

The Brackett News



Merry Christmas
from the
Brackett News Staff

16th year, No. 46

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

BRIEFS

City holiday closings

City Hall and the Transfer Station (Garbage) will be closed Dec. 23, 24 and 31, 2004. Regular business hours resume Monday, Jan. 3, 2005.

Housing Authority Holiday Winners

The Brackettville Housing Authority announces its winners of the Christmas Decorating Contest.

Congratulations to:
First Place Mr. and Mrs. Jesus Garza and family of unit No. 33

Second Place to Carol Dimery and family of Unit No. 32.

Third place to Mr. and Mrs. Leopoldo Rocha and family of unit No. 26.

Honorable Mention to Marie Medina of Unit No. 6.

Masters received

The following received their Masters of Education. Alma Gutierrez and Candy Hobbs in School Administration and Melanie Jones in Counseling. The three graduated from Sul Ross State University Dec. 18 with ceremonies held in the Eagle Pass High School C.C. Winn campus.

2004 Act changes rules for vehicle donation

The recent signing into law of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 changes the rules for vehicles donated after Dec. 31, 2004.

"These changes will have a profound effect on the amount most donors can deduct for their vehicle," says Karen Campese, CEO of cars4charities, a national vehicle donation center.

"The current law allows the donor to use an established used car pricing guide to determine the fair market value of their donated vehicle."

"Beginning Jan. 1, 2005," says Campese, "if the value of the donated vehicle is over \$500, the donor will only be allowed to deduct the amount the charity sells the car for." "Since most charities wholesale donated vehicles to car dealers, the sale price rarely approaches the real value of the vehicle."

For more information on car donation, call cars4charities at 1-866-448-3487 or log onto their site www.cars4charities.org

INSIDE

G.G.

By this time we should have all goodies either baked or planned, so I couldn't wait any longer to share some fantastic ideas that may be new to you.

Community/Page 4

Chuck Hall

I'll never forget the look of shock, disappointment, anger, humiliation, and shame that I saw that day in mom's eyes.

Opinion/Page 2

Donald Smith

A young virgin girl named Mary was chosen to give the baby Jesus his human birth through a miracle of the Holy Spirit. Then as if an unseen hand directed a heavenly choir, the family sang "Away in a manger..."

Religion/Page 7

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16th year, No. 46

Kinney Commissioners approve acceptance of Mexican Motricular as form of identification

Kinney County joins other counties and cities in the United States in accepting the "Matricula Consular" as an official piece of identification.

The consular identification document will enable Mexicans in the United States to open bank accounts' contract public utilities and identify themselves to authorities and institutions.

The Commissioners Court of Kinney County now accepts the

Mexican Consular identification document issued by the Mexican consulates in the United States.

This document will enable millions of Mexicans in the United States to possess and identification document that is officially accepted by authorities and various institutions.

Kinney County Judge Herb Senne and the county commissioners unanimously passed a

"Resolution" accepting the consular identification document as a valid means of identification.

This will benefit 80 percent of the Mexican population in the area who will be able to use it in their dealing with the local government. The passage of this Resolution proposed by the Mexican Consulate in Eagle Pass, is due to the steps taken by the Mexican government to make the consular identification

documents a secure piece of identification. Locally, International Bank of Commerce and Texas State Bank, accept the consular identification document to identify Mexican residents in the United States.

To date, the "Matricula Consular" identification document is used by millions of Mexicans in 178 financial institutions in the United States and as official identification for 1,180 police

departments, including the Eagle Pass Police Department, Carrizo Springs, Crystal City and Maverick County.

The document, which can be obtained via a simple procedure, enables a Mexican to open bank accounts; contract utilities such as electricity and water; use public libraries and to identify themselves in educational, health and legal instituting in the United States, among other benefits.

Students excel in UIL competition

The University Interscholastic League (UIL) Meet was held in Rocksprings on Dec. 11.

Participants were 2nd Grade: Petyton Bonner, Joaquin Solis, Webb Ashley, Maddie Frerich, Morgan Brown, Blake Duncan, and Davis Wade.

3rd Grade: Hannah Johnson, Shelby Schuster, Marisol Gomez, Haley Smith, Korlee Allen, Arturo Castillo, and McKenzie Castillo.

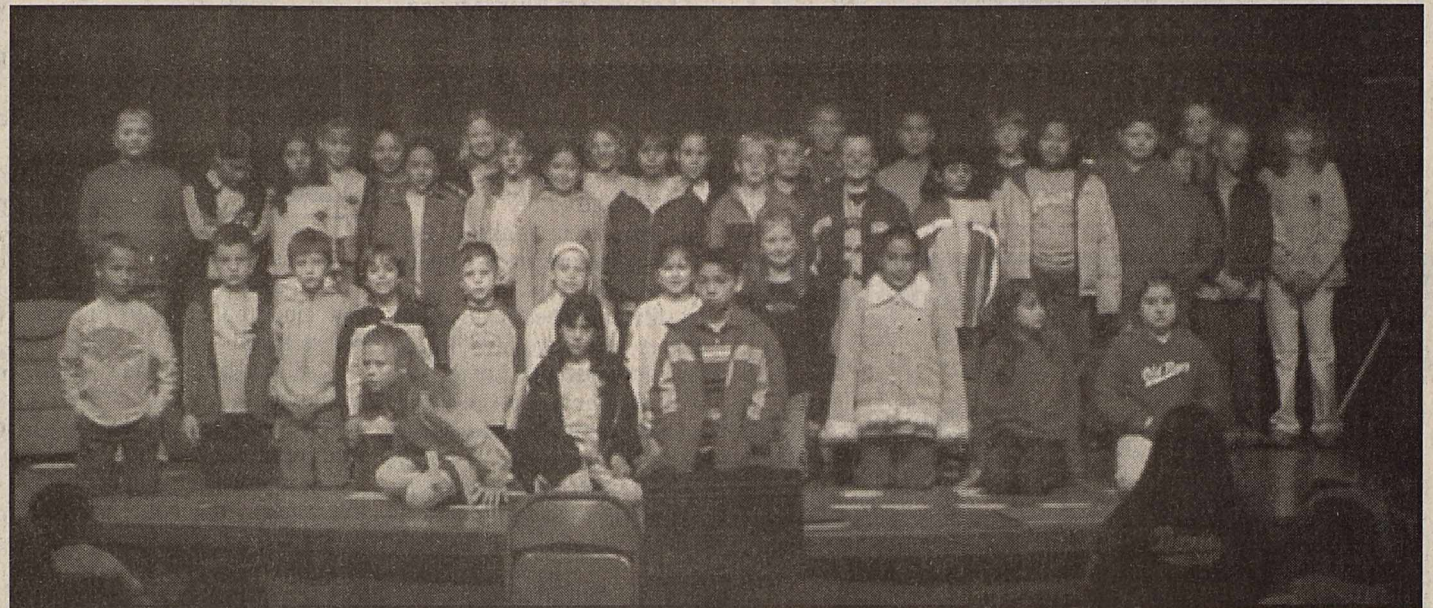
4th Grade: Meghan Flores, Marissa Villarreal, Sierra Benson, Yeika Garcia, Brianna Graza, Selina Gerardo, Ryan Clark, Daylon Miller, and Austin Pettett.

5th Grade: Lauren Duncan, Emily Holmes, Nevada Payne, Brittany Hale, Joel Talamantes, Salvador Pacheco.

6th Grade: Sarah Davis, Haley Hale, Sam Stewart, Kelsey Bruce, Bryan Calk, Josh Smith, Abby Gutierrez, Tyler McDonald, Bianca Cruz, Ayland Letsinger, Cheyenne Smith, and Susu Seageant.

The final outcome to the competition were as follows:

2nd Grade: In Creative writing, Maddie Frerich placed 5th. In Storytelling, Blake Duncan



Students from Brackett ISD excelled in UIL competition in Roksprings Dec. 11, bringing home various awards.

received 2nd place.

3rd Grade: Shelby Schuster placed 3rd in Storytelling. Korlee Allen placed 3rd in Ready Writing while Shelby Schuster placed 4th. Shelby also placed 2nd in Spelling while Hannah Johnson placed 4th.

4th Grade: Austin Pettett received 4th place while Daylon Miller placed 6th in Oral Read-

ing. The Art team: Meghan Flores, Marissa Villarreal, Sierra Benson and Yeika Garcia placed 2nd.

Garcia also placed 4th in Spelling while Selina Gerardo received 6th place.

5th Grade: Lauren Duncan placed 1st in Listening while Brittany Hale placed 3rd. Lauren also received 4th place in Ready

Writing.

6th Grade: Kelsey Bruce placed 5th in Number Sense while Josh Smith placed 6th.

Josh also placed 1st in Dictionary Skills.

Sam Stewart received 5th place in Maps, Graphs, and Charts. Sarah Davis placed 2nd in Oral Reading.

In Spelling Bryan Calk re-

ceived 3rd place and Tyler McDonald received 6th.

For Listening, Susu Seageant placed 1st and Abby Gutierrez placed 5th.

Kelsey Bruce received 4th placed in Mathematics.

In Ready Writing: Sarah Davis placed 2nd, Bryan Calk placed 3rd and Abby Gutierrez placed 6th.



The Gift of Giving

The Las Moras Hispanic Organization delivered 50 Christmas baskets to families in our community. The event is sponsored by many local individuals and an annual Golf Invitational Tournament. Santa's helpers this year included: Monica Talamantes, Natalie Aguirre, Marisol Aguirre, Abigail Gutierrez, Clarissa Valdez, Priscilla Aguirre, Esna Herrera, and Rolando Gutierrez.

BP agents stop bank robber

Eagle Pass, Texas — U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Border Patrol agents from Eagle Pass Station arrested a suspected bank robber on Monday and recovered more than \$20,000 stolen during the incident.

The arresting agents were patrolling near downtown Eagle Pass when the robbery of an IBC Bank was reported and a descrip-

tion of the suspect issued at approximately 2:45 p.m. The agents spotted a man matching the description of the robbery suspect. They immediately called for backup and approached the suspect.

Agents performed a high-risk felony arrest and along with local law enforcement officials, safely detained the suspect.

Dur. ■ See Suspect/Page 3

DPS issues a Christmas wish list

The Department of Public Safety has composed a wish list for the holiday season. DPS is asking travelers for the following gifts:

Slow down—speed is the number one killer on Texas roads.

Don't drink and drive; get a designated driver.

Buckle up everyone in the vehicle.

Keep cell phone chatter to a minimum.

Drive with courtesy; it's contagious.

Slow down in bad weather,

construction areas and heavy traffic.

"Following these tips will keep your family and everyone on Texas roads safer," said DPS Director Thomas A. Davis Jr. "The sad truth is that most fatal traffic crashes don't have to happen."

DPS will have all available troopers patrolling Texas roadways from Friday, Dec. 24 through midnight on Sunday, Dec. 26.

DPS is once again participating in Operation CARE (Combined Accident Reduction Ef-

fort)—a nationwide effort maximizing enforcement on major interstate highways to reduce fatalities commonly associated with holiday weekends.

Alcohol is always a concern during the holidays, and DPS is supporting the statewide anti-drunk driving campaign.

"If you choose to drive without regard for the safety of others, increased enforcement means you are nearly twice as likely to get a traffic citation or be arrested for DWI during the Christmas weekend," Col. Davis said.

■ See Corridor/Page 3

Cintra will invest \$7.2 billion for the Trans-Texas Corridor

Taking a historic step, the Texas Transportation Commission today selected a proposal by Cintra * an international group of engineering, construction and financial firms * as the best value for the state in developing the Oklahoma-to-Mexico portion of the Trans-Texas Corridor (TTC-35).

Cintra proposes to invest \$6 billion in a toll road between Dallas and San Antonio by 2010, give the state \$1.2 billion for additional transportation improvements between Oklahoma and Mexico, and to extend the corridor into the Lower Rio Grande Valley to Mexico.

"This is a historic change in the way major transportation assets are built and paid for in Texas," Ric Williamson, chairman of the Texas Transportation Commission said. "Private investment, not taxpayer dollars, will be where we look first for funding."

To address the state's need for immediate congestion relief on Interstate 35, the first phase of Cintra's proposal calls for developing \$6 billion in new roadways roughly paralleling the interstate by 2010.

This includes building 316 miles of new four-lane divided highway from Dallas to San

Antonio.

According to the proposal, pending environmental clearance and the public-involvement process, construction could begin immediately after right-of-way acquisition.

Cintra's package also includes funding options for a route connecting southeast San Antonio to State Highway 130 and for relocating * to the east * the existing Union Pacific Railroad between San Antonio and Austin.

Future projects envisioned by Cintra include separate lanes for cars and trucks on SH 130, a relief route around the west side of Fort Worth, a TTC-35 route from San Antonio to the Rio Grande Valley, and rail between Dallas and San Antonio.

Cintra is one of three groups to submit detailed proposals on how to develop the Oklahoma to Mexico element of the Trans-Texas Corridor.

TxDOT has been studying the proposals since August, and today the Texas Transportation Commission accepted a staff recommendation that the Cintra proposal provided the best long-term value to the state.

In return for building the new transportation corridor and giving it to the state * plus paying

the state \$1.2 billion to invest in the corridor * Cintra proposes to negotiate for a 50-year contract to maintain and operate the new highway as a toll road.

"The private sector is willing and able to invest in transportation improvements to reduce congestion, improve safety, provide economic development, and protect our quality of life," Williamson said.

"There are many details to be worked out and separate environmental studies must be completed. Without a doubt, the private sector is knocking at our door with a nearly incredible opportunity for Texas."

Contract negotiations between TxDOT and Cintra will begin immediately.

The complete proposals will be made available for public review once a contract has been signed and TxDOT obtains ownership of the ideas and innovations presented by all three private firms.

Prior to that, release of the proposals is prohibited due to the proprietary information they contain.

The five-member transportation commission voted unanimously to select Cintra as the



Tiger Appreciation
Bobby Templeton, Superintendent of BISD, presented Tiger caps, mugs and pins to The Brackett News staff in appreciation for all the coverage of the school activities.

Photo by Wes Robinson

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Great work, Koenig

The Brackett News reaches me in Boston and I have been delighted to follow the sporting exploits of the Brackett Tigers. Your game descriptions are far better than a video play by play. It has been a delight to read the unfolding story of this year's Tiger season.

You should probably be aware that I am generally not a football fan, and do not understand most of the technicalities. However, your writing is so very good that even I can sit on the

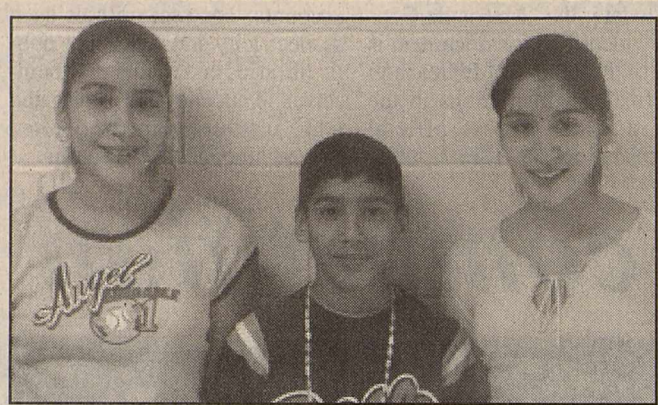
edge of my chair as you describe the action.

There are some famous Texas sportswriters who have gone on to distinguished writing careers. I suspect you will be one of them.

Thank you for sharing your excitement in the games.

Paula Smith
Boston, MA

■ *Editor's Note: The preceding letter was addressed to Darin Koenig, Sportswriter for The Brackett News.*



Triple 13th Birthday
Elena, Daniel, and Elidia Molinar are celebrating their 13th birthday today, December 23. Their parents are Tony and Nena Molinar.

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. The Brackett News will not publish letters sent via e-mail. Letters published and viewpoints of columnists do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.

Big Mama Sez!

When you're worrying about tomorrow, you rob yourself of today.

The Brackett News

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It's not too late to help soldiers abroad this holiday season

The holiday season can be maddening. There are so many gifts to buy, cards to send, lights to hang, homes to decorate, parties to attend, and people to see. Just thinking about it can be a burden.

It seems like since before we even marked Halloween off our calendars, department stores wanted us in this holiday frenzy.

I think I speak for most Americans when I say that over the last few years, people have wanted to tone down the extravagance and do more for others. Watching our brave soldiers every night on the news has helped people pause and recognize the things for which we are truly grateful this holiday season.

In most cases, those "things" can't be bought in a store, wrapped in a bow, or stuffed in a stocking.

People who used to splurge -

or even compete - when it came to holiday gift-giving, just want to spend time with their loved ones.

I've heard people say they don't want anything for Christmas; they just want to spend time with those who matter most.

Now more than ever this holiday season, people are counting their blessings - faith, family and friends top the list. No doubt about it, also on that list is freedom. One of the most important things we can do as a country is show strong support for our military men and women.

This holiday season, I urge those who just want to "do something," to send gifts to our troops online through Operation Santa's Gift from the Homefront.

Just log onto www.aafes.com and click on the camouflage-clad Santa.



Weekly Report
Henry Bonilla

You can purchase certificates in \$10, \$20, or \$25 denominations accepted at any military exchange (AAFES, NEX, MCX, Coast Guard Exchange) retail store around the world, including those supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

There will be a shipping charge added depending on the number of certificates sent.

One of the many benefits of this certificate is that soldiers will be able to use it right away. AAFES ensures that soldiers will have immediate access to mer-

chandise from home - like American candy bars - in Iraq.

Also, this allows soldiers to buy things when they need them, and not have to worry about the logistics of heavy packages.

Serving your country is a great honor.

However, that doesn't keep our soldiers from missing family, friends, or America.

Receiving gifts and messages of support from back home is a real boost and a great way to stay focused on the mission at hand - winning the war for freedom.

Please consider sending a gift to a soldier abroad. Your gift of support may be the most touching present a soldier far from home receives this holiday season.

Thank you.
God bless you and God bless America.

The Thanksgiving prayer

I had a great Thanksgiving. I ate too much but that's nothing new.

I enjoyed visiting with my family.

I was asked to offer the blessing.

I expected to be.

I have given thanks to God at such occasions in our family for over fifty years.

I still remember the colorado I did so. We were in Colorado at my grandparent's home.

My mother had asked which one of my brother or I was going to do the blessing.

My brother, weasel that he is, quickly responded that I would.



But I Could Be Wrong
Chuck Hall

I was perplexed.

To be honest, I had not paid that much attention to prayers before that day.

I didn't have a clue what I was going to say.

My uncle Jim was always my favorite uncle.

He was what I wanted to be like when I grew up.

He always had time to play

with the kids.

He loved to tell us stories. He never refused a request.

He sensed my dilemma and came to my rescue.

He took me aside and taught me a simple, easy to learn, prayer.

I would be forever in his debt. Instead of dreading meal time, I eagerly awaited the noon whistle.

I could hear the pride in my mother's words when she told the family that her second born would deliver the meal prayer this Thanksgiving.

I stood tall and equally proud. "Father, Son, and Holy ghost. Who eats the fastest, gets

the most. Amen."

I'll never forget the look of shock, disappointment, anger, humiliation, and shame that I saw that day in mom's eyes.

Did my uncle Jim come to my relief? Did he say "It's not his fault. I taught him that prayer."? Nope.

He too had seen the look given to me by mom and decided it was every man for himself.

I still think Uncle Jim had the best sense of humor of all of them.

I hope my daughters don't read this column.

One day I may teach my grandkids to pray.

But I could be wrong.

Caesar, Jesus Christ and Christmas?

By Nathan Tabor
Contributing Writer

It used to be that many Americans would deplore the commercialization of the Christmas holidays (or, originally, "holy days"). Not today. Many stores are starting to display "Merry Krissmas" signs.

With so many people focusing most of their attention on buying and selling, and the giving and receiving of gifts, materialism seemed destined to displace the original Christian "reason for the season."

But in recent years, those misfits among us who are most hostile to the things of God have moved from merely ignoring the Biblical basis for our mid-winter holiday celebration to actively opposing its spiritual roots.

We now confront, therefore, not only the aforementioned commercialization of Christmas, but also the secularization and politicization of the sacred holiday as well.

Every winter, all across America, we have another big fight right around Christmas time. That's when the liberal,

atheistic ACLU types always launch their annual campaign to expel God from the public schools and banish Jesus Christ from the public square.

Santa Claus and his flying reindeer may be OK, but the God-sent, Virgin-born Babe in the Manger is clearly unacceptable to these self-proclaimed, "free-thinking" guardians of humanistic heathenism.

It never ceases to amaze me how some of these folks manage to twist the Constitution continually to mean something it plainly doesn't say.

They grossly misinterpret the First Amendment into a pagan prohibition of any public display of religious faith - rather than a blessed guarantee of the right to freely exercise that faith, both in public and in private.

The very idea of an alleged right to "freedom from religion" is antithetical to everything the Founding Fathers fought for and believed in.

Even an unregenerate old Deist like the worldly Benjamin Franklin supported the public exercise of Christianity as being beneficial to the general morality and common good of the

populace.

These seeming contradictions in modern life served to set me thinking - improbable as this may sound - about the inherent interrelationship between Christmas and politics, of all things.

That is a very odd combination. There is absolutely no way the two have anything to do with each other.

One is about the birth of Jesus Christ, and the other is about human government and public policy. When you look at the facts, though, you will see something different.

Why were Mary and Joseph in Bethlehem when Jesus was born? They had to pay taxes to Caesar. There were no rooms in the inn because so many people came to pay taxes.

This meant that the Lamb of God came into the world in a lowly manger, among the farm animals that were used as sacrificial offerings in the Jewish religion.

Government is about human institutions taking care of the people who live in this world.

The legitimate goal of government is to set up an ordered society that is free and safe, where one and all can live and prosper in peace.

God established human government through the Noachic Covenant that protected the sanctity of all human life created in the image of God.

God then established through

the Ten Commandments the basic moral parameters that have bounded Western Civilization for more than three millennia.

The birth of Jesus Christ, which is what Christmas (or Christ's Mass) really commemorates, is about our Christ coming from Heaven to Earth to die on the Cross of Calvary.

Why?

So that redeemed men can live for all eternity with Him.

Isaiah the prophet describes Jesus as our Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace . . . "and the government shall be upon his shoulders."

Human government is about providing physical services for mankind's temporal needs.

Jesus Christ is about providing spiritual blessings for mankind's eternal needs.

Christmas today is STILL about remembering God's unspokeable gift to us through the birth of Jesus.

It is also about being generous to others - a time to give clothing to the poor, a time to share food with a needy neighbor, a time to help out a friend who has fallen on hard times and is struggling to get by.

Most importantly, Christmas should be a time of blessed family fellowship and worship toward God, with prayerful meditation and joyful thanksgiving.

Jesus gave to all of us needy humans the greatest gift of all: Himself.

A cheery hello!

Just want to offer a sincere "Thanks" for your patronage and to wish you well!

Alamo Lumber Del Rio

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from WIPFF'S FURNITURE & APPLIANCE

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Happy Holidays

From the Brackett News Staff

THE SPIRIT OF Christmas

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Lozano's Welding

Henry & Carmen Lozano

OBITUARY

Teresa Aguayo Sandoval

Teresa Sandoval, 72, passed away in Plainview, Texas on Thursday, Dec. 16, 2004. A former resident of Brackettville, she was born Oct. 3, 1933 in Bigfoot, Texas.

She is survived by daughters Amparo Perez and husband Felix; Janie Crosby and husband Roy; Elda Terrazas and husband Nat; Elda Neff, Amy Wadell and husband Greg; Terri Sandoval, Francis Reynaga and husband Michael; sons are Paul Sandoval

Jr., Victor Sandoval and Rey Sandoval and wife Angie; 18 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.

She was preceded in death by husband Paul Sandoval and son Matias Sandoval.

She was in state in the Brackettville Funeral. Funeral Mass was at 3 p.m., Monday, December 20 at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church. Burial was at the Brackettville Cemetery.

Marita Reschman

October 24, 1918 - Dec. 3, 2004

Marita Reschman was reunited with Our Lord Friday, Dec. 3, 2004.

She passed away at Tex-San Heart Hospital in San Antonio, Texas, at the age of 86. She was born in Brackettville, Texas to Simon Garcia and Anita Jimenez Garcia, being the last of the well-known Jimenez family.

She was preceded in death by her devoted husband, Jesus B. Reschman.

Marita was a very creative and wonderful seamstress and was a member of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic church and the Legion of Mary.

She is survived by her loving daughter, Ernestine L. Paiz, and husband Edward, of Brackettville; her sons, Hector B. Luna, of Brackettville, Raul G. Luna and wife Lydia of Irving, Texas.

She is also survived by her lovely grandchildren, Reuben James Talamantez, Bobby and Steven Luna. Also surviving her are her precious great-grandchild-

dren, Ashley Talamantez and Isaiah Luna and numerous nieces and nephews who so admirably called her "Aunt Biti."

On Dec. 6, the Holy Rosary was recited by Jimmy Bader at Don's Funeral Chapels, in Del Rio, Texas. A Mass of Christian Burial was Dec. 7, 2004 at St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church in Brackettville with Father Cornelius J. Scanlan, OMI officiating with burial at the Catholic Cemetery.



Brackett's Muniz named to National Dean's list

Submitted to The Brackett News

Dr. Wilford W. Box, instructor-coordinator, Department of Management of Southwest Texas Junior College has named 10 management majors, in the Associate of Applied Science management degree program, from the Del Rio Campus of SWTJC to the National Dean's List 2004-2005.

Students were selected primarily on their grade point average of 3.5 to 4.0 The 10 students are Samuel Limon, Jr., Lyla L. Aguilar, Jesus A Partida, Susana Hernandez, James B. Monson, Marlena A. Soto, Jose L. Sanchez, Germaine J. Baron, Corina H. Muniz and Marco A. Campos.

Muniz is originally from Dell City, Texas and has been in Brackettville since November 1994. She has been employed at Alamo Saddlery since 1998 and has been the general manager for three years. She has two sons, Israel, 16, and Abran 12.

"It is indeed a significant achievement and an honor for students to be named to the National Dean's List. It is an affirmation of their diligence and dedication to the Associate of



National Dean's List members include front row from left, Samuel Limon Jr., Lyla L. Aguilar, Jesus A. Partida, Susana Hernandez, James B. Monson; back row from left, Dr. Wilford W. Box, management instructor/coordinator, Marlena A. Soto, Jose L. Sanchez, Germaine J. Baron, Corina H. Muniz and Marco A. Campos.

Applied Science degree in management. They are exhibiting the ability to excel both academically in the classroom and to practically apply that knowledge at their workplace," Box said.

"These students are role models for others, and their leadership qualities have been confirmed by their supervisors at the workplace.

"It is most gratifying to be a part of the success rate of our management graduates here at Southwest Texas Junior College. I extend my sincere appreciation to the supervisors of the work-

place of these students for their efforts to train the student-intern and take an interest in and support of their educational pursuits."

The purpose of the list is to provide recognition for the positive academic achievements of qualified students and to serve as an additional achievement of qualified students and to serve as an additional incentive for all students. Students nominated for this honor will automatically be eligible to compete for \$50,000 in college scholarships.

Parke H. Davis, president of student affairs wrote "Because of

the enthusiastic cooperation of educators such as yourself and the involvement of our advisory committees, the National Dean's List has become the largest publication in the nation honoring exceptional college students.

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Corridor development underway by state

Continued from Page 1

state's first private-sector firm on the Trans-Texas Corridor.

"In Texas, we're breaking new ground," Commissioner Robert Nichols said. "By far, this will be one of the largest private-sector investments in transportation in U.S. history."

Commissioner Hope Andrade pointed to the proposal's eco-

nomically important crossroad for Texas," she said. "This project will mean jobs and opportunities for the people of this state for generations to come."

Commissioner John W. Johnson sees the proposal as a major stepping-stone toward the development of I-69 as well. "It amounts to a blueprint for building I-69," he said.

"All of us on the commission appreciate the vision of Gov. Perry in proposing the Trans-Texas Corridor, which has now become a reality." Commissioner Ted Houghton said.

Suspect caught with \$28,000 under shirt

Continued from Page 1

ing the search of the suspect, agents discovered \$21,800 in cash rolled up in a shirt.

The stolen money was turned over to an Eagle Pass Police Department detective at the scene.

The suspect was later turned over to the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI).

"The protection of our bor-

der communities, and in fact the security of the United States, demands close cooperation and a unified effort," stated Del Rio Chief Patrol Agent Paul Berg in a press conference.

Berg continued, "The quick and alert actions of the agents responding to the local law enforcement alert and the arrest of the wanted felon is a credit to the Border Patrol."

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Christmas Day Dance

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KINNEY COUNTY SHERIFF'S REPORT

Sunday, December 12
7:48 a.m., An employee of City Hall requested a deputy. Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter was informed of the situation.

Monday, December 13
8:45 a.m., A man requested assistance in unlocking a vehicle. Constable Bobby Guidry was advised.

9:03 a.m., A man requested a deputy's assistance in removing an individual from his premises. Constable Guidry was dispatched.

6:18 p.m., A man reported a loose cow on Highway 90 and 693. The owners were notified of the situation.

8:12 p.m., An individual stated that lights were left on and doors left open at a church in Spofford. Deputy Manuel Pena was informed. He stated no break in but he would secure the church.

10:41 p.m., A woman stated that someone left a vehicle in front of her residence. Deputy Donald Page was notified of the situation.

10:56 p.m., A woman stated that she didn't want a man calling her house due to running up her phone bill. Mr. Gonzales was informed.

Tuesday, December 14
10:19 a.m., A woman requested a deputy to check on an individual on Fort Clark. Deputy Ramon Gutierrez was advised and he was unable to make contact with the individual.

4:23 p.m., A man requested to speak with a deputy concerning his parents. He did not want them to get swindled on repairs that they had already paid for. Deputy Ron Ring was notified.

4:28 p.m., A man reported a grass fire located near Sycamore Creek on Highway 277. Val Verde Sheriff's office was informed of the situation.

Wednesday, December 15
4:10 p.m., Terry Joe Mauldin, 28, of Santa Fe, Texas, was arrested by Trooper Tony Ashley for driving while intoxicated. Mauldin was later released after posting a \$1000 bond.

8:00 p.m., A US Border Patrol agent reported an individual walking on Highway 131 and had almost been hit twice and requested a deputy. Constable Guidry was advised. Constable Guidry reported that everything was fine.

8:30 p.m., A US Border Patrol agent called to ask if any reports of stolen 4 wheelers or vehicles had been reported. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched to the Border Patrol check point.

Thursday, December 16
4:30 a.m., A man reported that he had hit a deer on Highway 90, West of Brackettville. Deputy Gutierrez was dispatched to the scene.

12:30 p.m., Joseph Daniel Al-Hajeri, 17, of Austin, was arrested by Deputy Gutierrez for auto theft. Charges were dropped.

2:45 p.m., Adam Caton, 20, of San Antonio, was arrested by Deputy Ring for trespassing. Caton was later released after time served and paying a \$150 fine.

8:46 p.m., A man reported an injured deer at the intersection of Highway 90 and 131. Deputy Gutierrez was notified.

Saturday, December 18
9:55 a.m., A man reported a dog that looked sick at post office. A city employee was notified of the situation.

2:35 p.m., A man reported a motorist changing a tire but was not completely off of Highway 90. Deputy Ron Ring was informed.

10:59 p.m., Nazario Hernandez, 53, of Brackettville,

was arrested by Deputy Page for assault family violence and criminal mischief. Hernandez was still being held at the time of the report.

Sunday, December 19
9:47 a.m., A man reported a reckless driver on Highway 90. Deputy Ring was advised of the situation.

6:40 p.m., A woman stated

that an angry man was going to go to another man's residence and she was afraid that they would get into a fight. Deputy Gutierrez was advised.

7:30 p.m., A woman stated three males walking around another residence that had been burnt down on Veltman Street. Deputy Pena was notified of the situation.

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Fantastic Ideas



Goodies From G.G.

Vada Baldree

Your limited for space, or if you like to save time and money. Happy eating and Merry Christmas, to each and everyone of you — My fellow cooks and friends.

By this time we should have all goodies either baked or planned, so I couldn't wait any longer to share some fantastic ideas that may be new to you.

In order to enhance your foods with the abundant flavoring of butter without any calories or cholesterol, buy a bottle of "Butter Flavor" found on the grocery shelf with the spices.

Complete directions for use/amount are listed on the container. You cannot tell it is not the "real thing" and it is not expensive, like dairy butter.

If you have not invested in one of these "food saver" machines, give serious thought to saving pennies and nickels to do so in order to improve storing foods with better results.

They are worth the cost no matter if you are a single household or a large family. Here's a few things I use mine for.

1. Vacuum dry beans when purchased in bulk. Will keep 3 years or longer.
2. Vacuum foods for freezer - Preserves for up to 3 years.
3. Reseal chip and pasta bags to keep out moisture and prevent spills.
4. Mix large batches of cereal or cracker snacks and seal for future use.

I'm sure you will find this one of the most useful additions in your kitchen especially if you never use an entire bag of anything immediately upon opening.

Merry Christmas Richard Olvera! We Miss You!
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7th Grade mauls Medina 36-4

Darin Koenig
Sports Writer

The 7th grade girl's basketball team mauled Medina 36-4 in their last game.

The team came out ready to play and the defense absolutely decimated any chance that Medina had.

The Cubettes jumped out to an early lead and never

looked back as the offense converted on most of their opportunities and the defense forced turnovers and limited Medina's effectiveness.

The offense was led by Amanda Delbosque with 10 points and Katie Yeager who scored six points in the game. Other scoring leaders were Elena Molinar, Brooklyn Gose, Amanda Flores, and Ivy Garcia

who contributed four points each during the game.

Cheyenne Billings, Miranda Salmon and Julia Martinez were each recognized for their great hustle and tough play during the game.

The team moves its record to 2-1 with the victory. The team will resume competition on Jan. 6, 2005, when they face off against Hunt.

8th Grade gets victory over Medina

Darin Koenig
Sports Writer

The 8th grade girl's team pulled out a dramatic victory over Medina on December 6th. The Cubettes fell behind early in the game, but were able to keep the game close.

In the fourth quarter the Cubettes made a late run to tie

the game. After a great defensive stand, Jessie Jones was able to hit the game winning basket with 37 seconds left on the clock. The eighth graders held off Medina for the remaining time to hold on to the dramatic 28-26 victory. With the victory the eighth grade squad moves to 2-1 on the season.

Bianca Terrazas led the team

in scoring racking up 18 points in the game.

Jessica Garza and Bianca Martinez each scored three points while Samantha Moore and Jessie Jones each added two points in the victory.

The team will resume competition after the holiday break when they tip off against Hunt on Jan. 6, 2005.

U.S. Labor Department offers Compliance Assistance to Texas Public School Districts

DALLAS—Texas school districts requiring assistance on how to pay certain employees are encouraged to contact the U.S. Department of Labor's Wage and Hour Division in the district's efforts to come into compliance with the Fair Labor Standards Act (FLSA).

"We frequently find that bus drivers, custodians and cafeteria workers do work in two or more jobs for a school," said Cynthia Watson, Wage and Hour Regional Administrator in Dallas.

"When an employee works in multiple jobs, the school district must combine all of the hours the employee works for the district. If these hours exceed 40 in a workweek, then the employee must be paid overtime compensation."

The Dallas regional office covers 11 states, including Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico,

Arkansas and Louisiana. Throughout the southwest region, Wage and Hour investigators are making public presentations on FLSA compliance to professional associations of public school administrators and offering local school districts an option for resolving their FLSA back wage liabilities.

"I encourage the school districts to contact their local Wage and Hour district offices for assistance in conducting self audits," said Watson.

For fiscal year 2004, the Dallas regional Wage and Hour office collected a total of \$1.3 million in back wages for 910 employees of public school districts in Texas, Arkansas, Louisiana and Oklahoma.

About \$576,014 of the back wages was collected for 162 Texas workers.

The FLSA requires employees to be paid the minimum wage

for all hours worked and time and one-half their regular rate of pay for hours worked more than 40 per week.

Employers must also maintain accurate time and payroll records.

The Wage and Hour Division recovered nearly \$197 million in back wages in fiscal year (FY) 2004 for more than 288,000 workers. Average days to resolve a complaint decreased in FY 2004 from 108 days to 92 days.

For Texas school districts needing information about coming into compliance with the FLSA, please call the following district office in San Antonio at (210) 308-4515.

You can also call the Department of Labor's toll-free help line at -866-4USWAGE (1-866-487-9243) or contact the Houston district office at (713) 339-5500.

Merry Christmas, Tigers

For the last several weeks, the talk around Texas and around Brackettville has been high school football.

Who is going to win the State Championship?

What if we could have just done this or not done that during the last game?

All of the questions were asked over and over and personally, I never got tired of talking about football. But now that it's over and we have all had a chance to step back and take a deep breath, I have a thought or two on the Tigers and their fantastic season.

It was a special few weeks that really seemed to pull folks together. In a town that has seen a bit of fracturing in the past few years, it was wonderful to have such a strong vehicle for unifying people who may have otherwise not connected.

I think Judge Senne may have put it best a few Sunday's ago when he said that the boys may not have won the big title but they sure won our hearts.

A winning football season can be a great thing ... and it was, but to tell you the truth, the final numbers didn't really cross my mind very often throughout the year as I watched these young men compete. Two years ago this month, I was witness to an event that changed the way I look at life and certainly the way I look at football games.

It was the 3A state championship game between Burnet and Everman.

During the course of this game a young man named Cory Fulbright went up for a pass, was hit from behind and was instantly paralyzed from the neck down. I was a brand new dad and had my baby son on my lap at the time and will never forget the sight of that young man lying there ... motionless as his mother was escorted out onto the field.

I didn't realize it at the time but that was a defining vision in my life and subsequently made



Making A Difference

Bobby Templeton

me a better educator and hopefully a better father.

My point is this: over time, witnessing that event has helped me to put certain things in perspective that I think are related to this team and this year's football season.

First, the boys won with class and were even more dignified in their eventual defeat.

This is becoming more and more rare these days. Second, they taught us all a little bit about team work. So many times, I heard from fans: "There

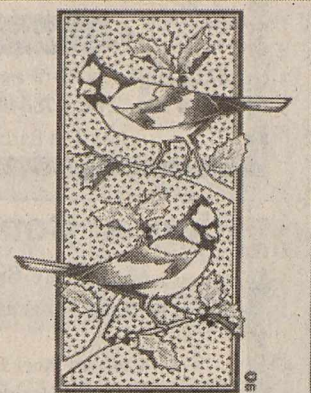
isn't one super-star on the team."

They came on the field as a team, they left the field as a team and they played as a team. Thirdly, and most important, everyone walked away safe and will live to "play" another day.

May we all be as fortunate in our chosen pursuits.

Merry Christmas Tigers.

Santa Claus is Coming to town. Please don't hit him Don't Drink and Drive!



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

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all my friends. Alfred (Chapo) Castro

MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR

KEEP CHRIST IN CHRISTMAS from Casuals Plus and Plaza Wash Lucille and Cordelia

May your Holidays be the Happy beginning of a wonderful year. Judge Ford and Staff

Merry Christmas and have a Prosperous New Year! Kinney County Chamber of Commerce

HOLIDAY CHEER From The Crazy Chicken Mr. & Mrs Juan M. Flores, Family and Employees Would like to thank you for your Business. May God Bless You. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

DEL RIO LINCOLN Mercury We Would like to Wish Brackett a Very Merry Christmas and a Safe and Happy New Year 2700 Hwy 90 W Del Rio, Tx 78840 (830)-775-7481 1-800-548-7481

The Giftbox Wishes everyone a Happy Holiday Season and a New Year of Health, Happiness, and Prosperity We would like to Thank You for your business and support this past year.

Wishing You a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year FELIZ NAVIDAD LAS MORAS HISPANIC ORGANIZATION

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- ACROSS**
1 Mark on the skin
5 Decelerator
10 Chicago
14 Bear
15 Takes a bus
16 Shape
17 Learning
18 Tiny diagram
19 1st-century emperor
20 Young plant
22 Peon
24 Ending for graph or social
25 Opposite of verbose
26 Quenches
29 Jungle gym piece
30 Units of speed
34 Oaf
35 Not backwards
36 Hang on to
37 Lung contents
38 Blew one's own horn
40 Truth: Chin.
41 Yen
43 Piece of chicken
44 Country
45 Night noise
46 Symbol of victory
47 Small weight
48 Slackened
50 Supportive of
51 Burn slowly, without a flame
54 Ulcerates
58 O'Hara home
59 Two cents' worth
61 Copy: abbr.
62 M*A*S*H star
63 One of The Judys
64 Lazarus, for one
65 Curve
66 Assisted, cockney-style
67 Method: abbr.
DOWN
1 Train
2 Drink
3 Preposition
4 Wrote back
5 Pickling solution
6 Piece of jewelry
7 Commercials
8 Word with zoo or bee
9 Organic compound
10 Approval
11 Part of the eye
12 Nag's home
13 Opening
21 Common contraction
23 Queried
25 Twisted
26 Great quantity
27 Strange
28 Portion of the body
29 Wrapperound accessory
31 Cowboy movie
32 Item fit for a queen
33 Pig's feature
35 Italian numeral
36 Law: abbr.
38 Universal staple
39 Whiz's forerunner
42 European nation
44 Political divisions
46 Pertaining to spring
47 Business orgs.
49 Net
50 Foul-smelling
51 Pierce
52 Virile
53 Algerian seaport
54 Become enraged
55 Award
56 Borders
57 Nurse's ASAP
60 PTA member

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13
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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 - forwards, backwards, horizontally, vertically and diagonally. An example is given to get you started. Can you find today's 20 words?

Today's Category: **BEVERAGES**

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

1. Tea
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9.
10.
11.
12.
13.
14.
15.
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HAPPY BIRTHDAY
Dec. 23.....Victor Abrego
Dec. 23.....Johnie Beard
Dec. 23.....Sergio Cardenas
Dec. 23.....Danny Molinar
Dec. 23.....Elena Molinar
Dec. 23.....Elidia Molinar
Dec. 23.....W. T. Hunt
Dec. 24.....Paul Williams
Dec. 25.....Michael Gass
Dec. 26.....Dorothy Clark
Dec. 26.....Pat Foster
Dec. 26.....Pam Melancon
Dec. 27.....Margarita Pena
Dec. 27.....Christina Smith
Dec. 27.....J. J. Smith
Dec. 28.....Jesse Garcia
Dec. 29.....Clarisa Aguirre
Dec. 29.....Joan Boutwell
Dec. 29.....Myrna Gonzalez
Dec. 29.....Judy Hooker

Roaring Twenties Solution:
1. Ale 11. Lemonade
2. Beer 12. Milk
3. Brandy 13. Punch
4. Champagne 14. Soda
5. Cocoa 15. Tang
6. Coffee 16. Tea
7. Cola 17. Vodka
8. Eggnog 18. Water
9. Gin 19. Whiskey
10. Juice 20. Wine

HOROSCOPES

by Charles Cooper

AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18) Those in negotiations, whether in business or personally, will succeed. In general, things are going your way. Travel is in the stars after the holiday season winds down.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20) Your intuition is working overtime. Follow these hunches. While you're not in the holiday mood, make an effort for loved ones.
ARIES (March 21 to April 19) A minor irritation at work shouldn't throw you for the whole week. You have important tasks to accomplish. Later, your social life is positively whirling, what with holiday celebrations and all!
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20) An unexpected opportunity falls right into your lap. Where it concerns your career, choose carefully. Compromise is the watchword for week's end as family members are divided on how to spend the holiday.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) You're in no position to be lending people money. With the holidays, things are tight as it is. While your heart's in the right place, you're not thinking clearly.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22) Come up with a plan wherein you and your family can donate time to a nursing home or hospital this holiday season. You'll find the true meaning of giving. Later in the week, a bigwig at work has a happy surprise for you.
LEO (July 23 to August 22) Social invitations are arriving. Thus, you'll need to sort out the wheat from the chaff. Not every outing can be undertaken, so choose wisely.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22) A gift you ordered some time ago still hasn't arrived. You may have to come up with an alternative. This weekend is a holiday dream come true.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22) Your usual holiday happiness is marred this week by a work worry. Remember, fretting won't change things. Come up with a concrete plan of attack.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21) A meeting you'd prepared for is taken off the schedule. Deal with this gracefully. No one's mind is really on work this week anyway.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tie up some loose ends on the job. This clears your schedule for upcoming important events. Over the holiday, you enjoy domestic harmony.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19) The best way to deal with a contentious co-worker is with tact. Ultimately, this person comes around to your way of thinking. Later, some last-minute holiday shopping is in order.

Unto us a Son is born

"Where's Rolando spending the day?" Lola asked. "He's visiting his kids Mama. He said he wants Christmas to be special for them. I'm very proud of him for that." Josie paused. "But I'm a little jealous." She smiled. Both women laughed. Pointing to the mountains of food, Lola issued a directive to Josie and two daughters in law. "All of this," she said. "Must go to the dining room table."

Tell everyone that it's time to gather and eat our Christmas dinner." The message was relayed from room to room. Adults responded and walked to the dining room continuing their conversations as they went. Children ran and shoved and giggled. The mood was happy and light. Alfredo stood and raised his arms. The noise was silenced. Even the giggling children knew to show respect for the Patriarch.

Alfredo stood like a rock. His family looked to him with reverence and respect. They listened for what they had heard every Christmas for decades. No matter how many times they heard Alfredo's Christmas blessing, it always brought freshness and strength to his children and grandchildren.

He began, "You've all received gifts from one another;



Empowering Families
Dr. Donald Smith

gifts that are expressions of your love and gratitude. Long, long ago God expressed his love for us by sending His Son to become like us in every way and to die for our sin so that we have everlasting life.

A young virgin girl named Mary was chosen to give the baby Jesus his human birth through a miracle of the Holy Spirit." Then as if an unseen hand directed a heavenly choir, the family sang "Away in a manger...."

Alfredo's eyes clouded with tears. He continued. "We are blessed today. A virgin conceived and bore a son whose name is Emmanuel. And unto us that son is given. And dominion and authority is his forever. He is Wonderful, Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, and Prince of Peace. May the Prince of Peace bless you today and all the days of your lives. May you know the everlasting joy that radiates from the Bethlehem manger and resounds in the everlasting choirs of angels."

Two narratives, two stories, so many clues

Many of us USA citizens, in a few hours more than 24, will be celebrating Christmas 2004.

I present you with something to think about before then. Only two of the four Gospels tell us the story and events surrounding the birth of Jesus of Nazareth. The Gospel according to Matthew is the first to share with us several connected meanings of Christmas from his community's perspective, this after years of prayerful reflection. The Gospel of Luke is the second. This Gospel also shares with us other meanings, in addition to those from Matthew, and also from his community's perspective, after years of prayerful reflection. If we take the sequence of events as the Gospel according to Luke presents them, one clue has caught my attention recently. We need only peruse the newspapers and watch the various TV news broadcasts, to become aware of frightening, at least disconcerting, situations in our own nation and in other regions of the world. It was in the first chapter of his Gospel that Luke relates the story of how a young lady became aware of a call from



St. Mary Magdalene Church
Fr. Cornelius

above. Luke tells us she asked a few questions. The messenger eventually said to her: "Do not be afraid". (You can read the rest in Luke 1:26-38) And then, in the next chapter (2:1-21), this same Luke narrates the story of the birth of Jesus, how "an angel of the Lord stood before" the shepherds "and the glory of the Lord shown around them, and they were terrified". The angel said to them: "Do not be afraid."

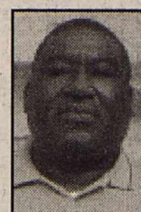
Finally, we turn to The Gospel according to Matthew (1:23). He let's us know that: "Look, the virgin shall conceive a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us". So, "Do not be afraid" (because) "God-is-with-us" is one of the clues we can discover from God's letter to us. Does this merit a "Happy Holiday" or a "Merry (Blessed) Christmas" from one to another?

Jesus, my anchor

That by two immutable things, in which was impossible for God to lie, we might have a strong consolation, who have fled for refuge to lay hold upon the hope set before us.

Which hope we have as an anchor of the soul, both sure and steadfast, and which entereth into that within the veil.

Whether the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an high priest forever after the order of Melchisedec.



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Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

Hebrews 6:18-20. His name is Jesus.

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Feast of Christ the King

My dear people of Brackettville,

Peace be with you! On this great Feast of Christ the King, I pray that he will always reign supreme in your hearts. On this occasion I have made a pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of PenaFrancia to ask her assistance in writing you this most important letter. The Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, has declared this year, Oct. 2004 - Oct. 2005, "The Year of the Eucharist." Many special graces are being poured out in this time, especially for those who go to Our Lord in the Eucharist.

On the night before his death on the Cross, Jesus gave to the Apostles the Bread of Life. He said, "This is my body, which will be given up for you; do this in memory of me," and then, "This cup is the new covenant in my blood" (Luke 22:19-20). This Eucharist is the unique presence of Christ, not his only presence, but the most perfect presence for it is truly his body, blood, soul, and divinity, hidden in the form of bread and wine.

This teaching is not easy, but nor has it been easy since the beginning. In St. John's Gospel, Ch. 6, Jesus said, "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him and I will raise him on the last day. For my flesh is true food and my blood is true drink. Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood will have eternal life." He went on to say, "Unless you eat my flesh and drink my blood you have no life within you." Sadly some of the disciples said this teaching is too difficult, and they left him. It was then that Jesus turned to the Twelve and said, "Will you leave me also?" Peter responded in the way that we must also respond, "Master, to whom shall we go, you have the words of eternal life." Yes, this mystery, this teaching is hard, but Christ is the King, he is the Son of God and he is God himself. To whom else shall we go?

On the afternoon of the Resurrection, two disciples were leaving Jerusalem, walking on the road to Emmaus (Luke 24). They were confused, scared, and fearful for their own lives. Along the road they were joined by a wayfarer who was none other than the Risen Lord himself, but their eyes were prevented from recognizing him. He asked them, "What are you discussing as you go along?" They responded by asking are you the only one in Jerusalem who doesn't know of the things that have taken place in these last days.

As they continued along the road, the wayfarer opened up to them the Scriptures, beginning with Moses and all the prophets, and showed how it all pointed to what would happen to Jesus and how he would be raised on the third day. As he spoke their hearts burned within



Postcard Home
Brother Henry Clay Hunt III

them. As they approached Emmaus, the wayfarer gave the impression that he was going to continue on. But they urged him, "Stay with us, For the day is past and evening draws near." So he went into the house and they sat down for a meal at the table. He took the bread, said the blessing, and broke it. It was in the breaking of the bread that they recognized that it was Jesus. This is the significance of the encounter on the road to Emmaus; we recognize Jesus in the "Breaking of the Bread".... the Eucharist.

In this time, a time of darkness and confusion, a time of fear and uncertainty, a time of troubles and anxiety, we are called to make the same prayer as the disciples on the road to Emmaus... "Stay with us Lord, For the day is past and evening draws near." "Mane Nobiscum Domine"... stay with us Lord. Before Jesus returned to the Father in heaven he said, "I will be with you always, even to the end of the age." (Matthew 28:20).

The way that he is with us in the Eucharist, it is his presence among us par excellence. The Eucharist is not a "something", it is a "somebody"; the question is not "What is the Eucharist" but "Who is the Eucharist".

It is Christ himself and it is important that we recognize his face in the Eucharist just as the disciples on the road to Emmaus did.

The Lord was brilliant in his awesome design for when we receive the Eucharist, we enter into the most profound and intimate communion with Christ. "Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood lives in me and I in him." When we consume the Eucharist, he becomes one with us in a very intimate way; like the food that enters the bloodstream of our bodies and through our vital metabolism becomes

life and energy for us. When we drink the cup of his blood, he remains on our lips and on our tongues, the very breath that we inhale and exhale is filled with Christ's presence." He who eats my flesh and drinks my blood abides in me and I in him. As the living Father sent me, and I live because of the Father, so he who eats me will live because of me." (John 6:56-57).

How can we celebrate this Year of the Eucharist? The Holy Father has charged us to live the gifts of the Eucharist that we have been given. Particularly to receive the Eucharistic Communion in the Holy Mass, most especially on Sunday which is the day we celebrate the Resurrection (our hope) but everyday if possible.

What greater could we do each day than to receive our precious Lord. Spend time in front of the Blessed Sacrament and the tabernacle; it is here where we come into that graced encounter, where the Lord reveals himself to us, where we contemplate his face in the Eucharist. Participate in the outward expression of the Eucharistic procession on the feast of Corpus Christi. Join with the Bishop, the shepherd and pastor, on Holy Thursday, the celebration of the Last Supper, which is the institution of the Eucharist and the Holy Priesthood. Let this time be a true deepening of your Eucharistic life through meditation and contemplation on this mystery of light. It is key that when you go to contemplate the face of Christ,

you do it with Mary who is the Woman of the Eucharist, She knows the face of her Son more perfectly than any other person; she looked upon him as he nursed at her breast, she watched as he grew as a child, as he played, she observed as he worked with his father as a carpenter, she witnessed as he changed the water into wine at the wedding feast in Cana, she wondered as he gave sight to the blind man and cured the leper, she saw the way he forgave the sins of the people, she looked into his eyes as he fell under the weight of the Cross and it was from her that he drew courage to rise again, she saw him pierced through as he hung between heaven and earth, and she saw the Face of Jesus in his glory.

She watched him the whole way and it is her role to help us to contemplate the Face of Christ. Go to her in this time, ask her to help; especially in the prayer of the rosary.

May this year be one of deep Eucharistic communion for you. Follow the way of all the Saints who found their nourishment in the Eucharist on their journey towards perfection. Remember that the church looks toward the Blessed Virgin Mary as a model, in that we are called to imitate her in her relationship with this most holy mystery.

May she, the Woman of the Eucharist, accompany you on your journey during these days bringing the light of Christ to the encircling gloom.
Viva Cristo Rey!

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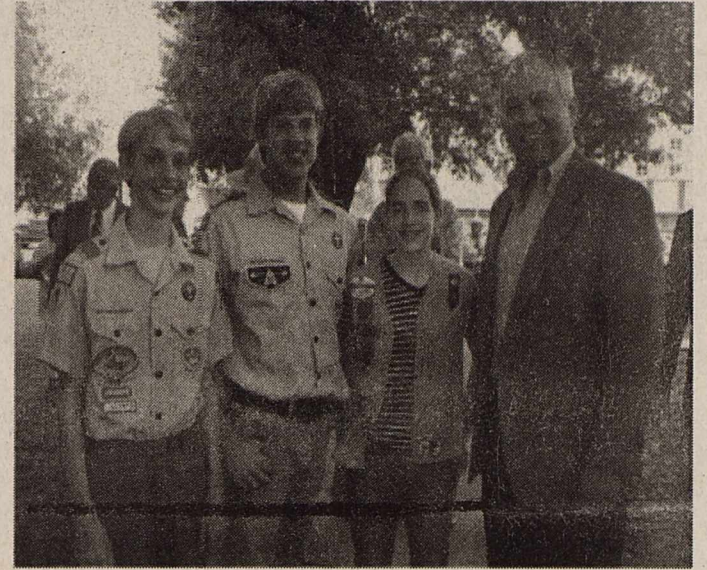
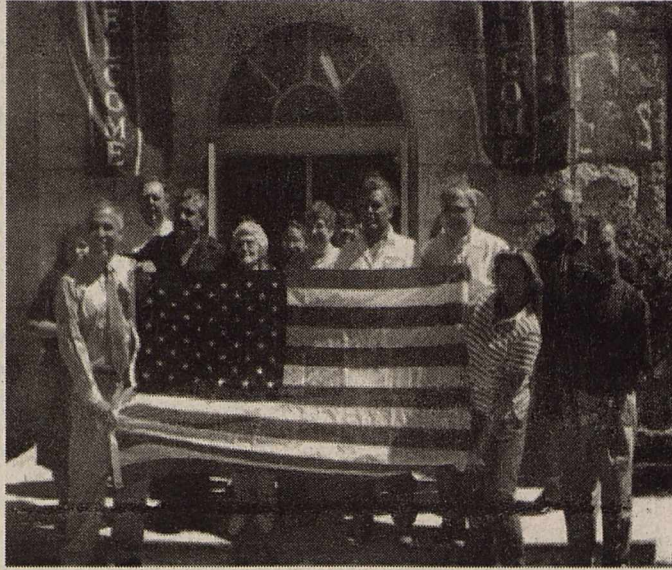
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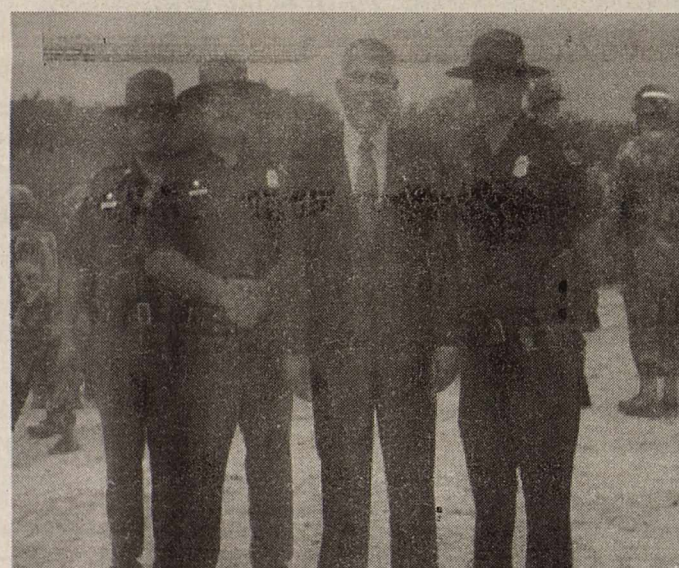
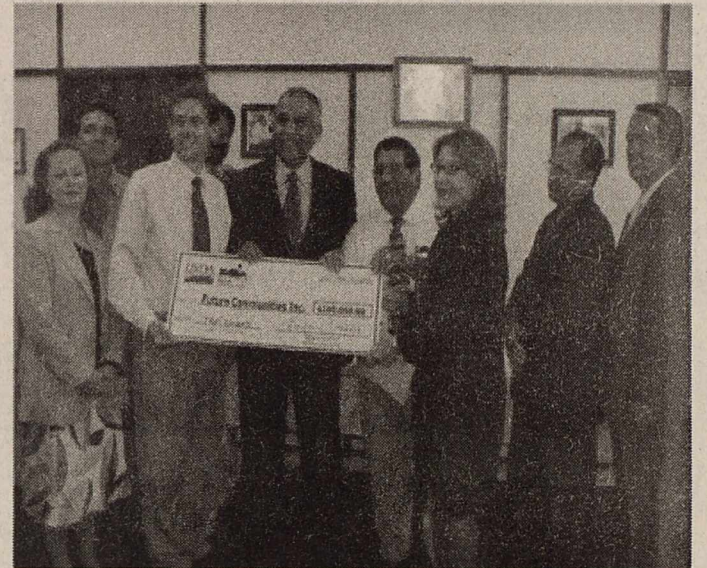


Congressman Henry Bonilla

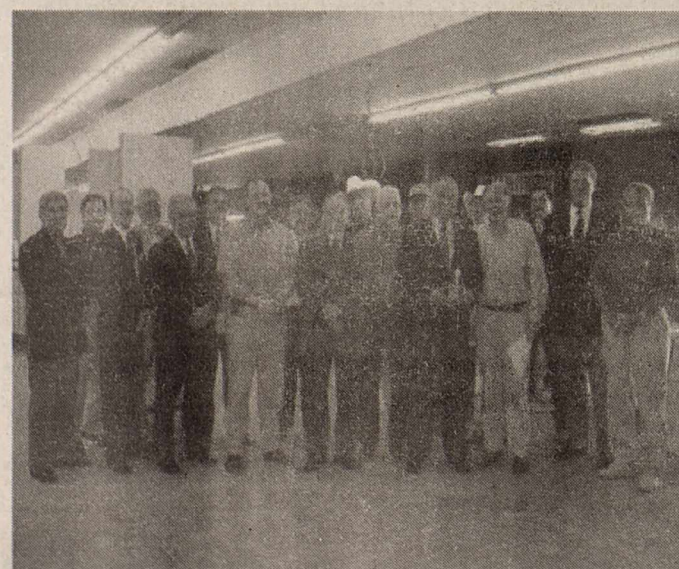


Dear Friends,

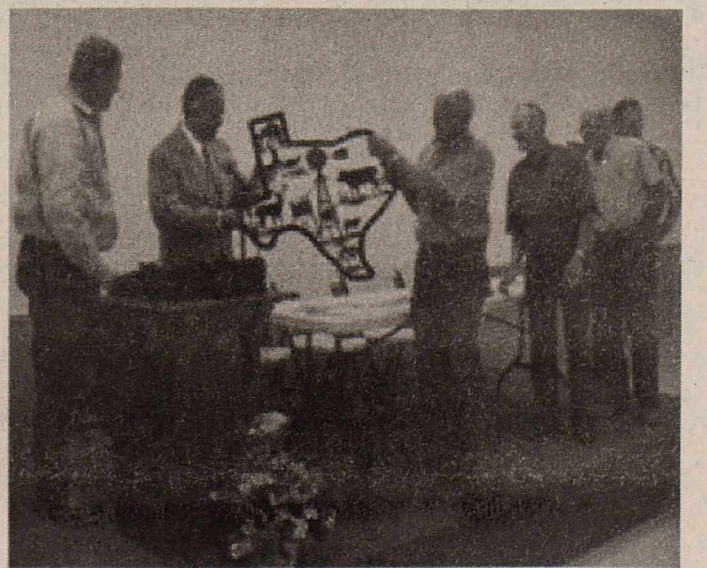
I hope that this holiday season brings you and yours all the joy on earth.



It has been my honor to represent you for the last twelve years and I look forward to another successful year for the people of the 23rd Congressional District.



All my best,



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

Considering Divorce The difficult part of Christmas

One of the most disturbing passages in the Bible will be read in many churches this week. It usually slips our notice, so I thought I'd mention it here.

From Matthew, chapter 1, verses 18 - 19: "This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about: His mother Mary was pledged to be married to Joseph, but before they came together, she was found to be with child through the Holy Spirit. Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly." (NIV) (emphasis mine)

Did you ever notice this? Jesus was very nearly born into a single-parent household! If you think divorce holds some minor scent of scandal in our time, just think how serious it was that Joseph, proclaimed in the Gospels to be "...a righteous man..." wanted to divorce Mary, the mother of Jesus!

Divorce is more than a 1st century problem. All too often, divorce happens in our families. We need to talk about divorce and why it happens. We also need to carefully weigh the re-



First United Methodist Church

Rev. Roger Baker

sults of divorce against the desire of the parents to live apart. Divorce is never an easy answer nor is it ever a completely satisfactory solution. But the Bible tells us there are times when righteous people have considered divorce necessary.

Many families split by divorce will have a reunion during the Christmas holidays. Children whose time is mostly spent with one parent may suddenly find themselves pulled in two directions as mother and father yearn for the child's affection and attention. In a few cases, timid parents shift the burden of emotionally charged decisions about schedules onto the backs of children. Asking a child to "just tell us who you want to spend Christmas with" is forcing them into selecting one parent before another.

Surely we can find ways to give our children the gift of freedom from emotional tug-of-war, even if it means a temporary boon to our former partners.

In Joseph's case, the potential divorce with Mary was avoided. Joseph became the step-father of Jesus, and the potential scandal was avoided. It probably wasn't comfortable for Joseph across the many years he raised Jesus as his son - but tradition tells us that Joseph was an honorable father and provider for his blended family. When Jesus was baptized many years later, the birth Father (the Holy Spirit) attended the service and made a statement typical of a proud Father (see Luke 3:21-22.)

At First United Methodist, we have families built from many different life experiences - including divorce, death, and remarriage. No matter how your family was created, you are welcome here! Celebrate Christmas by joining your Christian family in worship on Sunday morning at 10:45 (or maybe even arrive a bit early for coffee with the Sunday School at 9:30.)

We are now at the most difficult point of the Christmas holiday for the children.

They are out of school, sleeping late, playing with their brothers and sisters, enjoying the beautiful weather we have had the passed few days, but every few minutes they find themselves looking longingly at the wrapped Christmas presents under the tree.

They find it hard to wait for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day depending on the family tradition. They find themselves wondering what is inside the wrappings and boxes. Is it what they have been wishing for? Is it what they have been hoping for? Did Santa get their wishes and hopes straight?

What are our wishes and hopes these days? Could we be wishing and hoping for peace in our world, our homes, our families? Are we wishing and hoping for better health, a cure for a deadly illness, or a quick recovery? Are we wishing and hoping for employment, a raise, or a different job? I'm sure we all have so many wishes, desires, and hopes. So much so that I think we get wishing and hop-



Our Redeemer Lutheran & St. Andrew's

Nathán Lafrenz

ing all mixed up. Let me try and differentiate the two.

When we wish for something we usually have the desired outcome already in mind. For example several weeks ago I found myself wishing really hard that the Brackett Tigers would defeat Shiner in the football playoff game. Obviously the desired outcome in my mind was a Brackett victory.

Hope however is much more significant than my desired outcomes to my wishes. Hope has to do with trusting in God's planned outcome. Hope means trusting that God has a plan and He is bringing His plan to completion according to His Will. We, on this side of eternity, do not know completely God's plan for His creation.

Our desired outcomes to our wishes may or may not fit in His plan. That is uncomfortable. I

want God's plan to mesh with my wishes.

But in reality God's plan is much more complete and beneficial than any wish I could imagine. Let us place our hope in God's hands, not our own, and trust that He knows what is truly best for each one of us this year.

Join with Our Redeemer Lutheran at 7 p.m. and St. Andrew's Episcopal at 11 p.m. for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Services where we will celebrate hope in Our Lord's birth.



A Very Merry Christmas & Happy New Year To All From The City of Brackettville Housing Authority

St. Henry De Osso celebrates and honors volunteers

By Dr. Donald Smith
Contributing Writer

Children, along with their parents and a few grandparents gathered at the parish hall of St. Andrews Church on the evening of Dec. 13 for a Christmas party honoring their achievements as participants in the fall tutoring program. Volunteer tutors organized games for the children and gave away lots of gifts.

Each child received a certificate of achievement along with a certificate donated by Sonic for a hamburger and drink.

Parents also received certifi-

cates for their willingness to be a part of their child's education. A poinsettia was presented to each parent as a reminder to maintain the skills learned from their tutors. While the children played games their parents listened to Dr. Anita Torres Smith and Paulita Montalvo talk about the importance of the home in their children's education. Parents were asked if they would like to participate in a continuing support group in which they can learn to help each other with the academic problems their children face. Most indicated that they would. During the spring, such a support group

will become a reality. The SHDO Family Project has been working in Brackettville for five years. According to Dr. Don Smith, "this is the first year that we have had one hundred percent participation by the parents in the Christmas party."

Credit for that success goes to Paulita Montalvo who has been working directly with the parents this fall.

Dr. Smith says, "We believe that God is the author of the life of each child and He has a wonderful plan for each child's life. God's plan includes success in school and a bright and happy future for each life. His plan

does not include school failure, poverty, prison and early pregnancy.

The SHDO Family Project is committed to helping each family to realize their potential and to live God's plan for them."

During the Spring the Family Project will conduct a series of parenting classes beginning on February 14 and ending on March 7. The classes will be conducted in the new cafeteria at the school. All parents and others who work in the community are invited.

Dr. Smith says, "We never have enough volunteers for our fall tutoring program. If you are

interested in helping by being a volunteer tutor or in any other way contact us at 563-2285."

My First Christmas: Remembering days of old

By Elizabeth Jaso
Contributing Writer

I had my first Christmas when I was 32 years old. I say that because every Christmas before that was my mother's Christmas or my grandmother's Christmas or believe it or not, my first mother in law's Christmas. Each of these prior Christmases was paid for, orchestrated and/or provided by others.

It was December 1992. I was newly divorced and living alone with my children for the first time. My children were 7 and 4 years old. Always before there had been parents, or a husband in the house. This time was different. I had moved to Del Rio the previous May, with little more than my children and our clothing in a beat up car, fleeing a very unhappy marriage. I lived with my parents until November, until I could get everything arranged to live on my own. I had found a clerical job at a car dealership, a job that I was very overqualified for and that paid little more than minimum wage. It was all that was available. Thanks to federal rent assistance, a day care subsidy program and a few food stamps, I had a decent apartment and could pay my bills if I were careful. The apartment was small, but

comfortable. It was furnished with cast off furniture from my mother's teacher friends, garage sale finds and K-mart blue light specials. It was probably cheesy, but to me it was beautiful. I had the kitchen table and chairs I had grown up with. (My frugal mother had finally bought herself a new set after 20 years, my need for furniture justifying the expenditure.) I had Renoir prints my mother and grandmother had decouped one hot summer many years ago, and crewel embroidered wall hangings Angel (my grandmother) had painstakingly created throughout her many years of "watching" every television sportscast with my beloved grandfather, Papa.

The kids had their first Christmas tree. Due to high city rent prices-there had never been money for such an extra expense in the past. There had always been presents, just no tree. Actually there was no money that year either. A new friend from work decided to get a bigger tree that year, and passed her old one on to me, complete with lights and decorations. It was only four feet tall but when we placed it on an old end table, it made a fine display in our front window. The kids were so thrilled when we put it up that I had to blink back the tears. In my

memory of that year one night is crystal clear. It was a few weeks before Christmas. I had just taken my last night school final exam. When I got home, Mom had the kids in bed. After she left, I kicked off my shoes, and popped open a diet coke. I turned off the lights, snuggled on the couch and stared at the twinkling lights.

Ah, life was good. Although Delaney had a broken wrist from a little incident where Joey had pushed her down while skating, and Joey had barely survived a terrible asthma attack several months earlier, things were calm now. They were both healthy and happy. The Christmas toys I had put in layaway in early October were paid for and carefully hidden at my parent's house nearby. My fall classes were over. For five blissful weeks, I did not have evening

classes after my 10 hour work day. God was in his heaven and all was right with my world.

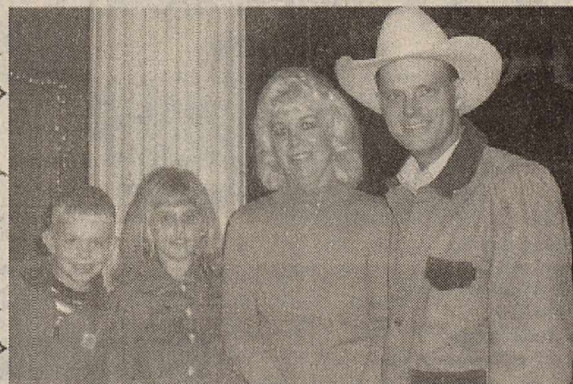
Looking back that Christmas might have been one of my worst. I was in a strange city without any close friends and spending my first Christmas as a single mother. I had a menial job and very little money. But what I did have was more important. I had my children with me and my parents and brother just blocks away. I had hope for my future and peace in my heart. It was enough.

As I pause this holiday season to count my blessings and reflect upon what I wish for those dearest to me I realize what I wish for my husband, children, grandson and all those I love: I wish them hope for the future and peace in their hearts, for if they have these things, they have it all.

RV'ER RANCHITO

Are you single, a 30 amp RV'er, and are looking for a place to hook up? Well, we are looking for someone over 55 who would like a scenic low cost RV space in exchange for light care taking duties (watering plants and feeding animals) on high-ground scenic Ranchito near Fort Clark Springs (Brackettville area). Applicant should be quiet (no party people, please!) and wanting a secure place to live. Monty 830-563-2305 US68VET@yahoo.com

From Our Family to Yours...



May this be a very special Holiday Season. Thank you for your continued support and the opportunity to represent you in the Texas House of Representatives.

Respectfully,

Tracy O. King and family

COME TO THE FRONTIER CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

7 P.M. FRIDAY DEC. 24.

NURSERY PROVIDED.

HOME for CHRISTMAS



There's no better wish we could make for all our wonderful friends and patrons at this time!

Have a safe and Happy Holiday! Kinney County Wool and Mohair

Deck the halls and be of good cheer, it's time to be merry, for Christmas is here! As you come together with your dear ones, we wish you every blessing!

Merry Christmas and Happy Year! from Val Verde Regional Medical Center
Quality health care here at home.

ADOPTIONS

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

PREGNANT? CONSIDERING ADOPTION? We can help! We specialize in matching families with birthmothers nationwide. TOLL FREE 24 hours a day, 1-866-921-0565. One True Gift Adoptions.

AUTOMOBILES

AAA RATED DONATION. Donate your car, boat or real estate. IRS tax deductible. Free pick-up/tow any model/condition. Help underprivileged children, 1-800-598-9211, Outreachcenter.org

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY

#1 CASH COW!! 90 vending machines in 30 locations - \$9,995. Call now! 1-800-836-3464, 1.800.VENDING.

AMERICA'S HOTTEST OPPORTUNITY - DOLLAR STORES. Own your own store. Turnkey from \$45,900. DollarServices4.Com, 1-800-829-2915.

EARN UP TO \$600 weekly helping the government part-time. No experience. A lot of opportunities. E. G. Solutions, 1-800-493-3688, Code R-37. Investment required.

DRIVERS WANTED

ADVANCE YOUR DRIVING career! Increase in pay package. Contractors and company needed. Flatbed, refrigerated, tanker, over-the-road, some regional. Commercial Driver's License training. 1-800-771-6318, www.primeinc.com.

ANNOUNCING...A PAY raise for 2005! OTR drivers going to .46 cents/mile! Regional drivers going to .44 cents/mile and home most weekends! Operators going to .91 cents/mile! Plus fuel stabilization. Heartland Express, 1-800-441-4953, www.heartlandexpress.com.

Answers to Crossword Puzzle

SCAR BRAKE CUBS
TOTE RIDES OVAL
ALOP INSET NERO
SAPLING PEASANT
LITE TERSE
SATES BAR KNOTS
CLOD TON RETAIN
AIR BRAGGED TAO
DESIRE LEG PERU
SNORE VEE CARAT
EASED FOR
SMOLDER FESTERS
TARA INPUT LIMIT
ALAN NAOMI EMMA
BEND ELPED SYST

DRIVERS WANTED

DRIVER - COVENANT TRANSPORT. Teams and solos check out our new pay plan. Owner/Operators, experienced drivers, solos, teams and graduate students. Call 1-888-MORE PAY (1-888-667-3729). EOE.

DRIVERS: EARN ESTIMATED \$100,000 yearly. Team Drivers only. Home time and insurance. No Touch freight. 2 years experience. Herring Trucking, 1-888-353-7713.

DRIVERS: FLATBED OTR, regional and specialized \$1,000 sign-on, new pay package, excellent pay and benefits. Company drivers, lease purchase, Owner/Operators, students start at .32 cpm. Will train CDL drivers for flatbed. Arrow Trucking, 1-888-679-7323.

DRIVERS, HAPPY HOLIDAYS! \$4,000 sign-on, one year OTR experience/Class A/CDL. \$500 on 2nd paycheck, \$500 after 10,000 miles then .03 cpm for 100,000! 1-800-569-9232, Conwell Corp.

DRIVERS HOME EVERY week-end running Texas and surrounding states. Competitive pay and benefits, flatbed experience with steel preferred. Stiles Truck Line, M.F. 1-800-877-4790 or 1-972-723-2669.

DRIVERS - NEW PAY Package-More freight - less sitting! Company drivers OTR and regional freight, Class A/CDL/HazMat. Clean MVR. Call Bob/Wendy, 1-800-666-0380, NFI Industries.

EMPLOYMENT

PERSON TO CUT cedar post and stays on ranch north of Brackettville, TX. 409-752-7758 or 409-781-7586.

THE FOLLOWING POSITION is open at BISD. Special Education Teacher. Application Procedure: Download from website www.brackett.k12.tx.us, pick up at the BISD Central Office, 400 Ann Street, or request by mail, Brackett ISD, PO Box 586, Brackettville, TX 78832. For information, call Central Office at (830) 563-2491, fax: (830) 563-9264. Applications will be accepted until the position is filled. Direct inquires to Paula Renken, Principal, Brackett ISD is an equal opportunity employer.

AIRLINE MECHANIC - RAPID training for a high paying career. Aviation Maintenance. FAA predicts severe shortage. Financial aid, job placement assistance, 1-888-349-5387, AIM, 6 locations.

FINANCIAL SERVICES

CASH LOANS UP to \$1000.00. No credit check! Cash in your checking account within 24 hours. Call 1-866-756-0600.

FOR RENT

RANCH HOUSE. 20 miles N.E. Brackettville. 3BR, 2 bath. All electric brick home. 830-278-7081 or after 6pm 830-563-2665.

FORT CLARK SPRINGS Unit 7 #410, 2 bedroom, central heat, completely furnished. Very nice. Unit 15 #135, 2 bedroom, 2 bath trailer, partially furnished, carport and screened porch. Very nice. 830-563-9238.

HOME BUILDER

BUY A NEW HOME for the holidays! We design, finance, build and insure your new custom home. 100% financing, \$0 down. 888-756-2522.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS to Proposed, Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) Contracts. Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read. Construction/Maintenance/Building Facilities Contract(s). Dist/Div: Laredo, Contract 0299-02-026 for reconstruct existing roadway in Kinney County will be opened on January 11, 2005 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below. If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.dot.state.tx.us and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 15145. State Office, Constr./Maint. Division, 200 E. Riverside Dr., Austin, Texas 78704. Phone: 512-416-2540. Dist/Div Office(s), Laredo District, District Engineer, 1817 Bob Bullock Loop, Laredo, Texas 78043. Phone: 956-712-7400. Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

O'Rourke Realty
Paul & Elsa O'Rourke
P.O. Box 670
Brackettville, TX 78832
(830) 563-2713



Happy
Birthday
Jesus!

orourke@the-i.net

PUBLIC NOTICE

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL The Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) is requesting proposals from qualified vendors for the installation of approximately thirty (30) public safety mobile 2-way radios to be installed at locations to include virtually all counties within the 9 county membership of MRGDC. The mobile 2-way radios are new and essentially right out of the manufacturer's shipping boxes. A commitment to a timely completion time will factor into choosing the selected responder. Proposal packets may be obtained by contacting Spade Condry, Telecommunications Coordinator, Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 216 West Main St., Uvalde, TX 78801, (830) 278-4491 or Raul Diaz, 307 West Nopal Street, Carrizo Springs, TX 78834, (830) 876-3533 or TDD number (830) 876-1260. The deadline for submission is no later than Wednesday, January 19, 2005 at 3:00 P.M., CST. A copy of the RFP may be requested via e-mail at the following e-mail: raul.diaz@mrfdc.org. E-mail requests must provide a contact persons name, company name, complete address, phone and fax numbers. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an opportunity employer and auxiliary aids and services may be available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Ken Barnett Real Estate

- Unit 36 lot 39, FCS 2 Br, 1bt manufactured housing.
- Unit 3, lot 66, 3 br/2ba, enclosed porch, multi-car carport, storage room - \$27,500.00
- Acreage - 80.03 Acres Tract #303 Leona Ranch.
- Unit 15 Ft. Clark Springs: 2 br/2 bath Mobile - Roof cover, Carport Golf Cart Shed Fully furnished \$34,500.00
- 4.53 Acres off 19 Pepper Lane, Del Rio
- Unit 1 Lot 146 Ft. Clark Springs 2 bd / 2ba
- Unit 1 Lot 145 Ft. Clark Springs 2 bd / 2ba
- Masters Condo #1204 - Carport, all furniture and appliances.
- Unit 35, Block B, Lot 27-28, Mobile home - 2 br/2bath

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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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Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year

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7 DEER STANDS w/10 ft. towers. \$450 ea. OBO. 830-563-9906 or 409-935-7074.

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FREE 4-ROOM DIRECTV system includes standard installation! 3 months FREE HBO and Cinema! Access to over 225 channels! Limited time offer. S&H. Restrictions apply. 1-800-264-3458.

MISCELLANEOUS

DSL OR HOME networking? SBC DSL authorized agent right here in town, network certified. We also handle all types of computer repair. Call Doctor Computer at 830-563-3443.

REAL ESTATE

183.2 ACRES, MULE DEER, blue quail, dove and javelina. Panther Canyon with shared well, cactus, sage and greasewood. West Texas, \$185/acre, owner financing. 1-830-885-4578. www.ranchenterprisesltd.com.

A BARGAIN. 100 ACRES - \$37,900. Trophy whitetails. Rolling hills and draws, great access. Abundant turkey, quail, small game. More available. E-Z terms. Texas Land and Ranches, 1-866-899-5263.

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Total Vehicle\$20300
Ford Disc.\$1080
MSRP\$19220
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Sale price \$25,995 + TT&L, 35 payments, 1 final of \$17,344, 10,500 mi/yr, 1.45% WAC.

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Rebate\$2500
FMCCS\$1000
DRFLM Disc.\$2150

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SALE PRICE \$12,695

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2004 F-150 S/C

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- 17" Alloy Wheels
- Tilt Cruise

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Rebate\$3000
FMCCS\$1500
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SALE PRICE \$16,995

STX

2004 F-150 S/C

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- Running Boards
- AM/FM/CASS/CD

MSRP\$30650
Rebate\$3000
FMCCS\$1500
Ford Disc.\$1245
Hail Disc.\$250
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YOU SAVE - \$10655

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- Automatic Transmission
- Air Conditioning
- 17" Aluminum Wheels
- 6 Disc CD Changer
- Color Keyed Bumpers

\$0 dn. \$199 mo.

Sale price \$19,995 + TT&L, 23 payments, Residual \$16,225, 10,500 mi/yr, 2.5% WAC.

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- Automatic
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- Power Windows/Locks
- Tilt Cruise
- 355 Axle

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