

The Brackett News



High School
Christmas Concert
tonight @ 7:30 p.m.

13th year, No. 45

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Curfew Ordinance Marching Drill Team Practices

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Although there have been 18 reported curfew violations since the Brackettville curfew ordinance took effect in September, only one of these was a repeat violator.

This required the juvenile to appear before the City Judge, who ordered community service to pay the fine incurred.

According to Police Chief Alonzo, the cooler weather has cut down on the number of youngsters out walking in the evening.

Though he is aware there are probably curfew violators, they may be in vehicles. However, more parents are accompanying their children after curfew hours, indicating that parents are aware of the curfew ordinance. He stated that there are few violators during the week when people are indoors, or in cars, but this will undoubtedly change with spring and summer weather. Alonzo feels that law enforcement needs to know who is out there and why they are out at a late hour. Do they need help; do they need a place to go? What is the reason for the curfew violation, and are the parents aware of the child's whereabouts.

On a first offense, both parent and juvenile get a warning,

with the parent receiving a copy of the juvenile ordinance. The parent is required to sign the ticket, which documents date and time of violation. If there is a second offense, the juvenile gets a citation on a Class C misdemeanor which carries a minimum \$100 fine, and must appear at City Court.

A third offense carries citations to both the juvenile and parent and fines can go to \$500.

If there are then repeated violations the juvenile will be turned over to Juvenile authorities,

Slubar, Holley win Appraisal District Board seats

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Kinney County Commissioners Monday cast 759 votes for Richard Slubar while Brackett ISD Board split their vote, 540 for Mike Holley and 500 for Tom Ertle. The City of Brackettville did not vote nor did Spofford. Holley will be returning to his seat on the board, and is presently acting as Chairman.

Bill Haenn explained that the board members are nominated by taxing units and the vote is based on a formula related to percentage of the levy. Entities eligible to vote were notified at the beginning of October, with

ties, who will try to determine what the problem is, and whether the child is in trouble at school.

Most of the offenders, according to Chief Alonzo, are boys and girls between the ages of 15 and 16, but during the summer he has seen youngsters as young as 12 on the streets during late hours.

Alonzo says the program has had positive feedback so far, especially from parents, both those whose children have been cited and those not involved.

the first call for nominations and the second a request for a ballot. Members are elected on a rotating cycle with three positions elected in even years and two positions in odd years.

The City of Brackettville has 136 votes, Spofford 4, but neither city has made an attempt to vote either this year or last year. David Luna, Brackettville City Manager, said the city involvement is so small they did not consider participating.

New members of the board will be installed at the first meeting of the Appraisal Board in the new year. The board holds quarterly meetings.

Sheriff, EMS may change cell phone provider

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

The Kinney County Sheriff's Office and Emergency Medical Services Department requested permission from the County Commissioners Monday to discontinue the existing cell phone contract with Cingular.

There have been repeated incidents of non-service which have frustrated Sheriff's deputies and EMS personnel, on one occasion involving a life-threatening situation with a child. On that occasion, EMS personnel



By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

The City of Brackettville Police Department Marching Drill Team started practicing the end of September and now numbers between 15 and 18 youngsters each week. With Police Chief Arnulfo Alonzo the group meets each Saturday at 10 a.m. by the basketball court and swimming pool. Last Saturday's cold, rainy weather failed to discourage nine youngsters who showed up for practice.

The drill team, though sponsored by the Brackettville Police Department, was created to

showcase Brackettville youth. According to both Alonzo and Mendeke, "it takes a lot of discipline to show up here every week regardless of weather, regardless of how they feel" and parents of the team members should be proud of their youngsters.

The group has mastered the basic concepts and are beginning marching practice at the track field, where they are taken by school bus.

According to Chief Alonzo, the team is not yet ready for drill routine but are working hard on marching.

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County roads hit hard by recent rains

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Cliff Fritter, Kinney County Road Administrator reported on road flooding at the County Commissioners meeting Monday.

The road crew has been working on the Tularosa Road and has been able to give everyone access to their property there, though the road still needs a lot of work.

The Chapman Crossing was hard hit by flooding. Fritter said that last year they had an overlay, or slab, on Chapman road and had put a cap on it which was washed out. The crossing has been under water, but Fritter said he planned to begin work here Wednesday. This is still under warranty, and Paul Boedeker, an engineer with Hunter and Associates in Austin plans to take photos and discuss the damage with the Kinney County Commissioners Court.

Fritter reported to the Court that it was necessary to hire emergency labor after the flood-

ing, including hiring a bulldozer. County budget for this was \$1,500; since the fee for repair work was \$2,100 a budget amendment will be necessary.

All roads are open, but the Chapman Crossing will require a lot of work, including gravel and caliche, Fritter said, adding that all county roads had water damage to some extent.

Judge Senne has written to Governor Perry requesting assistance through disaster funding but has not yet received a reply. Carl Esser of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council is working with Judge Senne.

Fritter stated that the county is 30 miles long and wide with mostly gravel roads to maintain. "The bigger the band, the sweeter the music," he said, "and we're only a three man band."

■ **Editor's Note:** The current road and bridge budget was decreased 21.9 percent or \$55,662 from the previous year's budget.

Grant visits local Rotary Club



From left: Eamonn Grant and Frank Cheaney.

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

Assistant to the District Governor, Eamonn Grant, visited the Brackettville Rotary Club Thursday, December 6 meeting. His trip was later than planned since he was to come here from

Uvalde on September 11 when news of the terrorist attacks caused him to return home. He mentioned that members of Rotary were among the first to offer help in New York.

The program for the day was given by Frank Cheaney, who

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Commissioners Court supports Declaration of Ag Emergency

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

The Kinney County Commissioners voted at their December meeting Monday to support a statement of agricultural emergency, citing the economic survival of agriculture and rural communities as being vitally important to the general health and welfare of Texas citizens.

The resolution supports the Attorney General's investigation of failure by the Executive Branch of the Federal Government to require compliance with existing laws regarding Federal Agricultural Policy. It also suggests the Commissioner of Agriculture hold investigative hearings, sending its determination to the Governor, Attorney General and Legislative Interim

were unable to contact their Medical Director or Carolyn Rutherford, who was not on that call, and ultimately needed to reach Air Life. Service on the cell phone had been discontinued, and it was necessary to use a personal cell phone to make the calls.

Rutherford stated she carries another county phone as a backup. "There have been occasions", Rutherford said, "when we'd end up being at the hospital without a report, because we couldn't get through."

According to Sandy Watkins,

Kinney County Auditor, who has contacted Cingular on several occasions without a permanent resolution to the situation, all the Cingular bills are paid with one check but Cingular fails to credit some of the accounts and has discontinued service without notice.

Other cellular phone providers will be considered.

Permission to change providers was granted by the Commissioners, following appropriate legal advice from County Attorney Tully Shahan.

Committees, and to provide historical data and statistics as requested by agencies and committees. The Legislative council is asked to investigate limits or absence of authority in state statutes affecting intrastate agricultural policy, monetary policy, trade agreements, foreign commerce and foreign policy.

The Texas Legislature is supported in its efforts to hold hearings in rural areas statewide to document social and economic consequences resulting from the Federal Government's failure to enforce its agricultural policy.

Federal Government's enforcement of the 1933 Agriculture Act will ensure a stable, safe, reliable food and fiber supply. Imported foods should be

labeled with country or origin and growth, processed, shipped and marketed with the same health, pesticides, chemical and environmental guidelines as local products.

Though not a mandate, the resolution asks the state to look deeper into the agriculture problems facing Texas.

Judge Senne explained, "This sets up a red flag that says, 'Hey, quit sending so many subsidized commodities across the water' and brings this to the attention of people in decision-making roles."

"There is a lot of Federal activity our government has sanctioned and this resolution basically says, 'Stop doing that. You are adversely influencing agriculture in the United States.'"

Horse Club approves new Constitution, bylaws

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Fort Clark Springs Horse Club members met Saturday evening to approve a new Constitution and bylaws. These will be submitted to the Fort Clark Springs Board of Directors, in hopes that the recent controversy can be resolved. The Constitution and bylaws were formulated to specifically address problems that have plagued the club. If there are still items that do not meet Board approval, the club hopes for a

60 to 90 day extension on the deadline to vacate the stables, in order to make any corrections the Board suggests.

Tom Saylor attended the meeting as a Board representative and was given copies of the new documents. Saylor commented that he could not assure the club that an extension would be granted, if more time is needed to iron out problems, but he would propose such an extension to the Board. If the Board does not accept the new Constitution and bylaws of the Horse Club and will not grant a

time extension to make corrections, the Board will effectively dissolve the Horse Club as of December 31st.

New Horse Club officers were also elected at the meeting. Nolan Brandt was elected President, Bob Erickson Vice-President and Cigi Mills Secretary-Treasurer.

The Club also approved an increase in membership fees to \$50.00 per month and stall rental to \$10.00 per stall per month. Increased revenues will be used for necessary painting

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Briefs ...

Christmas Play

This Saturday night, December 15, at 7:30 PM, The Old Quarry Society will present the one act play by Sally Carpenter, Lights...Camera...Christmas! At the Fort Clark Springs Post Theater. This is a delightful little play to help you get into the Christmas spirit. The presentation is free and is The Old Quarry Society's gift to the community. Come join us for the play, a sing-along and refreshments after.

Santa is coming to town!

There was a rumor that Santa's sleigh might have to be in the shop for repairs until Christmas Eve thus derailing the Community Unity Christmas gathering. Santa's lead elf called on Monday and indicated that parts were found and the sleigh is back in good working order. So - Santa is coming to town Sunday evening, December 16th. Festivities will begin at 5:00 p.m. at city hall.

Additional donations are urgently needed. Please call Ken Sellers (563-2823) or Charlotte Corey (563-2212) if you would like to contribute in any way.

Sector Statistics

Del Rio, Texas - The following is a recap of Del Rio Sector Border Patrol activities during November 2001:

Apprehensions:
Abilene...76, Brackettville...237, Carrizo Springs...417, Comstock...45, Del Rio...226, Eagle Pass...918, Llano...31, Rocksprings...93, San Angelo...206, Uvalde...118, Sector Total...2,367, Other Than Mexican...165

Drug Seizures:
Marijuana Seized (pounds) ...5,980.70, Value of Marijuana Seized...\$4,784, 561.00

Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate Bridge was played at Fort Clark Springs in the Gorgas Room at 7 PM on Tuesday December 4, 2001. There were 4 1/2 tables and the Mitchell Movement was used. The winners on the North/South were: 1st-Rosetta Pingnot and Mona Miller; 2nd-Ruth Potter and Sara Richhart; and 3rd-James and Flo Stafford. On the East/West, the winners were: 1st-Molly Schroeder and Carol Benfield; 2nd-Ann Watts and Ann Malin; and tied for 3rd were partners Dianna Daniels and Kay Roberts and partners Mylo Unruh and Janie Meredith. The cards were evenly split for good hands between North/South and East/West which made for spirited play and good competition between the sides.

INSIDE

■ **The way I see it!**
"Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves."
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■ **Empowering Families**
Follow the wisdom of these three secrets and you will live a long life on this wonderful earth that God has given us."
Lifestyles/Page 4

■ **Making a difference**
This Thursday night, the Tiger Band will use the remodeled school auditorium for its concert at 7:30 PM.
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Letter to the Editor Doesn't qualify as altercation

This letter is in response to the Brackett News article about the Horse Club in last week's paper.

On the morning of November 11th, one of the Horse Club members came to the stables and began cursing, pushing and shoving my husband. My husband never raised his voice or touched the member in anyway. Another female member and I were both verbally abused with extremely foul language. A fourth member, in his seventies, was threatened. I do not feel that this qualifies as "an altercation between two members."

Another correction, is the incident that occurred on November 11th, did not "spur the board to scrutinize the Horse Club's constitution and by-laws." This all began on October 3rd, and the Horse Club had already met with the board and been told what changes needed to be

made to the documents prior to November 11th.

The Horse Club has amended their Constitution and By-law's to include all of the board's requests and has submitted them for review and approval. In order to save the stables, the Fort Clark Board must issue a new lease or an extension to the current lease at their December 15th meeting or the Horse Club will be forced to remove their exterior stall fencing and find new homes for all of the horses by December 31st.

It has been a rough year for the members of the horse club, and if the board doesn't take action, it will be an even tougher 2002.

Monica J. White

■ **Editor's Note:** Webster's *New World Dictionary's* definition of altercation is "an angry or heated argument".

What do other members want?

Another tradition may soon be removed from Fort Clark Springs. Fort Clark was a Cavalry Post and it has a glorious past of horses and soldiers.

In a letter dated November 20, 2001, from the general manager, the Horse Club was notified that the Board of Directors of Fort Clark Springs would not renew the lease with the horse club. The horse club has rewritten the by-laws and constitution with changes requested by the Board of Directors. In a meeting December 8, the board representative to the Horse Club, Tom Saylor, informed the members that will take the new by-laws to the board. However, he stated that there are some board members that want to close the stables. If Mr. Saylor is not able

to arrange an extension of the present lease for the time necessary to have the board agree on a new lease, the club will have no alternative but to remove their personal belongings (including the pens) and horses on or before December 31, 2001. This will mean another building standing to deteriorate.

It will be a sad day if a few people can destroy another icon of Fort Clark. Doesn't it make members wonder about the true interest in the Historical value?

As a 14 year member of the Fort Clark Springs Community and a Horse Club member, I ask what will be next?

This is not what I want. What about other members of the association?

Mona Miller



We are all individuals

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

Once again I have the unpleasant task of writing about the plague of political correctness that infects various parts of our society. This time it comes from Colgate University in New York.

Professor Barry Shain of the Political Science Department recently made a statement that had the PC Gestapo at Colgate staging sit-ins and protests. It seems that the professor had noticed that the college was encouraging minority students to take classes that were, shall we say, less than challenging. Professor Shain contemplated this information and decided, rightly, that it was a disservice to those students.

He also concluded that the faculty members who were doing this encouraging were guilty of racism, because they apparently felt that the minority students couldn't handle the more demanding courses. By the reaction of the students and faculty you would have thought he had declared MLK a Nazi sympathizer.

One of the demands made by the PC enforcers was that cultural sensitivity courses should be made mandatory for everyone.

That should solve the problem. Dang straight!

Truth is truth! Why is it that this professor, who has apparently noticed a very real problem at Colgate U., being barbecued for his perception? Why

must a problem be declared not a problem simply because it involves a minority class of people? Why is the truth subservient to political correctness?

Well, it seems to me to be a Catch-22 situation. If you admit that there is a problem, you are a racist, even though the solution to the problem would be in the best interest of everyone; and if you protest against the person who discovered and aired the problem you are opening minded and tolerant, even though by denying the problem you are doing a great disservice to everyone involved.

The truth is a dead issue. It doesn't matter. The only thing that matters is that no one's feelings are hurt — except, of course, the intolerant racist who noticed the problem in the first place. He is expendable in the great battle to make everyone have an IQ of exactly 100, be exactly 5'10", 165 lbs., and a pleasing shade of gray. That is the 11th Commandment: "Thou shalt not notice cultural, physical, or ideological differences in anyone, except Christians and Conservatives."

Assuming that these minority students really are being seduced into taking easier classes, this professor is dead right, and someone at Colgate should investigate to determine how bad the problem is and address a solution. And the simpleminded, arrogant slaves to political correctness who are performing this disservice should be punished for their superior attitudes. They are the racists, not pro-

fessor Shain!

People, people! Being tolerant does not mean denying problems, propagating lies, and ignoring the differences between people. We are different. Every one of us is different. Why do we have to deny that to be correct?

College students, all college students, should be challenged by the curriculum. That is the purpose of college. If it were easy, it would be useless. By inducing students, of whatever ethnicity, to take less demanding classes, the culprits are denying those students the right to be the best they can be.

Get it together folks! Political correctness is a disease. It destroys the diversity that makes us strong. Instead of ignoring or denying our differences we should embrace them. Not to the point where they separate us into factions, but to the point where it forces us to admit that we are all individuals. This nation is strong because it has always been a nation of rugged individuals, instead of soft, cowardly sheep blindly following an ideological demon. Why are we trying to destroy our individuality now?

Matthew 7:15,16 & 17 - "Watch out for false prophets. They come to you in sheep's clothing, but inwardly they are ferocious wolves. By their fruit you will recognize them. Do people pick grapes from thornbushes, or figs from thistles? Likewise every good tree bears good fruit, but a bad tree bears bad fruit." NIV

Improving treatment of mental illness

Submitted By
Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez**

(Washington, DC) For many of us, the holiday season is a time of year we look forward to spending with our family and friends.

In light of the recent attacks on our nation and the impact they have had on all of us, the holidays take on an even more meaningful character. For many, however, this season is one not filled with the company of those closest to us, but one of loneliness and depression. Over 40 million Americans suffer from mental health disorders, and it is during this season of thanksgiving and goodwill that we should take a moment to help and try to understand those who so desperately need our attention.

As a former social worker, I have worked with those who suffer from mental health disorders. It has been my experience that the holiday season is the busiest part of the year for the mental health caseworker.

Victims of mental health disorders and their families feel an incredible amount of stress, depression, and other ailments. Especially after the terrorists attacks of September 11, cases of post-traumatic stress disorder are likely to increase.

Unfortunately for those who are afflicted with the various

forms of mental illness, most of the American population remains uninformed about a disease that affects roughly 20 percent of the population of the United States. What is even more unfortunate are the countless young people and children who are trapped in this cycle that, many times, results in alcoholism, drug dependency, depression, seclusion, abuse and violence.

In combating this terrible affliction, it is important that we treat mental illness for what it is... a disease. This disease is unfortunately burdened with an extremely negative stigma. We must work past our preconceptions about those who suffer from mental illness.

I have worked with my colleagues in Congress to help create parity between the treatment of those who suffer from mental illness and other diseases. In 1996, Congress enacted the Mental Health Parity Act, which was the first step toward reducing insurance bias against mental health coverage. This year, the Senate passed legislation to strip away remaining vestiges of disparity.

By voice vote, the Senate added the Mental Health Equitable Treatment Act to the appropriations bill for the Department of Health and Human Services. The House has not taken up similar legislation, but will be voting again on the appropria-

tions bill after a House-Senate conference. I recently signed a letter to the House-Senate conferees urging them to retain the mental health parity provisions. Without adequate insurance coverage, far too many Americans will continue to go without the mental health services they and their families desperately need.

Opponents of this critical legislation claim that the correction of this insurance company bias will only result in the increase of insurance costs or even the elimination of coverage for some, but the long-term benefits clearly outweigh potentially small increases in premiums. The long-term advantages of this change would be healthier employees, less lost time for employers and, most importantly, adequate care for those who have been without for so long. The Wall Street Journal reported that mental illness costs American businesses \$70 billion each year in lost productivity and worker absenteeism. This cost does not account for the terrible emotional impact on families and loved ones.

Moreover, the Congressional Budget Office has estimated that the legislation would only raise premiums by 0.36% or less. In order to ease any possible burden on small businesses, the bill includes a provision that will exempt businesses which employ fifty or fewer employees.

Bonilla Announces Agriculture Funding

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

Washington, D.C. - Chairman Henry Bonilla announced today that the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives have come to an agreement on the Agriculture Appropriations Bill. The legislation was overwhelmingly approved today by the House of Representatives, where the bill originated in Mr. Bonilla's subcommittee.

"I'm proud of this bill. As we await the president's final approval, I am left with a sense of confidence and readiness," said Rep. Bonilla, Chairman of the Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee. "This funding will keep our nation's agriculture industry strong. It will keep our food supply safe. And it will keep our nation prosperous and prepared."

With Chairman Bonilla as the bill's shepherd, Agriculture Appropriations became one of the fastest moving 2002 funding measures.

The subcommittee's swift action came at a time when the nation was reeling from the terrorist attacks of September 11th. Despite the new national agenda, the conferees remained dedicated to passing a funding bill and did so in record time.

"Our nation has changed greatly since July, when the House of Representatives originally approved this legislation. We have many new issues and concerns on the agenda," said Chairman Bonilla. "Rest assured that my subcommittee did not forgo their commitment to the farmers, ranchers and consumers of our great nation. We proved today that we will continue getting the job done. We will not let the terrorists slow us down."

The 2002 Agriculture Appropriations Bill funded \$75,902 billion, which is just above the request made by President George W. Bush. The bill includes funding increases for the Food Safety and Inspection Service, Child Nutrition Programs, Food Stamp Program and Food for Peace Program. It also includes increases for the Farm Service Agency, Agricultural Credit Programs; conservation operations; and the Agricultural Research Service.

"In addition to funding a wide range of important, traditional programs, we're also looking ahead to prevent future problems our nation may face," said Chairman Bonilla. "Agriculture fuels our nation's economy. This appropriations bill is going to help keep the agriculture industry strong and prosperous."

Important Texas projects will also receive funding from the appropriations bill.

The legislation will increase funding for: bovine genetics research; the Texas Wildlife Services Program; nutritional research at the ARS Human Nutrition Center in Houston; and the Grazing Lands Conservation Initiative.

Other Texas projects that will receive funding include: the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, which funds dairy and meat goat research, wool research and livestock and dairy policy research; the Animal and Plant Health Inspections Service (APHIS) will receive \$77,355 million to facilitate the boll weevil management programs; and the Texas Plant Materials Centers will receive continued funding through the Natural Resource Resources Conservation Service (NRCS).

"I'm proud to help make a difference for farmers and ranchers across Texas and the nation," said Chairman Bonilla. "This bill is going to mean a safer, better informed and more advanced agriculture industry. That can only mean positive things for the consumer and for the industry as a whole."

Rep. Bonilla is chairman of the House Agriculture Appropriations Subcommittee, which oversees all of the nation's agriculture funding.

Big Mama
Sez!



The easiest way to escape being hated is to mind your own business and refrain from giving good advice.

The Brackett News

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New Subscription

Renewal

Change of Address

Kinney County Sheriff's Report ...

Monday, December 3
2:15 p.m., Deputy Larry Robinson, responded to a woman's locked apartment door.

Wednesday, December 5
7:26 a.m., A resident from Spofford reported the railroad crossing flashers on.

9:00 a.m., Mitchell Travis Wilson, 45, from Brackettville, was arrested for no valid license plate, no driver license and expired inspection sticker by Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo. Wilson was released the same day on a P.R. Bond a total of \$575.

2:07 p.m., A man reported a burglary 12 miles east of town.

2:55 p.m., Chief Deputy Fritter responded to a trespassing vehicle.

6:15 p.m., A report of a possible shooting with a 22 rifle was heard near Airport road on Fort Clark.

10:25 p.m., A woman reported a situation of domestic violence.

10:54 p.m., Constable Cordelia Mendeke and Deputy Manuel Pena Jr. responded to a family disturbance.

Thursday, December 6
9:09 a.m., Chief Alonzo responded to speeding trucks on Hwy 90.

Friday, December 7
12:02 a.m., Deputy Pena responded to a disturbance.

12:36 a.m., A resident from Uvalde reported her bull was lost.

Saturday, December 8
1:00 a.m., The Val Verde Sheriff's Office reported a one vehicle roll over, on Hwy 90 west, one mile east of Sycamore Bridge. The Fire Department, EMS, DPS Trooper Richard Slubar and Deputy Karl Chism were all notified.

6:55 a.m., A Border Patrol Agent, reported loose cattle on Hwy 1908.

10:30 a.m., Deputy Pena responded to an over due truck payment.

12:23 a.m., Deputy Pena reported loose goats on Hwy 131.

12:55 a.m., A dispatcher from Maverick County reported a two vehicle accident south on Hwy 277. Deputy Pena, Trooper Slubar and Maverick County Deputy Paniagua were notified.

6:55 p.m., A red vehicle was reported speeding through town. Deputy Pena responded.

Sunday, December 9
7:48 a.m., A woman locked her keys in her car at a local store. Deputy Pena was advised.

3:00 p.m., A train was reported blocking the entrance of a ranch. Union Pacific was notified.

3:30 p.m., Reserve Deputy Manuel Pena Sr. responded to gun shots.

4:21 p.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley responded to a reckless driver on Hwy 90.

4:45 p.m., The Uvalde Police Department was notified about a reckless driver.

2001 Medal of Valor

San Marcos, Texas - The Texas Highway Patrol Association presented Highway Patrol officer, Jeffrey Dale Sones with the 2001 Medal of Valor, December 8, 2001 in San Marcos, Texas.

Sones is the tenth recipient of the award, and received a \$1,000 check and an award plaque.

He will also be honored with a permanent plaque in the Texas Highway Patrol Museum, located in San Antonio.

The award is given annually to the Texas Highway Patrol officer whose actions are deemed heroic by Association members. Sones was selected to receive the

**State Sar President Invest in the future
Visits Uvalde Chapter and in our children**

Nathan White, Texas State president of the Sons of the American Revolution, attended Uvalde Chapter #53's quarterly meeting on Saturday, December 8th at the Holiday Inn. This is the first time a state president has visited the local chapter. Also attending was district vice-president John Wilmeth from San Antonio. Bronze Awards were presented to Clark Davis and Tom Casey for their years of service in support of the organization. Uvalde businesses honored for consistently flying the flag of the United States of America were Carmichael's Rexall Drug and Atkinson Motor Company. The Uvalde Noon Lions Club was also recognized for putting up the small flags on the downtown plaza for all patriotic holidays. President White reported that there are 49 SAR chapters in Texas. He also said that of the 52 states with chapters, Texas has 10% of the total SAR membership. He praised

the chapter for their work with the annual Patriot's Fund, the Eagle Scout Essay Contest, the Oration Contest, the Knight Essay Contest, and the Outstanding American History Teacher Award. He encouraged the chapter to try to do more for local veterans.

The SAR now has a commendation medal available for law enforcement/fire safety personnel. Anyone can make a recommendation to the SAR board for persons they feel deserve this award. The local chapter voted to join the Friends of the National SAR Library by making a monetary contribution. This donation will be used to help build the SAR Memorial Library. The Women of SAR are getting ready to publish a "Patriotic Kitchens Cookbook" which will soon be available.

Following the business meeting lunch was enjoyed by Clark and Joan Davis from Reagan Wells; Freida Rogers, Tom and Elaine Casey from Montel; Jack and Lois Farmer, Jack and Inez McClain from Utopia; Clem and Pat McKelvy from Brackettville; Charles and Pat McFarland from Sabinal; Charlotte Alcala from Pearsall; Joe Wilmeth from San Antonio; Nathan White from Dallas; Maggie Gibbens who is mother and grandmother of 5 of the chapter members, Wilma Russell, Nell Roosa, N.B. Willey, Steve Balke, Anne McWhorter, and Jim Howard from Uvalde. Any male over 18 years of age who can prove his ancestor aided the colonies in freeing themselves from English rule during the American Revolution is eligible for membership. Those interested are encouraged to contact Registrar Clem McKelvy for further information.

**By Most Rev. Patrick F. Flores
Archbishop of San Antonio**

Since the organization's beginning in 1910, Boy Scouts of America has assisted society in guiding the healthy development of our children. Scouting is a time-tested, highly moral program that fosters character development and ethical behavior. In Scouting, young boys learn about fellowship and loyalty to family, friends, leaders, school, community and country. The values young boys learn as Scouts help mold them into caring and productive adults who actively participate in the community and Church.

In my personal experiences, I have seen Scouting change the lives of hundreds of youth and their families. Scouting provides a great platform for adults of faith to nurture our youth. In return, adult volunteers learn from their boys and realize personal strengths and abilities while working with Scouts.

It is unfortunate, though, that Scouting has had some challenges in serving the Hispanic community. In particular, the Boy Scouts have faced the difficult task of finding enough parents to serve as adult volunteers.

It is important that as adults of faith, we all do our part to serve our children. We are all required by our faith to give of ourselves. We are required to give to the Church, the community and others in need.

And, there is no group more in need than our youth. Scouting supports and enhances the moral growth of our youth, and it offers a framework for experiencing and learning ethical values. It brings youth together as friends who reinforce each other's positive behaviors. The

values taught in Scouting last a lifetime. The learnings extend beyond the boy to his family and friends and community. As a Scout matures throughout his life, he measures himself against the Scouting ideals and his religious principles. In living these values, a Scout then gains a solid moral influence over his own future. In addition, Scouting affords adult leaders opportunities to interact with youth on many levels. Leaders and youth can share adventures, challenges, and accomplishments. As trust builds between them, adult leaders and youth can discuss issues such as societal problems, character building and personal relationships to God. The National Catholic Committee on Scouting recognizes the Boy Scouts of America as an integral part of Catholic youth ministry. It pleases me that many archdioceses and dioceses have a Catholic Committee on Scouting, and close to one of every three parishes sponsors Scouting units. The greater the depth of Scouting in our community, through schools and parishes, the greater the results. Likewise, if more parents and adults were to involve themselves in Scouting, we could extend our outreach to all the youth of our community with this excellent program. It's worth the effort to use the programs of Scouting to assist us in developing our youth's personal and moral growth.

If every school system and parish had a Cub Scout Pack, Boy Scout Troop and Venturing Crew, our service to the community and the Church would expand tremendously.

I tell you with all of my heart - "¡Scouting! Vale la pena." It's worth the effort!

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The secrets of life *I still like whipped cream*

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Grampa, how old are you?" Six-year old Johnny asked. "Well," Grampa replied, "I'm old enough to be your grampa." "But how old is that?" Johnny insisted. "That's pretty old Johnny," Grampa replied. "How old do you think I am?" "You must be pretty old Grampa, you've got gray hair." Tugging at his grampa's arm, Johnny insisted. "Tell me Grampa, how old are you?" Looking around to see if anyone else was in the room, Grampa leaned down and said quietly, "If I tell you, don't tell your Gramma."

Congratulations!



Codi Maxwell, daughter of Sandi and Robert Maxwell, has signed a contract with Avant Modeling Agency in San Antonio. Codi is also an honor roll student in first grade.

Johnny nodded in the affirmative and Grampa continued. "Johnny, next month I'll be seventy-five on my birthday. What do you think of that?" "Gosh, Grampa will I ever be as old as you?" Johnny quizzed. "If you live right Johnny, someday you will be as old as me. You see there are three secrets of a long life. My daddy taught them to me and I taught them to your daddy and your daddy is teaching them to you by the way he lives. If you promise to live by them and teach them someday to your children, I'll tell you the three secrets right now."

"I promise Grampa," Johnny said excitedly. "Tell me the secrets." "OK Johnny, listen carefully," Grampa began. "These three secrets were taught by two very wise men many hundreds of years ago who themselves lived very long lives. Are you ready?" Johnny nodded and Grampa continued. "The first secret is to honor your father and mother all of your life (Exodus 20:12). You must always follow their wisdom and instruction. The second secret is to marry a good woman who shares your faith when you grow up (Sirach 26:1). The third secret is to always be a person of gladness and cheerfulness no matter what life may bring your way (Sirach 30:22). Follow the wisdom of these three secrets and you will live a long life on this wonderful earth that God has given us."

Hi Bruce!!

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

It is about this time every year that we all reminisce about the past Christmases and many family stories. I am no exception. My brother and I grew up on the Anacacho ranch. Christmas was a very fun time when you're that age. Mom would always buy whipped cream in those spray cans. No Christmas feast would be complete without it. We played

hide and seek. When she tried to hide it, we would try to find it. Once located, the discoverers would empty the contents. Not all of it, just most of it. The makers of that fine product, no doubt with small children of their own, countered with a devilish ploy. They put a breakaway seal on the lid. Now little demons could not partake of the delicacy within without being discovered. But never underestimate the ingenuity of a young mind.

Alvin Jr. and I were in a quandary. We knew where the goodies were; we just could not partake of them. We studied the can and envisioned its contents. Suddenly one of us came up with an idea. We would take an ice pick, make a small hole in the bottom of the can, eat a small amount of the whipped cream and then put a piece of tape over the opening we had made. It seemed like a good plan at the time. I remember holding the can while my brother grabbed the

tool. We eagerly awaited an opening to a world of dining delight. He stabbed at the can with all of his strength. I'm still not sure where the ice pick went. I honestly think maybe we should be given credit for launching the first satellite that December day in the early fifties. We cleaned out the kitchen for hours. We got as much as we possibly could from the ceiling. My mother was so proud. But I could have been wrong.

Cheaney speaks to Rotary about patriotism

Continued from Page 1
spoke on patriotism—an appropriate choice since patriotism has burst into expression since that tragedy and because December 7 was at hand.

Cheaney's father was in the Army, and childhood on various Army bases provided an environment that engendered patriotism, he said. It also led to his own 28-year career in the Army. Being in the Army means giving up some rights and privileges that ordinary citizens have. He took orders even if he happened not to agree with them. He and his wife, Ruby, moved to strange places not of their choice because of routine transfers. He could vote, but could not take part in politics. Being in the Army, he feels, "is a calling" rather than being a job. One must be willing to lay down one's life for one's country. Cheaney added, "Of course, we always hope it will be that other guy's."

Most military people are very patriotic, Cheaney said, as are many other people. The focus today is on firemen and policemen because of their dedication to duty exhibited in New York.

Cheaney said he didn't know how to define patriotism, but he knows it when he sees it. The public's patriotism and its attitude about people in the Army, firemen and policemen, fluctuates, he said. People tend to take them, and the services they offer, for granted until a disaster occurs. Then, at least for a short while, they are appreciated. Patriotism flourishes in time of war. When Pearl Harbor was bombed unexpectedly, a tremendous surge of patriotism occurred. War was declared, and recruiting offices were overrun with men wanting to fight for the country. Women left home to replace them in the workforce. The country set a breathtaking pace at replacing ships lost and to furnish planes and needed equipment for the war effort. Japan had awakened a sleeping giant.

Other wars have not been that justified in the minds of peace-loving Americans, and lack of support led to an unenthusiastic response to the return of brave men called upon to fight in Korea and Vietnam. Patriotism was not dead, however. When the military returned from the Gulf War, it was re-

ceived with "the mother of all parades", Cheaney said. We don't sing the Star Spangled Banner now as much as we used to, which he regrets. It is inspiring music and the words still bring a lump to his throat, he said. To finish his talk on patriotism, he talked about the flag. Many people are now displaying the flag, but not many know anything about how it is supposed to be treated. The rules are a matter of paying honor to it. It should be raised briskly and lowered slowly and ceremoniously. It should be displayed higher than lesser flags.

George Washington designed the first flag with a circle of 13 stars. The addition of states caused the design to be changed, but thirteen stripes remain for the original thirteen states. Betsy Ross is thought to have sewn the first flag according to Washington's design, although we don't know for sure. We do know that the red is a symbol of valor, white is for purity and innocence, and blue stands for vigilance, justice and perseverance. The sleeping giant has again been awakened, and patriotism has resurged. There is always some good along with the bad.

Drill team prepares for debut

Continued from Page 1
New members are welcome, boys and girls, 13 and above. Alonzo stated he is flexible as far as attendance is concerned, as long as the youngster has a reason for absence, such as conflicting school activities. The team members are enthusiastic, some thinking ahead to possible military service. Alonzo says he also goes to the Alternative Center to pick up kids and get them

interested in the program. A local soldier just completing army boot camp watched the team practicing. He told Alonzo, "that's what they teach us in boot camp. I wish we'd had something like this when I was growing up." The team has been asked to participate in the Fort Clark Days celebration and Chief Alonzo says that if they are ready, they will do so. However, he is looking forward to the first Brackettville parade of the year, on May 5th, for the drill team's debut. By then, he says, they should be ready and will appear in full uniform. The uniforms will cost about \$150 - \$175 each, and will be paid for by fundraisers, parents, interested citizens, possibly businesses "adopting" a student and furnishing the uniform, with "strings attached". The strings might include school attendance, grades, community involvement.

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Band concert tonight NSF funds program to boost math, science literacy in South Texas schools

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

School will be dismissed for the Christmas break Wednesday, December 19, at 1:30 PM. The staff will receive training on CPR that afternoon. Our goal is for staff to be able to be there in emergencies by basic knowledge of CPR. Our local EMS, directed by Carolyn Rutherford will provide the training in the school auditorium. The staff will have a workday on Thursday, Dec. 20. School will resume after the holidays on Monday, January 7, 2002!

This Thursday night, the Tiger Band will use the remodeled school auditorium for its concert at 7:30 PM. I hope you can be there to experience the beauty of the auditorium with padded seats, drapes, and a new stage. The Hillcrest Foundation awarded a grant to the school district to pay for the seats & some of the remodeling of the facility. We could not have this beautiful facility without Mr. and Mrs. Harold Byrd and the Hillcrest Foundation. Thanks to the Board of Trustees for prioritizing the renovation of this historic building.

Cody Robinette is to be congratulated for being selected to the ATSSB all-region band. Cody is a freshman baritone horn player. He will be our only representative this year. We're proud that he will be able to go to San Antonio on January 25 and 26 to play with this fine band.

The Voices of Fort Clark presented an outstanding cantata to the community this past weekend. Lynn McNew did a fine job directing the chorus. Cathy

Conrey is the superb pianist for the Voices. A children's choir added just the right touch for Christmas. Afterward, many of the community residents enjoyed a Christmas party given by our Chamber of Commerce. Both events were well attended.

Candy Hobbs presented a computer demonstration for the school board this past Monday night. Candy has been trained to be a master teacher of computer technology by Intel. She taught a 40-hour course to 18 BISD teachers so that they could utilize the latest techniques in their classrooms. Mary Petrosky did an outstanding job demonstrating what she had learned by presenting projects in Power Point and DeskTop Publishing. Mrs. Hobbs will teach the same course in the future so that all staff can be trained.

Frank Taylor held a series of workshops on protecting computers from viruses. We have virus protection software on our school computers. We must constantly update the computers and scan to keep the system clean.

The Community Unity program is scheduled for Sunday night, December 16. The churches (ministerial alliance) of Brackettville will sponsor the program this year. It will be held at the same site as in the past. I like this celebration, and it brings our community together. They're starting late and need lots of help. Donations may be made through Pastors Ken Sellers or Charlotte Corey.

Let's get behind this celebration and try to keep it going. You'll be glad that you did. Have a great week!

Corpus Christi - Officials at Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi and the Texas Engineering Experiment Station (TEES) announced Wednesday, Nov. 28, the creation of a \$6 million program that will work with rural school districts in South Texas to improve K-12 mathematics and science education.

The South Texas Rural Systemic Initiative (STRSI), funded by the National Science Foundation (NSF), pulls together school administrators, teachers, counselors, students and parents to meet state math and science standards and work to improve the performance in mathematics and science of students from economically disadvantaged rural school districts. "Recent Census data illustrate clearly what we all already know - that South Texas education levels and income levels are the lowest in the state," said U.S. Rep. Solomon Ortiz. "We also know that the quality and access to education directly relate to the income levels of our citizens. This initiative to improve the quality of rural school districts here is a welcome movement. Until we improve the education of our children, we cannot expect them to enjoy the quality of life available elsewhere in the state or the nation."

With the creation of STRSI, Texas becomes one of the few states to have more than one

RSI. The NSF funded the Texas Rural Systemic Initiative (TRSI) in 1998. The program currently reaches 70,000 students in 60 school districts in 43 counties, and participating TRSI school districts have seen their students' scores on the science and math portions of the Texas Assessment of Academic Skills (TAAS) rise. Texas A&M University System Vice Chancellor and TEES Director Dr. C. Roland Haden said, "TRSI is having a positive impact in our rural school districts and we need to expand these efforts to ensure we reach all students in need of these kinds of programs. These students are the future of Texas, and we have high expectations for them."

A&M-Corpus Christi President Dr. Robert R. Furgason stated, "The South Texas Rural Systemic Initiative will bring many opportunities to the children of South Texas their parents never had. Having a grasp of science and mathematics is critical to achieving a higher education. The methods used in the initiative have a record of success so I am very excited and optimistic about how this will affect the region." "Part of the challenge in bringing about systemic reform in rural areas of large states such as Texas, is the enormous distances between schools and districts," said Dr. Costello L. Brown, division di-

rector of educational system reform at the National Science Foundation. "The STRSI program was able to make a convincing case for the need of an additional RSI program in Texas to cover the rural school districts in Southwest Texas."

Dr. Diana Marinez, STRSI principal investigator and dean of Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi's College of Science and Technology, said that as a native South Texan, she is particularly excited that the additional funding for South Texas rural schools will allow the state's RSI program to initiate a more focused effort to improve science and math education for all children. "South Texas is an area about the size of North Carolina and is home to over 50 percent of the rural school children in Texas," she said. "Without the additional funding for another Rural Systemic Initiative in Texas we could not have addressed the special needs in South Texas." The STRSI is led by Texas A&M University-Corpus Christi in collaboration with other South Texas institutions including Texas A&M University-Kingsville, Texas A&M International University and Del Mar College in Corpus Christi. The South Texas program will initially involve 18 current TRSI school districts and will grow to a total of 30 participating South Texas school districts.

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

Thursday, December 13
5:00 PM BKB 7G/8B Del Rio (Sacred) (H), 7:30 PM High School Christmas Concert, Auditorium, BKB VG LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Friday, December 14
BKB VG LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Saturday, December 15
BKB JVG Del Rio Tourn. (A) TBA, BKB VG LaPryor Tourn. (A) TBA

Monday, December 17
1:30 PM Elem/MS Christmas Concert, Auditorium, 5:00 PM BKB JVG/VB Comstock (H)

Tuesday, December 18
11:15 A. - 12:15 PM Meet Santa, PK-4th Grades, Room 1, 5:00 PM BKB VG/VB LaPryor (H)

Wednesday, December 19
1:30 PM Student Early Out, End of 3rd 6 wks.

Winter Reminder:
Install a smoke detector in the hallway adjacent to or located in each bedroom. If you have gas appliances, install carbon monoxide detectors in these locations as well. Combination detectors are available. Check batteries frequently!

Teen Epilepsy

Epilepsy month campaign encourages respect toward teens with epilepsy. Washington, D.C., A recent survey of 20,000 American teenagers about their knowledge, attitudes and perceptions of epilepsy underscores the pressing need for increased awareness of the common neurological disorder that affects about 350,000 children and teens in this country.

The survey reveals that 68 percent of teens are unfamiliar with epilepsy. The Epilepsy Foundation is launching a national campaign called "Entitled Respect" to improve understanding and acceptance of teens with epilepsy among their peers. The campaign is part of a youth program partnership between the Foundation and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which funded the survey.

Perhaps the most surprising survey result is that 67 percent of teens would probably not know what to do if someone had a seizure. The guidelines suggest the following steps in the event of a convulsive seizure:

- Move things out of the way
- Put something soft under the head
- Loosen anything tight around the neck
- Turn the person gently to one side

- Don't put anything in the mouth
- Don't try to hold the person down

If a person has a seizure that looks like staring, loss of awareness, blinking, chewing, or other movements, you should:

- Stay calm
- Guide the person away from danger or standing in front of anything hazardous
- Don't try to grab hold of them
- Stay nearby until the person is fully aware again

Teens may wonder if they should call an ambulance when someone has a seizure. If there are injuries, if the seizure lasts longer than five minutes, or if another seizure begins soon after the first, then an ambulance should be called. However, seizures usually end naturally without any medical attention.

The epilepsy Foundation, based in metropolitan Washington, D.C., is the leading source of consumer information about seizures, as well as direct services in the community for families affected by seizure disorders. The organization's goals are to prevent, control and cure epilepsy through research, education, advocacy and services.

Student Loan Defaults

Austin, Texas - According to a survey conducted by Mapping Your Future, a public service web site co-sponsored by Texas Guaranteed (TG) and other student loan guaranty agencies, online counseling is gaining popularity at a fast pace. The results show that over 70 percent of the colleges and universities surveyed use online loan counseling on a regular basis. Financial aid professionals completed the survey when visiting the Mapping Your Future booth at the 2001 NASFAA conference in Nashville.

"Mapping Your Future's mission of serving schools, students, and families and providing important default prevention information is being realized by offering online student loan counseling," says Catherine Mueller, TG's assistant vice

president and senior project manager for Mapping Your Future. "Not only did the financial aid professionals indicate that the counseling is a convenience to students but that it also is an effective default prevention tool because students are more involved in the process when they do their counseling online."

Federal Stafford and Perkins borrowers are required by Federal law to participate in entrance and exit counseling.

While entrance-counseling programs educate students about the fundamental principles of borrowing, their rights and responsibilities and the commitment that comes with the acceptance of a student loan.

Besides online counseling, schools and guaranty agencies offer group and individual counseling sessions.



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When should hearing be tested? *The cold weather can create health problems*

(ARA) - What? ... I'm sorry I couldn't hear you? ... Could you repeat that? ... What did you say?

If these are the questions you ask when talking with others, then it's likely you need to have your hearing tested.

If you're wondering why your friends mumble when they talk to you or when restaurants suddenly become cacophonous, frustrating places, have your hearing tested.

If your family consistently turns the television volume down when you're through watching it, have your hearing tested. If phone conversations are confusing or you find yourself having to concentrate on a speaker's lips to understand what they're saying, have your hearing tested.

If you haven't had a hearing test since high school ... have a hearing test.

The statistics of hearing loss are compelling: One out of 10 Americans has hearing loss. By age 65, one out of three people has hearing loss. And of these, only one out of five actually seeks help.

That's unnecessary — and unfortunate — because there is help available. In a recent survey performed by the National Council on the Aging, hearing loss, left untreated, has a correlative relationship with debilitating psychological problems like depression, social anxiety and decreased social activity. The longer you ignore your hearing loss, the worse the physical, psychological and social effects. While noise-induced hearing loss is painless, it is permanent.

Nip potential hearing loss in the bud. Have your hearing tested. Doing so early may prevent damage or further damage to your hearing.

The Warning Signs

Usually, hearing loss is painless and gradual, typically de-

veloping over a period of 25 to 30 years. Without some qualitative test, you won't realize you're losing your hearing till it's too late. There is a degree of hearing loss associated with aging, and infections, sudden loud or prolonged noise, diseases (like Meniere's disease) or genetic disorders (like otosclerosis), medical conditions (like diabetes), even a build-up of ear wax can mean hearing loss.

Here are some warning signs to watch out for:

- Pain or ringing in your ears (tinnitus) after exposure to noise
- Muffled speech sounds or music sounds dull after leaving a noisy area
- Difficulty understanding speech in crowded situations
- Difficulty in pinpointing sounds' locations (loss of stereo hearing)
- Frequently mispronouncing words
- Frequently asking people to repeat themselves

You'll be asked a series of more involved questions when you get your hearing tested. If you experience any of the above symptoms, you know what to do, get your hearing tested.

Who Should I Talk To?

You need to see an audiologist, a professional who specializes in hearing health care. Audiologists are trained to conduct and interpret hearing tests, fit and dispense hearing aids, provide related counseling, habilitation, rehabilitation and hearing conservation.

Your audiologist will help you make an informed decision about your hearing care and provide you with communication strategies to help make listening easier. Typically this type of hearing evaluation is covered by insurance.

Surprisingly, most people who struggle with hearing loss think they're unusual. Hearing loss doesn't have to mean depression, frustration and social

anxiety — an audiologic rehabilitation program can train you to deal with your new situation, and an audiologist can help you find one.

Have your hearing tested as soon as possible, and talk to your audiologist about how often to test your hearing.

You'll have a great chance of learning how to deal with hearing loss before it becomes debilitating.

Texans for better Medicare

Austin - After opening its doors here in Texas just a short time ago, Texans for Better Medicare is now opening its doors on the World Wide Web. Located at www.bettermedicare.org/tx individuals can learn more about Medicare reform and contact the group without ever leaving their computer.

"Convenience and access are the key to ensuring people will take the initiative to learn more about and become active in the Medicare debate," said Dr. Walter D. Wilkerson, Jr., a retired family physician from Conroe and former Chairman of the Texas Department of Health who serves on the Texans for Better Medicare steering committee. "In the era of online shopping - from groceries to cars - an organization doesn't just open its doors to the general public they must also open them to the online community."

Texans for Better Medicare continues to honor its pledge to promote a strengthened and improved Medicare system for all beneficiaries through reaching out to the online community and offering resources not otherwise easily accessible. Such resources include Medicare updates, health care news articles from around Texas and around the country, answers to frequently asked questions, ways to contact the group and get involved as well as ways to contact Congress

Where To Start

If you think you have hearing loss, there are great resources to help you. In addition to undergoing an annual hearing test, check out the Audiology Awareness Campaign at www.audiologyawareness.com or call 1-888-833-EARS for a free 15-page booklet called "Listen Up, America ... We Hear You" and a free set of ear plugs.

and more. "In addition we hope to see the number of supporters increase as the community visits our headquarters."

Currently Texans for Better Medicare is over 16,000 supporters strong ranging from senior citizens to business leaders and patients, all who have an interest in the nation's health care plan for the elderly and disabled.

Texans for Better Medicare believes that in order to deliver high quality health care to Medicare beneficiaries, an optional prescription drug benefit, which meets the needs of seniors and disabled Americans should be part of an overall reform plan. Such a plan should strengthen and improve the Medicare program to meet the needs of beneficiaries today and tomorrow, ensure special assistance for low-income seniors, protect the choices seniors have today from being displaced by a one-size-fits-all government-

managed program, keep medical decisions between doctors and their patients and guarantee reform that does not threaten research for tomorrow's cures.

The group is a state affiliate of Citizens for Better Medicare, a broad-based, bipartisan group representing the interests of patients, seniors, disabled, pharmaceutical research companies, doctors, caregivers, employers, health care experts and many others concerned with the health of Americans in our Medicare system.

Cold weather - with frost, chilling winds, ice storms or snow - can create severe problems that many people in the state are not used to dealing with especially following months of comfortably warm temperatures, according to the Texas Department of Health (TDH).

Hypothermia, the severe or prolonged loss of body heat, begins when a person's body temperature falls below 95 degrees F.

Because the temperature drop may be gradual and an early symptom of hypothermia is mental confusion, the victim may not know there is a problem.

And health officials warn that vulnerable people can die from cold weather.

In 2000, hypothermia was a contributing factor in 53 Texas deaths.

People most susceptible to hypothermia include those 60 and older, infants and small children, people who are sick, those taking certain prescription drugs or drinking alcohol, the homeless, auto or boating accident victims and those unable to find temporary shelter in cold weather.

Often an older person's metabolism is slower than that of a young person, or the older person may already be in poor health and taking medications that can alter awareness of dangerously low temperatures. People 60 and older may not perceive or respond to cold as readily as younger people because the body's natural alarm signal - the reflex of shivering that increases blood flow - lessens with age. Some hypothermia victims die because they are simply unaware of gradual temperature changes.

And some people, especially the elderly on fixed incomes, may set their thermostats dangerously low for fear of high heating bills.

To reduce potential dangers:

- Watch for symptoms of hypothermia including confusion and drowsiness, slurred speech, a drop in blood pressure, shallow breathing and pinkish tint to the skin. Anyone with these symptoms related to cold temperatures is in immediate danger.

- Check on elderly or ill people, especially if they live alone or in isolated areas.

- Wear loose-fitting clothing in layers, gloves and a face cover to block the wind if you must be outside. Stay dry.

- Be extremely cautious in the wind. A strong wind, even in only moderately cool weather, can cause a wind chill far below freezing.

- Take extra precautions with those most vulnerable.

Winter storms also may cause power outages, and food safety becomes a problem along with heating.

If you lose power for more than four hours, take the following precautions with refrigerated food products:

- Keep refrigerator and freezer doors closed as much as possible.

- Discard any potentially hazardous foods such as meats, eggs, dairy products and leftovers that may have exceeded 45 degrees F. When in doubt, throw it out.

- Any frozen food that has thawed but not exceeded 45 degrees F should be prepared as soon as possible. Do not refreeze.

TDH officials warn that no one at any age should underestimate weather changes and should dress appropriately. Wind chill refers to the cooling effect wind has on the skin.

Not only can wind chill cause rapid heat loss from the body, but it also can cause frostbite - actual freezing of tissues.

Anyone planning outdoor activities in cold weather should refer to local weather forecasts for information.



This Holiday, Give Your Family The World, and Get One Months Service Free!

Unlimited Access to the World Wide Web - For Only

\$14.95

A Month!



* Customers are responsible for choosing local access numbers. Your electric cooperative will not reimburse for long distance phone charges incurred.

To sign up for new service or to change Internet providers, simply call Medina Electric Co-op toll free at 866-2MEDINA, or visit us on the web at www.medinaec.com.

MERRY CHRISTMAS !!!

FREE DISH NOW !

Now you can get a free dish, free installation, 1 time activation fee \$49.99 + tax,

50 channels \$21.99,
100 channels \$30.99,
150 channels \$40.99

Call Urban & Rural Services
830-563-9445
Locally owned

www.dishnetwork.com

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Count the many blessings BE A STAR Obituaries

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

Well, the greenery and the lights are up, the trees are turning, and there is a sense of expectancy in the air.

The obvious blessing is the expected arrival of the Son of God as a baby in a manger.

As we hear news reports of war, death, destruction, and crime, we desperately need something to believe in.

I want to acknowledge those in our community who take time

and money out of their lives to change some despair into hope.

To the church families in this community I also lift up your efforts, whatever they might be.

God blesses our little corner of the kingdom by your faithfulness, generosity and goodness.

To the leaders of Brackettville, both public and private, I offer appreciation for your yearlong care for the stability and the growth of our small town.

God surely made you a blessing to

the rest of us. May your Christmas be as blessed as you have made our year.

And of course, to everyone involved in our school system, we offer our appreciation for the manner in which you have guided our children.

Hope! Sometimes, there seems to be too little. Sometimes we want to ask God why everything seems so destined to destruction.

Please join us Sunday at 10:45 am for our worship service. Come and help us find the peace of God within us that might provide a light to the world.

St. Mary Magdalene Church By Lynn McNew

One of the reasons I like living in a small town is that I can go outside at night and see the stars.

When the play was over, the child proudly announced that she had been given the main part.

Isn't that what each one of us can do in our lives?

During the time we have left before Christmas, I'm going to ask God to guide me to the one special person He wants me to talk to each day.

It may not be every day, but whenever He sends this person to me, I'll ask Him to let me be receptive to this person's need.

I wonder how many stars would decorate my refrigerator by Christmas Day.

God Bless You!

Emma Swaim

Emma Swaim, age 81, of Brackettville, Texas passed away Friday, Dec. 7, 2001.

Swaim was preceded in death by husband, George Swaim, parents Jacinto C. Castro and Elisa Castro.

Brother Ahart Castro, sisters Rosanda Castro, Antoinette Converse, and Ora Castro.

Viewing was on Monday December 10, 2001 at St. Mary Magdalene Church in Brackettville, TX from 5 p.m. to 9 p.m.

On Tuesday December 11, 2001 viewing was at Don's Funeral Home in Del Rio, TX from 8:30 a.m. to 9:00 p.m.

On Wednesday December 12, 2001 a Christian Burial Mass was at Sacred Heart Church at 11:00 a.m.

Burial Services was at the Del Rio Memorial Cemetery.

Gateway Ministries By Pastor Charolette Corey

We sing of "a partridge in a pear tree"; we give fruits away in stockings and fruit baskets;

Fruit given in winter, when fruit is harder to get, is a real treat, a true gift.

We take it for granted in our country these days; others don't.

Don't let outdoor holiday lights throw you for a loop

From icicle lights hanging down from the roof to elaborate lawn decorations,

To protect yourself and your family from potential electrical hazards, the Leviton Institute urges you to plug all outdoor holiday lights into a special receptacle called a Ground Fault Circuit Interrupter (GFCI).

Another safety precaution: It is important to test your GFCI receptacle before plugging holiday lights into it to make sure it is still providing protection.

OUTDOORS

Protect against diseases

A Texas autumn typically brings out people who enjoy activities in the cooler weather.

"But hunters, campers and hikers need to be aware that they could be exposed to diseases transmitted by ticks, fleas and mosquitoes as well as animals in the wild," said Guy Moore,

A bite from an infected tick, for example, can cause illnesses such as Lyme disease, Rocky Mountain spotted fever and human ehrlichiosis.

Mosquitoes continue to be a biting nuisance almost year-round in many parts of the state.

And while the illness has been known for years, questions about contracting anthrax from animals continue to grow.

Deer and livestock normally get the disease by swallowing anthrax spores while grazing on contaminated pasture.

seriously affected animals may stagger, have difficulty breathing, tremble and finally collapse and die.

A vaccine for livestock is commonly used in areas with anthrax, but it must be used before the animal is exposed to the bacteria.

Another potential danger is rabies. All warm-blooded animals, including humans, are susceptible to this deadly viral illness.

Extension cords can be overloaded just as easily as your house wiring, so don't plug more than three strands of lights into one extension cord.

Here are some other tips from the Leviton Institute:

- Don't run extension cords under rugs or carpets.
• Keep extension cords out

bat that is active during the day or any animal that appears sick, fearless or aggressive should contact area animal control or law enforcement officers.

Attracting wild animals with food or trying to feed them by hand is not a good idea.

- Use insect repellent containing DEET or permethrin.
• Stay on trails outdoors and avoid areas of overgrown brush and tall grasses.
• Wear protective clothing such as a hat, long-sleeved shirt and long pants tucked into boots or socks.

Never use indoor extension cords outside. They are not designed to withstand outdoor conditions.

- Only use extension cords that have the UL label.
• Use one long extension cord rather than linking several shorter cords together.
• According to the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, more than 1,200 people end up at the emergency room for an injury related to holiday lights every year.

OUR REDEEMER LUTHERAN CHURCH ELCA On the corner of Fort and Henderson Sunday Worship 9 AM Sunday School 10 AM Wednesday Bible Study 7 PM Pastor: Nathan Lafrenz 830-778-2239

Arts Council of Eagle Pass A NON-PROFIT ORGANIZATION THE ARTS COUNCIL OF EAGLE PASS PRESENTS SAN ANTONIO'S LYRIC OPERA COMPANY And their presentation of: "Amahl and the Night Visitors" A Christmas Opera Along with a performance by: "San Antonio's Three Tenors" Saturday, December, 15, 2001 7 p.m. - C.C. Winn Auditorium Pre-sale tickets are available for: \$12 per adult and \$5 per child at the Eagle Pass Chamber of Commerce or Western Communications or by calling 830-757-4200 or 830-773-3559.

First Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann and Veltman Pastor: R. D. Holloway 563-2245 Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m. Worship Service - 11 a.m. Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m. Evening Service 7 p.m. Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

God Created the Church to be a Family for ALL His Children. Sunday Schedule: Bible School at 9:30 am Choir Practice at 10:15 am Worship at 10:45 am FIRST UNITED METHODIST CHURCH, "HOME AWAY FROM HOME" Child care available upon request. 563-2823

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

ADOPTION

Note: It is illegal to be paid for anything beyond medical and legal expenses in Texas adoption.

AN ADOPTION STORY. Your child will always know their adoption story and of the tremendous amount of love you have for them.

A WONDERFUL FUTURE... filled with love, opportunity and fun... awaits your baby.

AUTOMOBILES

CHARITY CARS - DONATE your vehicle, tax deductible, free towing.

DRIVERS WANTED

A CAREER OPPORTUNITY. LISA Motor Lines has immediate openings for entry level drivers.

COMBINED TRANSPORT IS committed to our drivers. Earn up to \$50K/yr. Run Western or 48 states.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT now offering per diem pay for experienced teams, solos and trainers.

DRIVER - DRIVERS NEEDED for west coast lanes. Late-model Peterbilts, Freightliners, & Kenworth's.

DRIVERS - DRIVE-AWAY Company seeks Class-A Contractors. Single up to 60 cpm.

DRIVERS... EXPERIENCE THE power of pride at USA Truck. Top pay up to 43 cpm.

DRIVERS-GREAT MILES, benefits, bonuses, equipment! Fridays are pay-days.

DRIVERS: SOLOS UP to .45 cpm; Teams up to .48 cpm; Contractors .81 cents all miles.

DRIVERS WANTED

OWNER OPERATOR AVG \$1.13 in Southwest 5 state area.

SUNSET LOGISTICS - OWNER-OPERATORS needed. Haul scrap metal/aggregate materials in end dumps.

DRIVERS: OTR DRIVERS needed. Class A CDL w/experience required.

DRIVERS - OWNER OPERATORS needed for expanding flatbed operation in TX & OK.

DRIVERS-SW REGIONAL. Home on weekly basis. Teams start 34 cpm, OTR starts 32 cpm.

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED at Dick Simon Trucking! Drivers earn \$32K.

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS. Job opportunities. Free call for application/examination information.

BE DEBT FREE - years sooner. Low payments. Reduce interest. Stop late fees.

IMMEDIATE CASH for structured settlements, annuities, notes, accident cases, and insurance payouts.

CREDIT CARD DEBT? Stop collection calls. Cut finance charges. Cut payments up to 50%.

500FASTCASH.COM - Short term loans up to \$500.00. We want your business.

FOR RENT 1 BEDROOM HOUSE on Fort, nicely furnished. Frame house not a mobile.

1836 SQ. FT. OFFICE space. Walk in vault, new a/c and heat, handicap accessible \$450/mo.

FOR SALE

FOR SALE BRACKETT Car Wash (830) 563-2398.

STARTER HOME OR Winter Texan, 1 bedroom. Cost less than a good used car.

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

SAWMILL \$3895. NEW Super Lumbermate 2000. Larger capacities, more options.

WOLFF TANNING BEDS - Affordable, Convenient. Tan at home. Payments from \$25/month.

YEAR END CLOSEOUT! Arch Steel Buildings. Inventory clearance. 2000 steel prices.

SAT. DEC. 15TH 9 AM - 3 PM, 1024 Fort Clark Rd. Couch, love seat, and misc.

RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc. (RGEC) is accepting applications for the position of Mechanic to fill a vacancy in the Cooperative's Brackettville Office.

ATTENTION! BE YOUR own boss. \$25-\$75/hr. potential, PT/FT. No experience necessary.

EARN \$1,000-\$4,000 week potential, PT/FT. Sales Managers needed now. Honest, motivated.

SALES MARKETING MANAGERS needed. Sales potential \$1000 to \$3000 week.

SINGERS WANTED. NASHVILLE Producer conducting Auditions Showcase in Nashville, Tennessee.

2001 16 X 80 3 bd, 2 bath, \$156.37/mo. 10% down 9.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C.

REAL ESTATE

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

Unfurnished - 2 bed, 2 1/2 baths home, large den, fenced yard, 2 storage bldgs. \$500 mo. + utilities.

Ft. Clark - Rent with option to buy; 3 spacious bedrooms, 2 baths, on the golf course, 2 car carport.

2 bed, 2 baths, mobile home. Floor has been completely replaced, 2 porches, other improvements.

Available to show properties on weekends. orourke@the-i.net

CLAYTON DREAM HOME, 3 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide, 28 x 52 \$342.80/mo.

BANK REPO HUGE 3 bd/2 bath doublewide, \$321.64/mo. 5% down 10.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C.

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS of proposed Texas highway improvement contracts. Sealed proposals for highway improvement contracts will be received by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) until the date (s) shown below.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR FINANCING, DESIGN, CONSTRUCTION, OPERATION AND MANAGEMENT OF DETENTION FACILITY (Kinney County Commissioners Court)

Sealed proposals addressed to the Kinney County Commissioners Court will be received on or before 12:00 o'clock P.M. on January 11, 2002.

Significant bond, indemnification and insurance requirements will be placed on the successful respondent, including the provision of performance and payment bonds.

The financing proposal shall provide for lease-purchase of the Facility by the County, with an option to purchase, and transfer of legal title upon payment of all lease payments.

Operation and management will be required to be in conformance with the rules and regulations of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, the Operation and Management Agreement between the successful respondent and the County.

The County will not obligate its funds or tax revenues to pay for any component of this project, including the operation and management of the Facility.

The Kinney County Commissioners Court reserves the right to reject any or all proposals, or to select the proposal most advantageous to the County.

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO

• 700 acres water and fencing. • New Listing - Master Condo #1205 • New Listing - Unit 34, kitchen, 2-bedroom, 1-bath, R.V. Parking many extras.

• New Listing - Very nice home 3 bedroom, 2 bath, with wooden screened in porch, lots of oak trees.

• Nice home by school, pretty landscaping and lots of living space, includes a water well.

LOCKHART REAL ESTATE DEBBIE TRANT BARBARA VOSS 830-563-2997 104 A-E Spring

New Listing - Fort: lovely 2 bed, 2 bath brick home, FP, sunroom, patio, sprinkler system, garage. Excellent condition, appliances included!

Fort: spacious 3 bed, 3 bath home, FP, large den, double carport, workshop. Choice locale!

1,818 +/- acres: partial high fence, well, housing, wet weather creek, \$425/ac.

La Fortuna Ranch Sales Phyllis and Les Meyer 830-563-9911 615 Hwy 90 East

Homes in Fort Clark Springs, Historical and Recent Construction New Listing *Calvary Condo 1/1/2 garages - \$40,000.00

New Listing *3/1 1/2 Bath, 1470 +/- Sq. Ft. with 2 lots on Airport. 80 acres north of town, rolling brush

518 Acres rolling mesquite country - House, barns, well and HWY Frontage. Great Hunting!

5000 acres north of town, fantastic Deer & Turkey, Great Improvements, several houses, Will Divide Other Hunting Ranches Available

FAX IT FAST!!! \$2 for the first page, \$1 for each page thereafter 507 South Ann Street Phone: (830) 563-2852 Brackettville, Texas, 78832 Fax: (830) 563-9538

Car seat tips

When the weather turns cooler, we all get our jackets and coats out of the closet. Did you know that putting your infant or child in their coat or blanket before putting them in their car seat can greatly affect the way the car seat is designed to work?

which will allow your child to move further forward during a crash before being stopped by the harness straps—increasing the injuries they will suffer.

The harness straps in car seats are designed to lie flat and snug against your child. When they are adjusted properly, there should be no slack in the harness system. If you wrap your baby in a blanket before placing him in the car seat, and loosen the harness straps to accommodate the extra cloth...you have put slack into the system.

So what should you do? First, always keep your child in the clothes they will be wearing when they are indoors. Place the child in the infant seat or car seat, making sure the harness straps are snug over the shoulders and that they lie straight and flat down to the buckle. Buckle the child in and then put the coat or blanket over them—on top of the harness system. You can even turn the coat around and put his arms through the sleeves after he is buckled into his car seat.

In a collision, this extra fabric and padding will compress and cause slack in the harness system,

This will ensure your kids are kept snug in their seat, the harness system is able to do its job in the event of a crash, and that the kids stay warm.

MOBILE HOMES

2001 16 X 80 3 bd, 2 bath, \$156.37/mo. 10% down 9.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

Table with crossword puzzle answers: SLOB, SRO, IDLE, LAVA, PINTA, NEAL, AMEN, ACTOR, ATOM, PARKERHOUSE, ESS, SIR, PROPER, SPA, RIA, SNBERED, AUDIENCE, ENEMY, BROW, GENES, INON, OGLE, ANITSETTE, TEENAGE, DLT, SES, STROLL, EDS, MACE, ELLIMINATING, OWED, DONOT, ODOR, DENY, ATROLL, PIONE, ESTE, PAY, SLEW

Is your Christmas list longer than your idea list? Let us help out.

Someone on your list might really appreciate a special wine, fine brandy, cognac, or other liqueur. Or - just your favorite scotch, bourbon, gin or vodka.

Monday-Thursday, 12-7 p.m. Friday & Saturday, 10:00 a.m. - 9:00 p.m. Located on Highway 90 563-9030



10% off on 3 or more bottles of wine 20% off some selected brands
















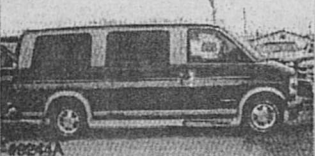




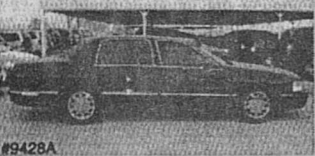









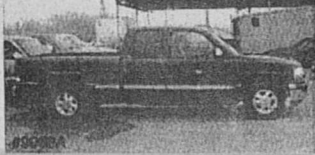


















Try these and our other great wines

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- Smooth liqueurs Alize E & J Brandy Don Pedro Brandy Courvoisier Cognac Remy Martin Cognac Christian Brothers Brandy

- Liqueurs Cointreau, Drambuie Grand Marnier Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry Bailey's Irish Cream Disaronno Originale Amaretto

BROWN

'97 GRAND MARQUIS #9871B  \$6995*	'94 CHEVY VAN #9517B  \$8995*	'96 CONCORDE #8851B  \$8995*	'97 CENTURY #1130A  \$9895*	'97 GMC SAFARI #9668AA  \$11495*
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