able to see lights that reflected into the San Antonio River. Try it; you'll like it.

Two names were inadvertently left off of the honor roll for the 2nd six weeks. The school district apologizes to these two fine young folks for our mistake. They are: Beth Ballew-A Honor Roll Dustin Slubar-A/B Honor Roll.

This Thursday night at 7:30 p.m., check out the Voices of Fort Clark Concert. Also, Sunday afternoon, make sure that you take the time for the Arts Council Christmas Tour of Homes.

Also, the Christmas Unity

project can use money for donations for toys for Brackettville's children. A check can be sent to the City of Brackettville to help insure that each child gets a gift. Take the time to help with this project which will be held at City Hall on Sunday, December 17. Have a great week!

Brackett defeats Comstock in opener

Brackett defeated the Comstock Panthers at home 78-37 on November 28. Leading scorers for the Tigers were Jared Hobbs with 22, Schiller Hill with 12, and Damian Toms with 11. Every player for Brackett scored as the Tigers go 1-0 on the season.

Quick-start retirement savings tips for baby boomers

By Lucy Medrano
Contributing Writer

Austin - Retiring minds want to know: what can baby boomers who haven't saved enough - or anything at all - do to prepare for retirement? If you count yourself among the baby boomers who need to play catch up with their retirement savings, the Texas Society of CPAs provides the following advice to get you started.

Review the Estimate of your Projected Social Security Benefits

The Social Security Administration will mail individuals Personal Earning and Benefit Estimate Statements approximately three months before a person's birthday showing projected benefits at age 62, your full retirement age, and age 70. Reviewing this statement in detail can help baby boomers determine how much they may need to supplement Social Security income.

Maximize Retirement Plan Contributions

One excellent way to save for retirement and defer taxes is to take maximum advantage of a retirement plan at work. A 401(k) allows you to invest money directly from your paycheck, before taxes. What's more, companies frequently match employees' contributions. Money in qualified retirement accounts grows tax-free until it's withdrawn in retirement. Self-employed individuals can open a Keogh, SIMPLE, or SEP retirement plan.

Don't Invest Too Conservatively

The biggest challenge is to invest aggressively enough to overcome a late start, without seriously putting your financial future in jeopardy. For all but the baby boomers who are ten years away from retirement, it's not too late to invest a substantial portion of retirement funds in stocks, as long as your portfolio is diversified. Over the long term, stocks have historically outpaced other investments. As you get closer to retirement age, you should adjust the allocation of your assets.

Don't Get Sidetracked

Baby boomers are often torn between saving for retirement and putting money away for their children's college education. Experts say that you should make saving for retirement your priority. If you don't have enough to cover tuition bills, your children can apply for financial aid or student loans. You won't have those options when you retire.

Fund an IRA

There have been so many changes to Individual Retirement Accounts (IRAs) that many people are confused about eligibility and tax implications. To set the record straight, everyone, even if covered by another retirement plan, can contribute to an IRA. Your contribution may or may not be deductible. This depends on your income and whether you or your spouse is covered by another plan. But even if your contribution is not deductible, the money invested in your IRA grows and compounds each year on a tax-deferred basis. This tax break can significantly enhance the growth of your retirement fund.

Get Serious About Spending Less

Track how you spend your money for a month. Then determine where you can make cuts and redirect your savings to your retirement nest egg. Better yet, arrange to have your bank transfer a fixed amount each month to a mutual fund. You often don't miss what you don't see.

Prepare to Work in Retirement

In a study conducted by the AARP, a full 80 percent of baby boomers surveyed said they plan to work at least part time in retirement. If necessary, take a course to update your skills or, if you're looking to do something different, focus on developing a hobby or interest that could provide you with self-employment income in retirement.

Hold Out for More

When you work beyond your normal full retirement age and delay taking Social Security benefits, you earn a bonus for each year (until you reach 70) that you don't collect. When you even-

tually start taking your benefits, your monthly benefit will be higher based on the bonus(es) you have earned. And in many cases, the extra year(s) of employment mean the wage base on which your benefit is calculated will go up as well, resulting in an even higher monthly benefit.

Take it One Step at a Time

Don't be overwhelmed by the amount you may need to save. Instead, CPAs say you should focus on cutting expenses and diverting your savings to retirement savings. For most baby boomers, a comfortable retirement is within reach.

About the TSCPA

The Texas Society of Certified Public Accountants www.tscpa.org is the state wide professional membership association of CPAs with more than 27,000 members in business and industry, public practice, government and education. TSCPA is a state

chapter of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the first national, professional membership organization to be ISO 9001 certified, in recognition of its quality management and assurance practices.

Free program by Casa De La Cultura

Eva Ybarra will be the Special Guest Artist for Casa De La Cultura's 7th Annual "Pastorela, Bailes y Cantos" on Saturday, December 16, 2000, at 4:00 p.m. at the Paul Poag Theater. This event will be free to our community and is made possible in part by the Texas Commission on the Arts, Val Verde Community Foundation, Del Rio National Bank, H-E-B, Texas Folklife Resources, National Endowment for the Arts, the City of Del Rio, Val Verde County, Friends of the Casa and Ramada

Inn-Del Rio.

A self-taught accordion virtuosa, Ybarra's repertoire is complete with traditional Tejano polkas, waltzes, redovas, corridos and cumbias. Eva Ybarra received her first accordion at the age of four and by age six she and her brothers, chaperoned by their parents, played conjunto in the restaurants, bars, ice houses and dance halls around San Antonio.

In Texas, the Spanish term conjunto refers not only to a musical group but also to a distinc-

team members who have also contributed greatly to the success of the team are Migdalia Gonzalez, Maria Martinez, Celina Cano, Allison LaMascua, April Martinez, and Amanda Davis. The girls are scheduled to play the Rocksprings Angoras on Tuesday the 5th, in Brackett. On Thursday the 7th, the girls will be playing in the SWTJC Tournament. So come on out and support the Tigerettes and be entertained with some exciting basketball.

Brackett plays three in Nueces Canyon tournament

The Brackett Tigers won one and dropped two this weekend in the Nueces Canyon Booster Club Tournament. Brackett lost to Sabinal 68-63 on Thursday morning. The leading scorers for the Tigers were Damian Toms with 24, and Schiller Hill with 16. Thursday evening Brackett defeated LaPryor 69-50. Leading scorers

for the Tigers were Damian Toms with 16, Schiller Hill and Carlos Gomez with 14 points. Saturday the Tigers lost a close one to Utopia in the consolation finals 56-49. Leading scorers for the Tigers were Schiller Hill with 16, Damian Toms with 11, and Jared Hobbs with 8. The Tigers are 2-2 on the season.

ive style of dance music involving the use of the accordion, bass, drums and bajo sexto, a Mexican instrument.

She is "la reina de acordeón," the undisputed queen of the Tex-Mex conjunto accordion. Ybarra, who has fronted her ensemble for close to a decade, has developed a style distinguished by fast melodic runs and a florid technique. For Eva Ybarra, an energetic San Antonio-based bandleader and accordionist, it is an honor to take seriously.

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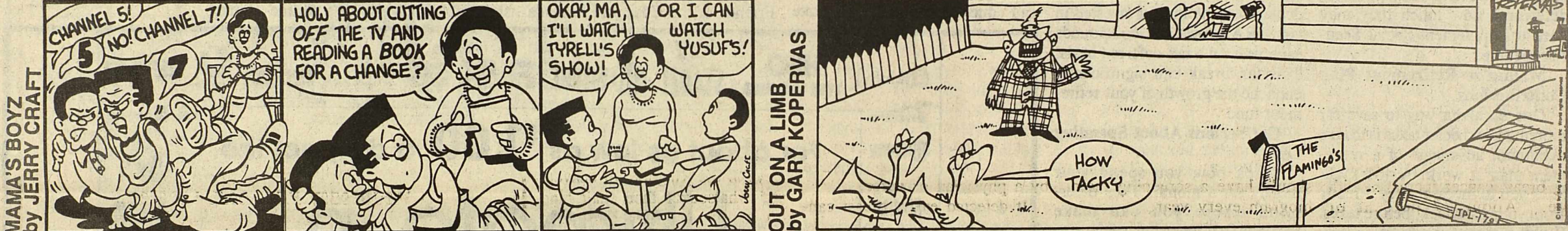
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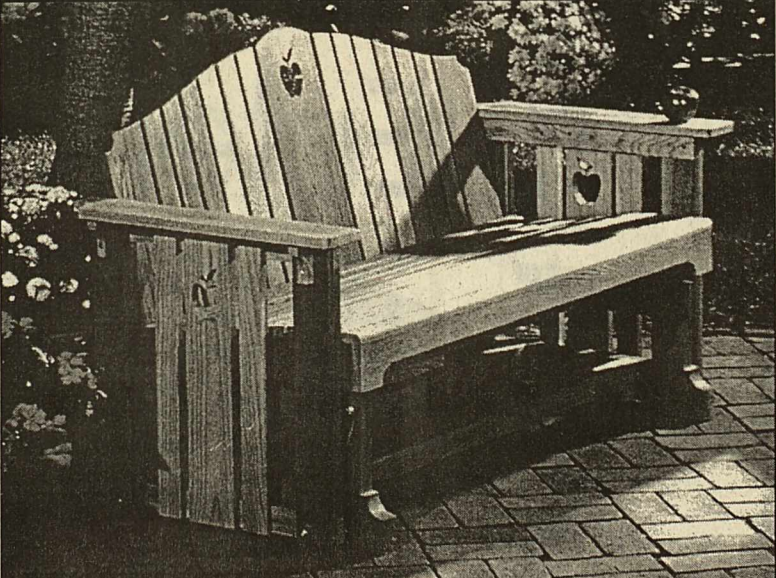
ACROSS

- 38th U.S. President
- Pro vote
- Play a ukulele
- Belted constellation
- Rile
- Slick from Punkin Crack (Dinah Shore film)
- Buffalo's home
- Fixed standard
- Election matter
- Caribou's kin
- Witt's milieu
- Hold the title to
- Tree swinger
- Start of a Shakespearean title
- bene
- Compact
- School theme
- Trappist
- Malt kilns
- Hit hard
- Admired one
- Extinct bird of New Zealand
- Radiu's neighbor
- Share
- Comet's master
- Create
- Evil one
- Royal ("Short Shorts" singers)
- Horse prod
- Grip
- Lubricant
- Sports org.
- Total: abbr.
- Morning hours: abbr.
- Texas twang
- Large tub
- Satellite's path
- Bert Parks, for many years
- Compass pt.
- Bea, to Prince Charles
- Tokyo tipples
- Schoolboy
- Form an opinion
- Socks for tots
- Took for granted
- Extinct birds
- Gay
- Poet Tate
- They're coming, in "Over There"
- Wife or life beginning
- "I ___ Fugitive..." (2 wds.)
- Absalom, to David
- Sylvester, to Tweety
- West of Brooklyn
- Compactly arranged
- Whit
- Granny Smiths
- "Your Song" singer John
- Come undone
- Disliked violently
- Works by Homer
- TV "friend" played by Marie Wilson
- Need
- Have ___ in one's bonnet (2 wds.)
- Pixie and Dixie, e.g.
- Stanch
- Like a pipsqueak
- Flat ___ pancake (2 wds.)
- Do away with

DOWN

- Trevino's warning
- Thermometer type
- Zamboni's realm
- Snoopy, e.g.
- Holy moly!
- Stage of development
- Ohio city
- Enamels
- Cruces
- Sky bear
- d'etat
- Grandpa's "horsie"
- Diamond and Simon
- Egyptian queen, for short
- Misfortunes

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HOROSCOPES

Aries March 21-April 20
Socially, you may be having the time of your life. You have kept your nose to the grindstone long enough and deserve to have fun. Rethink your current investment strategy.

Libra Sept. 23-Oct. 23
You may feel frustrated a number of times as you work through a challenge on the homefront. You should carefully weigh all the options before making a decision.

Taurus April 21-May 21
Focus your attention and energy on the good things in life. Be a team player. You may need to evaluate your budget line-by-line. The financial crunch isn't as bad as you perceive it to be.

Scorpio Oct. 24-Nov. 22
Your emotions may be complex and deep as you worry about making a mistake. Try not to let them boil over and upset your outward appearance.

Gemini May 22-June 21
A coworker may touch on an issue you're very sensitive about. Respond rather than react. Look for ways to re-energize yourself on a daily basis. It may include better nutrition and vitamins.

Sagittarius Nov. 23-Dec. 21
Love is conveyed through behavior. Pay close attention to what you say and do. A frantic search for important papers may motivate you to become more organized at home.

Cancer June 22-July 22
You're determined to get whatever you want. But be careful not to run too fast or you may trample an ally. Don't pressure a family member to talk. He/she needs his/her privacy.

Capricorn Dec. 22-Jan. 20
Although you like to stand out in a crowd, you prefer to stay out of the spotlight this time. Instead, you contribute to the process rather than be the star. Your generosity may be rewarded.

Leo July 23-August 23
Friends may be pressuring you to join in the festivities. Unless you are completely enthralled with the idea, you might do better to pass it up. Volunteering may be a better use of your talents.

Aquarius Jan. 21-Feb. 18
You may do your best work when you least expect to. Work in a daily reading time and stick to it. After reading an inspiring book, you begin to believe that anything is possible.

Virgo August 24-Sept. 22
People may find themselves drawn to you because of your encouraging words. Giving makes you feel needed. However, don't be afraid to ask others to give back by encouraging you.

Pisces Feb. 19 - March 20
You have the potential to make big changes in your surrounding-use it. Empower yourself spiritually. Do not let others talk you out of a good idea. They may not have your vision.

For Entertainment Purposes Only

Dogs are assets to candidates, and the feeling seems to be engendered that if a dog loves the candidate, he can't be all that bad.
—Dick Gregory

Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it.
—Attributed to Mark Twain

Let your words be strokes, not pokes *Prepare the road*

Gateway Ministries
Pastor Charolette Corey

Stroke, stroke, stroke! The better we learn to stroke, the faster we reach a winning destination. This has repeatedly been proven by the gold medal winners of races each time they have competed in rowing competitions. It has also been proven by the U.S. Coast Guard when rowing their boats out to save lives. Life and death can be measured in the skillful use of a "stroke."

Similarly the proper use of edifying, encouraging words can lift and propel ones craft in giving life to others. If each person rowing simply pokes their paddles into the water, there is

chaos. The craft goes nowhere or in circles, never achieving fulfillment of its destination. The same occurs with our words. We can choose to "poke" at people and things with our words or we can choose to "stroke" with our words.

The difference between "sucking up to someone" with our words and edifying them is our motivation. If you are motivated to bring that person closer to God by pointing out truthful, encouraging things then it is a "stroke." If you are motivated by greed, a desire to control others, or a spirit of mockery, your words will be for nothing.

Too often we are ready to "poke" at another person with our words. It is often easier to

look at and emphasize their faults rather than the good things about them. The emptiness and childishness in ones own life lends itself to putting the "spotlight" on someone else's imperfections. Rejecting others before they reject you becomes the normal.

This is not God's plan. It is not his wisdom. It brings him no glory. He demands to be glorified in our lives. He commands us to forgive others, love others unconditionally, edify the body of Christ, control our tongues, control our emotions, control our wills, ...all of this through the power of Jesus Christ living in us and his anointing upon us through the power of his Holy Spirit.

A rowing craft goes nowhere unless it has a goal. Our goal is to help bring about restoration and salvation in others lives through Jesus Christ. A rowing craft has no pace unless the "cox" sets the beat. This is the person who sits at the head of the rowers and calls out "stroke, stroke, stroke," setting the beat and the speed of the rowers. Jesus is our "cox." He sets the beat and tells us to "stroke, stroke, stroke!" You are always a winner when you let him lead and when we do it as the body of Christ, then we are even more effective, and all winners. Let your words be "strokes" not "pokes".

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

By Lynn McNew
St. Mary Magdalene

We lived for several years in the small town of Cotton Center between Lubbock and Amarillo. During the winter, dirt roads often became impassable and travel was difficult. Sometimes the only way to get out was by tractor and so people would only leave home when absolutely necessary. Imagine what that travel must have been like in the days of horse and wagon.

In times past, during winter, wooden wheels often were removed from the vehicles and brought indoors to keep them from warping. This annual ritual may have been the origin of the custom of the Advent wreath. It was only natural to festoon a wheel with greenery and candles as a sign of the season.

A traditional Advent wreath is suspended horizontally from the ceiling. That way the wreath becomes like a hole to peek into heaven. Also as the days grew shorter more and more candles were lit. An Austrian rhyme gives the pattern for the lighting: First one, then two, then three, then four. And then the Lord Christ knocks on the door.

The eloquent language in Baruch portrays God's leading Israel in joy, with God's mercy and justice as companions along the way. It is against this backdrop that the Herald of Christ, John the Baptist, appears. He announces that the paths will be made straight, the valleys filled in, and the mountains and hills be made low, the rough places

smooth.

These poetic words are meant to evoke something within each of us. What are the rough ways in our own lives that need smoothing in order for others to see the salvation of God through our words and deeds? What are the roads that have become so muddy and full of ruts that we are no longer able to see clearly just what it is to which God calls us?

"A voice cries out, "Prepare in the wilderness a road for the Lord!" (Isaiah 40:3)

I pray that I may use this Advent season to straighten the rough roads in my relationships, the muddy roads that keep me from the true love of God.

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

What is a cynic? A man who knows the price of everything, and the value of nothing.
—Oscar Wilde

Health

Early detection is key to survival

The statistics are staggering. One out of nine American women will develop breast cancer in her lifetime. A new breast cancer case is diagnosed every three minutes and one woman dies from this disease every 13 minutes.

The physicians of Texas want all women to know they are at risk of breast cancer regardless of ethnic background. For all women, prevention and early detection are important.

Breast cancer cannot yet be prevented but there are risk factors to be aware of. Having one or several risk factors, does not necessarily mean that a person will get the disease but that their chances of having the disease are greater.

Simply being a woman is the main risk factor for developing breast cancer. Breast cancer can also affect men, but to a lesser degree.

A woman's risk of developing breast cancer increases with age. About 77 percent of women with breast cancer are over age 50 at the time of diagnosis.

Breast cancer is highest among women whose close blood relatives have the disease.

A women with cancer in one breast is three to four times more likely to develop cancer in the other breast.

Breast cancer is slightly more common among Anglo American women.

Women who started menstruating before age 12 or who went through menopause after age 50 have a higher risk.

Women who have two to five drinks daily, have about 1.5 times the risk of women who drink no alcohol.

Although most of the associated risk factors cannot be controlled, early detection, and early treatment, may be promoted through routine breast self exam beginning around age 20 and screening mammography after age 40.

For early breast cancer detection, the American Cancer Society recommends the following:

Women age 40 and older should have a screening mammogram every year.

Between the ages of 20 and 39, women should have a clinical breast examination by a health professional every 3 years. After age 40, women should have a breast exam by a

health professional every year.

Women age 20 or older should perform a breast self exam (BSE) every month. By performing the exam regularly, women get to know how their breasts normally feel and can more readily detect any signs or symptoms.

If a change occurs, such as development of a lump or swelling, skin irritation, or dimpling, nipple pain or turning inward, redness or scaliness of the nipple or breast skin, or discharge other than breast milk, women should see their physician as soon as possible for evaluation.

During a breast cancer screening, the two primary methods used are mammography and a clinical breast exam. Mammography is used to diagnose breast disease in women who have symptoms, and also those who appear to have no breast problems. A clinical breast exam is an examination by a physician or nurse.

If detected early, breast cancer can be treated effectively with surgery followed by radiation therapy. With early detection, the five year survival rate after treatment is 96 percent.

The keys to the Kingdom

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

When Jesus came into the borders of Caesarea Philippi, he asked his disciples, saying, Who do men say that I, the son of man am?

And they said, some say that thou art John the Baptist: some, Elijah; and others, Jeremiah, or one of the prophets.

He saith unto them, But who say ye that I am?

And Simon Peter answered and said, thou art the Christ, the son of the Living God.

And Jesus answered and said unto him, Blessed art thou, Simon Bar-jo-na; for flesh and blood hath not revealed it unto thee, but my Father who is in heaven.

And I say also unto thee, that thou art Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.

And I will give unto thee the Keys of the Kingdom of heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatsoever thou shalt loose on earth shall be loose in heaven.

St. Matthew 16:13-20

Questions and answers about diabetes

Question: What is diabetes?
Answer: Diabetes is a disorder of carbohydrate metabolism in which the body has too little insulin and too much sugar. It tends to run in families. Diabetes is often marked by thirst, hunger, itching, weakness and loss of weight, among other symptoms. With proper treatment and lifestyle changes, many possible complications such as blindness, amputations, heart disease, kidney failure and premature death can be prevented or delayed.

Questions: Why is VA concerned about diabetes?

Answer: The prevalence of diabetes among VA patients is substantially higher than in the general population. About 16 percent of VA patients have diabetes, as compared to six percent of the American public. The number of VA patients with diabetes is about 500,000. Three-fourths of the 5,900 lower-extremity amputations in VA in 1999 were performed on patients with diabetes.

Question: If I am a veteran

with diabetes, how can VA help me?

Answer: If you are enrolled in VA health care and have any risk factors or possible symptoms of diabetes, your physician will order a test of blood sugar level in your routine examination or upon request for an appointment. More than 93 percent of VA-enrolled veterans had that test in 1999. Also, if you are at risk of diabetes, VA physicians will see that you have eye exams, foot inspections and urine protein evaluations.

If you are found to have diabetes, your doctor will regularly have your blood sugar, blood pressure and cholesterol tested to prevent serious complications. You can also expect to receive information about changing your diet or other activities to control your diabetes; VA's patient education programs are designed to help you manage your care. Your VA medical treatment will be based on your individual condition and your preferences.

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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

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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.
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AMAZINGLY LOW PRICES - Wolff Tanning Beds. Buy factory direct. Excellent service, flexible financing available. Home/commercial units. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1310.

PURPLE MARTIN HOUSES and telescopic poles have arrived at the Pet Department of the world's largest retailer. Call for locations nearest to you. Toll free, 1-800-764-8688. www.purplemartin.net.

SAWMILL \$3,795. NEW Super Lumbermate 2000. Large capacities, more options. Manufacturer of sawmills, edger's and skidders. Norwood Sawmills, 252 Sonwil Drive, Buffalo, NY 14225. 1-800-578-1363, ext. 300-N.

YEAR END BLOWOUT! Save thousands on select models - 25x40, 30x50, 40x50, 50x110, others. Must sell. Great shops, garages, storage. Call 1-800-341-7007, www.steelmasterusa.com.

GARAGE SALES

2 Family Garage Sale Friday 8th 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. & Sat. 9th 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. Unit 15 lot 120 Shafter Road. No early sales.

Friday & Saturday 8 till - ? 308 W. Crockett, Woody Massingill family.

MISCELLANEOUS

DIABETES DRUG REZULIN recalled by FDA, liver damage, failures and deaths. Call free consultation, David P. Willis, Board Certified Personal Injury Trial Lawyer. 1-800-883-9858. Principal office, Houston, TX.

STROKE? CHECK YOUR over the counter or prescription cold, allergy or diet remedies for PPA (Phenylpropanolamine). Call Carl Waldman, attorney, Beaumont (main), Houston, Nederland. 1-800-833-9151.

MEET SOMEONE SPECIAL in your area. Record personal greetings free, browse personal ads free. Men call 1-713-590-1197, ladies call 1-713-590-1196. APC Inc.

SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY claim denied? Free consultation. No fee until you get paid. Representatives who care, specializing in hearings and appeals. BTS Group 1-800-466-0606.

MOBILE HOMES

1999 3 BEDROOM 2 bath, A/C Plywood Floors, All Major Appliances, Shipped to us by mistake. Price Reduced - The Factory is paying for freight! Save now, call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711 toll free.

NEW 3 BEDROOM 1 bath AC, Plywood Floors, Stove and Refrigerator. 180.66 per mo for 240 months. 10% DP 8.75 APR VAR WAC Call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711.

NEW 3 BEDROOM 2 bath A/C, Extra Large Master Bath, Double Lavatories, Huge HEX Jacuzzi, Horse Shoe Kitchen. All Major Appliances. 301.71 per mo. 5% DP 9.75 APR VAR WAC for 360 months. Call 774-7711 or 888-611-7711.

MOBILE HOMES

NEW 4 BEDROOM 2 bath Danville A/C Shingle Roof, Hardboard Siding, Dishwasher, Stove and Refrigerator. Free Delivery, Setup, 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..

HEALTH/MEDICAL

MEDICARE NEBULIZER PATIENTS! Stop paying cash for Albuterol, Atrovent, etc. Medicare pays for them. We bill Medicare and deliver to you. Med-A-Save 1-800-538-9849, ext. 12H.

HELP WANTED

Wanted Carrier For San Antonio Express News in Brackettville area. Contact Joe 775-0332. Pager 1-888-839-1665.

CLAIMS PROCESSOR! \$20-\$40/hour potential. Processing claims is easy! Training provided, must own PC. Call now! Medicor, LLC 1-888-568-7649, ext. 698.

DISTRIBUTORS WANTED: HOME health care and rehabilitation is a multi-billion dollar industry. Our patented products belong in every household. Low investment, fast sales, huge profits. Home based business. Tenold Enterprises Inc. 1-866-833-5500.

EXTRAORDINARY INCOME OPPORTUNITY! Multi-million dollar prefab housing manufacturer, since 1979, seeks local area representative. Applicant chosen for this prestigious position must start immediately. Details, 1-888-235-0769.

OVERHEAD DOOR COMPANY in NW Arkansas is seeking experienced door installers to work in the beautiful Ozarks. Good pay, insurance. Box 131, Springdale, Arkansas 72765. 1-800-510-2091.

HOMES FOR SALE

1999 PALM HARBOR home 3/2. New G.E. appliances, improvements. Setting on 3 lots, (3rd lot optional) at F.C.S. unit 27. \$74,900, 563-9533.

Pumpkin Rolls

Order pumpkin rolls for your Christmas parties and New Year's events Will take orders until 12/22/00 Call Sarita at 563-3420

REAL ESTATE

O'Rourke Realty

Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
830-563-2713
Rentals Available



On Hwy 90 - Restaurant and other buildings on 10 acres, \$130,00.00. Will sell restaurant and motel part for \$85,000.

3 bed, 2 baths home on two lots. Fireplace, rock exterior, extra large garage (1320 sq.ft.) \$120,000

3 bed, 2 baths, large den in beautiful location facing creek.

1 bed, 1 bath, enclosed porch, RV hook-ups. \$36,000

1 bed, 1 bath, furnished efficiency townhouse \$20,500

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice of Appointment of Kinney County Auditor
The public is hereby notified that a vacancy exists as of December 31, 2000, in the office of County Auditor of Kinney County, Texas, and that I, George M. Thurmond, District Judge of Kinney County, Texas, intend to appoint a duly qualified person to fill such vacancy for the term ending December 31, 2002, and that I will be taking applications from those persons who desire my consideration for such appointment. An applicant must be (1) a competent accountant with at least two years experience in auditing and accounting; (2) thoroughly competent in public business details; (3) a citizen of Kinney County, Texas, with at least two years of residence in the county preceding the date of appointment; and (4) a person of unquestionable good moral character and intelligence. All those persons who believe they meet these qualifications and who are desirous of consideration for such appointment, are encouraged to apply by submitting their resumé to me, addressed District Judge George M. Thurmond, P.O. Drawer 1089, Del Rio, Texas, 78840, on or before December 15, 2000.

REAL ESTATE

2.84 ACRES CHOICE highway frontage Hwy 90 & 131 Brackettville. \$60,000 firm. 830-774-5084.

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO

Historic home on Fort Clark Springs road east of par 3 very cute 80,000

3 bedroom 2 bath home in the Oaks.

3 bedroom 2 bath on Walnut Street F.C.S. on 2 lots. Priced to sell. 460 acres west of highway

208 acres with a 2700 sq.ft. home located in Lampasas County, Moline

DEBBIE TRANT LOCKHART REAL ESTATE



830-563-2997
104 A-E Spring

Fort: well built stone home, open den/kitchen area, FP, office, carport, large screened porch!

Established business in great location, property & inventory included, No Competition!

Nueces River Frontage: 74 acres Campwood, 3/2 home + guest house, large pecan and oak trees.

Now Open!

La Fortuna Ranch Sales

Homes - Ranches - Farms - Commercial
615 Hwy 90 East Brackettville, TX
Phyllis Meyer Les Meyer
830-563-9911 Mobile 563-5334
www.lafortuna-ranchsales.homepage.com

Public Notice

EMS Public Hearing To Be Held Regarding Kinney County EMS Personnel Temporary Shortage

There will be a public hearing at 9:00 a.m. Monday, December 11, 2000 at the Kinney County Courthouse in Brackettville, Texas. The purpose of this hearing is to heighten public awareness of the ramifications of having an EMS service which is in noncompliance with the law.

Notice is hereby given that Kinney County Emergency Medical Service has requested a variance from the Texas Department of Health to operate said EMS service while not being in compliance with the law. The variance, if approved, would allow Kinney County EMS to operate emergency vehicles while responding to and transporting emergency patients. The public is encouraged to attend.

If you would like additional information, please contact the EMS Office at 830-563-9090.

Texas Department of Transportation

Public Workshop

TOPIC: Discussion of Public Transportation Section 5310 Grants: Elderly and Disabled Grant

WHEN: Monday, December 18, 2000 in Laredo
Tuesday, December 19, 2000 in Eagle Pass

WHERE: Laredo, TX
Texas Department of Transportation,
District Office
1817 Bob Bullock Loop
Laredo, TX 78043

Eagle Pass, TX:
City of Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce
400 Garrison St.
Eagle Pass, TX 78852

TIMES: Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. in Laredo
Meeting begins at 1:00 p.m. in Eagle Pass

The Texas Department of Transportation is holding this workshop to discuss the Public Transportation Section 5310 Grants. This grant is for the provision of transportation services meeting the special needs of the elderly and persons with disabilities. TxDOT's goal is to promote the availability of professional, cost-effective, efficient, and coordinated passenger transportation services to elderly and disabled persons using the most efficient combination of financial and other resources.

If you have any questions or comments please contact Jo Ann Garcia, P.E., Director of Transportation Planning and Development at (956) 712-7442.

Help is available RRC passes emergency rule

Washington, D.C. - Is your heating bill too expensive for your budget? If so, information in a new booklet might help.

The Financial Assistance Network in Washington, DC has just published a booklet, "How To Get Government Help To Pay Your Energy Bills." The booklet gives information on how and where to get government help to pay your heating bills.

"The federal government has Answer to Crossword

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budgeted over one billion dollars to help people who are struggling to pay their heating bills. Many people do not know that this money is available or how to get it," says Edmund Billings, a researcher at Financial Assistance Network. "We've published a booklet that explains the program and tells consumers where to apply for assistance in their area. The booklet also has a special section for homeowners to get up to \$25,000 of government money to help reduce their energy bills, even if they have no equity in their home."

Consumers can receive a copy by sending \$5 to cover the cost of printing, postage and handling to: Financial Assistance Network, Government Help for Energy Bills Booklet Offer, P.O. Box 60848, Washington, DC 20039-0848. Consumers can also get information by calling 202-595-1027.

Austin, TX - The Texas Railroad Commission today adopted an emergency rule to stop discontinuance of natural gas service during winter months.

In 1999, at least 21 people died in Texas from hypothermia; of those 21, at least 17 (81 percent) were age 60 or older and many of them died unexpectedly in their own homes. Without adequate heat, many people, especially the elderly, are in danger long before the temperature drops to freezing.

"Our action today protects disadvantaged Texans, especially children and the elderly, when winter temperatures drop towards freezing," Williams said. "We do not want Texans forced to choose between home heat and other needs."

Under the new rule, - Natural gas utility companies may not disconnect a customer on a day when the previous day's temperature in the county where the customer takes service fell below 40 degrees Fahrenheit and the National Weather Service predicts that the temperature in the county will fall below that level during the next 24 hours;

- Providers may not disconnect service to a delinquent residential customer for a billing period in which the provider receives a pledge, letter of intent, purchase order, or other notification from an energy assistance provider that is forwarding sufficient payment to continue service;

- Providers may not disconnect service to a delinquent residential customer on a day, or on a day immediately preceding a day, when personnel of the provider are not available for the purpose of receiving payment or making collections or reconnecting service, and

- Providers are also encouraged to offer customers a deferred payment plan, a level or an average payment plan.