

The Brackett News

Thursday, December 21, 2006

Volume 18, No. 46

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

1 Section, 10 Pages

Water board welcomes EAA dye testing

The Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District (KCGCD) welcomed members of the Edwards Aquifer Authority (EAA) to the City of Brackettville Annex for their regular monthly meeting on Dec. 19.

The EAA was on hand to detail their preliminary work efforts and outline their work plan for a series of dye tracer tests scheduled to begin in Kinney County after the start of the new year.

What is a tracer test?

Hydrogeologists inject non-toxic, colored dye into specific water sites and monitor where the dye comes out.

Dye tracer tests can determine how fast the water underneath the ground is moving, the direction of travel and its destination.

EAA Chief Technical Officer Geary Schindel, PG stated the Authority recently contracted two independent field specialists, Lew Schnitz and Bev Shade, to conduct pretest interviews with landowners and view potential test sites, including wells, caves and sinkholes around Kinney County.

Schnitz, is a petroleum engineer and hydrogeologist from Boerne.

Shade is also a hydrogeologist that specializes in karst geology from Austin.

In a brief power point presentation, Schindel stated, "the objective of this tracer study is to test the conclusions of the Southwest Research Institute's Study."

The study, also known as the Green Report, stirred up controversy earlier this year, as it hypothesized Kinney County has its own water pool, separate from the Uvalde water pool. In the past, studies stated only one pool was shared by the two areas.

Another dispute brought about by the Green Report was whether or not the water flowing in the Northern part of the county flowed to and supported the Las Moras Springs.

Eighteen thousand acres of land north of Brackettville have been leased to Grass Valley Water, LP, a company currently

applying for a transport permit from the KCGCD to supply the City of Laredo with water for public supply usage. This permit has been the source of contention between environmental conservatives, water marketers and everyone in between.

Schindel emphasized the EAA's desire to work in the most transparent fashion with the board and landowners and still protect the integrity of the tests. Schindel detailed the sampling methods and the extremes the laboratories will go to ensure the results are true.

The dye is expected to be injected into the wells and caves in mid-January 2007, and the results will be monitored until April.

Frank Ede, a certified public accountant of Ede and Company in Knippa, was recently hired by the KCGCD to create a set of books for the 2005-2006 fiscal year that ended Sept. 30, 2006.

Ede presented the board with general ledger and profit and loss statements, but announced they were not at all a clear indication of the district's current financial standing. Ede stated he could not ascertain what the district owes the law firm of Lowerre and Frederick, the district's current legal council, nor could he figure out how the usage fees were determined on last year's invoices from the information provided to him by former General Manager Darlene Shahan. To rectify the situation, Board President Duke Meek appointed a small committee that included Beth Ann Smith, new director Gloria Benacci, interim general managers Carol Runge and Vic Hilderbran and Diana Ward to meet with Ede to review any supporting documentation that will help settle last year's books.

Ede encouraged the board to adopt better policies and procedures for collecting and spending the district's funds.

"We're getting there, but it's not complete," said Ede of the district's books.

At the direction of Interim General Manager Runge, the

board voted on a budget for the current fiscal year that started Oct. 1.

The board has been operating in violation of the law by spending any of the district's funds and not already having adopted a budget.

According to the district, nearly \$58,000 was spent prior to the adoption of a budget.

In what could have been the fourth law suit brought against the water district, Interim Manager Hilderbran recently negotiated a truce with, Steven D. Walthour, a former consultant to the district, for the payment of an outstanding bill in the amount of \$8,999.68.

According to Director Smith, Walthour's attorney, Stephen Rogers, submitted a letter to the District in July, but the directors only recently became aware of it. Smith went on to state that Walthour was willing to accept payments without charging any interest.

A letter of resignation from Director Tootsie Herndon was accepted, "with sadness," said Meek.

Herndon cited, "personal and family health concerns," as her reasons for resigning her position as Director County at Large.

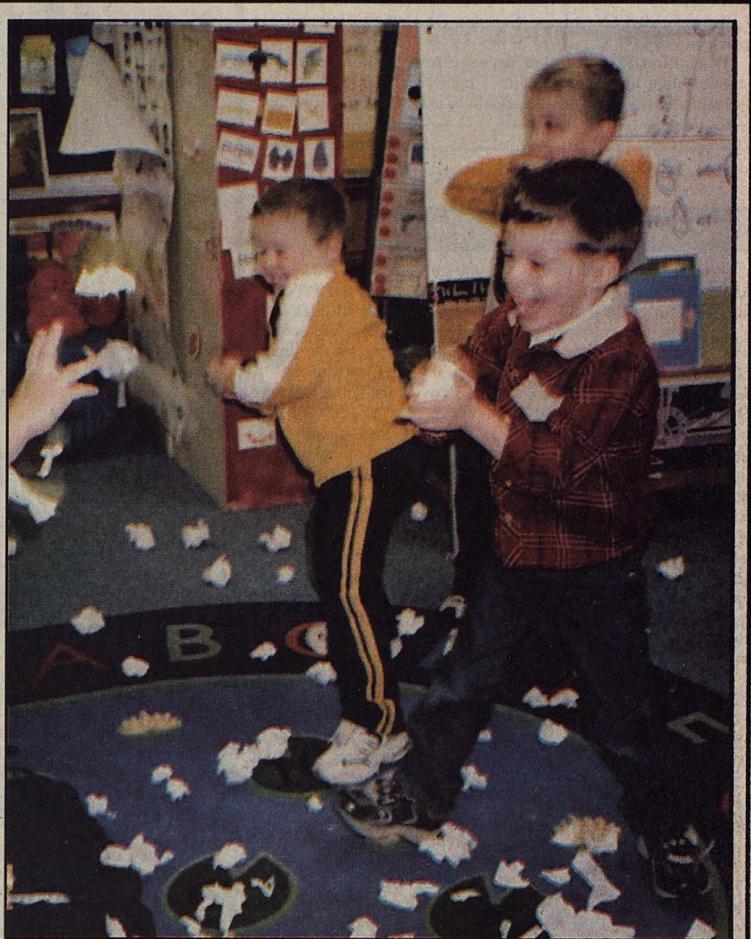
Directors then went on record to ask the county commissioners to seek the public's opinion regarding a replacement for Herndon.

Most recently, the City of Brackettville was not consulted for the replacement of the City At Large position after Charles Chuck Hall resigned in Nov.

In the past the County has advertised and interviewed for open seats.

The board took a unanimous action to include the Pledge of Allegiance and a short prayer before each meeting.

"If you think we can do this on our own, you're wrong," said Director Lloyd Lee Davis after he expressed his concerns the division the war over Kinney County water has created in the community.



White Christmas?

Courtesy Photo

BISD Pre-Kinder students Kris Creel, Daylon Fohn and Kyle Edgar recently enjoyed an indoor, paper snowball fight in Mrs. Kay Sitgreaves' class. Tearing and crunching paper helped the young students tune their fine motor skills.

Thinking of home at Christmas

Submitted by Lingo Sandoval

Major Steven Wilson will not be home for Christmas this year, but his thoughts are definitely stateside.

Major Wilson, son of the late Bill and Zulema S. Wilson of Brackettville, is currently serving a tour of duty in Afghanistan with the Army Reserves.

Major Wilson attended Brackett High School and at the end of his junior year he transferred to New Mexico Military Institute High School, continued college at NMMI for two years and received his commission as 2nd Lt. He went on to attend North Texas State University and received his degree in Criminal justice.

Wilson's wife Stephanie, his children Dylan Guillermo 8, and Gabriella Maria 5, reside in San Antonio.

Wilson's His brother David Wilson of Dallas, his Uncle Lingo Sandoval and Aunt Maria Elena Ortega, Great aunt Carlotta De La Rosa, and Great Uncle Evaristo Sandoval of Brackettville, Uncle Cruz and Aunt Bonnie Beloz of Del Rio, and Uncle Julio Sandoval of San

Antonio are very proud of Steve.

Wilson should return to the

United States the latter part of February or the early part of March, 2007.



Christmas Abroad

Courtesy Photo

Major Steven Wilson (center) poses with the locals in Afghanistan while on a tour of duty with the U.S. Army Reserves.



Water Watchers

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

From Left: Geary Schindel, Bev Shade and Lew Schnitz, all hydrogeologists working in Kinney County to research water flow and direction.

News BRIEFS

School & Sports Calendar

School Holiday: Dec 21, 2006 - Jan. 3, 2007. Classes will resume on Thurs., Jan. 4, at 7:50 a.m.

Weekend WEATHER

Friday

Sunny
High: 65
Low: 44

Saturday

Showers
High: 54
Low: 39

Sunday

Showers
High: 55
Low: 36

Flu Shots

South Texas Urgent Care Center, 3040 E. Main Street in Uvalde (behind Applebees) is now offering flu shots for \$30. For more information call, 830-278-1166.

Grief Support Group

There is a new grief support group which is meeting the first Tuesday of each month in Slaton Hall of First United Methodist Church. All who are experiencing grief are invited to come and support each other in their journeys. Call Pastor Jean Reardon at 563-2823 if you have questions. Everyone is welcome.

Recorded Rainfall

3/10" of rain recorded at The Brackett News Weather Center this week. Report rain gauge readings from your part of the

county by phone 830-563-2852 or by email: tbnews@sbcglobal.net. Please include your address!

Passport Update

The Consulate of Mexico announced as of Jan. 23, 2007, the Dept. of Homeland Security will require all Mexican Nationals arriving or leaving U.S.A territory by air will have to present a valid passport. These new requirements will not affect land entries. Presenting a valid US Visa will still be sufficient to enter or leave the USA. Call the Mexican Consulate at 830-773-9255 or 830-773-9256 for more information.

Christmas Open House

Middle Rio Grande Futuro Communities, Inc. invites you

to share the joy of the season at our Christmas Open House. 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon Friday, December 22, 2006, 330 East Main, Uvalde, TX. Christmas carolers will begin at 10:00 a.m. Futuro Provides affordable housing services, business loans, and development assistance.

Fort Clark Calendar

Thursday 12/21: Couples Golf at 1:00 p.m. Stitching from 1-3 p.m. Ceramics from 1-3 p.m. at the Activity Center. Friday 12/22: Aerobics 9:00 a.m. Stitching 1-3. Men's Bridge 1-5 in Activity Center. Activity Center open 6-10. Bingo 7 p.m. Saturday 12/23: Breakfast at RV park at 8 a.m. Board Meeting at 9 a.m. Art Studio open from 1-4. Activity Center open 6-10. Monday 12/25: Par 3 Scramble at 9 a.m. Wood Carvers at 9 a.m. Aerobics at 9 a.m. Art Studio open 1-4. Tuesday

12/26: Ladies Golf at 9a.m. Architectural Com. Meeting at 9:00 a.m. 500 Cards 6 p.m. at the Activity Center. Old Quarry Meeting 9 p.m. Wednesday 12/27: Men's Golf at 9 a.m. Aerobics at 9 a.m. Tap Dance at 10:15. Stitching from 1-3. Dominos at 6 p.m. in Activity. Center. Thursday 12/28: Couples Golf at 1:00 p.m. Stitching from 1-3 p.m. Ceramics from 1-3 p.m. at the Activity Center. Friday 12/29: Aerobics 9:00 a.m. Stitching 1-3. Men's Bridge 1-5 in Activity Center. Activity Center open 6-10. Bingo 7 p.m. Saturday 12/30: Breakfast at RV park at 8 a.m. Art Studio open from 1-4. Activity Center open 6-10.

County Christmas Contest

The First Annual County Christmas Contest has been a big success. The secret panel of judges have made their de-

isions and the winners will be announced in the Dec. 28, edition of the TBN. There's still time to visit the decorated houses. The nominees for this year's Best Decorated House In Brackett, Best Decorated House on the Fort and Best decorated Ranch Gate Are: ●Hall Residence on Gove Street ●Villarreal Residence on Fulton Street ●Kinney County Courthouse on Ann Street ●Fort Clark Springs Administration Office ●Rio Grande Electric on Hwy. 90 ●Martinez Residence on Shedy Street ●Smith Residence Unit 14, 55 Las Palmas, FCS ●Houses along Colony Row on FCS ●Justice Residence on Hwy. 334 ●Tommy Flores Residence on West Edwards Street ●City Hall on W. Spring Street ● Garcia Residence on Bowleg, FCS ●Masters Condos, 951 Fairway Circle, FCS ●Wright Residence, 600 E. First Street ● O'Keefe Residence in The Oaks, FCS ● Daley Residence 42 Plaza Menorca, FCS ●Triple T Ranch Gate, 17 miles out on N 674.

Letter to the EDITOR

I am Cecilia Barrera Duran. I came to San Antonio for Thanksgiving and my son, Ramon Duran's, wife, Polly Bone, suggested we go to Brackettville. My mother was Qtila Rome Barrera, her father was Alruno Romo married to Refugio San Miguel on the 5th of December, 1894 in Brackettville descendants or relatives of Victoreno San Miguel and Catasina De La Cruz married on April 10, 1887.

My aunt Luz Romo Santiesteian came from California. She is the last sibling living from Alruno's family.

I want to know if we have any relatives in Brackettville, Uvalde, or Del Rio.

Cecilia B. Duran
11638 Alameda
Socorro, TX 79927

Editors Weekly P(aper)LOG

It's Christmas time in the city...or the rural, frontier area known as Kinney County, la, la, la. I don't know the rest of the words to that song, but it has been running through my head all day.

I'm in the Christmas Spirit and I am so excited about seeing everyone decorating their houses and gates. I didn't get the lights and decorations up on my house this year, but I just ran out of time. I did manage to get three trees up. Two at the house and one at the office, so I can't be called a Scrooge.

I still haven't purchased one Christmas gift yet. My oldest son thinks I'm kidding, but I'm a last minute kind of gal and at the last minute, I'll get done and somehow manage to make it look like I spent a lot of time on it. I've seen Roe casually wander into my room while I'm fixing my face and not so conspicuously peer into the closet like a gift is gonna' suddenly fall off the shelf and hit him on the head!

Kids never get too old for Christmas. We've never made a big deal about Santa because we want them to believe in things unseen, but I don't want it to be Santa or the Tooth Fairy! We'd prefer the unseen things they believe in are Jesus and the saints, not the Easter Bunny! But in all of this, I've never run up to any small children and yelled, "Santa's Fake!". Kids just want to believe and this year my youngest has decided that he wants to believe in Santa. I'm not sure where the idea comes from - friends at school maybe, but not me. I work too hard to let someone else take the credit for the presents under the tree. WE'RE THE SANTA, SON! But I'm not the one to break it to him, yet. Somehow, maybe when he's twenty or so we'll sit him down and tell him the guy at the mall gets a paycheck just like his dad!

Happy New Year! I will declare on January 1, 2007, not to swear out loud and exercise at least three times a week. I predict that the first resolution will last about twenty seconds because I'll wake up on Jan. 1, with a head full of champagne, slide out of bed and trip over one of the dogs and one of those beauties will slip out and a whole year's worth of good intentions will have gone straight in the hopper. I also predict that I will get a new tube for my bike tire and ride everyday until it goes flat - which at my house trolls come out of the ground every six days and flatten all bike tires. So by January 10, 2007, I'll be right here back at this desk, swearing about how bad I need to exercise!

Merry Christmas, Chanukkah and Kwanza Everyone! And for the politically correct...Happy Holidays and Seasons Greetings!
Leigh V.

Letter To Editor POLICY

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. Letters should not exceed 350 words and be on subjects of interest. 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 found or believed to be written by a person other than that of the signed author will be refused. 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.

The Brackett News

BRACKETT NEWS STAFF
Leigh Volcsko, Editor, Owner, Janitor and Advertising Director
Allison Taylor, Managing Editor

www.thebrackettnews.com
For questions or corrections please call the editor at 830-563-2852 or email tbnews@sbcglobal.net. Letters to the editor must be on subjects of interest and be 350 words or less.

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Community News Policy

Persons wanting to place announcements in *The Brackett News* do not have to live in Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs or Kinney County. Subject matter need only pertain to the community or persons living in the community. Effective April 17, 2006:

Engagement Announcement without Photo - No Charge

Engagement Announcement with Photo - \$20

Wedding Announcement without a Photo - No Charge

Wedding Announcement with a Photo - \$20

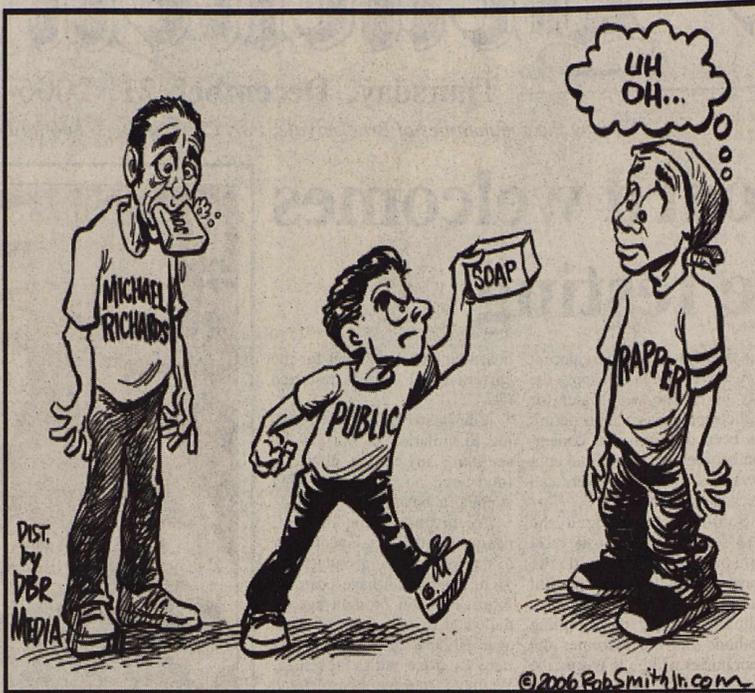
Quinceanera Announcement without a Photo - No Charge

Quinceanera Announcement with a Photo - \$10

Birth Announcements without a Photo - No Charge

Birth Announcements with a Photo - \$10

Obituaries with or without a Photo - No Charge



Another Christmas Story

Submitted by Iris Sissy Martin

I want to thank Liz Jaso for her outstanding Christmas story. I would like to tell the Brackett News how much it is appreciated that it was published. After reading it I realized I had a Christmas story too, and hope the Brackett News will publish it.

At the end of 2004 after a mammogram, I was told I more than likely had breast cancer. To find out for sure an open biopsy should be done. It was after the beginning of 2005 that the procedure could be done. The doctor said it was cancer and the breast was removed. I was then scheduled for 8 doses of chemotherapy, followed by radiation Monday thru Friday for six weeks. After 5 doses of chemo I was diagnosed with pulmonary edema. It was a Friday in the middle of August 2005 when I went to see a cardiologist in San Antonio for a stress test, which I failed miserably. I didn't last one minute. He admitted me to his hospital the following Monday for a heart catheterization. His nurse said I might stay one night. I got out of the hospital 28 days later. For the first 10 days to 2 weeks I was aware of nothing. I only remember bits and pieces. I was on a morphine drip, so I didn't really care. Seven days after the heart cath, I had open heart surgery to repair a leaky heart valve. The surgeon came out and told me family to go in and tell me good-bye, that I was not going to last 24 hours. After 24 hours he said perhaps I could make it another 24 hours. Fooled him, didn't I? Ten days later they installed a defibrillator, which is supposed to shock my heart to a normal rhythm, if it went too fast or too

slow. The night before the day it was put in, my heart stopped twice. I came out of it when a fist slammed into my chest. I don't recall seeing a "white light", but I do remember looking for my dad. Mostly I remember the most incredible feeling of peace that I have ever felt in my life. God just did not need me yet, he still had plans for me here on earth. The defibrillator was installed the next day and I went to my daughters home in San Antonio a couple of days later. I had to be admitted again after a few days, I think for seperation anxiety; I had really come to depend on that hospital.

My grandson had been living with me in Spofford before all this took place. He went to stay with his other grandma in Brackett; she started him in Kinder the day I had the open heart surgery. When I felt like I might be strong enough, we took him to San Antonio and enrolled him in Kinder there. I was on a no-salt, low-sodium diet. My blood pressure was too low and I didn't seem to be improving, my doctor said to start thinking about a nursing home. My grandson came in from school one day talking about having a corn chip pie for lunch and it was so good. My daughter came in, I sent her to the store for a bag of Fritos and a can of Wolf brand chili. That was the beginning of the upswing. Every day I felt a little better. My grandson and I were in Spofford for Thanksgiving so he could spend the day with his other family. I couldn't cook; wonderful, kind hearted people brought me plates. By Christmas we were back in Spofford to stay. Friends came over and got my Christmas decorations down off a high shelf for me, my daughter had to put the tree together and my grandson decorated it. My daughter also decorated my

front fence. My 2 sisters, my daughter, and I cooked dinner for my family, complete with a platter of back-strap.

This year I cooked Thanksgiving dinner for my family and we've decided to have tacos for Christmas dinner. My grandson put the tree together and decorated most of it except for the high parts. I decorated my front fence myself. None of this would have been possible without some really outstanding medical personnel and the thoughts, kindness, and most of all prayers from my family and all the folks of Kinney County. And my grandsons corn chip pie.

You don't work for Virginia Shahan for as many years as I did and not come away believing in the healing power of prayer. The phone calls, visits, and letters, I received both in the hospital and at home were incredible. It meant so much to me. And I thank God that I am still alive to spend another Christmas with my family.

My Christmas gift to all of you is a bit of advise. Just because you get around pretty good, and because you think you feel pretty good, and you think you're pretty tough, and you think it only happens to others, think again. Please go to your doctor for regular check-ups. Ladies, especially mammograms. Early detection is the key. The chemo destroyed my heart. I could not finish the scheduled doses and the radiation would have killed what little heart I have left. I will never be 100%. I get tired pretty easy, and this South Texas heat is hard on me. But I'm alive to complain!

At this special time of year, please take minute to think of and pray for those less fortunate or sick. And pray that it is never you or yours. Then schedule a check-up.



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When investing, look past "Outlook 2007"



Emily Cooper

When Investing, Look Past "Outlook" for 2007

It's time for all the financial experts to make their predictions for 2007. Some will say the stock market will keep rising over the next year, while others will claim the market will fall. How about interest rates, inflation, oil prices and any number of other factors? With very little effort, you can find conflicting opinions on all these subjects. How can you base your investment strategies on such an uncertain forecast?

You can't - and you shouldn't.

In fact, you'll be better off if you stop asking questions that have no answers. No one can really tell you where the Dow Jones Industrial Average will be in 12 months, nor the price of a barrel of oil, nor the interest rate on a 10-year Treasury note. Even more importantly, the specifics of the financial markets over the next year are just about meaningless to you if you will be investing for another two or three decades.

Consequently, instead of pondering what lies ahead for the financial markets, ask yourself these questions:

-Is my asset allocation suitable for my risk tolerance? You'll need to periodically review your portfolio to make sure your investment mix is still appropriate for your individual needs. You don't want to take on too much risk, but, at the same time, you don't want to invest so conservatively that you can't attain the growth you need. And, over time, some of your goals may change, along with your family situation, so you'll want to make sure your investments reflect your new circumstances.

-Do I need to upgrade the quality of my investments? Year in and year out, through market volatility and political turmoil, quality investments never go out of style. Take a close look at your holdings. Do you own stocks of companies with strong management teams and competitive products? Have your bonds received high "grades" from the independent rating agencies? In any given time period, the highest rated investments may not offer the best returns, but, over the long haul, they are likely to provide you with the greatest potential for rewards.

-Can I reduce my investment expenses and taxes? Most people don't realize just how much expenses and taxes can eat into investment returns. By buying -quality investments, and holding them for the long term, you can help reduce transaction costs. And you can gain greater control of your tax situation by focusing on tax-advantaged vehicles, such as your 401(k), Roth or traditional IRA, fixed annuities and some types of municipal bonds.

-Do I own investments that can offer the potential for both reliable and rising income during retirement? This question is especially applicable if you are closing in on retirement. To supplement your Social Security and the distributions from your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan, you will need to count on income from your investment portfolio. To maintain a steady source of income that can also keep you ahead of inflation, you may want to explore a mixture of fixed-income vehicles and dividend-paying stocks. Keep in mind, though, that dividends can be increased, decreased or totally eliminated at any point without notice.

You can't predict shifting political winds, geopolitical unrest, new tax legislation and the fortunes of specific industries. But by following the steps outlined above, you can quit looking for a crystal ball - because you won't need it.

The Brackett News

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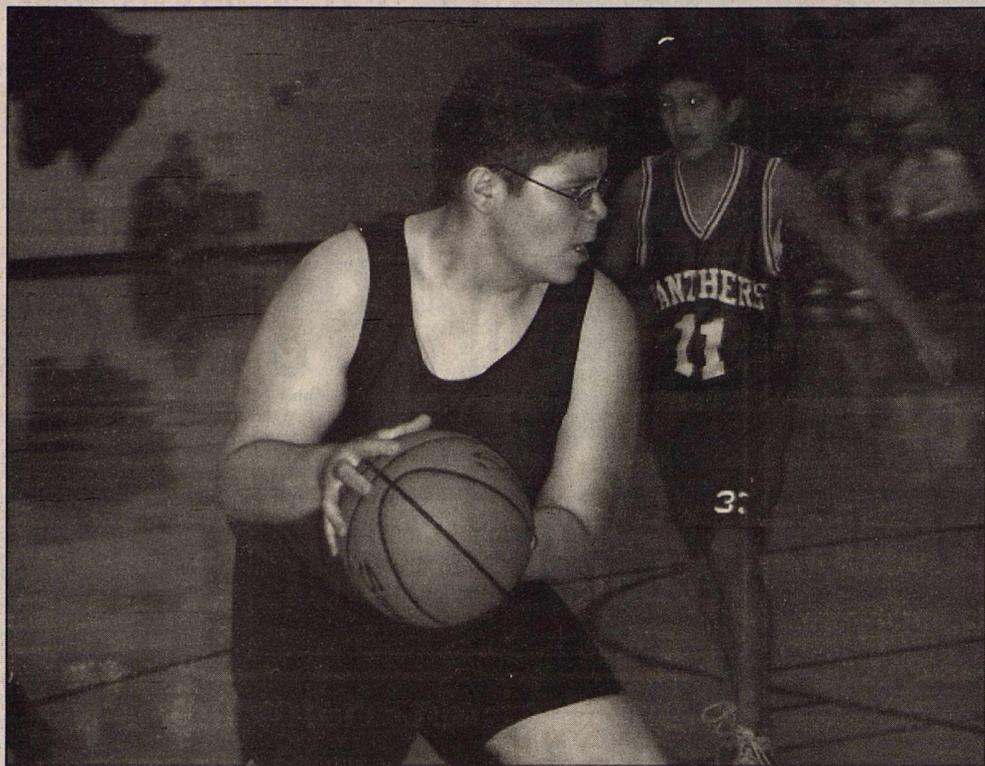
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Looking For A Pass

Eighth grader Dalton Woodson, looks for a teammate to accept a pass against Nueces Canyon Dec. 14.

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

Baskets & Gifts

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The best place for your last minute Christmas shopping!
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Fort Clark Sutlers Store

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Let us help you find the right gift for everyone on your list. While here, look at our new Christmas ornament. It is the 1st in our planned annual Christmas ornament collection, featuring a historic building.
1 p.m. - 4 p.m.
Adjacent to the Ft. Clark Museum
Volunteers needed and greatly appreciated.

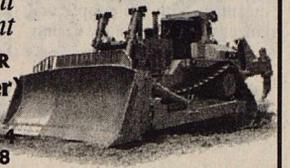
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VARSITY BOYS BASKETBALL STATS

Tournament game at SWTJC: Brackett Tigers 75, Leakey Eagles 60

Brackett	MIN	PTS	REB	AST	BLK	TO	STL	PF
* #12 Bonner, Travis	8	29	8	1	3	3	3	5
* #20 Nowlin, Lane	16	20	5	4	0	3	1	3
#25 Rivera, Stevan	24	7	2	2	0	4	1	1
* #21 Davis, Robert	24	6	4	7	1	2	2	2
* #10 Balderas, Chuy	16	6	1	3	0	1	1	1
* #23 Pinales, Ivan	24	4	2	1	0	2	2	0
#5 Bonner, KJ	8	3	0	0	0	3	0	0
#32 Adams, Jr.	8	0	3	0	0	2	0	3
#33 Schroeder, Jaco	16	0	2	1	0	1	0	0
#50 Stephenson, Mic	8	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
#30 Cantu, Cesar	8	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Team totals	32	75	27	20	5	21	11	16

CINEMARK

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APOCALYPTO (R) 1210 1040 WE ARE MARSHAL (PG) NO

335 710 1035 NO PASSES 1130 245 610 915

CHARLOTTE'S WEB (G) ERAGON (PG) NO PASSES

600 900 1235 405 720 1020

PURSUIT OF HAPPINESS (PG 13) NO

PASSES 1240 355 705 915 THE HOLIDAY (PG 13) 1220

1010 345 715 1040

NIGHT AT THE MUSEUM ROCKY BALBOA (PG) NO

PASSES 1115 215 500 750 PASSES 100 345 630 945

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JUNIOR HIGH GIRLS BASKETBALL UPDATE

Submitted by Coach Rhonda Marquardt

Brackett "A" Girls team lost to Nueces Canyon 16-30.

Stats - Points: Paige Nowlin, 6, Stella Guajardo and Rachel Nash, 4, Kelsey Bruce, 2. Steals Leader: Bianca Cruz, 3. Rebound leader: Paige Nowlin, 5.



From All of Us At
Burger N' Shake

Closed 3 p.m. December 24 & Closed all day December 25

Are you interested in being a paraprofessional at BISD?

To be considered for a paraprofessional (instructional aide) position with BISD, you must meet the requirements of the federally mandated No Child Left Behind. To be hired, applicants must meet one of the three standards:

1. Have at least 48 hours of college; or
2. Obtained at least an associate's degree; or
3. Met a rigorous standard of quality and be able to demonstrate, through a formal state assessment, knowledge of and the ability to assist in instructing reading, writing and mathematics.

Regional Educational Service Center 20 in San Antonio has developed a five day workshop offered to meet NCLB requirements (# 3 above). BISD will offer transportation to the workshop for any interested applicants. The \$175 fee and meals will be the responsibility of the applicant. Upon successful completion of the course, the attendee will receive a NCLB certificate that is filed with the Texas Education Agency and is accepted by the district to meet the Highly Qualified requirements. *Obtaining this certificate does not guarantee employment with BISD, but it does allow the applicant to be considered for employment.* The workshop is scheduled for January 22 - 26, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. - 4 p.m. daily in San Antonio. Participants must be in attendance all five days in order to take the assessment. If you are interested, please contact Paula Renken at 830-563-2491 x150 or paular@brackett.k12.tx.us

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Friday, Dec 22 at 7 a.m.

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65¢ lb.
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69¢ lb.
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47¢ lb.
\$18.75/case

NAVEL ORANGES



60¢ lb.
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RUSSET POTATOES



\$1.99/10 lb.

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42¢ lb.
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54¢ lb.
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Salted Peanuts - \$1.15 lb.



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FORT CLARK UPDATE

Look no farther for "Old World Grandeur", it all culminates in the lobby of Fort Clark Springs Administrative building.

A "must see" are Christmas decorations that would be appropriate in the White House or castles of renown.

And, who is responsible for this visionary treat? A very modest, multi-talented individual is the brains behind this expression of Christmas cheer, she would be the first to tell you that friends pitched in to help.

So, if you want to treat your eyes to elegance, make an effort to visit FCS' lobby during these holidays.

The decorations are priceless and to put a dollars and cents value on the project, the cash register would run overtime.

Thank you Helen Marie Jones for giving of your time, creative gifts, and love of sharing them with the people and citizens of FCS, Kinney County and visitors to this area.



Kinney County Arts Council Winner
Arts Council Past President Rosetta Pingnot congratulates Bobby Waddell on winning the council's recent fund raising raffle. The prize, worn by Waddell, was a custom made jewelry set crafted by William Dalton Design of Austin.

Photo by Allison Taylor

CHEER answers questions



Pat Sitzes

The CHEER article for this week is all about answering different questions that have been asked of late. If you do not understand the answer, feel free to call the CHEER number 563-5528.

What Exactly Is CHEER?
CHEER stands for the Center for Health Evaluation, Education, & Resources. It is a non-profit to provide health and wellness services for Kinney County residents. Our main focus is not cancer. However, we do provide services related to cancer such as mobile mammog-

raphy, funding for uninsured women as it becomes available for mammograms, and peer counseling for cancer patients. We plan to have classes for diabetic education, stress reduction classes, information on ways to combat childhood obesity, exercise classes, walking groups, and any other services related to health & wellness activities.

What Is the Angel Tree and Where Does the Money Go?

The CHEER Angel Tree is to raise money for startup expenses such as liability insurance, phone, office furniture and supplies. Pat Sitzes is the executive director, but no salary is paid to her at this time. Your money will be put to good use by CHEER. An angel can be purchased for \$5 in honor of or in memory of someone. Please help CHEER by buying an angel for the tree, and helping us get started in January 2007.

Is the mammography unit as good as one at the hospital?

Yes, the mammography machine is just as good, but it is in a mobile unit.

Who Can Get a Mammogram?
Any woman 35 years or older who has not had a mammogram less than a year ago.

Insurance will pay as long as you do not have your mammogram before the year is up.

If you have insurance, medicare, or Medicaid, you will be able to get a mammogram. Persons who are uninsured will be able to get a mammogram, and if funding is available.

CHEER will provide some financial assistance for the mammogram.

At this time, twenty-five women have signed up for the January 23rd date. If you want to sign up, please call CHEER, and let us know. CHEER wants to keep track of any woman that wants a mammogram for the next year. For example, if you want to use the mobile mammography service for another month, call and let CHEER know you need a mammogram in that month. It will help with planning for future visits with the mobile mammography unit.

The IRS is checking our application for designating CHEER as a 501c3 nonprofit under the IRS. Within the next sixty days, we should have our designation if all of our information submitted is acceptable.

CHEER wishes everyone a Merry Christmas and a Healthy Happy New Year in 2007.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS

During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best

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Investment Representative
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From us, to You...

from Employees of Kinney County Jail and the Sheriff's Department

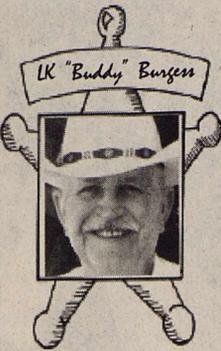
HO, HO, HO!

Have the merriest of holidays! Greetings from

Bob & Gladys Burkepile

To all our Friends & Neighbors

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



was having problems breathing. The caller didn't know the physical address, so the Sheriff's Office found the address and informed EMS of the situation.

Friday, December 15
2:55 a.m. A woman called stating that two men were arguing outside her neighbors residence. A deputy reported to the area, but no men were found.

4:00 p.m. A caller stated that a red faced cow was out on Hwy. 90. The caller stated that it was west of Pinto Creek on the North side of the road. A deputy was informed of the situation.

8:11 p.m. A call came into the Sheriff's Office stating that a plane had crashed on the Lafonda Ranch. There was only the pilot in the plane, but he was afraid that the second gas tank may explode. All units were dispatched.

Saturday, December 16
10:50 a.m. A call was received from an employee of Churches Fried Chicken stating that a Brackettville citizen had left her purse at the restaurant. The woman was notified.

1:20 p.m. A woman reported that there was loud music outside her house.

Sunday, December 17
2:01 a.m. A 911 caller reported that kids were putting boxes in the middle of Anne St. at Canards. This was making vehicles dodge the boxes or run over them. A deputy was notified.

2:05 p.m. Arturo Ramirez, 43, of Del Rio was arrested for driving with an invalid license. He was released after paying bail.

5:27 p.m. A caller stated that kids were throwing rocks at the football field. A deputy went to the scene and made the kids clean the area.

5:30 p.m. David Valdespino, 21, of Del Rio was arrested for driving with an invalid license. He was released after paying bail of \$1,500.

8:38 p.m. A man called stating that there was a black bear on 3008 about 6 miles from Hwy. 90. A deputy was notified of the situation, and later the bear jumped a fence another ranch.

9:14 p.m. A 911 caller stated that a blue pickup was racing another vehicle on Sheedy St. The vehicles were later stopped by deputies.

Monday, December 18
9:13 a.m. A woman reported possible domestic violence in an apartment. A deputy was enroute to the scene and reported everything was alright.

3:45 p.m. A caller stated that a vehicle was blocking his drive way and would like a deputy to report to his residence. Later, everything was taken care of.

8:00 p.m. A man stated that someone had keyed his vehicle, and he had an idea of who it was. The man said it has been an on going thing. A deputy was told of the situation.

Thursday, December 7
3:30 p.m. Webb Walter, 60, of Kerrville was arrested for theft and was released the same day on a \$500 bond.

Friday, December 8
5:00 p.m. Joseph Garcia, 27, of Del Rio was arrested for forgery. He was released the same day with a \$2,500 bond.

Saturday, December 9
1:55 p.m. Noe Talamantes, 19, of Brackettville was arrested for a revoked probation sentence. He was released on bail of \$1,000.

9:30 p.m. Loenel Olivares, 22, of Del Rio was arrested for possession of marijuana. He was released the next day with a bond of \$500.

Sunday, December 10
6:45 p.m. Feliz Guerro, 43, of Lampasas was arrested for driving with an invalid license, and was later released with a \$1,200 bail.

Tuesday, December 12
10:45 a.m. Salvador Flores, 40, of Del Rio was arrested for driving with an invalid license. Flores is still being held as of press time.

2:09 p.m. A woman reported horses out on FM 2804. Deputies reported to the area and got the horses back to their owners.

3:39 p.m. A man asked what he could do about the hookup trailer that was at the park. The Sheriff's Office stated that he could take it to the dump.

8:35 p.m. A caller stated that a loud truck was knocking down stop signs on Gove St. and Thomas St. A deputy was informed of the situation.

11:31 p.m. The Sheriff's Office got a report of a stolen rent a car from San Antonio. The car would not pull over for police, but then the driver bailed and ran into the brush. A deputy requested a tracking dog from the Border Patrol.

Wednesday, December 13
8:25 a.m. The Del Rio DPS called stating that a couple had hit a deer on Hwy 90 East. A deputy was dispatched and reported that the couple was on Hwy 90 West.

10:30 p.m. Charles, AlFero, 43, of Floresville was arrested for an outstanding warrant. He was sent to Bexar County.

Thursday, December 14
1:00 p.m. A man called stating that vehicles were blocking the alley by Wool and Mohair. The vehicles had to be moved in order for a tractor trailer to move.

2:40 p.m. A woman called stating that another woman

Our prescription for a joyous season:
Take 1 part each of laughter, love, peace and good will every day of the holiday. Have a happy!

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Merry Christmas

B.E. and Charlotte Sweet, Savannah and Janie

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from
The Whole Gang at
Kinney County Wool & Mohair

OBITUARIES

James M. Carroll

May 10, 1958 - December 15, 2006

James Michael Carroll lost his long and courageous battle with cancer December 15, 2006. He passed away peacefully at home at the age of 48.

He was born May 10, 1958 in Sonora, Texas, and is survived by daughter, Alison Michelle Carroll of Brackettville. Other survivors include sisters Brenda Neel and husband Lee, their children Brenlee, Bradlee, and Breelee, of Sabinal; and Patricia Taylor and husband Frank of Brackettville, their children Aaron Taylor, and Jessica and Roland Pina, great nephews and niece Nicholas, Gabriel, and Ashley Pina, of Kingsville, and a special aunt, Louise Dennis, of Cookeville, Tennessee, and many cousins and friends.

He was preceded in death by parents Maxine and Ernest Patrick Carroll and grandparents Avis and Patrick McCullough Carroll, of Sonora, and Cora and James Matthews, of Hanging Limb, Tennessee, and a special uncle, Boyd Dennis.

Mike suffered a stroke at the age of 33, leaving him partially paralyzed, but he refused to be considered "disabled". After a long rehabilitation, he resumed the role he most treasured, that of being a father. After his diagnosis of laryngeal cancer in 2001, he moved to Brackettville.

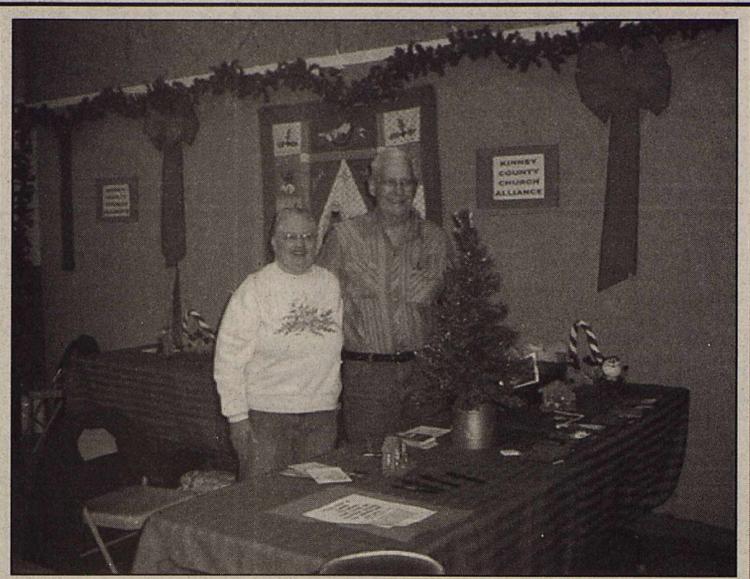
A celebration of life service will be held April 28, 2007 in conjunction with Kinney County's 2nd Annual Relay for Life, sponsored by the American Cancer Society, and chaired by daughter Alison.



Rev. Bill Adams Sr.

And in the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God unto a city of Galilee named Nazareth. To a virgin espoused to a man whose name was Joseph of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And the Angel came in unto her, and said, Hail, thou art highly favored, the Lord is with thee: blessed art thou among women. And when she saw him, she was troubled at his saying, and cast in her mind what manner of salutation this should be. And the Angel said unto her, Fear not, Mary for thou hast found favour with God. And behold, thou shalt conceive in thy womb, and bring forth a son and shalt call his name, Jesus.

St. Luke 1:26-31
Praise the Lord!



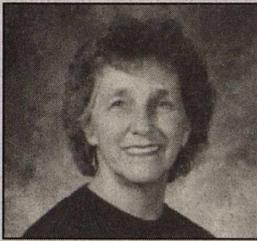
Kinney County Church Alliance

Courtesy Photo

The Kinney County Church Alliance hosted the Christmas Community Unity program.

Irene V. Keddy

August 21, 1935 - December 16, 2006



Irene Virginia Keddy, 71, of New Boston, Texas passed away Saturday, December 16, 2006, in a Texarkana hospital. Mrs. Keddy was born August 21, 1935 in Manchester, New Hampshire. She was a member of the Church of Christ, New Boston, a retired LVN and school nurse for the Brackettville, Texas school district, and a lifetime bible school teacher.

Survivors include her husband, Clarence Keddy of New Boston, two sons, Michael Keddy of Cabot Arkansas, and Darin Keddy of Paradise, California, two daughters, Susan Esparza of Brackettville, Texas and Sharon Keddy of New Boston, one sister, Pearl Ward of Denver, Colorado; one brother, Lewis Severance of Manchester, New Hampshire; nine grandchildren, and three great grandchildren.

Funeral Services will be held 2 p.m. Friday, December 22, at Church of Christ, New Boston, with Norman Hooten officiating. Visitation will be 5-7 p.m., Thursday, at Bates Rolf Funeral Home, New Boston.

In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to Church of Christ, Brackettville Youth Program, PO Box 856, Brackettville, TX 78832

Those little hands



Brother J.

I recently received a picture of a little newborn baby. In the center of the picture was a tiny

little hand holding on to its mother's finger. That picture reminded me of the night that Jesus was born in a manger in Bethlehem many years ago. Mary would look at and hold, as most young mothers do, those tiny little fingers and hands. Little did she know that it was God with us. (Matthew 1:23) and in that little child was the fullness of God. (John 14:10&11, Colossians 1:15). Years later

those young hands would work in a carpenter shop and later take a few small loaves of bread and miraculously feed over five thousand. They would also take dirt and spittle and give sight to the blind. They also made the lame to walk. Those hands when outstretched could calm the most violent storm and yet tenderly hold a young child that wanted to be near. Yes, those hands were brutally beaten and then

spikes driven through them and they stayed nailed to a cross on a hill in Jerusalem over two thousand years ago until there was no life left in them. It was then and there, that a way was made for our sins to be forgiven, (John 3:16, Colossians 1:14). It will also be those hands that will be waiting to greet us and take us into heaven and eternity. (John 14:3&6). See you in Church next Sunday. Brother J

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& 10:30 Worship

Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes

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Corner of Fort & Henderson

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11:00 am Worship Service

6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies or Bible study.

7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service

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First Baptist Church (SBC)

Corner of Ann and Veltman Phone: 563-2245

Sunday: Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m.

Worship Service - 11:00 a.m.

Adult/Youth/Children Discipleship Training 6 p.m.

Evening Service 7 p.m.

Wednesdays 7 p.m. Bible Study

Pastor Jeff Janca



St. Andrew's Episcopal Church

"A Mission of the Diocese of West Texas"

Sunday Worship 11:00 AM

Corner of Fort and Henderson

Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM

(October - April)

Reverend Nathan Lafrenz 563-9607



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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

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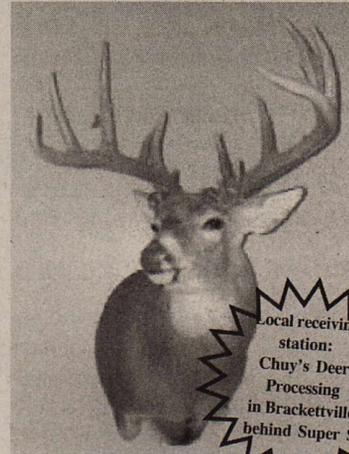
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Santa's reindeer grounded for drinking

AUSTIN, Texas—(BUSINESS WIRE)—Santa's reindeer star in a new animated TV commercial produced by the Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) and airing throughout Texas this month. In the spot, Santa's reindeer are grounded for drinking on Christmas Eve, prompting Santa to hook up his sleigh to a quartet of yellow taxis.

TxDOT's message to holiday revelers: if you've been drinking, designate a driver or take a cab to get home safely. With holiday revelry now in full swing, state officials are urging motorists to take the precautionary step of planning ahead to get home safely when their holiday celebrations include alcohol. "Drunk driving will ruin

the holidays for hundreds of families," said Carlos Lopez, TxDOT's traffic operations director. "We can't say it enough: plan ahead and plan not to get behind the wheel if you've been drinking." TxDOT's 9th annual holiday-themed campaign also uses radio commercials based on popular Christmas carols, billboards along interstate highways, ads at gas stations and festive coasters in bars and restaurants to deliver the reminder to designate a driver. The \$500,000 public education initiative extends

through New Year's Day. Safety advocates credit stepped-up enforcement of the state's DWI laws and ongoing advertising reminding Texans not to drink and drive with the continued decline in impaired driving fatalities. Federal officials report that 135 fewer people died in Texas last year in alcohol-related crashes than in 2004, continuing the trend from 2003. Supporting increased traffic enforcement allows TxDOT to accomplish one of its primary goals of enhancing safety on Texas highways.

The Texas Restaurant Association, the Texas Petroleum Marketers and Convenience Store Association, the Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission, the Texas Municipal Police Association and Valero Corporation are also participating in the holiday DWI-prevention campaign. Penalties for a first-time DWI offense include driver's license suspension for up to one year, a fine of up to \$2,000 and up to six months in jail.

KCCA Community Unity Christmas program

Submitted by Charolette Corey
KCCA President

On Saturday December 9th at the Kinney County Civic Center, the Kinney County Church Alliance sponsored its annual Community Unity Christmas Program.

This program was a huge success due to the loving contributions (both financial and material) of the citizens of Kinney County as well as the contributions of many outside the county.

The program started with Jones Elementary School's Principal Gutierrez introducing the different school grades of children who came up on stage and performed wonderful renditions of traditional Christmas carols.

Afterward, the children were seated up front to watch the delightful antics of Paul Kluzek and his Puppeters (of First Baptist Church).

This was followed by several sweet sounding Christmas selections played on the violin by Pastor Nathan Lafrenz of St.

Andrews Episcopal Church and Our Redeemer Lutheran Church. A special treat was had by all when the Praise Team from Living Stone Worship Center of Del Rio, TX led by Pastor Martin Seca performed many inspiring songs of praise interspersed with testimonies of the word of God and his unconditional love for us all.

Finally, the long-awaited appearance of St. Nicholas (played by Robert Smith) arrived where he spoke from the stage telling the story of how his custom of giving out gifts first started in Yugoslavia and the fact that it was due to his love and commitment to Jesus Christ.

Following this, he retired to his seat where he welcomed many of the over 255 children who received gifts that night. Free food and prizes were distributed at the booths to not only the children, but also to the more than 228 adults who attended.

Booths provided free food or prizes were Kinney County Church Alliance, City of Spofford, Brackettville Housing, deJae designs by Darla Ford, City of Brackettville assisted by the Girl Scouts of America, Las Moras Hispanic Organization, 4-H Club, United Medical Center, and Fellowship of Christian Athletes.

The sound system was provided by Gateway Ministries Pastors Robert Corey and Program Emcee - Charolette Corey. Enemencia Starzel made herself available to pray for people in the Prayer Room located in back of the stage.

Ponce & Martha Padron of the Chamber of Commerce were part of the Smile Patrol who welcomed people as they signed in. Gigi Pines and "Cookie" Cerella Stewart were also part of the Smile Patrol who handed out free prizes to those who were "caught being good".

The KCCA booth, being manned by Dave and Laverne Harper of Frontier Baptist Church, encouraged people to sign Christmas cards to give to the inmates being held at the Kinney County Detention Center (about 475 people there at this time) as well as those who are at the local jail. Many people stayed to assist the Coreys afterward to take down, pack up, and clean up the center after the program.

There was news of one woman coming forward later and praying the prayer of salvation as well as another who came forward wanting counseling for better family relations.

Our special thanks also go to the Fellowship of Christian Athletes for helping decorate for the program, a special note of gratitude to Randell & Susan Moore who came nightly to decorate and to the Brackett News for publicizing the program event, Kinney County for the use of the building, the Dollar General Store for collecting donated toys, the Rio Grande Electric Co-op Members Club for donating 30 basketballs, and several others who wished to remain anonymous in "gift giving", as well as the many businesses which allowed boxes offering envelopes to those who wanted to make a monetary donation.

The joyful looks in the eyes of the children made it all worth while.

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We want to wish each and everyone of you a Merry, Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Alfred (Chapa) and Joe

Seasons Greetings

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Wednesday: Crispy Chicken Salad only \$3.99
Thursday: Mexican Plate only \$3.99

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Thank You

I would like to thank the community for their support and words of encouragement during the past few months. I would especially like to thank my friends and family who have stood by me through everything. My family was there with shoulders to cry on and awesome words of encouragement about the days to come. My friends were there to make me laugh and help me see the lighter side of things.

I feel so blessed to be part of this loving community, and will forever be grateful to my Dad for having the foresight to make Brackettville the place I call home. I love you all!

Merry Christmas,
Alison Carroll

LAS MORAS HISPANIC ORGANIZATION

FELIZ NAVIDAD

We would like to thank all the sponsors; with their help we were able to give out 50 Christmas Baskets this year.

2006 Las Moras Hispanic Golf Tournament - Christmas Basket Benefit

Kinney County Wool & Mohair, Fort Clark Arts, Carole Benfield, Border Federal Credit Union, Ford Lincoln Mercury, Wal-Mart, Ricks Furniture Co., Tully Shahan, Las Moras Realty, Val Verde Home Nurses, HEB Del Rio, Stan & Kitty Sterling, MG Building Materials, Fort Clark Springs Golf, D & D Hardware Store, Roger Stephens, Brackettville Lions Club, Pat & Fran Owens, Carmen's Boutique, Benita's Baskets & Gifts, Super S Food Stores, Bank & Trust, Julie Noriega and Refugio Martinez

Merry Christmas

Carmen's Boutique
Extended Hours for your last Minute Christmas Shopping!

Friday Dec. 22 10-6 • Saturday Dec. 23 9-6
Sunday Dec. 24, Christmas Eve 9-?

While at Carmen's stop and visit Pat Sitzes to get more information about CHEER and mobile mammography unit coming to Brackettville on January 23, 2007.

Join us for some Christmas Refreshments on Friday the 22.

Concan Country Club
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Golf Course Homesites Available...but going fast!

It's not too late to sign up!

Driving Range will be opening soon for Members Only

Call 830-232-4471 for information and an application

Tim Herd's

Watchable Wildlife Guide

wildlife observation in the right place at the right time

Week of Dec. 24-30, 2006
The mammal, the myth, the legend ...

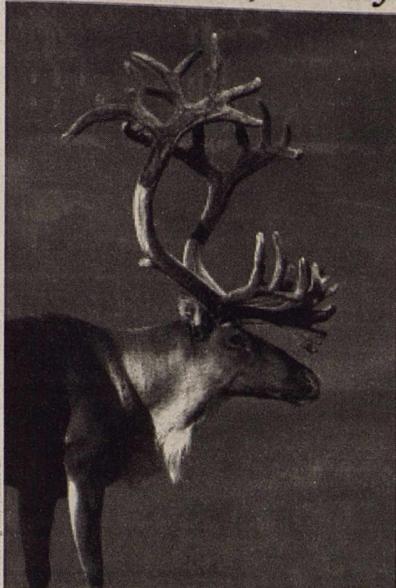


Photo by Len Bur Jr

Specially adapted for thriving near the North Pole, reindeer have deeply cleft, all-terrain hooves that bite the ice for traction on winter's frozen expanse – or for coming to a flying stop on an ice-encrusted rooftop, as the case may be. Thick, hollow fur provides excellent thermal insulation during the long winter's night, and keeps them buoyant while crossing lakes and rivers – or nighttime skies!

Reindeer of northern Europe and Asia and caribou of North America are the same species, although the domesticated reindeer is smaller and has shorter legs than its American cousin. Unlike any other animal, both sexes grow

broad antlers, but despite the names of St. Nick's famous associates, all reindeer so adorned on Christmas Eve are females, since the bulls shed their antlers after the rut in fall.

To native cultures all across northern Eurasia, the hardy beast furnishes clothing, leather, meat, milk, butter, cheese – and, of course, legendary sleigh transportation in a cold and snowy land. And to good children everywhere, the remarkable reindeer delivers a unique thrill at Christmastime.

WHERE TO OBSERVE

Arctic National Wildlife Refuge, Alaska
Denali National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Katmai National Park and Preserve, Alaska
Jasper National Park, Alberta
Banff National Park, Alberta
Bowron Lake PP, British Columbia
Bay du Nord Reserve, Newfoundland
Tuktut Nogait NP, Northwest Territories
Gaspesian Provincial Park, Quebec
Grand Jardins National Park, Quebec
Iwawik National Park, Yukon
Kluane National Park and Reserve, Yukon

LOOK FOR

gregarious bands of 10-50 individuals or herds of thousands
shaggy dark brown to tan fur; paler rump and underside
white neck and mane
long back-sweeping antlers with forward tines
flattened brow tine projects vertically over snout
large, nearly circular hoofprints

Reindeer / Caribou

Rangifer tarandus

Head and body: 4-7 1/2 feet; antlers: up to 4 1/2 feet



Habitat: tundra, northern forests

© 2006 Tim Herd, North America's Naturalist www.naturenewswatch.com

DSHS offering coyotes, gray foxes tasty snack with a side of rabies vaccine

The roar of the engines, the smell of the bait. It's time for the Texas Department of State Health Services' (DSHS) annual winter drop of rations for coyotes and gray foxes in South and West-Central Texas. And as these wild animals gobble up the sweet-tasting dog food and fish meal treats, they get an added benefit – a hidden dose of oral rabies vaccine. As full field operations for the DSHS Zoonosis Control Branch's Oral Rabies Vaccination Program (OR VP) begin Jan. 5 from the Zapata County Airport, health officials hope to continue seeing fewer incidences of canine and gray fox rabies. "Surveillance indicates that the program continues to show dramatic, measurable results year after year," said DSHS veterinarian Ernest Oertli, OR VP director. "Again this year we've seen no human cases of rabies in either the South Texas or the West-Central Texas area since the vaccine airdrop began in 1994. And no cases of canine or gray fox rabies in animals have been reported outside the original containment zones since the program's beginning."

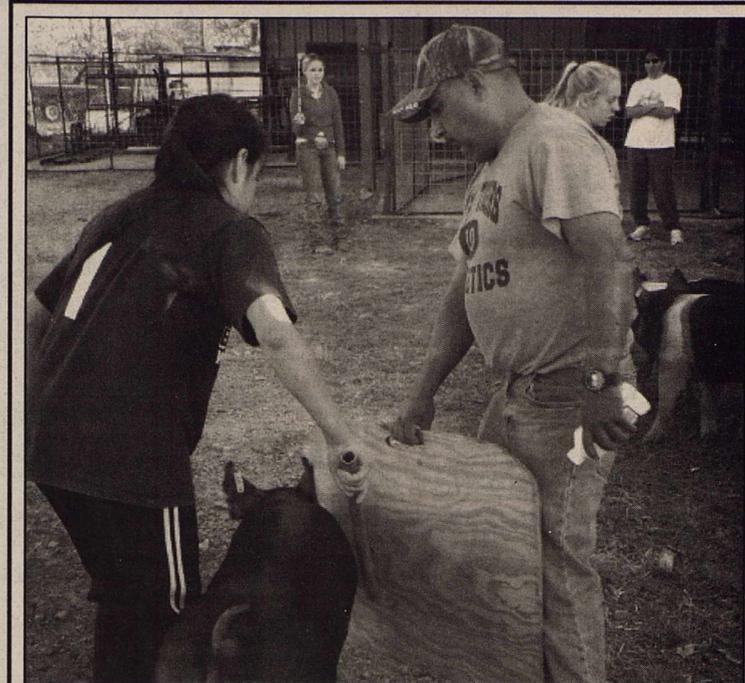
For several weeks in January, about 3.2 million baits will drop from five specially-equipped airplanes flying across 35 Texas counties. Following the Zapata flights, the OR VP crews move to Kimble County Airport in Junction and Alpine-Casparis Municipal Airport in Alpine around Jan. 12 for the second leg of the program. All flight schedules depend on good weather. The idea behind the airdrop is to create zones of vaccinated coyotes and gray foxes to first contain the spread of the rabies virus and then eliminate canine and gray fox

rabies in the areas.

DSHS initiated the program in 1995 as canine rabies in coyotes and domestic dogs had reached epidemic proportions in South Texas and threatened San Antonio and other major population areas. The next year, an airdrop began in West-Central Texas where an epidemic of gray fox rabies had been occurring since 1988. The number of canine rabies cases in animals in South Texas has dropped steadily from a high of 142 cases when the program began in 1995 to zero in 2002 and 2003, one in 2004, and back down to zero in 2005 and 2006 through November. Gray fox cases are down significantly as well from an all-time high of 265 cases in 1994 to 37 in 2006 through November. The special-

ized baits of fish meal are designed for coyotes, and a separate dog food bait containing molasses with vanilla flavoring meets the tastes of gray foxes. But the most important ingredient is the 2 milliliters of oral rabies vaccine encased in each bait. "The vaccine inside the bait cannot cause rabies in people or animals," Oertli said. "We do ask, however, that people not handle the baits. They contain a biological agent and are less likely to be eaten by wildlife if people touch them." Each brown bait, which measures 1 1/4 by 1 1/4 by 3/4 inches, is marked with a DSHS toll free number, 1-877-722-6725, that people may call for information.

"And while the OR VP program is doing a good job of pro-



FFA Clinic

McKenzie Castillo and her father Tommy work through a Future Farmers of America (FFA) showmanship clinic on Dec. 16. The 4H-FFA annual livestock show will be held in January, 2007.

Photo by Leigh Volcsko

Texas off highway vehicle decals enforced starting Jan. 1

AUSTIN, Texas — On Jan. 1, 2007, Texas Parks and Wildlife Department game wardens and other authorities will begin enforcing the requirement for all qualifying trail vehicles to have a current Texas Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) decal properly mounted on their trail vehicles when used at OHV venues on public land in Texas.

A Texas OHV decal costs \$8 and is good through August 31 of the year it is purchased. Many other states require similar decals. A decal bought in Texas is also valid in other states and other states' decals are valid in Texas. Revenue from decal sales will be used to provide grants to help municipalities, counties, state or federal agencies and non-profit corporations create or improve OHV recreation areas in Texas. Non-street legal motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATV) and non-street legal four-wheel drive vehicles are required to display the OHV decal when trail riding on public lands in Texas. The law applies to all public lands in Texas including municipal, county, state or federal lands where OHV recreation is approved and legal. Street legal OHV's do not require the Texas OHV decal no

matter where they are used in Texas. Decals are not required for vehicles used on private land. Failure to comply with this law is a Class C misdemeanor and could result in the OHV operator being issued a citation, with possible fines ranging from \$25-to-\$500. It's been almost one year since the Texas OHV program was created Jan. 1, 2006 to provide family-oriented OHV trail riding opportunities which are safer and will serve as a positive force for conservation of the natural and cultural resources of Texas. During 2006, the Texas program began the process of creating new OHV parks near Ozona in Crockett County, near Big Spring in state or federal agencies and non-profit corporations create or improve OHV recreation areas in Texas. Non-street legal motorcycles, all terrain vehicles (ATV) and non-street legal four-wheel drive vehicles are required to display the OHV decal when trail riding on public lands in Texas. The law applies to all public lands in Texas including municipal, county, state or federal lands where OHV recreation is approved and legal. Street legal OHV's do not require the Texas OHV decal no

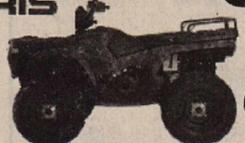
OHV venues in the Sam Houston National Forest in Montgomery County, the Marshall Creek OHV Park in Denton County, Buffalo Springs Lake Trails in Lubbock County, the Canadian River OHV Area in Potter County and Buffalo Valley MX Park in Bexar County. The program now has a new set of Web pages with up to date information on where to buy the required decal, where to ride off the highway in Texas, responsible use of OHVs, resources for riders, and frequently asked questions about the OHV program. A Texas OHV decal can be purchased by calling the Texas Parks & Wildlife Customer Service Center (CSC) at (512) 389-8917. Decals can also be bought at selected parks and retail stores listed on the TPWD Web site.



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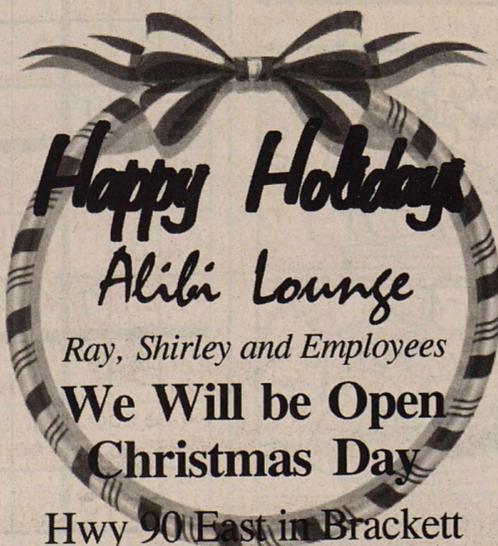



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Thursday, December 21, 2006 The Brackett News **8**

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10 Sorrowful word
14 Rake
15 Actress Jeanne
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17 Movie dog
18 School event
20 Eur. language
21 Long, long time
22 Welland
23 Tiny picture
25 Buttons
26 Story
28 Dennis, for one
31 Right hero
32 Divers
34 Accessory
36 Battle
37 Tragic hero
38 Wire enclosure
39 Slip up

DOWN
1 Rugged rock
2 Left the ground
3 Canoe

40 Beach sights
41 Poor pitches
42 Run
44 Pocket item
45 Whack
46 Blockhead
47 Place for item
23 Across
50 Boating items
51 O
54 Deficiencies
57 Unpleasant one
58 Male animal
59 1 or 2
60 Martin
61 Finishes
62 Collect
63 Helpful one; abbr.
DOWN
1 Rugged rock
2 Left the ground
3 Canoe

4 varieties
4 Pod item
5 Repeated
6 Face
7 Legs
8 Speed
9 Business abbr.
10 Fleet
11 Refuge
12 Girls' names
13 Sound of relief
19 Signs
21 One in bondage
24 Actress Carter
25 City north-east of Lake Tahoe
26 Dip out water
27 Accustom
28 Stooze & namesakes
29 Calls to account
30 Soarer
32 Passionate
33 Cockney's pad
35 Trial
37 Completely absorbed
38 Math. branch
40 Dress measurement
41 Declares illegal
43 Diagrams
44 Words with brat and liver
46 Works by a surrealist
47 Tennis pro
48 Word of comparison
49 Byron or Tennyson
50 Name for a Russian baby
52 Bank accts.
53 Fast period
55 Consumer safety org.
56 Point
57 Harem room

Mystery Mosaic
DIRECTIONS: TO REVEAL THE MYSTERY MOSAIC PICTURE, DARKEN ALL PIECES NUMBERED 3, 4, 7, and 9.

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9	7				2			1
3			2		1			
		1		9				8
5					8	9		
	8			1				6
		7	9					
	3			4		1		
			7		6			3
7	5						9	2

Classified Market

Thursday, December 21, 2006 The Brackett News 9

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THE COMMISSIONERS COURT of Kinney County, Texas will consider an application of Fort Clark Springs Association Inc. to revise a plat of Unit 11, filed in Vol-1, p. 64, Plat Records, Kinney County, Texas pursuant to 232.041 Texas Local Government Code. The Court will consider the application and hear protests of the revision on Monday, January 15, 2007, at 11 a.m. in the Kinney County Courtroom, Kinney County Courthouse, Brackettville, TX.

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YOUR HOROSCOPE BY CHARLES COOPER

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.

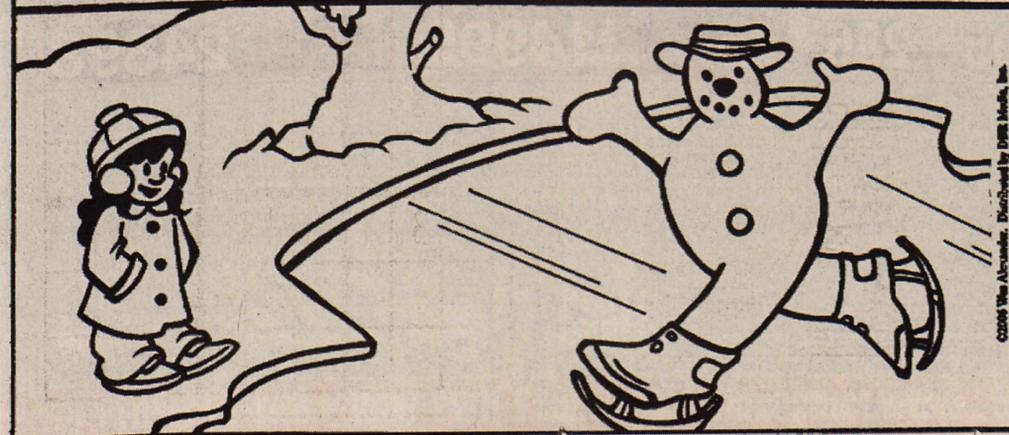
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21) Tie up some loose ends on the job. This clears your schedule for upcoming important events. Over the holiday, you enjoy domestic harmony.

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.

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.

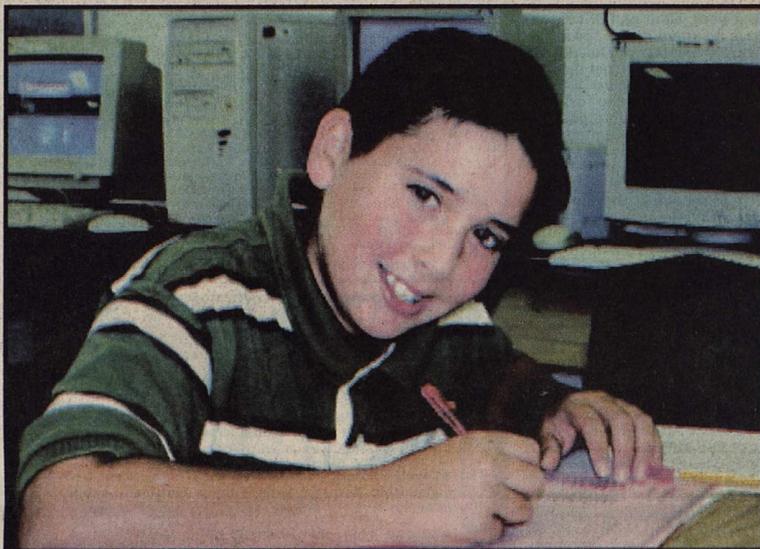
HERE IS A WINTER SCENE FOR YOU TO COLOR.



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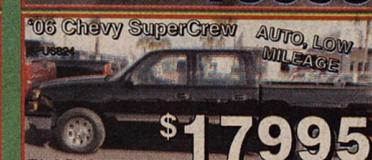
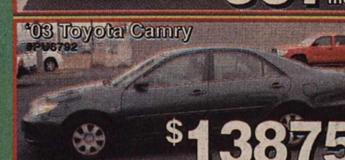
Photos of the Week

Thursday, December 21, 2006 The Brackett News **10**



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