

The Brackett News



★ Have a ★
Merry Christmas

13th year, No. 46

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

1 Section, 14 Pages

Candidates named for FCS Board BISR holiday music program

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Candidates for Board of Director positions were presented by the Nominating Committee at the FCSA Board meeting Saturday. Caroline Baldwin, Ella Chambers, Frank Cheaney, Don Parks, Tom Saylor and Wylie Simmons will be running for board membership in the March 2002 elections.

A proposed amendment to declaration of Protective Restrictions Part II, whereby holders of Family Recreation Members shall not be entitled to serve as members of the Board of Directors of Fort Clark Springs, will be placed on the annual meeting ballot for consideration by the membership.

The Board also approved Jim Struther as new Recreation Committee member and Aileen Lewis was appointed to replace Clyde Markham on the RV Committee.

In another action, the Board voted to extend for 30 days agreements with all the Fort Clark clubs, other than the Horse Club, to allow time for

review of the existing contracts.

The Arrow Club is being formed, and has the use of Fort Clark's hanger. The Board agreed to defer any action to charge a fee for the use of the hanger until an agreement with the Arrow Club is finalized. This will be on the January Board agenda.

Darlene Shahan reported that the proposed Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board election will be held as scheduled in January.

The Board approved acceptance of a bid in the amount of \$6,275.00 for a hard pack road to the TNRCC site. This is a requirement to eliminate trucks tracking mud onto the highway. A 15 x 30 cement wash pad was also included in the bid.

Fort Clark Springs General Manager Maggie Banner Kerr announced plans to close the Par 3 golf course for watering after 10 a.m. on Tuesday and Thursday during winter months.

Fund-raisers for Fort Clark Days which will be open to the public are: the Chili Cookoff on January 14th, noon to 2:00 at

Shafter Hall, the Cabaret Dinner on February 1 and 2nd at the Restaurant and Sock Hop on February 11th at the Post Theater.

The Recreation Committee reminded members of the monthly Pot Luck dinners on Mondays at the Adult Center. Table service, cup and glass are required. There will be a New Year's Eve Pot Luck on Monday, December 31st at 6:00. Ham and Turkey will be provided and no table service is required for this event. Thursday, December 20th a Live Nativity will be presented in front of the Adult Center from 6:00 to 7:00.

Fort Clark Springs Association will hold a Christmas Open House at the Administration Building from 9 to 5 on Friday. Refreshments will be served.

Dance to the Swamp Angels at the New Year's Eve Dance, 9:00 at the Post Theater. Tickets, limited to 200, are \$8.00 per person or \$15.00 a couple and may be purchased at the Administration Office. A table for the event may be reserved at the Adult Center.



Some audience members were apparently too tired to appreciate the Brackett ISD Christmas concert Monday. Perhaps they were having visions of "Sugar Plums" or maybe dreams of Christmas morning.

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

It was a full house with standing room only, mostly for parents, when students in Brackett 7th Grade Exploration Class, 6th Grade Music Appreciation, Brackett Middle School Band, and Beginning Band presented a holiday concert Monday. The 7th Grade Exploration under the leadership of Lynn McNew, Director, presented a medley of Christmas songs including Silent Night in three languages, Good King Wenceslaus, Jingle Bell Rock, Rudolf the Red Nosed Reindeer, Silver Bells and Feliz Navidad.

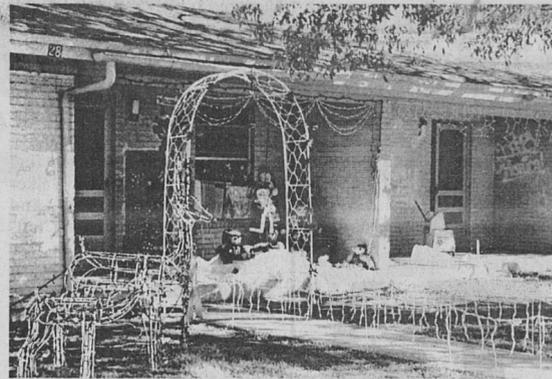
The presentation by 6th Grade Music appreciation stu-

dents was accented by students accompanying on xylophones. This group, lead by Nicole Guidry, Instructor, sang Silent Night and We Wish You a Merry Christmas.

Jason Guidry directs both the Beginning Band and Brackett Middle School Band. The Beginning Band played O Come, Little Children, and Merrily We Roll Along. Paw Paw Patch was performed by 5th Grade Brass, Aura Lee by 5th Grade Clarinets (Nicole Guidry, Director) and Jingle Bells by the 5th Grade Woodwinds and Percussion.

Brackett Middle School Band presented Aztec Sunrise, Stonegate Overture, Jingle Bell Rock and Amberwood Overture.

Christmas Decorating Contest



Brackettville Housing Authority has had its first Christmas Decorating Contest. Judging has performed the independent source. Picture above the first place winner Sylvia Estrada, apartment 28. The second place winner was Leopoldo Rocha, apartment 26. The third place winner was Juanita Gomez in apartment 7.

Groundwater District Board considers delay of election

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

The Temporary Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board met last week to consider their options regarding the scheduled January 12th election of Initial Board members. Although the board submitted House Bill 3243 (apparently Chapter 1344) to the Attorney General in September, preclearance for the election has not been received. The Kinney County Board had determined to have the election, but will continue to seek further information from the State Water Board.

The board first became aware of a possible problem on December 5th when Dora Sandoval faxed a copy of the ballot including candidate names to Austin, and was advised by the printer that she would have to contact the U.S. Justice Department to certify the ballots.

When Sandoval reached Ben Elkins at the Justice Department she was informed that due to non-certification of Senate Bill 2, the Justice Department would not precertify the special election. She also contacted Melinda Nichols of the Texas Secretary of State's office, who advised that "Kinney County has not been precleared by the Justice Department."

When asked why Kinney County had not been precleared since proper procedures had been followed, Nichols stated that "You should have been precleared. However, they (Justice Department) have not cleared anyone until Senate Bill 2 is cleared."

According to a letter from Joseph D. Rich, Chief, Voting Section, U.S. Justice Department to Ann McGeehan, Director of Elections at the Secretary of State's Office in Austin, dated November 20, 2001, "We understand that the State of Texas

has enacted Chapter 966 (2001) which, among other things, deals with the creation and operation of groundwater conservation districts and that the state is preparing a Section 5 submission of the chapter.

"Because the changes now before us and Chapter 966 are directly related, they must be reviewed simultaneously. Accordingly, it would be inappropriate for the Attorney General to make a preclearance determination on Chapter 1344 (Bill 3243) until the state has submitted Chapter 966 for Section 5 review."

The KCGWCD Board has contacted various entities in an effort to determine whether to cancel the scheduled election, which is an option prior to the beginning of early voting on December 26th.

Ben Elkins declined to comment when contacted by the Brackett News.

Horse Club granted 60 day extension

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Fort Clark Springs Association Board of Directors Saturday approved a 60 day extension to the Horse Club contract with the association. There was one dissenting vote, with all other board members present voting in favor of the action.

Carol Miller, who cast the dissenting vote, explained, "As all of you know I have real concerns about the liability situation that this will put the association in. We have had, in the past and it has been reiterated, we have had threats of violence, we've had death threats, we've had accusations of violence. There have been complaints filed with the Sheriff out of actions from the stables. If we renew or extend the contract, and something happens down there, the Fort has no leg to stand on because we knew these problems and situations were going on there. So, to me, this is pretty much putting the Fort in jeopardy."

Miller also questioned the motion approved by the horse club to tear down the pens if the contract was not renewed by December 31st, stating that once the pens are in the ground,

they belong to the Fort, but added that any portable pens are different. She did not feel that this action reflected that the club was acting in good faith or trying to work with the association.

The current agreement between Fort Clark Springs Association, Inc. and the Fort Clark Springs Horse Club states, "At the termination of this agreement, the Horse Club reserves the right to remove equipment, including exterior stall fencing owned by members, to maintain their separate pens, etc. All installed property such as fences, posts, sheds, etc. will be retained by the Association as installed property."

FCSA Board member Tom Saylor, who has been acting as intermediary with the Horse Club, Saturday proposed the extension, stating he felt this would give the board time to consider the new constitution and bylaws recently approved by the club.

"The horse has been a major part of the history surrounding the Las Moras Springs area since before Fort Clark was established in 1852.

"Ft. Clark was home to many different cavalry units over the years and many famous cavalry

officers earned their spurs here, so to speak. At the entrance to Fort Clark Springs is a statue of a horse, commemorating the military horse and its presence here at Fort Clark.

"Numerous members of the FCSA who are not members of the horse club have approached me and expressed concern over the rumor of the impending closure of the stable.

"It is not my intent, nor do I believe it is the intent of the Board of Directors to close the stable or disband the Horse Club. I think we would all like to see the membership in the Horse Club grow.

"The present agreement between the Association and the Horse Club is due to expire December 31st. This is also true of other clubs here at Fort Clark Springs. The Board of Directors is currently reviewing the contract agreements of all clubs.

"We are revising our contract agreements with the various clubs as well as the Horse Club to meet the required legal standards," Saylor told the board.

Saylor stated that he and new Horse Club President, Nolan Brandt, are working together to develop a new contract agreement and some revisions to this

constitution and bylaws that would be acceptable to the members and the Board of Directors.

"I believe that Brandt should have some time to establish his leadership of the Horse Club. To achieve our goals of a new contract agreement and modifications to the Horse Club Constitution and Bylaws will take more time to work out than we have left before the end of the month and the expiration of the present contract.

"I do not believe it would be in the best interests of the Association to terminate their contract at this time."

After making the motion to granting a 60 day extension to the present existing contract, Saylor stated, "Making this motion does not mean that I am backing away from threats by certain members of the Horse Club to cut down and remove fencing. That is a violation of Texas law and will be handled accordingly in the courts.

Before a vote was taken, Frank Cheaney also commented on the Horse Club contract controversy. "We have somehow been turned into the heavies on this thing and I'd like to set the record straight. A lot of members have asked me, 'What's

going on? What happened? Why is the Board taking such an arbitrary action?' We didn't take the action, we took a reaction. We were responding and reacting to what was going on up there already. There were problems in the club and there were some real hard feelings up there. What we wanted to do was to work out the problems. I wanted it to be known that we did not take an arbitrary action, we're not picking on anybody, but we are reacting to a situation so serious we felt we had to take action or it could accelerate into something worse.

"Our main aim is to provide a nice horse club for as many members as possible."

The Horse Club's increase in membership fees to \$50.00 per month was also mentioned by Miller, who felt that this contributed to exclusivity. Mr. Saylor stated that membership fees for all the various FCSA clubs are set by each club individually. The previous Constitution and Bylaws of the Horse Club called for monthly dues of \$5.00. The Horse Club, under the existing agreement, is responsible for grounds maintenance and minor repairs such as repairing and painting fences.

Briefs ...

Candidates file for Democratic primary

According to Mary V. Flores, Kinney County Democratic Chairperson, Herb Senne and Donald Ralston have filed for County Judge, Dora Elia Sandoval for District and County Clerk, Joe Montalvo for Commissioner, Precinct 2, Pat Malencon for Commissioner, Precinct 4. For Justice of the Peace both John Ford and Leonard Luna have filed. To date there is no candidate for treasurer. The last date to file is January 2, 2002. There have been no protests, Flores said.

Filing fees are \$600 for all positions except Justice of the Peace, which requires a \$300 filing fee. A petition to file in lieu of a fee must contain 50 signatures.

Donations Needed

Each year the Employees' Club of Rio Grande Electric Co-op, with help from the community, collects food items and distributes food baskets to those in our community who need a little help to make their holiday season brighter.

The community is invited to share in this worthwhile endeavor. If you would like to help, drop off your donation of non-perishable items at the Co-op office.

Attention Class of '82

The Class of 1982 will be having a planning meeting for the 20th reunion preparations. A meeting is scheduled for Saturday, December 29 at the Las Moras Restaurant. The meeting will start at 7:00 p.m. Any class members are encouraged to attend. Also, we are in need of addresses of class members from parents or grandparents. Any questions or information please call Bertha Reyes at 830-734-6268 or Jenifer Harris at 563-2273.

Las Moras Hispanic Organization

The Las Moras Hispanic organization along with other donors, will be distributing Christmas baskets on Saturday morning December 22nd.

INSIDE

■ **The way I see it!**
"Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." NIV
Opinion/Page 2

■ **Empowering Families**
"I have so much to learn and God has given me."
Lifestyles/Page 4

■ **Making a difference**
Our town is grateful to those spiritual leaders who stepped forward and worked to preserve this tradition.
School/Page 5

INDEX

Community	3
Classifieds	13
Farm/Ranch	6
Health	9
Lifestyles	4
Opinion	2
Outdoors	8
Religion	11
School	5

He was a giant

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

I came across an old photograph of myself in my Little League days. I shared it with Tully Shahan. In the picture were my coaches, Roland Williams and Don Nance. Tully and I were talking about how many people don't even remember Mr. Williams.

He was the "voice of the Tigers" for many years. He announced at football games for a whole generation of fans. He gave a pep talk at the homecoming rally every year.

I can almost hear him now. "Give me a T..." It's hard to imagine how much he contributed to our town, county and school. Since he had no children of his own, he devoted as much time as he could to other kids.

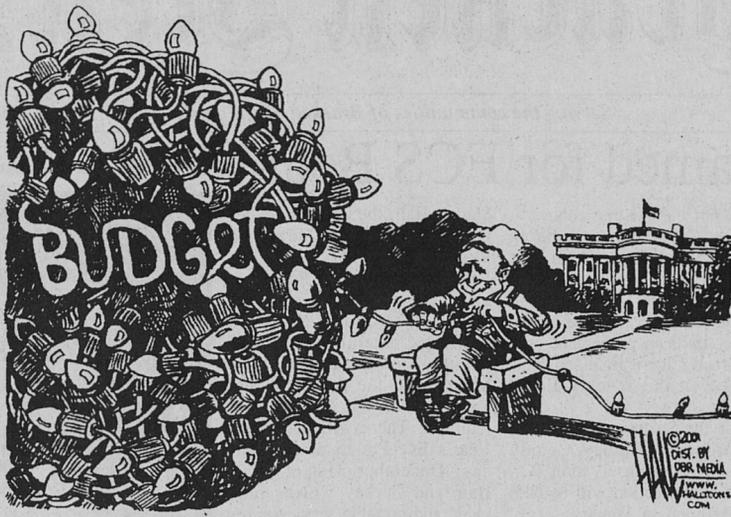
I don't think anyone can get into my "mental hall of fame" unless they've coached little

league at least two years. You can't imagine what it's like unless you've been there. I only lasted one season.

The ability to work with kids that have no talent, and parents who imagine their youngsters as being more talented than Babe Ruth, takes a special kind of person. Those individuals, like Roland Williams, are on my honor roll.

Roland will probably never have a building named after him. I am one of the very few who remember just how good a man he was. I'm not sure why we honor people who were paid for their services and not those who gave of their time unselfishly to any and all who would receive.

Maybe some of us former little leaguers who recall him as a giant can take a minute and honor his memory. He wasn't really that big. But I could be wrong.



Who is John Walker?

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

How many of you know who John Walker is?

How about Abdul Hamid? It wouldn't surprise me if very few of you recognized either name. Anyway, they are both the same person — the half-wit, liberally raised, spiritually bankrupt, treasonous little monster from that bastion of political correctness, Fairfax, California. He is the idiot who was fighting for the Taliban against the United States, and who was identified during the POW uprising in which CIA Agent Michael Spann was killed.

How many of you would like to bet with me? I'll bet you a root beer that he gets off scot-free. I will also bet that the Left Coast rises up in support of this little traitor if the Great Satan of America attempts to try him for his criminal actions. After all, he was just a poor misguided child in search of the true meaning of life. It really wasn't his fault. To quote from a news article by Ann Coulter:

"Encouraged by his indulgent liberal boomer parents to find his own spiritual path, Walker responded predictably and quickly became a walking left-wing cliché.

The one spiritual path it is absolutely positively certain Walker could never have chosen is one founded in Scripture. In his hometown of Fairfax, Calif., the conventional spiritual paths include Taoism, Hinduism, Buddhism, Islam, Sufism, Rastafarianism, Native American spirituality and voodoo. But according to the Boston globe, "only 12 percent of residents at-

tend traditional churches or synagogues."

Once again the Left Coast liberals have proven that they are, without doubt, the idiots I have always thought them to be — excluding, possibly, that portion of the aforementioned 12 percent who are Christians. Ann Coulter further tells us that Walker's politically correct mother left Christianity to become a Buddhist. And that "At his 'alternative' school (Author's note: probably meaning he was in trouble and had been expelled from regular school), Walker was steeped in Native American spirituality. He was named after John Lennon. If there were a goofy cult that prescribed eating your own excrement, liberals would ponder its deeper meaning and treat it with respect." I couldn't have said it better myself! In fact it does sound somewhat familiar, doesn't it? I guess I'm not the only one who thinks the term "liberal" can be freely translated to mean, "fool".

Besides being a perfect representation of what lunacy liberalism truly is, it also demonstrates why parents need to be strong guiding influences in a child's life. Children are not capable of making informed, well thought out decisions about their futures.

They need guidance and control. They must learn discipline, and the place they learn this is from their parents. If the parents are liberal, politically correct dolts, the child gets no guidance at all. He lives in an animalistic world where there is very little consequence for bad decisions. He grows up without a moral core upon which to base his de-

isions. He has no self-discipline and no reason to use self-control. He doesn't recognize right from wrong, because he was never taught this simple concept. Proverbs 22:6 says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it." NIV

It is so simple! Children need parental control! Liberal parenting doesn't work.

You must communicate with your children, sure; they need to understand when they have done something wrong.

But they also need to know that there are consequences for their actions and that sometimes those consequences are dire. Occasionally a child needs his tail whipped to keep him on the straight and narrow.

And I have news for Ann Coulter. Ms. Walker was never really a Christian. If she had been she would not have been such a flaming liberal, and would not have left Christianity to become Buddhist. More likely is that she worships whatever is politically acceptable at the moment. She is probably searching for a religion that allows her to do whatever she wants still and feel good about it. Certain is that she is as spiritually lost as her traitor son. I pray that someday they both, along with all the other 88 percent-plus of those lost souls in Fairfax, Liberalland, USA, find the true path of Jesus Christ. Otherwise, eternity is going to be a very, very long time. Proverbs 1:8&9 - "Listen, my son, to your father's instruction and do not forsake your mother's teaching. They will be a garland to grace your head and a chain to adorn your neck." NIV

Bonilla honored for dedication to diabetes

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

Washington D.C. - Representative Henry Bonilla was honored today for his significant contributions to diabetes. The American Diabetes Association awarded Mr. Bonilla with their prestigious American Diabetes Association Public Policy Award. "I am honored to receive this esteemed award from the American Diabetes Association," said Mr. Bonilla. "The Association is on the front lines of the fight against diabetes, which affects so many Americans. The work we do together truly has a positive impact on many people and their families." The American Diabetes Association Public Policy Award is given annually to a person who has made a significant contribution to diabetes-related public policy, which in turn has nationally benefitted people living with, and affected by, diabetes.

Mr. Bonilla was recognized for seeking to promote better health coverage for people with diabetes.

He is a long-time advocate of increasing federal funding for diabetes research and programs. Mr. Bonilla continues to lobby for funding increases for the Division of Diabetes Translation at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. This important division has been critical in the nation's battle against diabetes.

"On behalf of all people living with, and affected by diabetes, we wish to thank Congressman Bonilla for his strong leadership in the U.S. Congress. Mr. Bonilla continues to demonstrate his dedication to this important cause," said Stewart Perry, Chair of the American Diabetes Association's Government Relations and Advocacy Committee.

He added, "With allies on Capitol Hill like Representative Bonilla we can be hopeful that diabetes will begin to receive the funding that it so desperately needs."

Diabetes is a group of serious diseases characterized by high blood sugar levels that result from defects in the body's ability to produce and/or use insulin, a naturally occurring enzyme in the body. It is the sixth leading cause of death by disease in the United States.

"The best defenses against diabetes are awareness and education.

By shining a spotlight on diabetes and educating ourselves and others, we can help prevent our friends and family from suffering from this heartbreaking disease," said Mr. Bonilla.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words. The editor reserves the right to refuse or edit all letters submitted for length, potentially libelous statements and accuracy of information. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers must provide proof of identity. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama
Sez!



Joy is one of the few things that is multiplied when it is divided.

The Brackett News

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New Subscription Renewal Change of Address

Capitol Comment
By Senator Kay Bailey Hutchison

Every day since the terrorist attacks, in big and small ways, we have been reminded of exactly how much has changed and of how different our priorities must be.

We are at war now. This touches every aspect of our lives - even some that may not come immediately to mind.

Today, for example, when we think of agriculture, we must not just think of grains and livestock, but also about bioterrorism.

Agriculture is no longer just a means of feeding our people - but we must be mindful that terrorists can use it as a means of attacking our people as well. We must counteract this threat, and safeguard both our food supply and our citizens.

Therefore, back in October I introduced the Agricultural Bioterrorism Countermeasures Act. The purpose of this bill is to address the potential for bioterrorist threats to our farms, ranches, livestock, poultry,

crops, as well as our food processing, packaging and distribution systems.

After I introduced my bill, Senators Bill Frist (R-TN) and Ted Kennedy (D-MA) brought forward an overall bioterrorism bill.

I worked with both Senators to ensure that many of the measures in my legislation now form the foundation of the agriculture provisions of their "Bioterrorism Preparedness Act."

This legislation is pivotal to the precautions we must take as it will enhance the capabilities of federal, state and local governments to coordinate:

- emergency preparedness efforts,
- stockpile vaccines and medical supplies,
- link channels of communication,
- modernize biosecurity facilities, and
- ensure the safety of America's health and food supply.

The US Department of Agriculture (USDA) will be expanded to enhance inspection

capability, implement new information technology, and develop methods for rapid detection and identification of plant and animal disease.

To enhance its ability to respond to outbreaks of animal disease, USDA's Veterinary Services will be authorized to establish cooperative agreements with private veterinary practitioners and state animal health commissions/agencies that regulate livestock and poultry health.

Several of America's institutes of higher education are very good at animal and plant disease research, maintain strong ties to laboratories, and have excellent coordination with state programs.

These institutions will play a key role in our efforts by providing the invaluable resources and knowledge needed for the war on agricultural bioterrorism. To encourage these institutions to work together, this legislation tells USDA to establish a "Consortium for Countermeasure Against Agricultural Bioterrorism." This Consortium

will bring together several institutions to form stable, long-term programs of research and development.

Two of our Texas institutions will be involved in this project: Texas A&M will play a leading role as one of three national centers; Texas Tech will be one of seven additional members.

Obviously protecting our agriculture is not only critical to all Americans, but especially to our state, as it makes up some of our largest and most diverse economies. We along with other agriculture states as Mississippi, Georgia and California - are vulnerable to a bioterrorist attack.

This is the first modern war where the front lines lie on our own shores, farms and fields, but I know that we are up to the challenge - especially Texans, who will proudly serve as the first line of defense for our entire nation. It is truly a changed time. This is, whether we like it or not, a battle for the very survival of all principles and ideals that we hold dear.

But we are the best, we have a just cause, and we will prevail.

By Pat M
Contribu

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Money awards for essay contest *Rodriguez joins San Antonio City Officials*

By Pat McKelvy
Contributing Writer

The Caddel-Smith Chapter, Daughters of the Republic of Texas, met on Thursday, December 13, 2001 at the Holiday Inn in Uvalde.

Twenty-four members and two guests were present for the luncheon meeting.

President Billie Jean Davis opened the meeting with prayer, followed by Otela Patterson leading the pledges to the flags of the United States of America and of Texas.

Secretary Priscilla Montgomery read the minutes of the previous meeting. The treasurer's report was given by Ernesting Carson.

Other action taken during the business meeting was raising the amount of the monies awarded to the 4th and 7th grade student winners of the annual chapter essay contest.

The first place winners of each grade will now receive \$50, 2nd place winners \$30,

and 3rd place winners \$20. The state winner in each grade will receive an additional \$100.

The state winner of the Outstanding 7th Grade History Teacher Award will receive \$400. Mary Seaver is in charge of the Brackettville area students participation in this contest.

Registrar Pat McKelvy reported that Harriet Andrews and Tracy Rosenbach have been approved as members by the Registrar General.

Deaths of two members were reported: Margie Carver Hawkes who died on October 31 in Midland and Cindy Parsons who died on December 7 in San Antonio.

This leaves the chapter membership remaining at ninety-eight.

Corresponding Secretary General Fran Brookshire, who also serves at the local chapter level as 1st vice president, announced that new chapters were being formed in Laredo and Saledo. There are currently 107

chapters within 10 districts. Fran also showed the new 6 Star Award pin that is available to eligible members.

Uvalde's Caddel-Smith chapter was one of four chapters in the state to receive the prestigious 6 Star Award for Excellence.

Charlotte Corey displayed the chapter History Book for viewing by the membership.

Also attending from Brackettville, other than Corey and McKelvy, was Agnes Vondy.

The next chapter meeting will be at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 14, 2002 at the Holiday Inn in Uvalde.

Any woman who had an ancestor in Texas during the time it was a Republic is eligible for membership and is invited to attend.

Submitted by
Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez**

(Washington, DC) Congressman **Ciro D. Rodriguez** today joined Mayor Ed Garza and other prominent city officials to announce the formation of a new City of San Antonio task force commissioned to prepare Military City, USA for a new round of base closures in 2005. Earlier this year, Congressman Rodriguez wrote Mayor Garza to suggest the formation of such a task force, which will bring city officials, together with local chambers of commerce, labor organizations, and other interested parties to monitor the Base Realignment and Closure (BRAC) process, develop options, and plan for the future of our military institutions in San

Antonio.

"The clock is ticking," Congressman Rodriguez said. "With the passage of the 2002 Defense Authorization Bill, San Antonio is under the gun. We need to get to work, and I am pleased Mayor Garza is leading this fight."

The 2002 Defense bill authorized a new round of base closures, beginning in 2005. San Antonio, with its large military presence, has reason to take action to remain one step ahead of the Defense Department's military installation chopping block and position area bases to receive new missions.

"BRAC is a challenge but also an opportunity to showcase San Antonio as a center for innovation and military-civilian partnerships," Congressman

Rodriguez said. "Under the 2005 deadline, we must seize the opportunities to grow our military partnerships, to give new meaning to Military City USA. And as a city, we must be prepared to invest in these partnerships to enhance growth potential and increase our chances of not only keeping what we have but ending up ahead."

"The BRAC process is designed to modernize our armed forces and to save taxpayer dollars," Congressman Rodriguez said. "But there are other options available to achieve the same goals."

If the Defense Department is shooting for a cost efficient, resource effective military base, the Brooks City Base concept — developed right here in Military City USA.

Happy 10th Birthday



Elidia, Elena and Danny Molinar will be celebrating their birthday on December 23rd.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report...

Monday, December 10

11:53 a.m., A woman reported a one car accident on Hwy 90 east ten miles from town. DPS Trooper Tony Ashley and a wrecker out of Uvalde where notified.

Tuesday, December 11

8:05 p.m., Deputy Karl Chism responded to a fight behind a store.

9:22 p.m., A woman reported a car that was driving up and down the street with loud music. Deputy Chism was advised.

11:49 p.m., A vehicle roll over was reported on Hwy 90 west by Laughlin Air Force Base. The Val Verde Sheriff's Office was notified.

Thursday, December 13

1:30 a.m., A man reported loud music on 3rd Street. Deputy Manuel Pena Jr. responded.

6:55 p.m., Joe Martinez, 33, from Brackettville, was arrested by Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter for a violation of parole.

Martinez is still being held.

Friday, December 14

2:39 a.m., A man reported dogs in his yard. Animal control was advised.

9:32 a.m., Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo, responded to a man that was almost run over.

2:35 p.m., Martin Garcia, 18, from Brackettville, was arrested for Driving While Intoxicated 1st offense by Deputy Fritter. Garcia was released the same day on a P.R. Bond.

Saturday, December 15

12:08 a.m., A woman requested a deputy at her residence. Chief Police Alonzo responded.

12:25 a.m., Ruben Rios, 41, from Brackettville, was arrested by Sheriff Buddy Burgess for Theft by Check. Rios was released on a P.R. Bond the next day.

Sunday, December 16

12:40 a.m., A woman requested a deputy. Chief Alonzo responded.

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&
Happy New Year*

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So much to learn Keep holiday gatherings safe, don't invite foodborne illnesses

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"But Dad, why can't I go. Mom said I could if you said it's ok."

Ten-year old Jimmy asked to spend the night with his friend David.

He had already asked his mother.

His dad, not knowing about the conversation with Mom had said no.

This is a picture all too familiar to most parents.

"Jimmy, What exactly did your mom say?" Jesse asked his son.

"Just what I said," Jimmy replied.

Jesse thought a minute then spoke.

"I must apologize Jimmy. Even though your mother told you to ask me, she had already

given her approval. I won't contradict her decision.

You may go." With that Jimmy was elated.

After Jimmy left, Jesse thought it best to consult with his wife Margie.

"Jimmy asked you about spending the night with David?" Jesse asked.

"Yes," Margie replied. "But I thought it best if he asked you."

"Margie, I appreciate your thoughtfulness in having him ask me but you know that I would not contradict you nor would you contradict me. I said no to Jimmy but I didn't know he had already asked you. When he told me, I said he could go and apologized for my mistake."

Something clicked in Margie's mind and she realized that she and Jesse hadn't com-

municated. She thought a minute and resumed the conversation. "Jesse, I made a mistake too. I made my decision too quickly then passed it on to you. I should have told him that you and I would talk about it and then let him know."

"That is a good idea Margie. We will both learn from this." Turning to her and kissing her on the cheek as he walked to the door he said loud enough for her to hear, "I have so much to learn and God has given me such a very smart woman to be my wife."

Margie thought to herself, "and God has blessed me with a very smart man for a husband."

Each year, up to 76 million people suffer from foodborne illnesses that occur when they eat food that contains a bacteria or a toxin produced by bacteria growing in the food. Holiday buffets and party trays left at room temperature for long periods of time often fall prey to bacteria. Given sufficient time, bacteria in food can grow and multiply depending on the type of food, the temperature at which it was held, its moisture content and its acidity level.

"You cannot tell from the way food looks, smells or tastes if it is safe," Wenzel said. "But you can take a few simple steps to keep your food from being contaminated."

TDH offers these suggestions to help prevent foodborne illness:

- Separate raw meat, poultry and seafood from other foods in your grocery shopping cart and in your refrigerator.

- Always wash hands before any contact with foods.
- Never defrost or marinate food on the kitchen counter. Use the refrigerator, cold running water or the microwave.
- Use plastic or other non-porous cutting boards.
- Use a clean food thermometer to make sure meat, poultry, casseroles and other foods are cooked all the way through. Cook roasts and steaks to at least 145 degrees F. Whole poultry should be cooked to 180 degrees F. Ground beef should be cooked to at least 160 degrees F.
- If possible, use one cutting board for raw meat products and another for raw fruits and vegetables. If you have only one, wash it between uses.
- Never put cooked food on an unwashed plate that previ-

ously held raw meat, poultry or seafood.

TDH food safety experts also advise consumers to refrigerate cooked foods quickly. "Get those leftovers to the refrigerator fast," Wenzel says.

Some more tips from TDH for keeping food safe and good to eat:

- Refrigerate or freeze perishables, prepared food and leftovers within two hours.
- Divide large amounts of leftovers into small, shallow containers for quick cooling in the refrigerator.
- With poultry and other stuffed meats, remove the stuffing and refrigerate it in a separate container.
- Don't pack the refrigerator with too much food. Cool air must circulate to keep food safe at 41 degrees F.

Light the candles, set the music, pour the beverages, lay out the tableware and by all means use extreme care when preparing holiday edibles.

"Entertaining during the holiday season is stressful enough without having to worry about someone getting sick," says Lone Wenzel of the Retail Foods Division at the Texas Department of Health (TDH). "For most healthy people, foodborne illnesses are just uncomfortable, but for the very young, the elderly or those with weakened immune systems, the consequences can be severe."

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

HOME for CHRISTMAS



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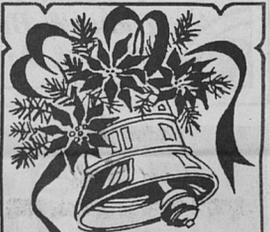
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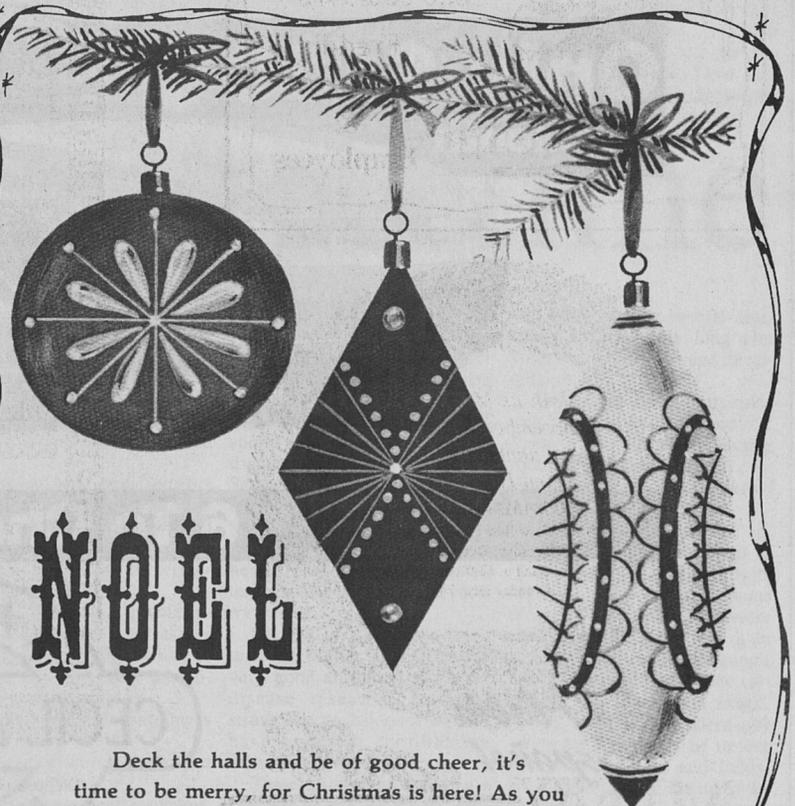
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Merry Christmas and
Happy New Year!

from

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7th grade Steps to improve Our town is grateful basketball security this season

By Jenifer Harris
Contributing Writer

The 7th grade girl's basketball team took a win over Del Rio Sacred Heart on Thursday night. The girls finished at the half with a 23-16 lead.

At the 4th quarter buzzer the young Tigerettes were ahead 45-25. Lead scorer for the Brackett 7th grade team was Emily Valenzuela with 19 points. Nadine Terrazas pitched in 13 points with Lola Cano 6.

Kara Yeager had 5 points with Laura Meyer adding 2.

Also helping out defensively was Loraina Mendoza, Natasha Smith, Monica Talamantez, Allison DelBosque, Samantha Davis, Cynthia Jaso and Rachel Lethco.

The team will take a Christmas break and return to play January 7 against Natalia.

While the nation may be on heightened alert for possible terrorist attacks in the workplace and major public gathering places, don't expect common criminals to take time off during the upcoming holiday season, warns the Security Industry Association.

"Criminals want the easy way out, the path of least resistance," says David Saddler, a spokesperson for the SIA.

The Virginia-based security products trade association offers some common sense advice that could prevent you from becoming a crime statistic.

- Be aware of your neighbors' holiday plans, and report any suspicious activity around their homes.
- If you plan to travel during the holiday period, inform your neighbors, and make sure your home has a "lived in" appearance.
- Have your newspaper and mail delivery stopped, or have a neighbor pick up and hold your mail.
- Install lighting controls and, if possible, have them integrated in your home security system.
- If you are served by a security company, inform them of your travel plans, or let them know if anyone will be entering your home while you're away.

To make your home as secure as possible, check out some of the new security technologies such as camera systems that can be incorporated into a home security system.

A camera, for example, allows you to see what is happening from a remote location such as a computer, while providing graphic evidence of an unwanted or unforeseen occurrence.

Other security gift options include access control systems that enhance perimeter and entry se-

curity, and home automation systems that control lighting, heating, air conditioning and home entertainment, in addition to providing security.

"Security technologies provide us with a more secure environment without placing us in a fortress," Saddler said. "Technology helps us to be aware. But it does not end there; it can also play a role in the management, convenience and quality of our lives." This year, more than ever, home security may be the most useful gift on your shopping list. With more than 300 members, the Security Industry Association is the leading trade organization for companies that manufacture, distribute and install residential and commercial security systems and equipment.

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

It's Christmas time! What a superb time of the year to be living in Brackettville, Texas! This year because of events of the past few months, carols are sung more from the heart as we anticipate the birth of the baby Jesus. Our community has a special splendor this year enhanced by the lights of Christmas. Churches are fuller this Christmas because our nation is at war and many have given so that we might live.

We're all Americans who are ready to give what it takes to preserve our way of life.

At Christmas, my mom and dad always wanted my family and me in their homes.

My mom worried that I would not return for Christmas if I came to see her too much during the year.

So, she would say, "you don't have to come now; just wait until Christmas."

As my children grew older, we had to establish traditions in our own home for holidays.

We would always try to go back to the home place a few days during the Christmas break. It was a special time. My mother would leave her tree up all year long and would light it while she dreamed of the happy Christmas time when all of the family was together.

Let's take time for a special prayer this year for those who lost their lives on September 11 in the terrorist attacks. Also, let's remember the servicemen and women who place their lives on the line so that we may enjoy a peaceful and free life-style.

Some have lost their lives and will not come home for Christmas this year.

In our own community, some have lost loved ones and in those homes, there will be less cheer. A phone call, Christmas card, prayer or visit to these folks will help ease the pain of missing loved ones.

At home, the Churches of Brackettville saved the Christmas Unity program at the last minute.

Our town is grateful to those spiritual leaders who stepped forward and worked to preserve this tradition.

It was a special occasion where children received toys from Santa as church volunteers offered warm drinks, cookies, and roasted marshmallows.

We have much to be thankful for and many to pray for this holiday season. Many of our churches have Christmas Eve services. As we prepare for families, gifts and Santa, take the time to say prayers for those who have given so much for us.

Merry Christmas! Have a great week!

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

December 20th thru January 5th, Christmas Break/School Holiday

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Living in perilous times *Agreements for producers*

Waco - Saying that farmers and ranchers, like all Americans, are "living in perilous times," the head of Texas' largest farm organization said Monday that focusing on the severe problems of agriculture is in America's best interest.

Texas Farm Bureau President Donald Patman referred to President Bush's request that Americans return to as normal a life as possible as he addressed the 68th Annual Convention of that organization in Waco.

"Getting on with our lives, as farmers and ranchers, means doing what we know and love best - producing crops and live-

stock to feed a hungry world," Patman said.

The farm leader said that many issues put on hold following the terrorist attacks now require attention. One of those issues is the pending farm bill.

"Some policymakers have said that we no longer need to grow our own food domestically," Patman said. "How does that stack up with the hard reality of September 11?"

We believe it is critical that the United States has the food production capacity to feed our armies in the field and to meet our needs at home."

Patman is a grain, cotton and

cattle producer from Waxahachie. He said the Farm Bureau support the legislation originally passed by the U.S. House called the "Farm Security Act of 2001." Similar versions have been introduced in the U.S. Senate.

"This legislation, passed with bi-partisan support, sends a strong message of timely change that would bring badly needed stability to our farm policy," Patman said. "This bill employs market-oriented policies to fix those problems."

Patman said the House farm bill makes unprecedented investments in conservation programs, would create trade promotion programs to expand farm markets, provide more research funding, and beef up food security programs for the hungry.

He also said that the bill "places a firm foundation beneath our food production capacity, which is so vital at this time."

The Farm Bureau president pointed to the eventual elimination of the Federal Estate Tax and establishing Permanent Normal Trade Relations with China as major accomplishments of the organization during 2001.

He also said the 2001 Texas Legislative session produced positive results such as protecting the interests of producers and rural residents in major water legislation.

New protections for farmers once considered unsecured creditors in bankruptcy cases with contract buyers was a Farm Bureau policy victory, as was the creation of a new state agency dedicated to better rural

health care and economic development. A new agricultural policy for Texas was adopted by the Legislature and Patman said it would provide long-term benefits for Texas farmers and ranchers.

Patman addressed the nation's concerns about protecting the food supply and the new focus on the potential of agroterrorism.

"We have been asked to be more attentive about what goes on around us," he said. "We are the first line of defense against those that would attack America's food supply."

Patman warned that farmers and ranchers must exercise a level of care and caution that would have seemed unnecessary only a few months ago.

"We should watch more carefully and act more cautiously. We have to know who is on our land, who is asking questions and who is watching," he warned.

"It became obvious that agriculture is involved more than ever before when crop dusters were grounded and the dreaded livestock disease, anthrax, became a weapon of terror."

Patman said that Texas farmers and ranchers would not overreact and not surrender to fear.

He urged Farm Bureau members to get back to producing food and fiber and said the nation must address the still bleak agricultural outlook as a national food security issue.

(Abilene) -To aid South Texas/Winter Garden Zone cotton growers who have been affected by drought and floods, the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation is offering payment extension agreements.

The extension agreement allows producers to pay out their assessments over a set period of time.

The interest rate on extension agreements is 1 percent per month.

Those who are delinquent in payment and who do not have an extension agreement are subject to a late penalty of 1.5 percent per month.

To avoid delinquency problems associated with late payment, contact the Texas Boll Weevil Eradication Foundation Assessments Department in Abilene at its toll-free number, (866) 672-2800.

Producers who recently sold cotton and were given a check with the Texas Department of Agriculture named as a joint payee must obtain an endorsement from TDA before cashing or depositing the check. Endorsements may be obtained at the TDA and Foundation locations listed below.

Only these offices will process these checks. Although both TDA and the foundation will make every attempt to be as accessible as possible to producers, they are highly encouraged to call before going to any office. This will help ensure that someone is available to assist them and that their visit can be handled efficiently.

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What electricians want you to know Home workshops need heavy-duty wiring

What's the best way to get quality electrical work at a good price? Electricians say you can save yourself time and aggravation by knowing how electricians work. The Leviton Institute interviewed several electrical contractors, and here's what they want you to ask before you contract for their services.

1. Ask me about the kind of work I do.

Electrical contractors tend to specialize. Some only do new construction or remodeling work. Some do only minor repairs, such as installing a new light fixture or replacing an outlet or switch. So tell the electrician about the job you have in mind first.

2. Ask me if a permit is required.

In most municipalities, a permit is required when an electrician needs to run a new circuit or extend an existing one. It's not needed for simple repairs, such as replacing an outlet or light fixture, but it is for larger projects—say, if you're installing a new hot tub.

A permit provides you with protection, because a government inspector will come to your home to check and approve the electrician's work before the job is completed. The electrical contractor should always obtain the permit under his name, not yours, and post the permit on the job site.

3. Ask me if I am a certified, licensed electrical contractor.

Electricians are highly trained professionals. Their certification and state license are proof they have mastered their trade and that their work meets local electrical codes. For insurance reasons, it's always best to hire a licensed electrician, especially when a permit is required.

4. Ask me if I carry insurance and worker's compensation. The last thing you want when you hire an electrical contractor is to be sued if a worker is injured while working in your

home. Before you hire a contractor for a large project, ask to see proof of current insurance and a state license.

For a typical remodeling job, an electrician should carry a minimum of \$500,000 in liability insurance and worker's compensation coverage.

5. For a small job, ask me for an estimate over the phone.

Electrical contractors don't mind coming out to give you an estimate, but on a small job, they may lose money just driving to your home. Instead, the electrician may give you his minimum charge, or a fixed price for the job you have described.

On larger jobs, ask for an hourly rate. The average rate for a licensed electrician around the country varies from \$45 to \$65 an hour. Expect to pay more if a helper is needed on the job. You should also call two or three contractors and ask them to come to your home to give you an estimate.

6. Ask the electrician to purchase all the materials for the job.

You may think you'll save money by buying the materials yourself, but the Leviton Institute found it's better for the electrician to make all the purchases. If the electrician buys the materials, he's responsible for warranty issues, defective products, and broken or missing parts. For example, if you bought a light fixture and the electrician finds a part missing during installation, it's up to you to go back to the store and get the missing part. Meanwhile, the electrician sits around and charges you by the hour. If the electrician buys the fixture and a part is missing, it's his responsibility—and his time.

7. Ask me who is responsible for any repairs caused by the job.

To install a new circuit in your home, an electrician may need to drill or cut holes in the walls. The repair work is gen-

erally not done by the electrician. The same is true if you're having landscaping lights installed outside and the contractor needs to dig trenches in the lawn and uproot shrubbery.

The final question you may have is how to pay for the services. On small jobs, the contractor expects payment when the job is completed. On larger jobs, the contractor will typically ask for 10 to 30 percent of the total job before work begins, with additional payments upon completion of certain stages.

For your protection, do not make the final payment until you've received a waiver stating that all supplies and other workers on the job have been paid by the electrical contractor. Without this waiver, you may be responsible for these charges if the electrician doesn't pay them.

When the Leviton Institute asked about the best way to find a qualified electrical contractor, word of mouth was the number one answer. Next best, pay a visit to your local wholesale electrical supply house, tell them about your project, and ask for references. The Yellow Pages is another good source.

Is the wiring in your home workshop up to the job?

To prolong the life of your power tools—and for your own protection—the Leviton Institute recommends that you conduct a safety audit of your home workshop's electrical wiring system and correct any problems. This is particularly important if your circuit breakers frequently trip. Here's what to look for:

At the service panel

- Circuit breakers supplying the workshop should be 20 amp. Two 20-amp circuits dedicated to the workshop should be adequate. You may want to consider installing a separate subpanel if you frequently run more than two stationary power tools at the same time, or if your shop is far away from the main service panel.

Branch circuits

- If your workshop is in an unfinished room, make sure the exposed wiring runs along structural members and is securely stapled to exposed studs to protect the wiring from potential damage. Some municipalities require the use of armored cable, such as BX, if the

wiring is exposed.

- Wiring should be 12 gauge for a 20-amp circuit. Look on the wire's insulation jacket to find out the gauge.

- For an extra measure of safety, put the lights in your workshop on a separate dedicated circuit so if a power tool trips a circuit breaker, the lights will still be on. If this wiring scheme is not feasible, then put the lights on a branch circuit that is not used for powering the tools in the workshop.

- If you can run two separate circuits for your power tools, install the wiring so that both circuits are next to each other so that you can run two tools at the same time. Using two circuits also minimizes the chances of a momentary (startup) overload tripping the circuit breaker.

- Consider running a 220-volt circuit in the shop for power tools with motors rated for 220 volts because 220-volt motors draw less current.

Outlets and Switches

- Because outlets and receptacles could be damaged by flying debris or large pieces of work banging into them, the

Leviton Institute recommends using industrial or hospital grade devices which withstand more abuse than an ordinary residential grade device.

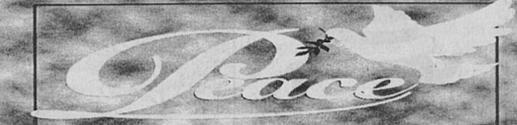
- For the workbench area, install outlets every 2 to 4 feet. In other areas of the workshop, consider installing outlets at a 4-foot height and use metal boxes and metal wallplates if the wiring is exposed. Be sure to check your local electrical building codes before installing outlets.

Extension cords

- Avoid using extension cords as permanent wiring. In cases where extension cords must be used, it's a good idea to regularly inspect the entire length of the cord. Replace, rather than repair, damaged extension cords.

- Always use an extension cord rated for the tool. The tool's owner's manual will indicate the proper wire gauge and maximum length for extension cords.

- A coiled extension cord may build up heat when it has a heavy load on it, creating a potential fire hazard. It's best to make a regular habit of uncoiling all extension cords before using them.



May there be Peace and Joy throughout the World.

Christmas Blessings from The Giftbox

We will be closed Dec. 25 and Dec. 26

*Merry Christmas
Happy New Year*

The Planning Committee and Management would like to invite you to

The Fort Clark Springs Christmas Open House

Administration Office
December 21st, 9 to 5
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Wishing Everyone a Safe and Happy Holiday Season!

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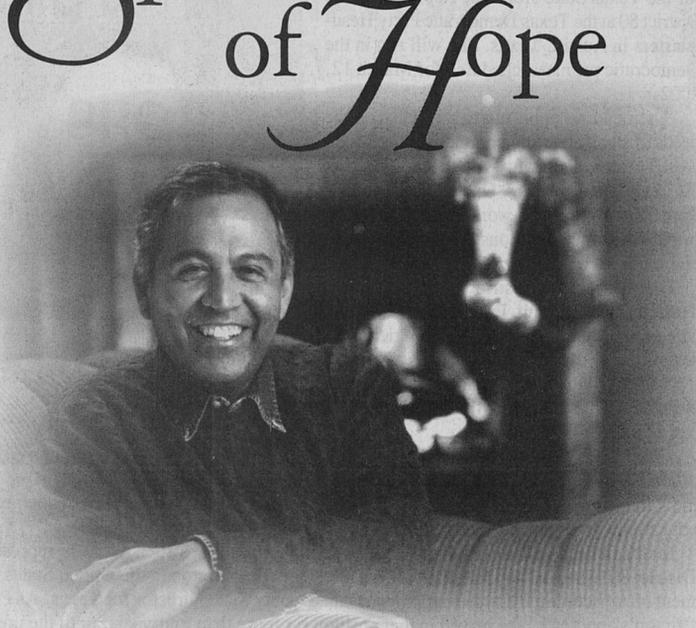


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Spirit of Hope



This holiday season let us count our blessings and spread a message of peace as we look toward 2002 – a year of new beginnings and new hope for the future.

Happy Holidays from the Bonilla Family.

Paid for by Texans for Henry Bonilla, Jill DeYoung, Treasurer

Bow vibrations

By Tom Miranda
Contributing Writer

Controlling vibration patterns is critical to accuracy in a hunting rifle. However, hunting bows vibrate much more violently and this vibration can affect arrows more than bullets.

First look at all practical vibration dampening devices. An arrow release provides uniformity that is not possible with fin-

gers. However, some target-shooting devices may be too bulky or otherwise inappropriate for a hunting bow.

A major part of tuning your bow includes getting vibration patterns under control. Once you have your rig just right, measure all the critical dimensions such as brace height, nocking points, etc.

These relationships must remain the same for vibration consistency and accuracy. Make note of the measurements and occasionally field check to make sure that nothing has slipped.

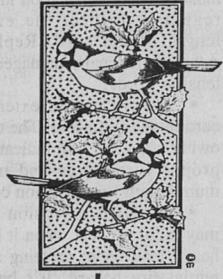
Good arrows are also critical

to this process.

They must be straight and properly spined. Obviously, head weight and spine must be matched to the power of the bow.

Of equal importance is that heads and nocks be affixed perfectly straight to the shaft.

Well-known television host Tom Miranda paid his dues to gain the credibility he has with his viewers. Tom has done it all, from being a government trapper to traveling the world in pursuit of game and fish. Look for Tom in his newest position as host of iAdvantage Adventures, I seen nationally on ESPN.



Joy To The World
Have a beautiful Christmas.
From Fort Clark Springs Association

HO, HO, HO!

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



Country, Rock, and Tejano New Year's Eve Dance

9 p.m. - 1 a.m. @ Kinney County Civic Center
Music by Eclipse

Tickets are \$8 in advance or \$10 at the door.

Tickets on sale or in advance until 6 p.m. December 31.

See your Brackettville Volunteer Firefighters for tickets
Please no bottle or glass containers

CANALES FILES FOR NEW DISTRICT 80 SEAT

Judy Canales of Eagle Pass, Texas, has filed for the Texas State House of Representatives District 80 at the Texas Democratic Party Headquarters in Austin, Texas. She will run in the Democratic primary scheduled for March 12, 2002.

"Tremendous opportunities to focus on the needs of small and rural communities in Southwest Texas will open up with the new District 80," said Ms. Canales. "Once in the House of Representatives, I will work vigorously to improve the living conditions of the families and communities of District 80."

The new House District 80 in Southwest Texas includes Dimmit, Frio, Kinney, La Salle, Maverick, Medina, and Zavala counties. This seven-county district was created as a result of the redistricting of the Texas State House of Representatives following the 2000 U.S. Census.

"My plan is to provide District 80 with additional opportunities for economic development in our rural communities by supporting new and existing businesses, while promoting educational excellence for our children and adults," added Ms. Canales.

Ms. Canales is a long-time advocate of small communities such as those represented in District 80. She was appointed by former President Bill Clinton to the United States Department of Agriculture Rural Development as the Deputy State Director for Texas. As President Clinton's appointee, she served in that position for more than four years, until the presidency changed. USDA Rural Development invests more than \$300 million each year for rural housing, rural utilities, rural business and community development in Texas. She administered the community development programs including the Presidential Initiative, Empowerment Zone and Enterprise Community. The Middle Rio Grande region of Texas was and continues to be a beneficiary of this program with the designation of the FUTURO Enterprise Community including Dimmit, Maverick, Zavala, Uvalde and La Salle counties.

Ms. Canales also served in Washington, D.C. as the Acting Associate Administrator for USDA Rural Business-Cooperative Service, and as Legislative Representative for the Department of Housing and Urban Development. She was the Legislative Representative for housing and community development issues for former New York City Mayor David Dinkins. She most recently served as the Assistant City Manager for the City of Eagle Pass.

Ms. Canales was born and raised in Uvalde, Texas. She is a graduate of Southwest Texas Junior College, the University of Texas at Austin with a Bachelor of Journalism degree, Trinity University in San Antonio with a Master of Arts in Urban Studies and Harvard University John F. Kennedy School of Government with a Master of Public Administration.

Ms. Canales is presently a member of the Sterling Bank Community Advisory Committee and the Eagle Pass Rotary Club. She is also a graduate of Leadership Texas, a prestigious group of leaders from across the state of Texas, who bring a wealth of talent, commitment and energy to the campaign.

"I will be very pleased and honored to work for the families in this district. Every single family in District 80, including mine, deserves and is due to receive their fair share of the resources available to all. My knowledge, experience and dedication will be used to acquire every resource to this District and we shall not be overlooked ever again," said Ms. Canales.

Paid Political Advertisement by Judy Canales



Hunting regulation errors noted in outdoor annual

Austin, Texas - Hunters will notice a change in the way game regulations are presented in this year's 2001-2002 Texas Parks and Wildlife Outdoor Annual. What they might not notice are a few errors that appear in the booklet.

To ensure hunters and anglers are legal in the field, states David Sinclair, TPW director of wildlife enforcement sportsmen should be aware there are a few cases of inaccurate information in the new Outdoor Annual.

The following revisions should be noted before going afield this fall:

- Applications for the two new hunt categories in the Big Time Texas Hunts program may

not be purchased through license vendors. Entries in the Texas Heritage Hunt and the Texas Premium Buck Hunt must be mailed in to TPW and are available online (http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/hunt/pubhunting_entry.htm) or by calling (800) 792-1112 and requesting an application from the wildlife information help desk (menu option 5)

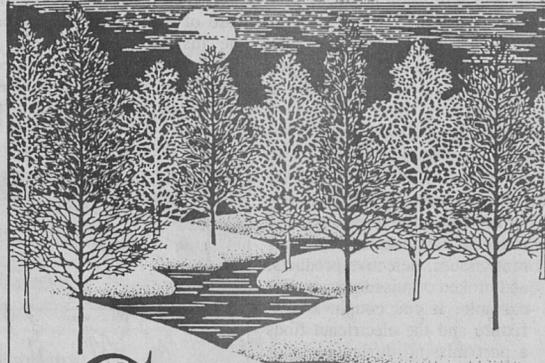
- Some counties in the one-buck-only zones were incorrectly noted in text appearing with a statewide map listing of white-tailed deer regulations. Instead of the repetitive and lengthy text listing of hunting regulations for each of Texas' 254 counties that has appeared

in the Outdoor Annual for years, TPW created a common alphabetic key system with accompanying maps. The one-buck-only counties that are divided into West and East zones should include counties labeled B,C,D,E,F,G,I,L, and M.

- In the section outlining general season white-tailed deer regulations for D counties, hunters in Grayson County should be aware that antlerless deer may be taken by Managed Land Deer permits only, except on the Hagerman National Wildlife Refuge. No antlerless permit is required for Williamson County (west of Interstate 35) or McLennan County, unless MLD permits have been issued.

In the section outlining general season white-tailed deer regulations for F counties, which include the East Zone one-buck-only counties of Cass, Harrison, Marion, Nacogdoches, Panola, Sabine, San Augustine and Shelby.

- In the section outlining white-tailed deer regulations for K counties, which include Brewster, Culberson, Jeff Davis, Pecos, Presidio, Reeves, Terrell and portions of Upton counties, hunters should note that during the general season antlerless deer may be taken without an antlerless permit unless MLD antlerless permits have been issued for the property. "In an effort to help hunters and anglers we made the booklet more user-friendly this year by going to a graphics-based format," Sinclair said. "If you aren't sure about a regulation or have conflicting information, contact your local TPW game warden or call us toll free at 800-792-1112, prior to going hunting or fishing."



CHRISTMAS GREETINGS

May the beauty of this season renew each heart with hope.

Leon Humphreys
Brackettville Funeral Home

114 North Street 563-9600

Read the Brackett News to find out what's going on in and around Kinney County

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It's never too late to prevent osteoporosis A boost in autos

(ARA) - Osteoporosis, a chronic disease that results in the deterioration of bone mineral density, affects nearly 28 million Americans — 2 million of which are men. Despite these staggering numbers, this disease is often preventable.

Though osteoporosis has been thought of as a disease that affects mostly women, 5-6 million men are at risk of developing this disease each year and the risks increase with age. This year alone 80,000 men will suffer from hip fractures and one-third of these men will die within a year. It has also been estimated that direct and indirect costs associated with osteoporosis are \$12-14 billion annually.

The leading causes of osteoporosis in men are:

- Heavy use of alcohol
 - Steroid usage
 - Hypogonadism (loss of male hormone)
- Additional causes of osteoporosis (in both men and women) include:
- Genetics/family history
 - Lack of weight-bearing exercises
 - Smoking

Inadequate calcium intake throughout life

Your Prescription Medication is Not Enough

With such alarming numbers,

the National Institutes of Health and the National Osteoporosis Foundation have recommended that treatment of osteoporosis with any drug therapy also requires sufficient calcium and vitamin D to achieve optimal benefits. Studies have shown that you can triple your medication's bone-building benefits if you get the recommended 1,200 milligrams of calcium and 400 IU of vitamin D daily. But, according to a recent survey, only 30 percent of women are taking calcium and vitamin D with their osteoporosis medication.

According to national studies, we are not getting enough calcium in our daily diet. While foods such as milk, broccoli, kale, beans and cheese are primary sources of calcium, large quantities of these foods would need to be eaten in order to get the right amount of calcium. A single serving of dairy provides only about 300 mg of calcium and up to 100 IU of vitamin D.

Because the average woman only gets about half the recommended daily requirement of calcium through her diet, patients who are on therapy for osteoporosis need a calcium and vitamin D supplement. "It's generally acknowledged that we don't get enough calcium

through our diet, so it's a good idea for most adults, particularly those patients on osteoporosis therapy or at risk for osteoporosis, to take a calcium supplement such as Citracal + D," advises Dr. Miriam Nelson, associate professor of Nutrition and director of the Center for Physical Fitness at the School of Nutrition Science and Policy at Tufts University, and author of "Strong Women, Strong Bones."

Choosing a Supplement That's Right for You

Research has determined that different types of calcium supplement formulations (carbonate, phosphate and citrate) are absorbed in different ways by the body. The most widely available over-the-counter calcium supplements are formulated primarily from calcium carbonate, which is relatively insoluble.

Though calcium carbonate usually contains the highest concentration of calcium by weight, a study published in The Journal of Clinical Pharmacology shows that calcium carbonate is not readily available to the body. A study conducted by Howard J. Heller, M.D., assistant professor, Center for Mineral Metabolism and Clinical Research at the University of Texas

Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, indicates that the tablet formulation of calcium citrate in the form of Citracal was more bioavailable than calcium carbonate in the form of Os-Cal, even when given with a meal.

Dr. Nelson explains, "Calcium citrate does not require stomach acids for absorption as does calcium carbonate. This is an added benefit for older women who do not produce much stomach acid between meals. When combining the ease of absorption when taken with or without a meal and the vital Vitamin D component by which calcium turns into bone, calcium citrate supplements such as Citracal + D are a simple way to maintain the bone mass you've built."

Here are Some Tips to Prevent Osteoporosis:

- Eat calcium-rich foods, such as dairy, broccoli, kale, and beans
- Moderate your intake of alcohol
- Don't use steroids
- If you smoke, quit
- Take a daily ten-minute walk as a form of weight-bearing exercise

For more information on osteoporosis, please visit Mission Pharmacal's Web site at www.citracal.com.

"When?" Demanded a peeved 5 year old from the back seat of the family auto. "When can I be out of this baby seat? I'm a big boy."

At 45 inches tall and weighing close to 42 pounds, he is too large for the convertible car safety seat that he had ridden in since birth.

From his point of view, he is a big boy-too big for the "baby seat."

Texas Department of Health (TDH) child safety officials agree with this kindergartner's assessment but caution that he still is not ready for just a seat belt.

"Studies indicate that although more and more parents are conscientious about putting infants and toddlers in child safety seats, there is a safety gap when it comes to 4-to 8-year olds," said Johnny Humphreys with the Safe Riders Program at TDH. "Only about 10 percent of children in that age category actually ride in booster seats."

When children outgrow child safety seats, usually at about 40 pounds, most are then restrained with a vehicle's safety belts alone, even though these restraints are designed for adults and do not fit children properly.

"Children are not ready for seat belts alone until they reach

80 pounds and are 4 feet 9 inches tall," Humphreys said.

In a crash, children can actually suffer injuries from ill-fitting seat belts.

A recent study shows that children 2 to 5 who were restrained only by the vehicle's adult seat-belt system were nearly four times more likely to suffer serious injuries in a crash than those children restrained in a child safety seat.

Booster seats are crash-tested, proven devices that raise the child up so that the vehicle lap and shoulder belts fit properly. Booster seats provide correct fit for a child in a vehicle safety belt system in three ways:

- The lap belt will be placed low on the child's hips, rather than on the child's abdomen;
- The shoulder belt will cross the center of the child's chest; and
- The child's knees will bend at the edge of the booster seat, increasing comfort and fit.

"Many children like the sporty looks of newer types of booster seats available today," Humphreys said.

"Another positive from the child's point of view is that he or she can see out the window of the vehicle better in a booster seat."

Homeowners insurance and mold

Austin - Texans concerned about whether their homeowners insurance will cover any future problems related to water damage and mold have a new set of rules to learn.

Texas Department of Insurance Commissioner Jose Montemayor has restructured the state's residential homeowners policies to help resolve the controversial mold-claims issue.

Last June, a Travis County jury awarded \$32 million to a family that claimed its insurance company's failure to fix a water leak allowed the toxic mold stachybotrys to fester in their home, causing serious health problems.

The high-profile case worried consumers and insurance companies alike.

By late August, several large carriers citing an unexpected surge in mold related claims announced they would stop selling comprehensive HO-B policies in Texas, which cover accidental water damage and

cleanup of mold resulting from water leaks. The vast majority of Texas homeowners purchase this type of coverage.

Throughout the summer and into the fall, Montemayor conducted hearings across the state to solicit public input.

Key provisions of the commissioner's plan, unveiled Nov. 28:

- Retains coverage for removal of mold related to "sudden and accidental discharge, leakage or overflow of water" if the water damage is otherwise covered by the policy, including HO-Bs. There's no dollar limit, other than the policy limit, on the amount of covered loss.
- "Sudden and accidental" includes a physical loss that is hidden or concealed until detectable. A hidden loss must be reported to the insurance company within 30 days of discovery.
- Eliminates coverage for testing, treating, containing or disposing of mold beyond what's necessary to repair or

replace property damaged by water.

• Policyholders have the option of purchasing more coverage in increments of 25 percent, 50 percent and 100 percent of policy limits.

Insurers can offer the new coverage as early as Jan. 1, 2002 but must offer it no later than Jan. 1, 2003.

After a company begins offering the new coverage, policyholders won't see a change until their policies come up for renewal.

Homeowners who choose the new, less expensive HO-B policy before their renewal dates may be entitled to refunds on the unused portion of their old policies.

Because there are presently no licensing or inspection standards for mold in properties, you may want to discuss mold inspections with more than one expert - if you are considering buying a home.

Most experts will discuss

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& RioNet Internet Service
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 Alfred (Chapo) & Henry

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FROM
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JANUARY 12, 2002

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Hidden Dangers in Telecommuting Burglary Season

As more employers offer telecommuting options to employees, new risks are introduced into the work environment.

According to the Leviton Institute, these can have an adverse impact on company security and home office equipment. For most organizations, network security is a major concern.

Yet, when hackers prowl the Internet looking for vulnerable networks, they often start by probing the computers of home offices connected to a corporate network over the Internet.

To make matters worse, telecommuters favor high-speed broadband Internet connections that are on 24 hours a day, making home computers easy targets for hacker attacks.

Even telecommuters connected to a corporate network over a Virtual Private Network (VPN) are vulnerable.

• Protect yourself from computer hackers

The best solution today is an Internet router with hardware-based firewall protection.

Unlike software firewalls, the router's firewall keeps the computer's Internet address hidden, making the network connection invisible to a hacker.

• Beware of power surges

Temporary power surges can damage equipment and cause computer programs to lock up and become corrupted.

Many people assume that power surges are caused mainly by lightning strikes, but 80 percent of them are generated from within the home.

Common sources include household appliances such as air conditioners, washing machines, clothes dryers and refrigerators. Office equipment, including laser printers, photocopiers and fluorescent lights also generate temporary power surges.

There are several devices that can protect your home from power surges.

The first line of defense is an inexpensive power strip that incorporates surge protection. These devices cost between \$20 and \$80.

The Leviton Institute recommends that telecommuters purchase power-strips with the maximum amount of surge protection, including protection for telephone and data lines.

Another option is to install surge-protected wall receptacles.

"Quad receptacles" that have four outlets with built-in surge protection can replace standard electrical outlets, helping to reduce the jumble of wires that results when too many plug-in devices are used in the home office.

For more robust protection, the Leviton Institute recommends two other devices: a panel-mounted surge protector installed next to the circuit breaker panel, and a meter socket surge arrestor installed at the electric meter.

These devices provide whole-house surge protection and should be installed by a qualified electrician.

• Watch out for blackouts

Blackouts and brownouts, now a more frequent occurrence in certain parts of the country, can also damage home office equipment and cause the loss of important data.

The best solution for preventing this danger is to purchase an uninterruptible power supply (UPS). Not only does a UPS device allow time for an orderly shutdown of a computer when the power goes out, it also regulates the flow of electricity, smoothing out the current before it goes to equipment. Some UPS devices also incorporate surge protection.

• Avoid overloaded circuits

Surge protectors and UPS devices protect equipment, but they do not protect the telecommuter from the potential hazards of an overloaded wall receptacle.

If too much equipment is plugged into the same outlet, more current may be running through the outlet than it can handle.

There are several telltale signs of overloading: an outlet that is warm to the touch; an outlet that is discolored; circuit breakers that frequently trip or fuses that frequently blow; a noticeable smell of burned insulation; an extension cord that is warm to the touch.

To prevent these electrical hazards in the home office, the Leviton Institute recommends calling an electrician to install a dedicated circuit to the home office. And while the electrician is there, consider installing additional outlets in the home office to eliminate the use of extension cords.

Burglary Season

The holidays are a joyous time for many families. Unfortunately, they are also a time of increased home burglaries. The number of burglaries rises dramatically twice each year, during the holiday season of November and December, and when people take vacations in July and August. The reason is simple: Folks let their guard down. Over the past 20 years, the number of house burglaries has been declining steadily, according to statistics from the U.S. Department of Justice. In 1981, home burglaries reached a high of 106 break-ins per 1,000 households. By 1999, the number dropped to 34 per 1,000 households-about one home in 30. Even so, with approximately 3.6 million completed or attempted home burglaries in 1999, one burglary takes place every 11 seconds in the United States. The latest 1999 numbers from the Bureau of Justice Statistics indicate that 42 percent of all reported household burglaries occurred during the day and 32 percent at night with the time of the remaining 26% unknown.

Simple Safety Steps

There are many steps homeowners can take to protect their homes. Most are simple, such as installing deadbolts on all outside doors and making sure all doors and windows are securely locked before leaving home.

For nighttime protection, adequate outdoor lighting is an important deterrent that will make your house less attractive to a burglar. However, with the price of electricity now rising, keeping outdoor floodlights on all night can be somewhat expensive. That's why the Leviton Institute recommends the use of motion detectors.

Motion Detectors

A motion detector is an inexpensive device that automatically turns on the lights it controls. When the device detects the presence of a person within its sensing range, it turns the lights on. After the person is no longer in its sensing range, it turns the lights off.

Timers

You can give your home a "lived-in look" to deter burglars by using rotary timers to turn room lights, radios, and TVs on and off during the night. The lights don't have to be on long, but you do want to have several lights going on and off at different times to make it appear that someone is moving about the house.

For year-round convenience, the Leviton Institute recommends the use of electronic timers to control porch lights and landscape lighting. These devices allow you to program a variety of on and off sequences during the night. They are installed in the wall and replace regular wall switches.

PLC Devices

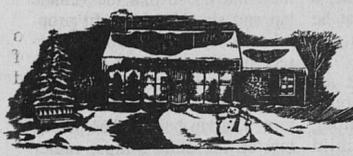
Another solution for controlling indoor lights is to install powerline carrier (PLC) devices that replace standard switches and receptacles and use your home's existing wiring to control lights and appliances. With PLC devices you can program the lights in your home to turn on and off at preset time intervals. You can even control your lights and appliances remotely from a telephone keypad.

Setting Up a Good Defense

Security experts advise putting certain lights in your home on timers all year long, not just when you are away from home. This sets up a routine that gives your home a lived-in look that deters burglars. The locations recommended are near your front and back windows. Most home burglars are semiprofessional thieves or amateurs who may live in the neighborhood. By setting up a good defense, with deadbolt locks, and good lighting, you can safeguard your home when you're away.

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All that Virginia Shahan and her husband "Happy" knew about movies was the price of tickets when John Wayne asked to make a movie on their ranch. After *The Alamo* was released in 1960, the Shahans found themselves proprietors of a tourist attraction and movie set. More than twenty films have been shot at Alamo Village and 20,000 people visit a year. Happy passed on in '96, but Virginia still manages the property, when she's not spending time at her ranch house with her eight grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Virginia counts on co-op power for her home and business. She belongs to a Smart Choice cooperative. What's "Smart Choice?" We're a coalition of Texas co-ops committed to making the right decision on electric deregulation.

Deregulation is a thorny issue and no one has a crystal ball to view its impact. Like many other Texas cooperatives, Smart Choice co-ops believe the wisest course is to "wait and see." Before deciding, Smart Choice co-ops want to know if deregulation has raised or lowered rates for other Texas power customers, particularly in rural areas.

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A Christmas Flower Make a difference Obituaries

St. Mary Magdalene Church By Lynn McNew

When we first moved to Texas, the hardest thing for me to do was grow flowers. That was because I was still trying to grow things that would flourish in Illinois. I soon realized that the weather and soil were different here and I was going to have to get used to growing different plants. Then I saw a cactus in bloom. As I remember, the first cactus flowers I saw were a beautiful orchid color, which just happens to be my favorite color.

On that day, I began to see the beauty of the desert and the things that will grow here. Mountain laurel and sage, wildflowers and cactus-all are beautiful when in full bloom. One of

the prettiest is something we see this time of year-a Christmas cactus.

The Prophet Isaiah tells us "the desert and the parched land will exult; the steppe will rejoice and bloom. They will bloom with abundant flowers, and rejoice with joyful song" (35:1-2) with the coming of the Lord. Several of our Christmas songs refer to Jesus as a flower-"Lo, how a rose'er blooming, from slender thread has come." "When blossoms flower amidst the snow, upon a winter's night, was born a child, a Christmas rose, a King of love and light."

We are told to be patient for the coming of the Lord-just as we must be patient for the coming of desert flowers. As we go into this last week of preparation for the coming of Christ, let

us be mindful of the patience we need in dealing with crowds of people in stores, with the last minute preparations that are so necessary. Let us focus on the real reason we are preparing-the birth of Christ.

Lord, I thank you for the beautiful desert flowers and for the birth of your Son. Give me patience to await both.

You are welcome to worship with us anytime at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. There will be a Children's Mass and Christmas Pageant at 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve, with music beginning at 6:00 p.m. Midnight Mass will begin with music at 11:30 p.m., and there will be a 10:30 Mass on Christmas morning.

Merry Christmas and God Bless You!

Gateway Ministries By Pastor Charlotte Corey

Children are often the focus of this season. We love the laughter and sounds of delight as they discover lights, candies, goodies and gifts.

The Christ Child is portrayed over and over again with shepherds, angels, magi, drummer boys, donkeys, lambs, etc. The commercialization of the Christ Child can eventually dull the senses to the true meaning of the celebration of the Jesus Christ.

This meaning is found in the innate qualities in the heart of a child.

The word of God says "Unless you turn to God from your sins and become as little children, you will never get into the Kingdom of Heaven; And any of you who welcomes a little child like this because you are mine, is welcoming me and caring for me." (Matt.18:3-4) The bottom line is to humble our hearts and seek the love of God, trusting that his plans for us are for good and not for evil. When

we reach out to help a child, Jesus said we are helping him. We are also helping ourselves by incurring the blessings of Jesus Christ upon ourselves.

When you wake up this next Christmas morning say a prayer for people all over the earth to discover the joy, the beauty, the awesome wonder of the gift of Christ Jesus to be in their lives. Pray for the children who wake up to conditions we usually don't even imagine. Pray for the lost and hungry.

Pray that God delivers them from the evil one and pray for God's angels of mercy to minister comfort to them. Even though you can't be everywhere, all over the earth, make a difference in people's lives right where you are. Bring the light of Jesus Christ to shine in the eyes of those in need right in your own community.

All of us at Gateway Ministries love you and wish you blessings from God and a Merry Christmas. Remember, ...stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Richard Ward

Richard C. (Dick) Ward, age 75 passed away December 11, 2001 at the Methodist Hospital in San Antonio, Texas. Born in Laredo, Texas on February 5, 1926. He was raised and grew up in Brackettville.

He was a member of the United States Army and proudly served his country during World War II.

He was married to Betty M. Ward on February 5, 1946. They have spent 55 years together.

They were blessed with two sons, Richard C. Ward, Jr. of Brackettville, and John T. Ward of San Antonio, Texas.

He was a former worshipful master and member of the Las Moras Masonic Lodge #444 and The Grand Lodge of Texas A.F. & AM Alzafar Shrine Temple San Antonio, Texas.

He is survived by his wife Betty M. Ward, his sons and daughter in-laws Richard, Jr. and Diane K. Ward, of Brackettville and John T. and Diana Ward of San Antonio, Texas. Grandchildren Amanda Ward of Brackettville, J.J. Guidry of Cleveland, Mississippi, Sam Sampson and wife Stephanie of Del Rio, Texas, Misty Sandbach of San Antonio, Texas. Great grandsons Ryan, Ashton and Collin Thomas Sampson of Del Rio. Aunt Margaret Porter of El Paso and numerous cousins, also nephew Billy Ward of Oragrande, New Mexico.

Funeral Services were held Thursday afternoon at the Brackettville funeral home. Rev. R.D. Holloway officiating. Burial followed at the Masonic Cemetery with a military and Masonic service.

What God can do

Frontier Baptist Church By Dave Crowe

On the last day before Christmas vacation, Mrs. Price gave her third grade students an assignment. The class of eight year olds were instructed to think about who and what God is and to be prepared to explain him when school resumes.

Here is what the class came up with and I have to wonder, how many of us adults could have done a better job?

"One of God's main jobs is making people."

"He makes them to replace the ones that die, so there will be enough people to take care of things on earth." "He doesn't make grown-ups, just babies. I think because they're smaller and easier to make."

"He doesn't have to spend his valuable time teaching them to walk and talk, moms' and dads can do that."

"Another important job God has is listening to prayers."

"This goes on an awful lot, because preachers and some other people pray at times besides bed time."

"Because of this, God doesn't have time to listen to the radio or watch TV."

"It's because he hears everything."

"There must be a lot of noise in his ears, unless he has figured out a way to turn it off."

"God sees everything and hears everything and is everywhere which keeps him pretty busy."

"So, you shouldn't waste his time by going over your mom and dad's head asking for stuff, that they said you couldn't have."

"Atheists are people who don't believe in God. I don't believe there are any in our town."

At least, there aren't any who go to our church."

"Jesus is God's only son. He used to do all the hard work like walking on water and doing miracles and other stuff."

"He tried to teach people who didn't want to learn about God." "They finally got tired of him preaching to them and they crucified him."

"Because he was good and kind, he told his father that they didn't know what they were doing and to forgive them and God said o.k."

"His Father, that's God, appreciated everything that he had done and all his hard work and

told him, that he didn't have to go on the road any more, that he could stay home in heaven."

"Now, he helps out his dad by listening to prayers and seeing to things which are important to God and taking care of them, so God don't have to."

"Yeah, like a secretary, only much more important. You can pray anytime you want to, because one of them is always on duty."

"You should always go to church on Sunday because it makes God happy and if there's anyone that you want to make happy, it's God."

"If you don't believe in God, besides being an atheist, you will be very lonely."

Your parents can't go everywhere with you, like to camp, but God can."

"And it's good to know that he's always around, like when you're scared in the dark."

"Or when you can't swim and the big kids throw you in the deep water."

"But, you shouldn't just think of what God can do for you, I figure God put me here and he can take me back anytime he wants."

Such wisdom out of the mouths of babes.

God gives love

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

Last Sunday night I had the blessing of helping many children receive gifts from Santa. It was heart-warming to see their faces light up as they spoke to Santa or selected a gift. I don't know how many children received their only Christmas gift at that time, and it really doesn't matter. But it's especially satisfying to know that those children had a little happiness in this special season.

The hard part of my job as a pastor is knowing that I can't bring gifts to all of you who are reading this who have little or nothing for yourselves or your children or grandchildren at this time of the year. I am always saddened by the lack of resources available to me personally to fill the needs of those around me. Of course, the resources that are offered by others and distributed for them by other pastors and myself hearten me. Yet, it is never enough to right all the wrongs, feed all the hungry, clothe all the naked, nor bring health to the sick.

On the other hand, there is a gift I can give to each of you. I can offer my love and concern, a shoulder to cry on, a strong back to help carry the burden, and a listening ear that will not judge. Oh - and I can offer you these things because I have had them passed on to me by God and some of God's children who gave me these things when I needed them the most. I am blessed with a personal and a

church family who give me these gifts every day of every week. And I am ready and willing to pass them on to you. There is only one catch! You must also pass them along to others as needed.

The greatest gift that God has given is His Son, Jesus, who came to live among us, beginning on that Christmas Eve so long ago, so that we could understand the extent of God's love through relationship. God's relationship with us is best exemplified through the relationships we have with each other. God gives love and demands nothing for it. We must do the same. If you need love, someone to listen to you, a shoulder to cry on, or just a little tender

loving care, call me or come by the United Methodist Church on James Street - or... give a little love to others without concern for how they might or might not return it. I promise you will be very surprised and blessed by the amount of love that comes your way when you least expect it.

Merry Christmas! I know God is blessing you right now because you are a blessing to others.

Please join us Sunday at 10:45 am for our weekly worship service.

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Blessed art thou

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

And in the sixth month the angel, Gabriel, was sent from God unto a city of Galilee, named Nazareth,

To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David; and the Virgin's name was Mary.

And the angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou who art highly favored, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women.

And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying and considered in her mind what manner of greeting this should be.

And the angel said unto her,

fear not, Mary; for thou hast found favor with God.

And, behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son, and shalt call his name Jesus.

He shall be great, and shall be called the Son of the Highest and the Lord God shall give unto him the throne of his Father David.

And he shall reign over the house of Jacob forever; and of his kingdom there shall be no end. St. Luke 1: 26-33.

Happy Birthday & Merry Christmas to Norma Conner From Wayne, Gary, Keith, Jeff, Judy, Bernie and Willie

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Thank You The family of Hector Cruz Jr. would like to thank the people for their thoughts and prayers in our time of need. Everything was greatly appreciated. Sincerely, The Cruz Family

VAL VERDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER 801 Bedell Ave. Del Rio, Texas 2001 January 2002 table with columns for Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, Friday and rows for dates 1-31 with physician names and specialties.

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 25 school
 27 Crazy one
 28 Activity that takes two
 30 Nautical term
 31 Janitors' items
 32 Barney Rubble's pal
 33 River in Switzerland
 34 Bubbly
 35 Organic compound
 37 Bud holder
 40 Dice
 44 Cancer
 46 Archers
 48 Suitable for plowing
 50 Implant
 52 Sodium nitrate
 53 One lacking freedom
 54 Lubricated
 55 Shopping center
 56 Discussion
 57 Privy to
 59 Earthenware jar
 60 Travel aimlessly
 62 Peggy or Bruce

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13											
16											
19											
23											
32	33	34	35		36	37		38			
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42											
45											
49											
56	57		58		59	60					
61											
65											
68											

Trivia Time Answers (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.
 1. Napalm; 2. Bob Mackie; 3. NBC; 4. Francisco de Goya; 5. Cambodia; 6. Six; 7. Home On the Range; 8. The Tilt Trax rabbit; 9. The boiling point; 10. Halley's Comet's

ROARING TWENTIES

In the grid below, twenty words can be found that fit the category for today. Circle each word that you find and list it in the space provided at the right of the grid. Words can be found in all directions—forward, backward, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: FISH

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

- Catfish
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Trivia Time by Walter Branch

- In the 1950s sci-fi classic, "Tarantula," what finally destroys the giant spider?
- Who designed the costumes for "The Carol Burnett Show"?
- On what network did the game show "Jeopardy" originally air?
- What Spanish artist's 1828 death was ultimately attributed to extreme lead poisoning?
- What country had at least a quarter of its 8 million population killed by the Khmer Rouge in the 1970s?
- According to the Koran, how many days did Allah need to create the universe?
- What cowboy song is the official song of Kansas?
- Who won the right to get a bowlful of "raspberry red, lemon yellow, and orange orange" in a 1976 election?
- What is the temperature at which a liquid changes into a gas called?
- What comet's cosmic tail does the earth pass through every May and October, causing two meteor showers?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

- | | |
|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| December 20..... Jean Hood | December 23..... Johnnie Beard |
| December 20..... Juan Reyes | December 23..... Sergio Cardenas |
| December 20..... Darlene Shahhan | December 23..... Danny Molinar |
| December 20..... Julia Terrazas | December 23..... Elena Molinar |
| December 21..... Clay Hunt III | December 24..... Tom Beatty |
| December 21..... Shelley Jost | December 24..... Sam Ferguson |
| December 22..... Arabala Abrego | December 25..... Michael Gass |
| December 22..... Evelyn Estes | December 26..... Dorothy Clark |
| December 22..... Don Hood | December 26..... Pat Foster |
| December 22..... Richard Pena | December 26..... Pam Melanson |
| December 23..... Victor Abrego | |

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) While opportunity knocks this week, you may not be able to recognize it. That's because you're distracted by an issue with a friend. This weekend, you put last-minute holiday plans in place.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) Don't be deterred this week by interruptions on the job. These put you in a less-than-festive mood for the upcoming holiday. Over the weekend, you enjoy family togetherness.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You can feel free this week to strike out on your own. This doesn't put any crimps in others' plans. The weekend's accent is on social events.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Avoid carelessness while holiday shopping. It's also a good idea to put some thought behind the gifts you're buying. An exciting travel invitation comes your way over the weekend.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) Holiday plans are subject to change. Since nothing's set in stone yet, don't let this knock you off kilter. In general, you're pleased with the week's business accomplishments.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) Confusion reigns as the week begins. If holiday plans have your house topsy-turvy, do your best to be more organized. The weekend is perfect for getting together with friends.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You're really yearning for some time alone. However, family holiday obligations await. Put on your best smile and enjoy yourself!

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Things aren't too clear at work. However, the opposite is true on the homefront. Later in the week, you make a wonderful impression on the social scene.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Someone close to you isn't being upfront. Don't press the point. Let this person work things out alone.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) Partnerships are accentuated this week. You learn much just by being hands-on. Later in the week, your financial picture becomes clearer.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) You and your mate are working in tandem. That sets you up well for the upcoming holiday. Family togetherness is the key.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) It's possible you'll be working some overtime this week. This gives you extra cash for the holidays. Over the weekend, enjoy getting out and about on the town.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:

- Abalone
- Barracuda
- Bass
- Bonito
- Carp
- Catfish
- Cod
- Crappie
- Flounder
- Haddock
- Halibut
- Mackerel
- Mahi Mahi
- Marlin
- Perch
- Salmon
- Snapper
- Swordfish
- Trout
- Tuna

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

ADOPTION

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

A BABY TO ADORE! Adoption. Family is our #1 priority. Heather's an at home mom, ready to give hugs, kisses and provide comfort. Brad's a great dad, a "big kid" who loves to laugh and play games. We'll give your baby a beautiful life. Heather and Brad, toll-free, 1-888-528-5731.

ADOPTION: CHOOSE US to adopt your baby! We promise a lifetime of love, support and a solid family \$\$\$ foundation for a great life. Call Tina and Mike, 1-800-645-0118.

AUTOMOBILES

CHARITY CARS - DONATE your vehicle, tax deductible, free towing. Nationally acclaimed. We provide vehicles to struggling families. As seen on Oprah. 1-800-CHARITY (1-800-242-7489), www.800charitycars.org

DRIVERS WANTED

A CAREER OPPORTUNITY. LISA Motor Lines has immediate openings for entry level drivers. No CDL-No problem. Company paid training if qualified. 1-866-367-9933 or 1-817-367-9933.

OWNER OPERATOR AVG \$1.13 in Southwest 5 state area. FEE needs 27 trucks to cover this obligation. Sign-on bonus, base plates, generous fuel surcharge and plenty of freight. 1-800-569-9298.

SUNSET LOGISTICS - OWNER/OPERATORS needed. Haul scrap metal/aggregate materials in end dumps. Trailers available. Home weekly, 100K potential, 98% Texas. Call Scott @ 1-888-215-HAUL.

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT now offering per diem pay for experienced teams, solos and trainers. O/O - Solos/Teams 83 cents plus fuel surcharge. No CDL/No problem. We school, no money down. Licensed by SBPCE. School located in Stuttgart, AR. Call 1-888-MORE-PAY (1-888-667-3729).

DRIVER - DRIVERS NEEDED for west coast lanes. Late-model Peterbilts, Freightliners, & Kenworth's. Top benefits for experienced drivers. Call John Christner Trucking. 1-800-528-3675. EOE.

DRIVERS-GREAT MILES, benefits, bonuses, equipment! Fridays are paydays. 2-day orientation. 401K retirement plan. 6 months OTR. Clas "A" required. Continental Express, Inc. 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVERS: OTR DRIVERS needed. Class A CDL w/experience required. Good work record, clean MVR. Call today, Marten Transport, Ltd., 1-800-395-3331 or visit our website, www.marten.com on pay and benefits. Call now for Holiday Bonus. (Limited time only.)

DRIVERS: SOLOS UP to .45 cpm; Teams up to .48 cpm; Contractors .81 cents all miles. Lease options available. (No money down.) Fuel incentives, increased holiday orientation pay & more. Call Burlington Motor Carriers, 1-800-684-3144.

DRIVERS WANTED

DRIVERS-SW REGIONAL. Home on weekly basis, teams start 34 cpm, OTR starts 32 cpm. 6 months OTR experience w/CDL-A. Ask for Harold/Bob, 1-800-666-0380.

DRIVER TRAINEES NEEDED at Dick Simon Trucking! Drivers earn \$32K - \$45K per year. No experience needed. CDL training available. Tuition reimbursement. 1-800-562-9696.

DRIVER-COMPANY & Owner Ops. Regional - home weekly. Pay for experience up to 31 cpm Company, 81 cpm Owner/Ops. 1-800-454-2887, Arnold Transportation.

DRIVER - ASAP! 24 OTR Drivers. Up to 38 cpm + \$40 tarp. O/O's - up to 90 cpm. 6 months OTR required. 1-800-635-8669 today.

EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION

FEDERAL POSTAL JOBS. Job opportunities. Free call for application/examination information. Federal hire/full benefits. 1-800-842-1704, ext. 110, 7am - 10pm CST, 7 days.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

\$\$\$CASH\$\$\$ IMMEDIATE CASH for structured settlements, annuities, real estate notes, private mortgage notes, accident cases, and insurance payouts. 1-800-794-7310.

500FASTCASH.COM - Short term loans up to \$500.00. We want your business. To apply: 1-800-290-8288. Loans by County Bank, Rehoboth Beach, DE (FDIC), Equal Opportunity Lender.

FREE CASH NOW\$ from wealthy families unloading millions of dollars, to help minimize their taxes. Write immediately: I.G.L., 4080 Paradise Rd., P.M.B. 920, Las Vegas, Nevada 89109.

FOR RENT

F.C.S. UNIT 15 #149, 2 bedroom, 1 1/2 bath, furnished \$250 monthly, \$200 deposit. Call 563-9389 after 6 p.m.

F.C.S. UNIT 15 #79 2 bedroom, 2 bath, furnished \$350 monthly, \$200 deposit. Call 563-9389 after 6 p.m.

1836 SQ. FT. OFFICE space. Walk in vault, new a/c and heat, handicap accessible \$450/mo. Call 563-2852, 563-9256 or 563-2846.

FOR SALE

HOUSE FOR SALE, Fort Clark Springs, 1997 mobile home 3/2 large, raised deck on cul-de-sac. Assumable mortgage 12 years left on note at \$285.00/month asking \$8500.00 cash. Serious inquiries call Mark at 563-3879.

NEED A COMPUTER but no cash? You're approved. Financing guaranteed. No cash needed today. Bad credit okay. No credit check - no credit turn downs. 1-800-947-7988, www.pc-credit.com

YEAR END BLOWOUT! Steel Arch Buildings - save thousands on select models - 20x28, 30x42, 40x50, others. Great shops, garages, storage. Call 1-800-341-7007, www.steelmasterusa.com

FOR SALE

TAN COUCH \$40. Four solid maple bar stools, lots of R.V. stuff, 563-2053 on Fort.

FCS 3 BR 1 1/2 bath house, appliances included \$34,900. Call 563-9577.

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

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

WOLFF TANNING BEDS - Affordable, Convenient. Tan at home. Payments from \$25/month. Free color catalog. Call today, 1-800-842-1305, www.np.etstan.com

HELP WANTED

RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc. (RGEI) is accepting applications for the position of Mechanic to fill a vacancy in the Cooperative's Brackettville Office. Applicants must have two years experience as a mechanic or appropriate technical education preferred. Must be familiar with hydraulics, brake systems, lights, preventative maintenance and vehicle lubrication. Must learn, be able to read and interpret technical manuals and complete vendor schools. Frequently moves and/or carries materials and equipment weighing over fifty pounds. Must possess a valid Texas driver's license with a clear driving record. Must have or obtain a Class "A" CDL within six months from hire. Must learn and comply with Cooperative's Safety Rules and Procedures. Must be or become certified in first aid and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. Applications may be picked up or requested from any RGEI office and must be mailed to RGEI, Administrative Department, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Applications must be postmarked on or before January 2, 2002. RGEI is an EOE.

ATTENTION! BE YOUR own boss. \$25-\$75/hr. potential, PT/FT. No experience necessary. Mail order/internet, 1-888-779-6009, www.BossFree-24-7.com

COMPUTER, INTERNET PEOPLE wanted to work online. \$125-175/hour potential. Full training. Vacations, bonuses and incentives. Bilinguals also needed, 53 countries. Free E-Book: www.ProfitPC.net

REAL ESTATE

311 ACRES, WEST Texas brush, south of Dryden. Whitetail, Mule Deer, Javelina, Quail. Joins large ranch. \$150/acre. Terms. Toll free, 1-866-286-0199, texasranchland.com

Answers to Crossword Puzzle
MTS SODA TAPER
COOT TRET AMINO
ANNE REAP LOOTS
DETERIORATE NOS
STORED RANGE
BELT STREAM
FACES OAST ARLO
RAHS MONTY DEEP
ERAT INGE CEDES
DEMEAN OMAR
PRICE RANSOM
TIA MEMORABILIA
ANGLE BLOB TALL
LONER ELAL EVEL
KNEES DAME RED

REAL ESTATE

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

Merry
Christmas
and
Happy New
Year 2002!

MOBILE HOMES

2001 16 X 80 3 bd, 2 bath, \$156.37/mo. 10% down 9.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C. 1-866-691-8180 or (830) 774-7711.

CLAYTON DREAM HOME, 3 bedroom, 2 bath doublewide, 28 x 52 \$342.80/mo. 10% down 9.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C. 1-866-691-8180 or (830) 774-7711.

BANK REPO HUGE 3 bd/2 bath doublewide, \$321.64/mo. 5% down 10.75 APR 360 mo. W.A.C. 1-866-691-8180 or

KINNEY COUNTY LAND CO
Molly Earl Kaplan - Broker
P.O. Box 1035
Brackettville, TX 78832
830-563-2446 830-563-2447

- 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.

One of the real joys of the season is the opportunity to say thank you and to wish you a special Christmas and the very best New Year.

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

- 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

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.
10% off on 3 or more bottles of wine
20% off some selected brands
The Jug Store
Liquor Wine Beer
Liqueurs
Cointreau, Drambuie
Grand Marnier
Harvey's Bristol Cream Sherry
Bailey's Irish Cream
Disaronno Originale Amaretto

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, at the office of the County Judge, Herb Senne, P.O. Box 348, Kinney County Courthouse, 501 Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832 for the financing, design, construction, operation and management of a 330-bed adult detention center/facility. The proposal shall be in conformance with the Request for Proposal Specifications available at the above address.

Significant bond, indemnification and insurance requirements will be placed on the successful respondent, including the provision of performance and payment bonds. All contract requirements of the Request for Proposal Specifications and Section 351.103 of the Local Government Code (V.T.C.A.) will be required to be agreed to and met by the successful respondent.

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. The County shall have no liability or cost for the Facility financing except to the extent of prisoner housing contract revenues actually generated by the Facility. The financing proposal shall include all costs of planning, financing, design, construction, equipping, furnishing and start-up of the Facility, including all costs of land and professional fees.

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, and rules of jurisdictions housing prisoners at the Facility to the extent made applicable by the terms of the prisoner housing contracts with those jurisdictions. The compensation for the operation and management of the Facility will be paid on the basis of a per prisoner, per day fee, payable solely out of the net revenues of the Facility, and from no other source, after first application of gross revenues to the Lease obligations.

Design of the Facility must be by competent design professionals licensed in the State of Texas with significant experience in the design of detention facilities. The design and construction of the Facility must be in accordance with the standards of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards, and the successful respondent must obtain all required approvals and certifications of the Texas Commission on Jail Standards. Respondents shall present a firm bid for the design, construction, equipping, and furnishing of the Facility in accordance with the requirement of the Request for Proposal Specifications.

The successful respondent will be required to provide all development and project management services necessary to assure timely financing, design and construction of the Facility in accordance with the successful proposal, the plans and specifications, applicable contracts, and the project budget.

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, and the sole source of funding for repayment of financing, operation and management or other associated costs and expenses shall be the revenues actually generated by the Facility and received. The financing shall not be a debt or obligation of the County, and, upon, termination of or default on the financing, the County must have no liability or obligation for repayment of the financing.

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

Happy Holidays!
May all the things that inspire and invite a festive yuletide season be yours to share with friends and loved ones. Please accept our sincere gratitude for your continuing trust.
State Representative Tracy King
and his family,
Cheryl, Katelyn and Clayton Baker King

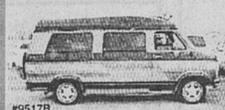
LOWEST PRICES

'97 GRAND MARQUIS



#9871B
\$6995*

'94 CHEVY VAN



#9517B
\$8995*

'96 CONCORDE



#8851B
\$8995*

'97 CENTURY



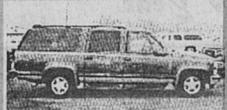
#1130A
\$9895*

'97 GMC SAFARI



#9562AA
\$11495*

'95 CHEVY SUBURBAN



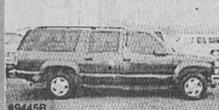
#9497A
\$11995*

'97 CHEVY VAN



#9438A
\$11995*

'97 CHEVY SUBURBAN



#9445B
\$11995*

'99 CAMRY



#1018A
\$12495*

'99 ALERO



#9361A
\$12995*

'00 CHEROKEE



#9987-B
\$12995*

'00 ALTIMA



#1257A
\$13495*

'99 FIREBIRD



#9953A
\$13795*

'01 GRAND AM



#9954-B
\$13895*

'98 CHEVY SUBURBAN



#9559A
\$14795*

'98 GMC VAN



#8824A
\$14995*

'99 MONTANA



#9587A
\$14995*

'00 NISSAN QUEST



#9997A
\$15495*

'98 CHEVY 2500



#1078A
\$15495*

'99 DODGE QC



#1101A
\$15995*

'97 CONCOURS



#9428A
\$15995*

'01 BONNEVILLE



#P9997
\$15995*

'00 CAMRY



#9681A
\$15995*

'98 TOWNCAR



#1129A
\$16995*

'01 LESABRE



#P9997
\$16995*

'99 SIERRA



#1085A
\$16995*

'97 GMC SUBURBAN



#9188A
\$16995*

'97 GMC SUBURBAN



#9225A
\$16995*

'01 CHEVY VENTURE



#P9974
\$16995*

'00 DAKOTA



#9941-A
\$16995*

'00 SIERRA



#9629A
\$17495*

'98 4RUNNER



#1252A
\$17495*

'97 EL DORADO



#1033A
\$17895*

'98 GMC SUBURBAN



#1078B
\$17995*

'00 SIERRA



#1185A
\$18495*

'99 GMC SUBURBAN



#1219A
\$18495*

'99 CHEVY Z71



#P7001
\$18795*

'98 GMC SUBURBAN



#9090A
\$18795*

'00 PATHFINDER



#P9982A
\$19895*

'01 XTERRA



#1117A
\$19995*

'01 XTERRA



#1114A
\$19995*

'99 CHEVY SUBURBAN



#1138-AA
\$20495*

'00 MAXIMA



#9991A
\$21495*

'99 RAM 4x4



#P9985A
\$21995*

'01 SIERRA



#1114A
\$21995*

'00 DENALI



#P9989
\$25895*

'00 YUKON XL



#1214B
\$26895*

'00 SEVILLE



#P9837
\$28995*

'00 GMC YUKON



#1099A
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*Plus T.T.&L. Artwork for illustration purposes only.