

The Brackett News



Happy New Year!!
No paper next week!

13th year, No. 47

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Rosas receives service award



Pictured above: Manola Rosas (left), market manager, and Tomas Perez of Super S.

Super S Food stores Friday presented Manola Rosas with a plaque honoring his 13 years of service. Rosas has been a market manager for 28 years. Tomas Perez of Super S pre-

sented the plaque. Rosas and his wife, Alicia were married December 23, 1960. They have 4 children, 2 boys and 2 girls, and 7 grandchildren.

Rotarians celebrate Christmas

Brackettville Rotary Club
By Frances McMaster

The Brackettville Rotary Club met on December twentieth for its Christmas celebration. Before the group gathered around the grand piano at Las Moras Inn to sing Christmas carols, Taylor Stephenson spoke briefly, contrasting this year's Christmas season to that of last year.

Stephenson commented that something good can arise from something bad, but thoughtful examination is required to discover it. The deaths and destruction that occurred on September 11 are burned into our memories and have left a sadness that permeates our minds and feelings. However, we have discovered what is valuable in our lives. We find ourselves wanting to spend more time with family and friends. Some things we took for granted are more appreciated. We find ourselves eager to help those who suffered losses that day. Now, our heroes are not the latest movie star or a sports idol. Our hero is the guy next door, the fellow who has dedicated his life to saving others.

Pursuit of the dollar doesn't seem as important to us as it has



Rotarians (from left) Taylor Stephenson, Tino Guzman, Dave Alexander, Stan Conoly, Lynn McCarsen, Haygood Gully (Del Rio Rotary Club), Paula Renken, Frances McMaster, Jim Schaefer, Ella Chambers and Bill Haenn gathered to sing Christmas Carols at Las Moras Inn on Thursday. Laverne Schaefer at the piano.

in the past. The pledge of allegiance and prayers, too often said mechanically, now emerge from somewhere deep within our being. Patriotism isn't something abstract—something we talk about that exists outside ourselves, we have discovered it alive and well—existing within our own hearts. Friendships and

a sense of community have become important aspects of our lives, and we are a better nation, a better people because of it. And as we recognize what we have gained, we know this has been a painful but precious lesson, and we hope we can keep what we have learned and not let it slip away with time.

City receives settlement funds

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

Brackettville City Council Tuesday voted to accept Central Power & Light Company's offer to settle a class action suit brought under Cause No. C-2510-96-D, 206th District court, Hidalgo County, Texas. Under the settlement, which will be shared by 30 cities, Brackettville will be awarded \$7,914.03.

Holidays for 2002: New Year's Day, January 1 and 2, Martin Luther King Day, January 21, President's Day, February 18, Texas Independence Day, observed March 1, Good Friday, March 29, San Jacinto Day, observed April 19, Memorial Day, May 27, Juneteenth, June 19, Independence Day, July 4, Labor Day, September 2, Columbus Day, October 14, Veterans Day, November 11, Thanksgiving, November 27, (1/2 day) 28, 29, Christmas,

December 24, 25, 26.

The Council gave City Manager Luna latitude to change the celebration of Juneteenth day to the weekend following June 19th.

The Council discussed proposed renewal of the Television Cable Contract with Charter Communications, the successor to Falcon. The contract with Charter expires on April 13, and the provider can request review and the city can evaluate to see if it wants to renew and on what terms. The City Attorney will advise on contacting other providers and the procedure to renew with Charter.

Holidays scheduled for Kinney County employees

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

2002 holiday schedule for Kinney County employees was set at the December meeting of Kinney County Commissioners Monday. There will be a total of 14 and 1/2 days, including January 1, 2003.

The holidays are: February 18 - President's Day, March 29 - Good Friday, May 27 - Memorial Day, June 21 - Juneteenth, July 4 and 5 - Independence Day, September 2 - Labor Day, November 11 - Veterans Day,

27 (half day) 28 and 29 - Thanksgiving, December 25, 26, 27 - Christmas, and January 1, 2003.

The Commissioners were also asked to approve an additional total longevity payment of not more than \$1,122 for three employees who did not receive longevity pay on December 1st. These employees had interrupted employment that was overlooked. The Commissioners approved the payment, which will require a budget adjustment.

Library and Post office vandalized



Vandals broke out glass windows at the County Library and Post Office sometime the evening of December 18th. The incident is still under investigation by the Sheriffs department.

FCS Community Council Meets

By Flo Dean
Staff writer

The December meeting of the Fort Clark Springs Community Council was held at Shafter Hall.

The Visitors Center Committee announced that there were 8 visitors at the Center during November, during the hours it was open. Volunteers are needed to keep the Center open more frequently, as often as seven days a week if volunteers were available.

Rain has helped the greens on the golf course. Though there has been great participation, there are still lots of Tee times available.

The Gun Club will have its next meeting on the third

Wednesday in January. Members were reminded that Maggie Banner Kerr, Fort Clark General Manager has requested that members do not feed wildlife in the road as this presents a hazard to motorists. Deer and turkey may be fed in the green areas.

A Chili Cookoff is scheduled for January 14th. Charlene Simmons stated that volunteers are needed. Please call Darlene Sandwick at 563-3081, after the first of January.

Rosie Mattingly announced at the meeting of the Fort Clark Springs Festival Committee that her committee is looking for "living history" participants, particularly those who are adept at old time crafts, such as tatting, knitting, crochet, etc.

Groundwater Board to answer questions at Town Hall meeting

By Flo Dean
Staff Writer

At an open Town Hall meeting scheduled at the Civic Center on Monday, January 7th, members of the Temporary Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District Board will answer any questions about the district and its purposes, its impact on the community and possible costs.

Bruce Lesikar from A & M and Mike Mahoney, Manager of Gonzales Conservation District and covering Evergreen, Wilson, Atacosa and Frio Counties will sit on the panel with the Kin-

ney County Board to lend their expertise and experience in answering questions dealing with water management issues.

Candidates for positions on the Initial Board, who will run for election on January 12th will be introduced at the Town Hall meeting. The community is invited to attend and participate. Questions will be welcomed.

Robert Elledge, County Extension Agent, reported that his information is that there are no other districts on hold with their elections. Those who did not receive preclearance for their elections are hoping for post-

certification.

The board has not yet received preclearance certification. Dan Nelson of the Public Affairs Office of the U.S. Justice Department told the Brackett News that Chapter 966 (Texas Senate Bill 2) provides for revisions for water districts throughout the state. "We have received the request for preclearance (for Kinney County) on December 3rd. We are aware of the election date and the Justice Department is making every effort to make a decision."

The KCGWCD Board will meet again on January 3rd.

Homeland Security, civil defense or disaster preparedness

EMS Update
By Carolyn Rutherford

I can't believe it's already time for Christmas! What a wild year this has been. I think all Americans agree that this year beats 'em all for events that you remember. Homeland Security is a buzz-word never thought of before September 11th. Now it's part of our everyday conversations, thoughts and prayers.

Homeland Security is another word for the old Civil Defense and the not-so-old Disaster Preparedness. I like that word - - - preparedness. It goes along with

my EMS and Fire Service training and experience. On the way to emergencies, part of my brain kicks into "what if" mode. This should be part of all Americans' thought processes wherever we are. If we think "what if" we can plan for the bad stuff. But this kind of logic also prepares us "just in case" "what if" happens and our first line of defense fails. The old expression for this, as my Dad (a USAF fighter pilot and Supply Officer) taught me, "always have Plan B ready in case you can't use Plan A or it doesn't work."

Based on this kind of plan-

ning, your local disaster preparedness "team," made of city and county officials, law enforcement, EMS, Fire Department, and the School District's officials have looked at the possible situations that may occur and have made our Plan A and Plan B (some of us have it down to Plan H!). These plans are based on a great deal of cooperation and understanding. We have HAM radio operators ready to assist with the most important aspect of preparedness, which is how to stay in touch with the rest of the world

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Briefs ...

Exes Games

The 2001-2001 Varsity Tigerette Basketball Team will play an Exes Game on Saturday 29th at 4 PM. The Exes team is open to all Brackett Tigerette Ex Basketball players that would like to come out, and relive some of their old playing days. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Coach Nowlin at 563- 2155. If you are not interested in playing, still come on out, and enjoy watching some of your old favorites. Admission is free!

MUFON Meeting

MUFON, the Mutual UFO Network, announces its meeting to be held 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM Tues. Jan. 8, 2002 in the meeting room at Mr. Gatti's Pizza in Del Rio. MUFON's mission is the systematic collection and analysis of UFO data, with the ultimate goal of learning the origin and nature of the UFO phenomenon. Ron Hougland, retired Air Force and 10 year investigator for MUFON, will be the guest speaker. Discussion concerning field investigation and his trips to UFO conferences will take place. Please send comments or questions to mufon_dr@hotmail.com.

Poetry Contest

If you have written a love poem, listen up! The New York Poetry Alliance is sponsoring Poetry 2002, a free contest open to everyone. A \$1000 cash prize will be awarded to the winner. There are 28 prizes in all. The deadline for entering is January 5, 2002.

To enter, send poem 21 lines or less: New York Poetry Alliance, Box 1588, New York, NY 10116-1588. Or enter online at www.free contest.com.

Duplicate Bridge

Duplicate Bridge was played in the Gorgas Room at Fort Clark Springs on Tuesday evening, December 18, 2001. There were five full tables and the Mitchell Movement was used. The winners in the North/South were: 1st-Ann Malin and Ann Watts; 2nd-Nelda Thomason and Carolyn Rutledge; and 3rd-Joyce and Choppy Ambler. In the East/West, the winners were 1st-A tie between the Sara Richhart/Dena Scott team and the Sharon and Bob Boucher team; and 3rd-Kay Roberts and Dianna Daniels. If one talked to the East/West players, they would tell you the cards were nasty to them tonight, and the North/South teams would tell you the same thing. Interestingly enough, there were still winners on both sides.

INSIDE

- The way I see it!**
For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever.
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- Empowering Families**
A very wise man long ago said that our primary needs are for water, food and clothing and a house for our privacy and protection.
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- Making a difference**
Extra-curricular activities have been more successful in 2001. We're thankful for our dedicated teachers, coaches and support staff.
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Letter to the Editor

I have lived at Fort Clark Springs for a year now. I have enjoyed the people and the wonderful surroundings. I have enjoyed the endless sunsets, watching the deer from my front porch, swimming at the red bridge with my sons, catching fireflies under the pecan trees, swimming until nightfall, walking early in the morning on the trails, riding bikes past the stables, etc. The life out here is slower and appealing to close knit families like mine. I think most people agree with me and enjoy the Fort.

I suppose this year things may have to change. The horses will be gone (this is a shame considering this used to be a Calvary Fort); we can't catch fireflies (we can't go to the "back" after dark); swimming at sunset is a no-no anymore (swim park closing at dusk); we have to "cease" feeding the deer (ex-

plain that to a nine year old when our front lawn accumulates more deer than any other place); etc., etc. Of course all of this is ridiculous. If there are problems, making rules, putting up offensive signs, and limiting freedoms will not correct them. Every member, I am sure, is willing to help in any way they can to solve the problems that exist. We just need to be asked and consulted as to what to do. No one person should change the lives of so many and make our little Fort less special and unique. I hope that life does not change too much more out here. This is great, unique place to live and raise a family. However, if feeding deer is going to get me thrown in jail or fined, I may have to find another "little slice of heaven" to raise my family.

Sincerely,
Teresa Ketseloot



Christmas is over

The Way I See It
By Steven R. LaMascus

Well, as you read this, Christmas is over for another year. All the gifts are unwrapped, the dead pine tree is ready to be thrown away or burned in the fireplace, the grandkids have gone home, and the college group is preparing to leave home for the second semester, and I am depressed! But I have been thinking. I've decided I have been terribly narrow-minded; and I must correct that flaw in my character. I have decided that the liberals are correct. We need to be more tolerant and more cognizant of other's religious beliefs. Christmas is such an intolerant holiday. It leaves out all those other religions, and that just isn't fair. What about the Hindus? They haven't got a Christmas tradition because they don't believe in Jesus Christ. And the Buddhists; it isn't fair to leave them out either. I guess the only alternative is to do away with Christmas.

Of course we have to replace it with something more universally acceptable - more politically correct. How about Religious Tolerance Day? That would cover it all. We could decorate the RTD tree with little Buddhas riding Brahma bulls through little stars of David while carrying a baby in a manger. Yeah! That'd work. Nope, nope! Never mind. We left out the Shintos, Native Americans, Zulus, Aztecs, Muslims, and witches. Darn! I guess we'll just have to do away

with it all together.

Also, now that we're at it, Easter's gonna have to go too. It too is an intolerant observance of a strictly Christian belief. Besides, the Muslims don't believe Jesus died on the Cross; so having a holiday to commemorate such an occurrence is insulting to them. That just isn't acceptable! I know! We can replace Christmas and Easter with Ramadan and Hanukah. Yeah! Neither of those have anything to do with Christians so it's politically correct to observe them. That way our kids still get the days out of school, and the government offices can still be closed, and we can still get presents.... Yeah, all right!

If you think the above is a joke, you haven't been keeping up with the PC Gestapo news. All over the Northeast and the Left Coast, liberal minded, Christian intolerant, PC sycophants have been attacking our most sacred of holidays. Public schools and public offices run by small-minded, morally bankrupt bureaucrats have forbidden the display of Christian symbols and the participation in Christian pageants. It is saddening to contemplate, because there is no other religious group under attack by this mindless group of politically correct pack of wolves. It makes me wonder why. Why? The answer is really obvious. There is but one God and but one Son and anyone who does not worship the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, is lost in the abyss of evil. It really is that simple. There are only two

sides to this issue - Good and Evil. If you are on the side of good, the side of Christ, you feel compassion for those who are lost. You want, as God does, that none should be lost. But by the very nature of your belief, you cannot be tolerant of other religions, because they are false religions and therefore evil. They may not even know that the one they worship is in reality Satan. Most do not know that. But that doesn't make it any less of a truth.

A goodly portion of my own ancestry is American Indian; but I do not worship nature. I do not believe that there are holy spirits in everything. I understand that such a belief is in reality worshipping creation instead of the Creator. I would give my life, gladly, joyously, to make everyone understand what is to me so crystal clear.

There is but one Saviour. I, and millions of others like me, worship him and commemorate his birth every year on December twenty-fifth.

I don't know when he was really born, no one on earth does. But I will continue to celebrate his birth every year at Christmas, and his death, burial and resurrection at Easter; in spite of all the politically correct fools that Satan can muster. And when the end comes, I will be with him forever. Where will you be? Psalm 117 - "Praise the Lord, all you nations; extol him, all you peoples. For great is his love toward us, and the faithfulness of the Lord endures forever. Praise the Lord." NIV

To America's Veterans

Submitted by
Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez

(Washington, DC) In a series of votes today, the United States House of Representatives adopted a package of veterans benefits cosponsored by Congressman Ciro D. Rodriguez, a member of the House Veterans Affairs Committee. In addition to providing benefits for homeless veterans, the bills HR 2716, the Homeless Veterans Assistance Act, HR 1291, the Veterans Education and Benefits Expansion Act, and HR 2540, the Veteran's Benefits Act, are designed to improve critical health and education programs administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

"We have a long way to go before the VA meets its obligations, but today's action on the House Floor was a step in the right direction," Congressman Rodriguez said. "Disabilities, mental and physical illnesses, homelessness, and other profound sacrifices have all taken a tremendous toll on America's veterans. And one thing is painfully clear: we owe them more than bureaucracy and broken promises. Reform is imperative." The package of bills passed by Congress today includes a 2.6% cost-of-living adjustment to those receiving dis-

ability compensation benefits, streamlines the system by which veterans qualify for health care benefits associated with service-connected illnesses and disabilities, and increases the educational stipend available under the popular Montgomery G.I. Bill. Among other important provisions, Congress today voted to expand access to higher education for veterans by increasing the G.I. Bill's current monthly education stipend from \$650 to \$800 in FY02, ultimately reaching \$985 by FY04. "Educational benefits are the military's best recruiting tool, and the Montgomery G.I. Bill must be modernized to meet today's demands," Congressman Rodriguez said. "Although Congress should be working to cover the full cost of tuition, fees, books and supplies for veterans, this modest increase in the Montgomery GI benefit is a step in the right direction."

The legislative package passed today guarantees the service connected disability benefits they deserve. "The tragic illnesses that plague our veterans should not be ignored simply because doctors cannot yet diagnose the causes," Congressman Rodriguez said.

And among other important education and health care benefits, the House today passed

bipartisan legislation that targets the specialized needs of an often neglected population within the veterans community - the homeless.

A VA report issued last year found that during 1999 there were an estimated 350,000 homeless veterans. "Suffering from mental illnesses and drug addiction, homeless American veterans have very little access to health care services," Congressman Rodriguez said.

"I was pleased to join an overwhelming majority of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to approve legislation that addresses the terrible inadequacies in health care services through additional resources and aggressive outreach programs designed to help our homeless veterans." "The September 11 attacks were an especially stark reminder of just how fragile our freedom truly is," Congressman Rodriguez said. "In response, America's brave men and women in uniform have answered a new call to action, carrying the banner of freedom into Afghanistan in search of the those responsible for the horrific attacks. When they return home, these brave sons and daughters need to be assured that their country will be there for them in their time of need."

Just a letter from home

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

As our nation fights the War on Terrorism, we place our lives and liberties in the hands of the brave men and women fighting on the front lines. These individuals risk their lives every day to preserve our freedom and safety.

While we attend holiday parties and decorate our trees, our troops find themselves alone in foreign territory.

Now, more than ever, it is paramount that we rally behind our troops and show our support.

When I think of our troops away from home over the holiday season, I am reminded of a story I heard many years ago. During the Vietnam War, Sgt. Billy Thompson sent a simple holiday request to news columnist Abigail Van Buren. He suggested that "just a letter from home" would make a wonderful Christmas present. This resulted in the holiday letter writing campaign called "Operation Dear Abby."

For 17 years, American citizens sent letters and cards to servicemen deployed away from home.

These cards served to boost morale and spread holiday cheer to thousands of military personnel.

Many years later, during Operation Desert Storm, a new letter-writing campaign was born. Rather than focus only on the holiday season, "Any Service member" aimed to promote troops morale year round. During operations in Bosnia, the campaign continued to grow and brought joy to many members of armed services.

Unfortunately, recent threats of Anthrax and biological warfare, have made delivering large amounts of mail to our troops unsafe.

The Department of Defense was forced to announce that both of these highly successful campaigns would be indefinitely suspended.

In the midst of a new kind of war, we must find new means of supporting our servicemen and women.

In light of these events, the Navy created a web-based alternative to traditional letter-writing campaigns.

The new "Any Servicemember" web site, provides a simple system to send e-mail greetings to our troops. Anyone wishing a reply to their message, need only to include a return e-mail address.

This simple process allows those sending the message to those whose branch of the military to send their greetings.

While our troops will miss the brightly-colored envelopes and picturesque cards, they are excited about the convenience of e-mail.

As our troops face new challenges, we must demonstrate the true conviction for our armed services.

Each person must do their part to help boost the morale of those who will not be home for the holidays.

I urge each of you to participate in this thoughtful and patriotic campaign.

It will take only a few minutes, but think of the joy it will bring to these very special and admirable men and women.

For more information about the Navy's "Any Servicemember" campaign visit www.any.servicemember.navy.mil.

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!



About the time one learns to make the most of life, the most of it is gone.

The Brackett News

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Local author speaks about history of Lake Amistad Schobel takes 13 point

By Frances McMaster
Contributing Writer

At the December 13 Rotary Club meeting, Doug Braudaway, an educator and historian from Del Rio, presented an interesting program on the history behind Lake Amistad.

Water rights and usage are a topic of importance today as the state plans ways to meet the anticipated demands of population growth expected in the near future. Braudaway's subject reminds us that water rights and usage have historically been of utmost importance, particularly in this part of the state where we seemed destined to feast or famine where weather is concerned. Drought conditions seem to alternate with downpours.

Link this to the fact that over twelve hundred miles of the Rio Grande River is International Border, you can understand why this subject is intertwined with the history of Texas.

When Texas declared its independence in 1836, The Rio Grande River was designated as its southern and western boundary. Mexico recognized the Rio Grande as boundary in 1848 with the Guadalupe-Hidalgo Treaty.

Using a river as a boundary seems a natural way to divide territory. However, the problems that can arise are endless. Rivers never settle down to flow in one straight line; they consistently move with time.

Flooding can devastate property and endanger lives, and when efforts are made to control flooding by building dams, property rights on both sides of the river are involved. When this involves two different countries, the possibilities for dispute are serious indeed. Who owns the water that is captured? Who gets how much of the water that is

released?
Texas history is replete with treaties having to do with the Rio Grande River. In 1889 the International Boundary Commission was created to carry out rules for maintaining the boundary. In 1906 the first of several conventions met to consider water rights and usage.

The Treaty of February 3, 1944 addressed the task of utilizing the waters of the Colorado, the Tijuana Rivers, and

the Rio Grande. The Commission's name was changed to that "International Boundary and Water Commission". It set up rules for usage of the waters of the Rio Grande and the tributaries including the Devil's River, San Felipe Creek and Arroyo Las Vacas. It planned for three dams to be constructed on the Rio Grande for purposes of flood control and water management; one on the lower channel, a second on

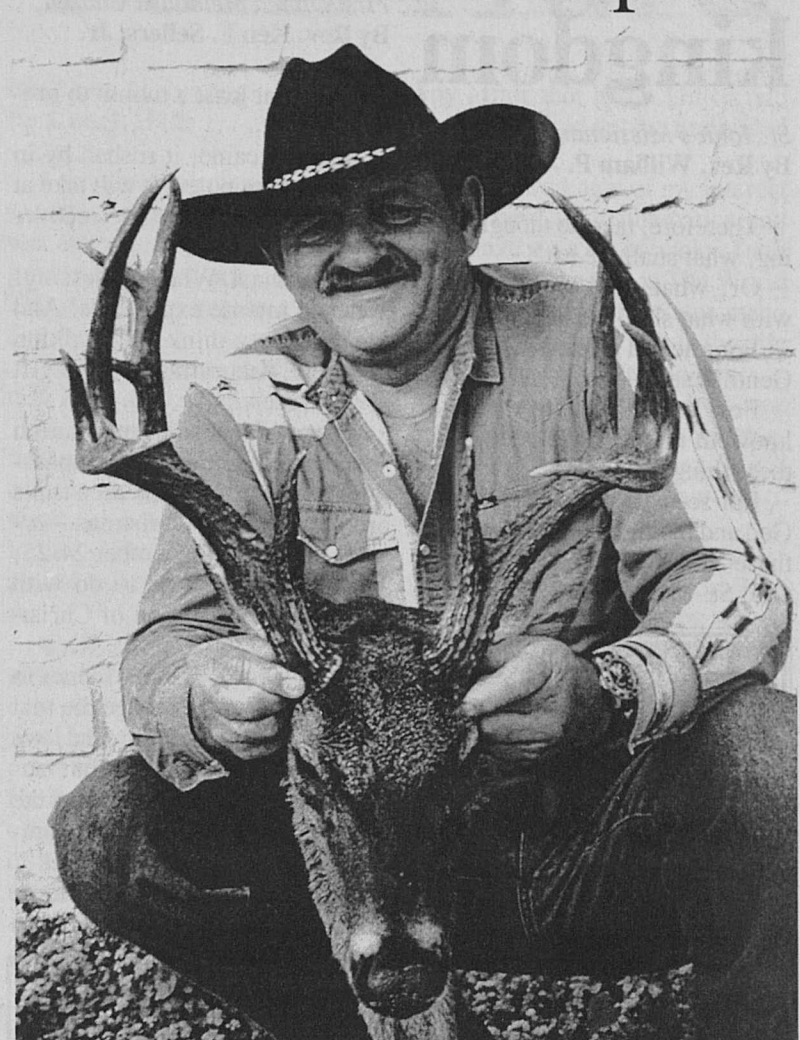
the middle area, and finally on the upper reaches of the river.

The lower dam was constructed first. Falcon Dam was completed in 1953. That year the weather was dry, but in 1954 a flood wreaked havoc in Del Rio/Cuidad Acuna, Eagle Pass/Piedras Negras, and Laredo/Nuevo Laredo. However, Falcon saved the valley from destruction, but north of Falcon several international bridges were destroyed.

This disastrous occurrence inspired the people in the flooded areas to pressure for the continuation of the flood control project. Several sites were studied and the confluence of the Devil's River and Rio Grande was chosen since this would catch floodwaters from those rivers as well as the Pecos. President Kennedy never came to Del Rio, but he met with the Mexican president several times in El Paso concerning the dam and encouraged better relations with Mexico before his assassination. Presidents Eisenhower, Johnson, and Nixon visited Del Rio along with Mexican Presidents Lopez Mateos and Diaz Ordaz while work was in progress. Both President Ordaz

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Schobel takes 13 point



Frank Schobel shot this 13 point on December 16th. The deer was estimated at 152 B&C and was shot on Schobel's property located on Leona Ranch.

Ring bags Big Horn



Pictured above Chris Ring with his 165+ B&C Desert Big Horn. Ring shot the 9 year old ram in Nevada.

Chris Ring killed this Nelson Desert Big Horn Sheep December 14th, near Las Vegas, Nevada. The 9 year old ram scored 165+, just a little under the 168 necessary to make the Boone and Crockett records.

This was Ring's first time to

kill a Nelson Desert Big Horn, a subspecies of Mexicali Desert Big Horn which are usually found in Arizona, New Mexico and Mexico. The Big Horn Sheep is one of the most difficult species to obtain in the United States.

Governor visits Lions Club

By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

The Brackettville Lions Club met in regular meeting on Thursday, Dec. 6 at Los Moras Restaurant. The tables were beautifully decorated for Christmas, thanks to Lion Norma Connor.

Following dinner, Lion Marvin Koenig, District Governor, spoke to the members and guests of all the projects carried out by District 2-A2. Because

FEMA will not serve Hondo, following the devastating storms, Texas lions gave \$5000 and LCIF gave \$10,000 to families in need.

Lion Marvin also spoke about the Leader Dog program. People can visit and be blindfolded and work with a dog as if they were blind, to get an idea of how dog and human work together. A new dorm for dogs and those learning to use them is going to be built. Bricks are being sold at a \$100 per brick

to finance the dorm. Governor pins are now on sale at \$4.00 each or two for \$7.00. Lion Walt Bauguess was recognized for bringing a new member into the club.

A beautifully framed picture of the Alamo was given to Lion Marvin and a Christmas centerpiece to Lion Linda. The Parade of Checks, donations to all the entities which are part of District 2-A2's service, followed. This annual donation helps to make Brackettville Lions a 100% club.

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God's Acknowledge God's will A song of Christmas kingdom

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

Therefore, take no thought saying, what shall we eat? Or, what shall we drink? Or with what shall we be clothed? For after all these things do the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knoweth that ye have need of all these things. But seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you. St. Matt. 6:31-32.

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

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

It took at least a month to prepare for it! When it came, it rushed by in a matter of minutes! It will take at least a couple of weeks to recover from it! Christmas! What a blessing! What an intense experience! And you probably think I am talking about the decorating and the gift giving/receiving! There is a reason the church spends so much time in preparation during Advent and then tacks on the season of Christmas - after the event on December 24/25. The reason has little to do with our normal perception of Christmas.

Sure, we add manger scenes to our home to acknowledge the real reason for the season. And, we also sing some music that acknowledges the coming birth of the Son of God (though we much prefer, I think, "Jingle Bell Rock," "White Christmas," "I'll be Home for Christmas," Jeff Foxworthy's

"Twelve Redneck Days of Christmas," or other seasonal classics we hear on the radio). Too often we want to be serious about the Christian reason for Christmas but get caught up in the secular celebration.

So - the church uses the season of Advent to speak to us about "the return" of Christ more so than the birth.

The celebration of Christ's return hasn't yet been turned into a holiday that can be misused (notice, I did say, "Yet!").

Our preparation activities in the church have been centered on getting ready for Christ to come in final victory and claim us as the kingdom unfolds in its final glory. We want to be prepared so that we are not "left behind." This preparation is not about decorating a tree, the house or the lawn. It is not about buying gifts for those who will buy one for us. It is not about adding our signature to cards that express best wishes. It is about preparing ourselves to be worthy of being included in God's kingdom. It is about acknowledging where we have fallen from God's guidance and picking ourselves up to follow what we know is God's will. It is about repentance!

If Christ came today, would you be prepared?

If you died today, would you be prepared? Isn't it time to get started?

It isn't just 363 shopping days until Christmas, it may be days, hours, minutes, or even seconds until Christ comes to see if you are ready to join him as part of the eternal kingdom of God. Are you ready?

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

Come and receive God's gift of forgiveness as we prepare for the return of our Savior. You deserve it!

St. Mary Magdalene Church
By Lynn McNew

Ace Collins is the author of Turn Your Radio On and The Cathedrals, both celebrating the tremendous power of music to touch and change lives. An award-winning author with over fifty books to his credit, he has appeared on scores of television shows, including CBS This Morning, NBC Nightly News, CNN, Good Morning America, MSNBC, and Entertainment Tonight. I became familiar with Ace Collins' work when I read his book Stories Behind the Best-loved Songs of Christmas. It is full of interesting stories about well-known and not-so-well-known music that is associated with the Christmas season. One of the songs I find most interesting is a song not usually associated with sacred Christmas music, but rather as a "nonsensical number" similar to "Grandma Got Run Over By A Reindeer" or "I Saw Mommy Kissing Santa Claus." I am referring to "The Twelve Days of Christmas." This song was written during the time of King Henry VIII, a time in church history when Roman Catholics were not allowed to practice their faith in England. Therefore, they had to find secret ways to keep their beliefs alive, a secret code to teach the messages of doctrine and faith to their children.

First of all, the twelve days were a simple mark of the time between Christ's birth and the Epiphany, the time when the wise men came to honor the newly born king. Every Catholic child was taught that only pure and true love came from God, so they understood that this song was about a heavenly love, the True Love is God and the Me who receives the presents is the Christian.

The single partridge in a pear tree represented courage and devotion above what man ever showed on earth. A mother partridge will sacrifice her own life for her children, so did Christ for us. The pear tree symbolized the cross and so the first gift represented the ultimate gift given by the Babe born on Christmas Day.

The two turtle doves, symbols of truth and peace, stood for both the Old and New Testaments of the Bible. French hens were once food for only the very rich, therefore, three French hens symbolized the expensive gifts brought by the wise men.

The four calling birds stood for the authors of the Gospels that trumpeted the story of Jesus. In keeping with the biblical theme, the five rings stood for the five Old Testament books that Christians knew as the "law of Moses" and Jews refer to as the "Torah."

"Six geese a-laying" may have seemed like a silly gift, but in reality was incredibly logical. The Lord made the world in six days and eggs are the symbol for new life and creation. Paul speaks in Romans 12:6-8 of the "gifts of the Holy Spirit" -- prophecy, service, teaching, encouraging, giving, leadership and mercy, which children were taught moved in your life as easily as a swan on water, when you walked with God, thus seven swans a-swimming.

"Eight maids a-milking" represented the common man whom Christ had come to serve and save. At the time the song was written, no job in England was lower than working with cattle or in a barn, and for a female servant to be used in this way indicated that she was of little worth to her master. Yet Christ served, still today, all people without regard to status, race, sex, or creed. The number eight represented the beatitudes in

Matthew 5:3-10. In the verse that followed, the fruits of the Spirit -- love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control, were hidden by the image of nine ladies dancing. "Ten lords a-leaping" represented the Ten Commandments. Since a lord was supposed to be a just and honorable man and the final voice of law in his domain, it was understandable why ten lords would represent the ten laws God gave His people through Moses.

There were twelve disciples, but in the end one of them did not embrace Christ or his message of salvation.

The eleven pipers piping thus served as the image of the eleven apostles who took the message of Christ's life and resurrection to the world. A very important confessional prayer familiar to even many non-Catholics is the Apostles Creed. This prayer contains a dozen different elements and the drum, in twelve drummers drumming, was probably used as a symbol of the rhythm that this creed gave each believer's daily walk with the Lord.

Over the years as the practice of Catholicism was no longer a crime in England, the words to this song had probably taken on the life of their own and did not seem linked to the birth of the Savior. Even today, a song that has been sung and recorded many hundred times can rarely be sung without laughter as its unusual message and the air capacity it takes to get through it.

Perhaps the fun that masked its original intent is why "The Twelve Days of Christmas" has survived for so long.

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

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in the coming
New Year.*

With special thanks for your friendship in the past.

*Darlene &
Jully Shahan*

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Loving each other

Gateway Ministries
By Pastor Charlotte Corey

"Survivor" is a popular show with many people in the United

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States today.

It is made up of chosen people who all compete to win a million dollars.

In doing so, they make alliances to vote other people out; they gossip, connive, and often do underhanded things to one another, lie, and encourage rifts between others...all in the name of becoming the "winner".

God has called each of us believers to become "soul" survivors, that is, surviving over the lies, thefts and attacks from people used by the devil.

To do this, one must use different tactics than what the world uses.

Instead of lying about one another, God tells us to speak the truth, for the truth shall make you free.

Instead of making alliances that

exclude people from the kingdom, God calls us to preach the gospel and call them in.

Instead of backbiting and gossiping about others, God tells us to forgive, encourage, and train people in what is right, not walking in condemnation of others, but showing mercy and grace even as God has given to us forgiveness, mercy, and grace.

Instead of voting people out because they are strong and would be a threat against you, God tells us to build each other up, loving each other even as he has loved us.

In God's eyes, the "winner" is not the one who has prevailed to the end by sly plotting, immunities, and being the last one that everyone likes above all others; instead, "the winner", in God's

eyes, is every one of us who endures to the end in faith.

God shows us that the true winner is the one who believes in Jesus with all their heart, mind, soul, and body.

The winner is the one who does not let the devil steal the living word of God from them, but acts upon it daily.

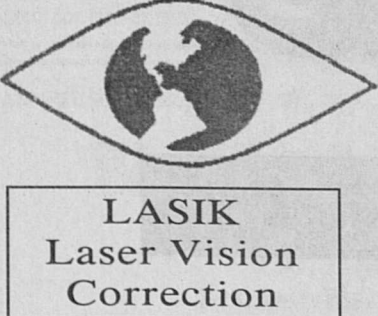
Believing in and receiving Jesus as your Lord and Savior and having your sins covered in his blood is the only "immunity" which will save a person from eternal damnation.

Winners are not limited to one person. It is God's will that all be saved.

Choose Jesus and become a "Soul Survivor"

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

Sanjiv R. Kumar, M.D., P.A.
Board Certified Ophthalmologist
Surgery and Diseases of the Eye



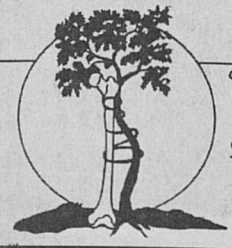
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Choir Practice at 10:15 am
Worship at 10:45 am

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Worship Service - 11 a.m.
Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.
Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

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

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BISD receives recognition Tom Hurd

Making a Difference
By Taylor Stephenson

Happy New Year! Our community anxiously awaits 2002 with optimism and enthusiasm. Visitors to Brackettville for Christmas emphatically told me that they believe Kinney County to be a safe haven from many of the world's problems. These folks were delighted to spend Christmas here while getting away from the pressures of city life. When we work together, we can accomplish our dreams for 2002!

This Christmas season, I thought many times about Allen McCord who epitomizes Jimmy Valvano's (Jimmy V) of don't ever give up! He has been a source of strength and inspiration this past year. Allen was a fine coach and athletic director who is respected by those many lives that he has touched. Clara has buoyed up Allen's spirit. Thanks Allen for all that you have given.

At school, we are closing out a grand year. Our schools have re-

ceived recognition throughout Texas for high academic achievement. Extra-curricular activities have been more successful in 2001. We're thankful for our dedicated teachers, coaches and support staff.

Have you seen the new scoreboard in the school gym? Thanks to Board member Ronnie Hobbs for getting the ball rolling on this project. The Bank and Trust donated half of the cost of the impressive new digital board. Our hometown bank is supportive of our school system and community and we are appreciative of their efforts. Exciting games are scheduled for the months of January and February. Take time to come and see the Tigers and Tigerettes play.

Richard Terrazas gives so much to the school system. He takes pride in making things better. Richard is our director of maintenance and transportation. We're grateful to Richard for all that he does.

Cordelia Mendeke makes a dif-

ference for the school system. She drives a bus and works as part time security for the school district. Cordelia has helped many of our errant children find their way back to regular school attendance. She secures BISD's buildings and grounds each night. We're appreciative of her efforts.

There are many more. I'll try to highlight a person or two each week so that you can become familiar with the staff in 2002. In behalf of the Board of Trustees of BISD, Happy New Year! Have a great week!

But I could be wrong
By Chuck Hall

Last week I wrote about an old baseball picture. In the photograph was at least one person that I have great respect and admiration for. The photographer was also such a man.

The person that took that picture I am sure was a man named Tom Hurd. He was the general manager for the Rio Grande Electric Coop. My mother would always correct me if I called it the R-E-A. She would ask if she should refer to our school as T-E-A.

Back to Mr. Hurd. Photography was his hobby. He took countless pictures for the school. He would spend his own money to provide photos for the yearbook. He developed his own film. I've often wondered how many hours of his personal time he spent setting up a shoot for some event.

Any affair that had a kid or two involved would get his undivided attention.

Mr. Hurd knew of my interest in the field of mathematics and once gave me a set of books. I still have them. The title is The World Of Mathematics. It relates many interesting stories about the life and times of mathematicians.

Those books (along with one called Journey Through Genius, that Kathy Bader gave me) are still among my favorite choices of reading materials.

I never pick up one of those books that I don't think about Tom Hurd. He went out of his way to try to encourage my numerical curiosity and promote my continuation into the study of math. He was a very intelligent man. He wanted me to pursue my desire to get a college education and major in math. Picture that. His efforts were not in vain. But I could be wrong.

Tigerette Basketball

The Varsity Tigerette Basketball Team upped their season record to 6 wins and 8 losses, with an exciting win over the La Pryor Bulldogs on Tuesday 18th. The Tigerettes were lead by Duquesa Hunt with 14 points and 15 rebounds. Also by Ashley Smith and Stephanie Bonner with 9 and 8 points. Also playing well was Allison LaMascus, Celia DeLeon, and Stacey Castilla. The Tigerettes are off for the holidays until the Exes Game on the 29th of December. Coach Nowlin.

Brackett ISD Activity Calendar

Saturday, December 29
1:00 PM BKB JVB/VB S.A. School of Excel (H), 5:00 PM BKB VG Tigerette Exes (H)

BEST WISHES TO YOU AND YOURS FOR A SAFE AND HAPPY HOLIDAY SEASON... MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

EMS Training Program

Continued from Page 1

and let them know what we need. County Judges and Emergency Management Coordinators have met several times to form a regional concept of emergency preparedness, Homeland Security, as mandated by Governor Perry.

Truth be told, the most likely event is an incident elsewhere in the state that requires local assistance to "refugees" (who would have ever thought that word would be used in the USA for people within this country!) From other areas stricken by acts of terrorism or side-effects of terrorism. That means we must have in place plans to open shelters and have food for these folks. I know the American Red Cross has taken some pretty serious "hits" lately, but the truth is that the American Red Cross in this area will be there, along with many other public service organizations (our local Lions' and Rotary Clubs, Salvation Army, to mention only a few) assisting with all the "side-effects" of sheltering people (food, water, clothing,

trained volunteers).

Here's an update on our Kinney County EMS Training Program in conjunction with South West Texas Junior College's hectic calendar for next year. Our first EMS Initial course, EMT Intermediate, starts on January 29, 2002 and runs two nights a week through April. The building block for EMS, the Emergency Medical Technician - Basic course will start in late May 2002 and last for about four months.

To be eligible to take the Intermediate course, you must be currently certified through Texas Department of Health as EMT Basic. Later in the year we plan a Paramedic course (570 hours long!). If you are interested, please call us or visit us.

On a personal note, I wish everyone in Kinney County and the faithful readers from "outside" a very Merry Christmas and prosperous New Year in 2002. I hope in the hustle and bustle of holiday planning and activities we all remember what C-h-r-i-s-t in Christ-

mas represents. Please stay safe during your travels during the holidays and the new year. Don't forget to "Buckle Up." Please drive responsibly. If you have an emergency, call 9-1-1. Your EMS is a 24 hour system.

The first ambulance committed to an EMS call is required to have a minimum of two TDH certified personnel on board. Units responding subsequently while the first unit is committed to patient care are allowed to deviate from this requirement through a Personnel Variance.

This variance permits those secondary units to respond with less than TDH required personnel; this means that there may be one TDH certified attendant with a non-certified driver. Be assured, however, that there will always be at least one EMS certified attendant with our patients. For information on EMS or Homeland Security, come by the office Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. at 401 S. Ellen St. or call 830-563-9090.

A loving family

Empowering Families
By Dr. Donald Smith

"Mama, why can't we live in a nice house and have a new car like everybody else?" Ten-year-old Danny was asking what many children ask as they grow older and compare their own circumstances to that of others.

"Danny, who do you know that lives in a nice house and has a new car?" Jan asked.

"Ricky," said Danny. "His mom and dad always have a new car and their house is real nice with lots of big rooms. They have bathrooms everywhere and lots of space to play."

"Why can't we live like that?" "Ricky comes over to play with

you a lot. Does he ever say anything about our house?" Jan asked. "No, Mama, he doesn't. But I still feel bad about our house compared to his."

"Look Danny," Jan said. "I can understand your feelings. Sometimes I feel that way too because some of my friends live in big houses and have new cars. I thank God for good friends who love me not because of my house or my car but because we are friends. And I always look up to Heaven and thank God for what I have."

Taking her son in her arms and holding him close she continued, "I thank God for a wonderful husband and for my beautiful children."

I thank him for all the love in

our home. Our family is more important than all the new cars and big houses in the world.

Danny, a very wise man long ago said that our primary needs are for water, food and clothing and a house for our privacy and protection. It is far better to be poor and live under your own roof than to be rich and live under debt. We're to be content with what we have and not pay attention to those who would disparage our home. The best of all is to have a good name and a loving family (Sirach 29: 21-23)."

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

Coming together for joint project

Continued from Page 3

and Nixon were present at the dedication when Amistad was completed.

Amistad is the third largest International Reservoir in the world. The dam is important because it's visionary nature and the international cooperation involved in building it. The upper dam was

not built because the Big Bend area was designated a National Park, and the population did not develop in that area. The construction of Amistad proved to be vital to border cities; Braudaway believes it saved them in the Flood of 1998.

The name Amistad was chosen by the presidents involved to sym-

bolize the friendship, agreements and cooperation required of the two countries coming together for this joint project.

The same kind of cooperation will be required in the future as Texas struggles to provide water for its increasing population. Perhaps Amistad will serve as an inspiration.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report...

Monday, December 17
8:50 p.m., Seth Aaron Kaplan, 36, from Brackettville was arrested for probation violation by Deputy Karl Chism. Kaplan is still being held.

10:56 p.m., Deputy Chism responded to an open door of a building near Hwy 90.

Tuesday, December 18
12:46 a.m., Deputy Chism responded to a possible break-in, in Fort Clark.

5:30 p.m., Reserve Deputy Manuel Pena Sr., responded to goats out on Hwy 131 north.

8:00 p.m., One of the traffic lights on Hwy 90 were reported burned out. An employee from the Texas Department of Transportation was advised.

8:26 p.m., A man reported the glass door at the post office was broken. Employees from the Post Office were notified.

Wednesday, December 19
5:04 a.m., A man reported a one vehicle roll-over. DPS Trooper Richard Slubar and EMS were notified.

6:49 a.m., DPS Trooper Cano reported a train blocking traffic on Hwy 131. Trooper Slubar notified the railroad company.

1:10 p.m., Deputy Larry Robinson responded to goats on Hwy 131.

7:09 p.m., A woman requested a deputy. Chief Deputy Johnny

Fritter responded.

Thursday, December 20
2:09 a.m., A man reported a car with a loud muffler passing by his residence.

5:58 p.m., Chief of Police Arnulfo Alonzo responded to a broken window.

6:30 p.m. Ruby Lucille Medina, 30, from Brackettville, was arrested by Chief Alonzo for Criminal Mischief Misdemeanor/A. Medina was released on a P.R. Bond by Judge Raymer for \$500.

8:00 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to a sexual assault report.

9:05 p.m., DPS Trooper Tony Ashley reported an abandoned vehicle west on Hwy 90. Deputy Pena responded.

Friday, December 21
2:00 a.m., A woman reported a trash can from the Elementary had caught on fire. Deputy Pena responded.

12:30 p.m., A man reported his truck had been hit while parked at a local store.

1:30 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to a harassment report.

5:00 p.m., A woman reported a horse was damaging her fence. Deputy Pena was advised.

7:20 p.m. A woman requested a deputy. Deputy Pena responded.

Saturday, December 22
12:08 a.m., Miche T. Johnson, 28, from San Antonio, was arrested for an open container, Driv-

ing While Intoxicated 1st by Trooper Ashley. Johnson was released on a P.R. Bond the same day.

2:10 p.m., Deputy Pena responded to stolen tires.

7:32 p.m., The Del Rio Police station called to report a possible drunk driver fifteen miles east of town. The Uvalde Police Station was informed about the situation.

9:43 p.m., Deputy Chism responded to a domestic problem.

9:57 p.m., Samuel Fernandez, 22, from Brackettville, was arrested for Public Intoxication by Deputy Chism. Fernandez is still being held.

Sunday, December 23
12:23 a.m., Deputy Chism responded to loud music on El Paso St.

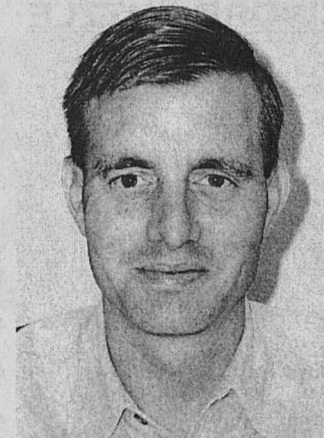
3:00 a.m., Jose Luis Trevino, 37, from Eagle Pass, was arrested by Deputy Chism for disorderly conduct. Trevino was released the same day at 1:30 p.m. for time served.

7:53 a.m., A woman requested a city employee at her residence. A city employee was advised.

3:48 p.m., A woman reported an elderly couple walking on Hwy 90 west, by the Sycamore Creek. Trooper Ashley was notified.

6:15 p.m., A man reported a water leak at his residence. A city employee was advised.

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14				15					16			
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58						59			60			61
62						63			64			
65						66			67			

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, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: EUROPEAN NATIONS

A	K	K	D	D	N	A	L	T	O	C	S	1. France
R	S	M	Y	N	A	M	R	E	G	K	S	2. _____
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N	I	L	O	P	B	I	A	N	E	S	Z	6. _____
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I	T	B	E	A	E	A	A	D	E	E	R	8. _____
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Trivia Time by Walter Branch

1. What Irish playwright said, "To love oneself is the beginning of a lifelong romance"?
2. What famous London residence is called "Buck House"?
3. Who proposed a national health insurance program during a 1940s State of the Union address?
4. What is on the foot in the Goodyear logo?
5. What cocktail was first mixed at the Occidental Hotel in San Francisco in 1860?
6. What Italian city is known as the "Bride of the Sea" and the "Jewel of the Adriatic"?
7. What is the main color of the Ford auto logo?
8. In what prison were Julius and Ethel Rosenberg executed?
9. What was the last city in the U.S. to offer nickel subway rides?
10. What is Elaine's last name in the movie, "The Graduate"?

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

December 27.....Margarita Pena	December 29.....Clarissa Aguirre
December 27.....Christina Smith	December 29.....Joan Boutwell
December 27.....J.J. Smith	December 29.....Myrna Gonzalez
December 27.....Taylor Stephenson	December 29.....Judy Hooker
December 28.....Kerry Barry	December 31.....Jerry Adams
December 28.....Hortencia Castro	January 1.....Tootsie Herndon
December 28.....Tiny Castro	January 1.....Valerie Vela
December 28.....Jessie Garcia	January 2.....Amanda Meek
January 2.....Jerry Taugner	

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

ARIES (March 21 to April 19) It's a week of family togetherness. Be sure, though, to reach out to the less fortunate in your community. Over the weekend, take time to rest and regroup.

TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) You make some new friends at a holiday party. These contacts will be helpful in the future. Later in the week, pay attention to a child's needs.

GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) Although you're celebrating the holiday, you have work on your mind. Don't let this distract you too much. This is a time for family.

CANCER (June 21 to July 22) You're trying to cram too much celebrating into too little time. Slow down. You'll need to conserve your energy.

LEO (July 23 to August 22) You enjoy this season of socializing. At the same time, seek out time alone to reflect on the meaning of the holiday. Share your insights with others.

VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) You're on an all-time holiday high. However, someone close to you is being decidedly "grinchy." Don't let this person spoil your mood.

LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) You are the consummate host this week. Others envy your ability to be so gracious. Toward the end of the week, a minor work crisis erupts.

SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) Some receive a special surprise gift. You don't need to worry about reciprocating. Accept this in the spirit in which it's given.

SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) You do some holiday entertaining at home. However, there are some parties you're obligated to attend. Avoid those with a negative frame of mind.

CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) You renew special ties with family members. Some had been on the outs for quite a while. You play a key role in mediating peace.

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) The accent this week is on family. However, your friends aren't far from your mind either. Fortunately, you're able to juggle both deftly.

PISCES (February 19 to March 20) A friend you hadn't heard from in a while makes a surprise visit. Take this in stride. This person isn't known for consistency.

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Roaring Twenties Solution:

1. Albania	11. Ireland
2. Andorra	12. Italy
3. Austria	13. Luxembourg
4. Belgium	14. Norway
5. Finland	15. Poland
6. France	16. Scotland
7. Germany	17. Spain
8. Greece	18. Sweden
9. Hungary	19. Switzerland
10. Iceland	20. Yugoslavia

Trivia Time Answers (c) 2001 DBR Media, Inc.
 1. Oscar Wilde; 2. Buckingham Palace; 3. Harry Truman; 4. A wing; 5. The martini; 6. Venice; 7. Blue; 8. Sing Sing; 9. New York City; 10. Robinson

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

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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.

\$BIG MONEY\$ - N.T.S. Placement Company needs drivers. Inexperienced up to \$600. Experienced up to \$1000. Pay up to 42 cpm. Paid training, if you qualify. 1-888-781-8556. Tractor Trailer Training.

DRIVER - COMPANY - CONTRACTORS. No NYC - Super Regional 10-14 days out. Pay for experience up to 33 cpm Company. 82 cpm Contractors. 1-800-454-2887, Arnold Transportation.

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-PAV (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 - JINGLE YOUR pockets at Continental Express! Fridays are paydays. Miles are great. 2-Day Orientation. 6 months OTR, Class "A" required. Happy Holiday! 1-800-727-4374.

DRIVER - TIRED OF Grocery Warehouses. Lumpers, long waits, loading and unloading? Up to 38 cpm + \$40 tarp pay. Call 1-800-635-8669 today. 6 months OTR required. O/O's needed - up to 90 cpm.

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DRIVERS: OWNER/OPERATORS needed for expanding flatbed operation in TX & OK. Earn up to 80%. Pay twice weekly. Trailers available. Call Doyle, 1-888-549-6593.

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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.

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).

DRIVER - YOUR EXPERIENCE pays at SRT. Now hiring experienced OTR drivers to run 48 states and Canada. Class A CDL required. Sign-on bonuses for 1 year plus experience. Student graduates welcome. Call SRT today, 1-877-244-7293 or 1-877-BIG-PAYDAY.

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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.

FOR RENT

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.

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

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

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

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RIO GRANDE ELECTRIC Cooperative, Inc. (RGEC) 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 RGEC office and must be mailed to RGEC, Administrative Department, P.O. Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas, 78832. Applications must be postmarked on or before January 2, 2002. RGEC is an EOE.

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Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
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Christmas
and
Happy New
Year 2002!

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• 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.

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

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.

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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

Sorority enjoys Christmas party

By Lynn McNew
Contributing Writer

The Preceptor Theta Sigma Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi enjoyed a delicious salad supper on Monday, December 17th at the home of Pat McKelvy. She invited everyone to tour her home, which was beautifully decorated for Christmas. President Arlys Huey, Doraline Kellar, Pat McKelvy, Lynn McNew, Janie Meredith, Louise Pflughoeft, Molly Schroeder, Arlys Simpson and Bobbie Waddill. The next meeting will be Monday, Jan 7th, with Shirley Hadsell as hostess.

Hadsell in the role of Santa Claus, many beautiful and unusual gifts were revealed, as well as the names of Secret Sisters. Members then drew names for a new Secret Sister for 2001-2002.

Members present were Katie Brown, Jan Chism, B. J. Eckenrod, Luella Gilliland, Lou Green, Shirley Hadsell, Hawkins Huey, Doraline Kellar, Pat McKelvy, Lynn McNew, Janie Meredith, Louise Pflughoeft, Molly Schroeder, Arlys Simpson and Bobbie Waddill.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

Grid with crossword puzzle answers: SPAT, CROPS, MAMA, LANE, HURRY, OXEN, ORAL, ASTER, OLIO, BALLAST, SIGNERS, ERE, BEARS, AVERT, TUT, EERIE, SONS, ARM, METERS, SIT, ADAPTED, LAS, ELECTS, BEN, RITE, TAROT, ARE, LATEX, CASTS, CAP, CABARET, COMPOST, IIOI, VICAR, OGLE, ITIN, EROSE, REIN, ISLE, NENES, TEDS

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



END OF THE YEAR

STARTS THURSDAY 9-9

BLOWOUT SALE

NO DOWN PAYMENT NO INTEREST TILL JANUARY 2003

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*INTEREST FREE TIL 2003!!

LOWEST PRICES OF THE SEASON...

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*Subject to credit approval \$899 minimum purchase. Special orders require 20% down payment does not apply to prior purchases. See store for details. Interest accrues from date of purchase, but will be deducted if paid in full by January 1, 2003.

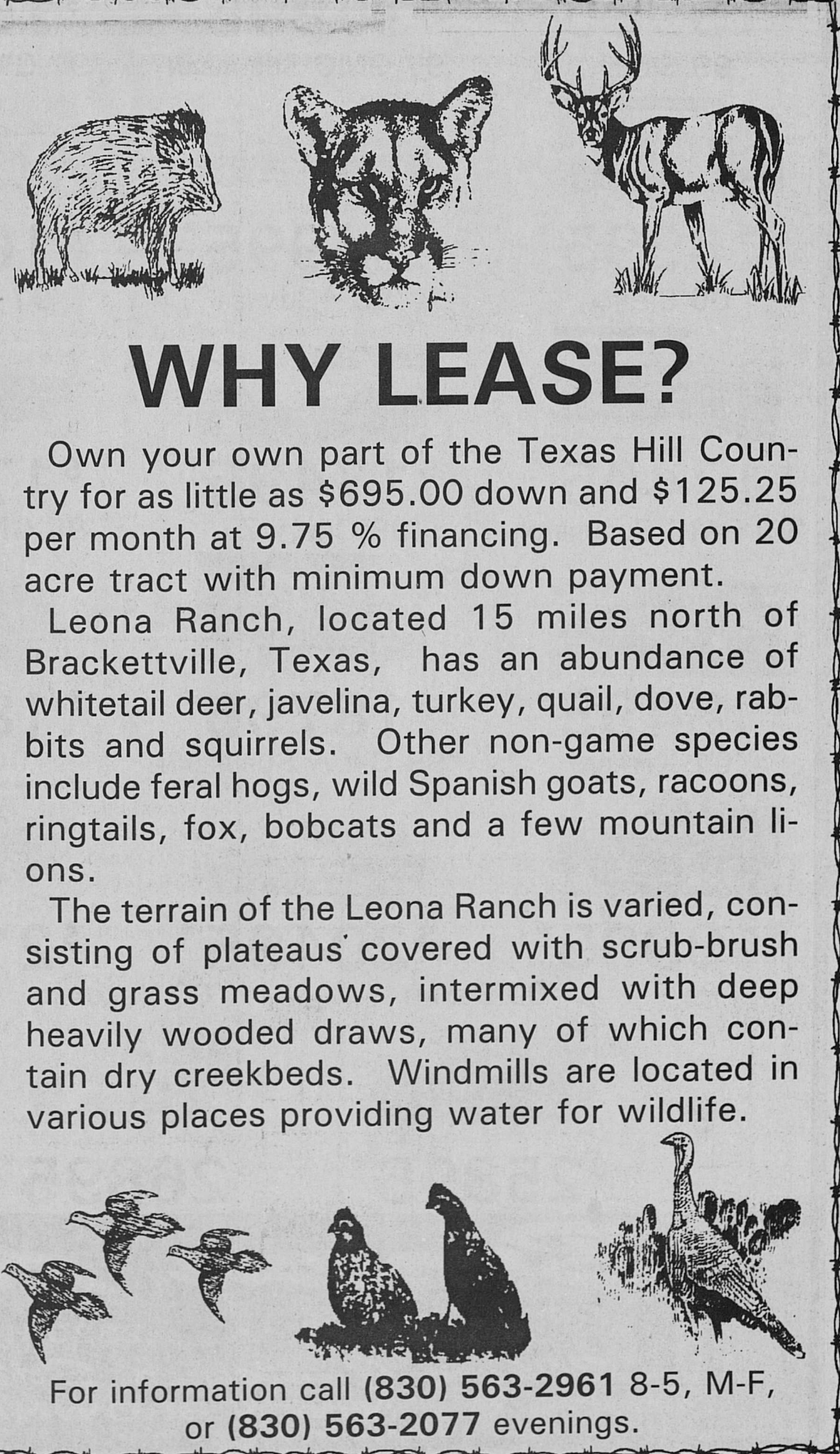
775-1508

WHY LEASE?

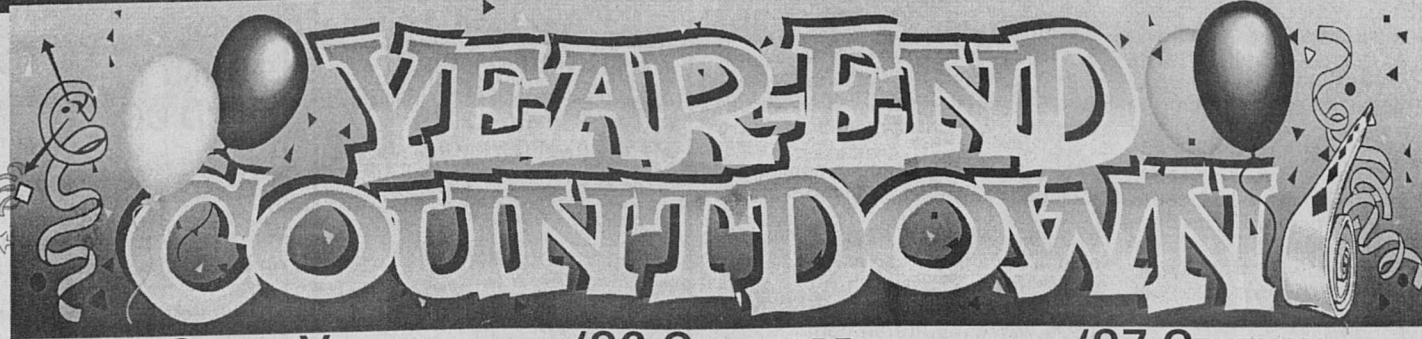
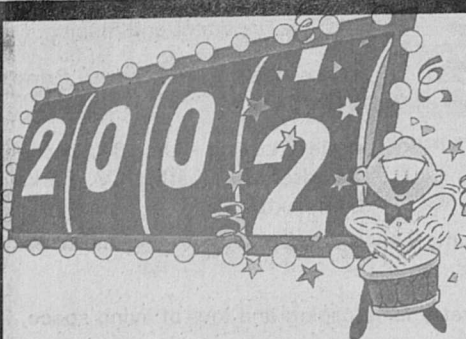
Own your own part of the Texas Hill Country for as little as \$695.00 down and \$125.25 per month at 9.75 % financing. Based on 20 acre tract with minimum down payment.

Leona Ranch, located 15 miles north of Brackettville, Texas, has an abundance of whitetail deer, javelina, turkey, quail, dove, rabbits and squirrels. Other non-game species include feral hogs, wild Spanish goats, racoons, ringtails, fox, bobcats and a few mountain lions.

The terrain of the Leona Ranch is varied, consisting of plateaus covered with scrub-brush and grass meadows, intermixed with deep heavily wooded draws, many of which contain dry creekbeds. Windmills are located in various places providing water for wildlife.



For information call (830) 563-2961 8-5, M-F, or (830) 563-2077 evenings.



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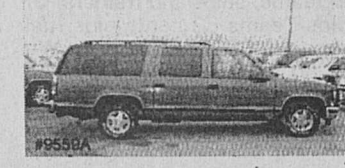
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'01 GRAND AM



\$13895*

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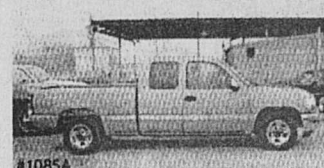
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'01 LESABRE



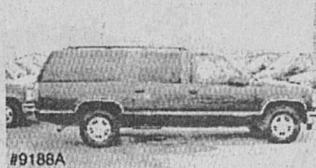
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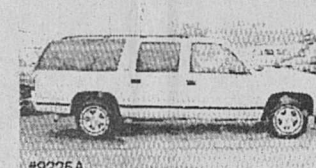
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'97 GMC SUBURBAN



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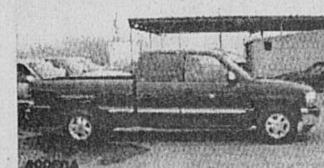
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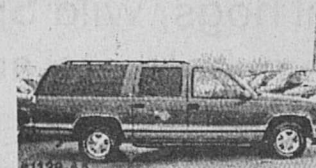
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