

The Brackett News

Volume 20, No. 44

Thursday, December 11, 2008

1 Section, 6 Pages

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

City council ups their pay

Brackettville city council members voted to increase their pay at a regular meeting on December 10.

After signs opposing the council's move were anonymously tacked on the bulletin boards all over town, council members voted unanimously and

without one word of discussion to rescind the November 13, 2007 resolution that reduced the mayor and council's pay down to \$10 per month.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, citizen and former city mayor Eduardo Esparza openly opposed the

council's proposed raise, while Councilman Ponce Padron's mother-in-law read a statement supporting the action.

Alderpersons Mary Flores, Padron, Demetrius Williams, Stephanie Buitron and Francesca Chica Hernandez all voted in unison to increase their pay to \$250 per month and the mayor's pay to \$500 per month.

These figures are the net amounts paid after appropriate taxes are deducted according to the law.

Flores, Padron and Hernandez reversed their votes this week after each voted to reduce the pay 13 months ago in an effort to help the financially struggling city. Reports dated November 11 show the city is operating in a deficit for the month of November, following a deficit for the month of October.

Flores, who led the entire meeting as the mayor sat quietly at her side, repeated more than once, the motion was not a, "pay raise", but a, "reinstatement" of the pay the council formerly received.

As the City's charter details, the pay changes will not go into effect until each individual council position matures, or when each position expires.

Hernandez, Williams, Buitron and Feagley ran knowing they would each receive \$10 per month until their terms expire in May 2010. Each will continue to receive the \$10 per month until that date.

Flores and Padron, facing reelection in May 2009, secured for themselves or their successors, the higher rate of pay with the passage of Tuesday's resolution.



Our Finest Gifts

Courtesy Photo By Denette Coates
Jeremy, played by Justin Hidalgo, and Grandma, played by Jewel Robinson, both of Brackettville, rehearse for the play "Our Finest Gifts" written by local playwright Suzanna Lowery.

Old Quarry players perform this weekend

The Old Quarry Society's Christmas presentation "Our Finest Gifts" will be Friday, December 12 and Saturday, December 13 at the Fort Clark Springs Post Theater.

Each performance will be at 7:30 pm, with a \$5 admission fee.

"Our Finest Gifts" is an original one-act play written by Suzanna Lowery with biblical narrative from The Gospels of Matthew and Luke. Join young

Jeremy, played by Justin Hidalgo, as he learns what giving "our finest gifts" to Jesus meant to the shepherds, the Wise men, and the beasts of the table - and what it can mean in his life as well.

Traditional Christmas music performed by a choir of angels will be interwoven with the greatest story ever told.

Join the Old Quarry Society as we present a warm and joyful celebration of Christmas.

Ft. Clark deco to be featured in LIVE magazine online

Majestic Christmas elegance dominates Fort Clark Spring's administrative lobby and a "must see" visit during the holidays.

For the past six years, FCS member Helen Marie Jones has taken on the decoration project by financing and using her time and talents in promoting FCS's image.

Every year's decorations create an awe inspiring atmosphere; however Christmas 2008 seems to out do aesthetic expectations.

"The rich colors are a blend that are indescribable in promoting the "old world" theme which is a historical and geographical journey therefore, encouraging delightful journey flight of fantasy, thereby broadening the community's horizons," said a FCS member who appreciates the efforts of Jones and the many volunteers.

Jones was interviewed by renowned writer Bill Sontag and will be featured in LIVE magazine online.



The Interview

Courtesy Photo By Katie Brown
Fort Clark Springs Member Helen Marie Jones, at right, tells LIVE magazine writer Bill Sontag, left, the inspiration behind the decorating theme and how a team of volunteers works to decorate the FCS Administration Lobby each year.

FILL THE CITY WITH LIGHTS

Again this year local businesses are asked to decorate their store fronts with white lights in an effort to add a little sparkle to our quaint town.

Don't forget about TBN's Third Annual Christmas Decorating Contest. Prizes will be given to the best decorated home in Brackett, best decorated home on the Fort and the best decorated business.

Decorations You Gotta' See:

- The Bank and Trust at the Five Points
- The DeHoyos House on West Spring
- Unit 15, FCS
- FCSA Admin Office
- The Hall House on Gove Street
- The Castillo House on Ann Street
- Regina Pena House on Fulton Street
- Las Moras Realty on East Spring

Call in your favorites to 563-2852

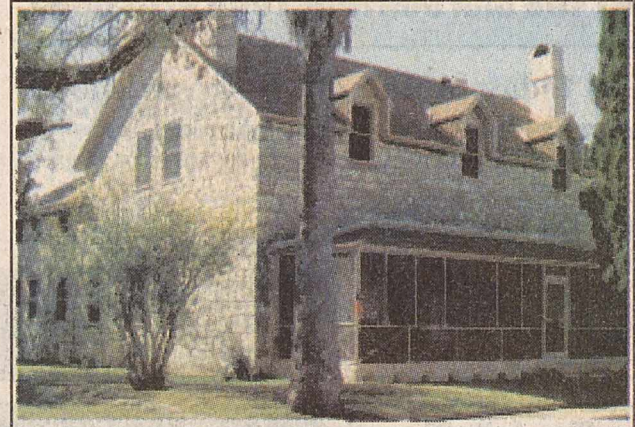
Tour of Homes

The Kinney County Arts Council will host its annual Tour of Homes December 14, from 2pm to 5pm



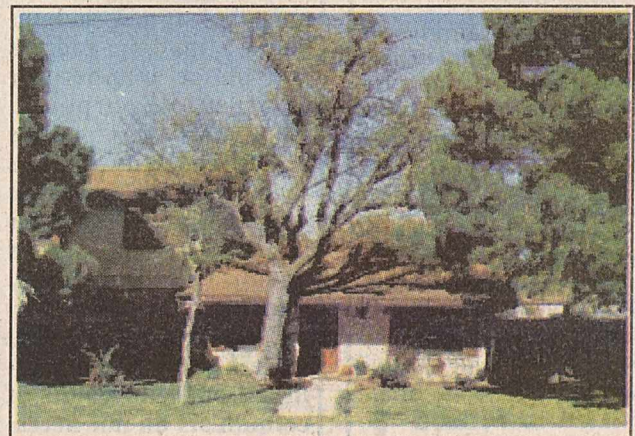
Sam & T. J. Holloman Home - FCS

Our home was built as the Officer's Bathhouse. The home has had several owners, but Neal and Barbara Simmons added several updates and our beautiful Master Bedroom. Sam and I purchased the house in June of 2007 and have also added our unique touches. Our Christmas decorations reflect our personal taste for western décor as seen throughout the house. The outdoor living areas are surrounded by additional landscaping and provide wonderful space for entertaining friends and family.



Chris & Lisa Ostby "Wainwright House" on FCS

Between 1873 and 1874 the U.S. Army engineers constructed the house to serve as the residence for Fort Clark's commanding officer. General Jonathan Wainwright, who served as post commander 1939-1940, gained fame early in World War II for his heroic defense of the Philippines against the Japanese. He resided in this house, hence, the "Wainwright House" title evolved. Major Chris Ostby is a career Army Aviation Officer and wife, Lisa, is a registered nurse currently serving at Brackett I.S.D. as school nurse. Chris has been stationed in Texas, North Carolina and Alabama along with tours in Afghanistan and Iraq. He has two sons, Gideon McKee, a freshman math major at UT-Austin and Tristan Ostby, a 7th grader at Brackett I.S.D.. Most of their Christmas decorations have come from their travels with a prerequisite that it has to be moveable.



Ducharme Home - In Brackett

The home on 106 West 1st Street was built in 1978 by Tim and Debbie Ward. The home is a story and a half with native stone exterior. It has an open floor plan with cathedral ceilings in living and dining areas. This home has had several owners throughout the years and was purchased by J.J. and Cherrie Ducharme in 2007. The Ducharme's have made many renovations to the home that reflect their love for nature and outdoor wildlife as seen in their rustic home furnishings. This home holds special meaning to the current owners since Cherrie lived in the home until she was 5 years old. J.J. and Cherrie are now raising their own daughter, Madeleine, in this warm, inviting home. We hope you enjoy the tour of our home accented with Christmas trees in every room.



Stoffel House - The Oaks FCS

Rick and Donna Stoffel spent the first 18 years of their lives growing up in small towns. Donna in Colorado and Rick in Illinois. Neither one of them realized the affect of being in the Air Force would have on them. After graduating from the Academy in Colorado Springs CO Rick married Donna and their great adventure started. Since that cloudy rainy wedding day they have lived in MS, LA, NJ, AL, TX, MN, WI and back to Texas. Rick traveled the world seeing the pyramids in Cairo, Egypt; the Great Wall in China, the sandy beaches in the United Air of Emirates and much more. Throughout the moves and traveling they enjoyed picking up trinkets from each place. The trinkets have become a wonderful way to decorate their home on Oak Lane. In this house you will see Rick's love of aviation; the wonderful trinkets of other places and lands; and the love the family feels for Jesus and each other.

Weekend WEATHER

Friday

High:65
Low:39

Partly Cloudy

Saturday

High:71
Low:46

Partly Cloudy

Sunday

High:75
Low:47

Partly Cloudy

Community News

DONATE LOCALLY THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

If you are planning to give this holiday season, you are encouraged to give to those right where you live. The Kinney County Church Alliance Food Pantry is accepting donations. Help feed a local senior or a family struggling in these hard economic times. Five dollars or \$500...donations small and large are all appreciated. Please make checks payable to KCCA Food Pantry, PO Box 1109, Brackettville, TX 78832 or contact Deacon Joe Goebel of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church.

NHS GIFT DRIVE

The Brackett High School National Honor Society members are sponsoring a fundraiser for the patients of Christus Santa Rosa Children's Hospital in San Antonio, so that each child spending Christmas in the hospital will receive gifts on Christmas Day. Community members can help by making donations (of any size!) toward the purchase of new toys and gifts. Collection jars will be placed at several locations throughout our area. Those wishing to mail a donation may send checks made out to "Brackett ISD", for "NHS-CSRCH gift drive" to Brackett High School NHS;

Attn: Jamie Ballew; PO Box 586; Brackettville, Texas 78832. In order to deliver the gifts by Christmas 12, 2008. For more information, call 563-2491x479. Thank you for your support!

WATER BOARD MTG
Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District will hold a SPECIAL MEETING on Thursday December 11, 2008, at 1:15 p.m. in the District Courtroom of the Kinney County Courthouse located in Brackettville, Texas.

DONATIONS NEEDED
Clean used clothes, kitchen utensils, and old toys. For poor people in Mexico. Call 563-2291 for pick up.

LETTER to the Editor

Me Thinks You Protesteth Too Much, Sam

I have been observing a trend in Mr. Holloman's interest in water matters for several months and they all seem to revolve around pipelines, which just happens to be Mr. Holloman's business (see hollomancorp.com). His letter to the editor in last week's paper was the catalyst to make me do some research. This is what I have discovered. Mr. Holloman is Chairman of the Board of Holloman Corp and Holloman Energy Corp. His company currently has a contract to build 32,000 ft. of pipeline - for SAWS - from Carrizo Springs. So is it only Carrizo Springs you want to drain dry, Sam? Or are you upset because your company has not been able to secure a contract for a pipeline out of Kinney County due to the KCGCD blocking any attempt to build that pipeline? *The money in this water dispute is not in selling the water - it is in the pipeline.*

Our Management Plan, and our recommendations for a water budget, include preserving and protecting the sustainability of our springs. Our rules will provide that same protection. We have projected growth for Brackettville and Fort Clark Springs and are increasing water permit rights accordingly when we set the water budget. By FEDERAL regulations, we are required to protect the springs in Pinto Creek for critical habitat and in Las Moras Creek for (many years). If the science we will be completing within the next 5-10 years shows that there is EXCESS water available for transport, my choice would be to have an inter-governmental corporation formed, consisting of KCGCD, Kinney County, City of Brackettville, and Fort Clark MUD, to build and own that pipeline to transport water. That way there would be a perpetual income for the inter-governmental agencies to be used for repairs to water systems and streets, reducing taxes, providing incentives for business relocation to Kinney County, possibly the construction of a critical care facility, and other projects that would improve the quality of life here in Kinney County.

Kent Lowery



Everyone can win with charitable gifts



Emily Cooper

When you give a gift to a charitable group, you are rewarded by the knowledge that you're helping an organization whose work you support. But you can also get a "bonus" from your gift - in the form of tax benefits.

Specifically, your donations to charities that have received 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status are usually tax deductible, assuming you itemize your tax return. And as long as your total contributions for any one year are 50 percent or less of your adjusted gross income, there's no limit on the deductions you can take for your gifts to public charities.

Furthermore, your contributions may entitle you to more than just a tax deduction in the year in which you make your gift. If you decide to donate shares of stock, a piece of real estate or another asset that has increased in value since you purchased it, you can avoid the capital gains taxes that will be due on the asset when it's sold.

Clearly, your charitable giving can provide you with some significant tax benefits. But if you're interested in going even deeper into the world of charitable gifts, you'll find that they can play a role in some of your long-term financial strategies, as well. Consider, for instance, how you might use a charitable remainder trust. You'd start by donating an asset - such as appreciated stocks, bonds or real estate - to the trust, which is managed by a trustee. In turn, could sell the asset (relieving you of immediate capital gains liabilities), reinvest the proceeds and then make regular payments to you or another beneficiary you named when you established the trust. So you could set up the trust to provide yourself, or one or more family members, with an income stream for life or for a designated number of years. After the lifetime of the last surviving beneficiary, or at the end of the specified term, the trust would end, and any remaining assets would then be distributed to the charity you'd named.

Setting up a charitable remainder trust is not as easy as filling out a few forms; to do it correctly, you'll need to work with your legal and tax advisors.

And once you establish such a trust, you'll find it can have considerable impact on some of the decisions affecting your retirement income. For example, if you could count on an income stream from a charitable remainder trust, you might be able to withdraw less money each year from your investments and retirement accounts, such as your 401(k) and IRA, to meet your income needs in retirement. In fact, if you were to receive this trust-generated income, it might even affect the type of investments you need to make before retirement, possibly changing the balance somewhat between "growth" and "income."

In any case, consider being as generous as you can afford in your support of worthwhile charitable organizations.

But if you incorporate your charitable giving into your long-term investment picture, you'll need to make the right moves - so prepare carefully.

Kitchen sink bombs



The Fly Lady Marla Cilley

Most of the time we are in a mad dash to get dinner from the car to the table; we just bypass the sink all together. We don't even have dirty dishes because the paper plates we are using just go into the trash can along with our pride.

The guilt we feel when we

feed our families our stash and dash meal planning results, not only wreaks havoc with the health of our children but that guilt causes us to feel like we are not good mothers. We want to be the perfect mother but then that perfectionism gets in the way because we don't think we have time.

We have time we just don't know it yet! It all starts with that sink! This sink greets us first thing in the morning with that guilt of dirty dishes and mystery water. We can change that by going to bed with your sink shining. When you walk into your kitchen the next morning you are going to smile. That

smile is just the beginning.

So how do you stop the bomb from going off in your kitchen when you do decide to cook? That bomb and the time it takes to clear the collateral damage is one of the reasons that you don't think you have time to cook! Having a plan is half the battle. Implementing that plan as part of your basic weekly plan, before bed routine, morning routine and afternoon routine. Here is how you stop the damage before it starts.

- 5 minute on a Wednesday write down your menus for next week.
- 10 minutes make out a grocery list from your menus
- 5 minutes clean out the refrigerator making groceries put away easy
- 30 minutes to grocery shop when you have a list
- 5 minute to put groceries away
- 1 minute each evening move frozen food from freezer to refrigerator

Start the day with an empty dishwasher and an empty trash can.

- 5 minutes to check your menu plan or start a slow cooker
- Pick a time to start cooking; Don't wait till meal time to start.
- Pizza is not on the menu!
- Walk into the kitchen, fill your sink full of hot soapy water

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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.

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AUSTRALIA (PG) 12:40pm 4:20pm
8:00pm No Passes/Discount Tickets

BOLT (PG) Now showing on 2 screens. 12:15PM 1:50PM 2:45PM
4:25PM 5:10PM 7:05PM 9:35PM

FOUR CHRISTMASSES (PG-13)
12:00pm 2:25pm 4:50pm 7:15pm
9:40pm No Passes/Discount Tickets

MADAGASCAR: ESCAPE 2 AFRICA (PG) 12:35pm 2:55pm 5:15pm
7:35pm 9:55pm

QUANTUM OF SOLACE (PG-13)
7:50pm 10:15pm

TRANSPORTER 3 (PG-13) 12:05pm
2:40pm 5:20pm 7:55pm 10:30pm
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7:00pm 10:00pm

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Everyone can win with charitable gifts



Emily Cooper

You give a gift to a charity, you are rewarded by the fact that you're helping a organization whose work is for the good of the community. But you can also get a tax benefit from your gift — in the form of a charitable deduction.

Generally, your donations to charities that have received tax-exempt status are tax deductible, assuming you itemize your total contributions on your tax return. And for 2008, your total contribution for one year are 50 percent of your adjusted gross income. There's no limit on the amount you can take for your charitable contributions.

Moreover, your contributions can entitle you to more than a tax deduction in the amount which you make your contribution. You decide to donate stocks, a piece of real estate, another asset that has value since you purchase it, you can avoid the capital gains tax that will be due on the sale when it's sold.

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In any case, consider being as strategic as you can afford in your retirement planning. If you incorporate your charitable giving into your long-term picture, you'll make the right moves — and do so carefully.



90 W. ... Texas

Tiger Page



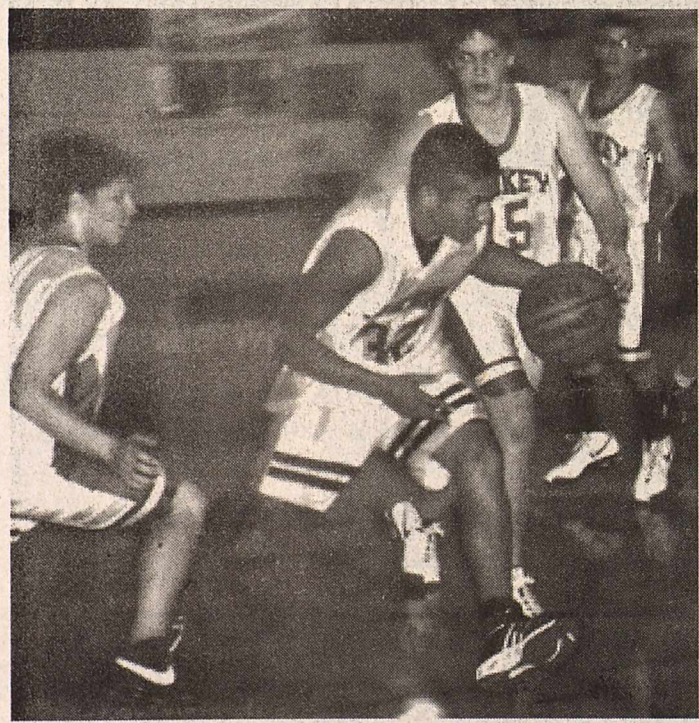
Game Pics vs. Leakey



Tigerette #5 Rachel Nash



Jesse Jones and Team Managers Harmony Pettett and Summer Allen



Tiger #32 Victor Robledo

BHS FFA members meet

Submitted by FFA

On November 3, 2008 four FFA Members traveled to Devine, Texas to compete in the district FFA competition.

Kelsey Bruce competed in the job interview and the team test.

Courtney Kirkland competed in the FFA Creed Speaking contest and the team test, as well.

Sarah Davis and Abby

Gutierrez also competed the team quiz.

Individually, Bruce placed fifth in her job interview.

Kirkland placed 8th in Creed Speaking.

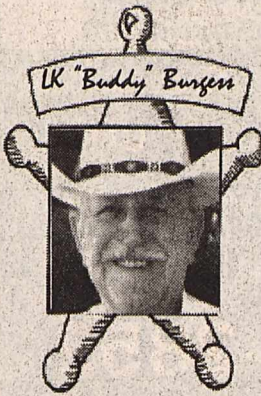
As a team, the group placed fourth in the FFA Quiz competition.

On November 11, the FFA chapter held their monthly meeting and members discussed a

brisket sale and a judging competition. Door prizes were handed out and the winners included Kelsey Bruce, Summer Allen, Chris Blake, and Sam Stewart.

The FFA chapter sold whole briskets. The briskets will be cooked on December 13. If you purchased one, you are responsible for picking it up at the Ag Shop.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Monday, December 1

6:00 pm A woman called to request a deputy at her residence. A deputy was advised.

6:46 pm A man called to report someone had broken into his residence at FCS. A deputy was notified about the situation.

Thursday, December 4

6:16 pm The manager from Pico called to report there were two juveniles shoplifting at the store. A deputy was dispatched.

Saturday, December 6

6:58 pm A woman called to report a car was on fire on Highway 90 East and the people had gotten out safe. The fire department and deputy were dispatched.

9:55 pm A man called to report his car had been hit by an

other during the night and had some damages. A deputy was dispatched.

4:13 pm A woman called to report some kids were breaking at the 200 block of West Thomas at an abandon old house were breaking windows. A deputy was dispatched.

Sunday, December 7

1:18 pm A woman called to

report someone had stolen all her tools from her garage. A deputy was notified.

8:11 pm A man called to report a fire in the alley and some kids were there. A deputy was dispatched and the city employee were notified.

9:44 pm A man called to report a brush fire on Hwy 90 just east of rest area.

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It's hard to believe our girl is 16!

Love,
Daddy, Ma, Kirkland and K-Bar

First Baptist Church

Sunday Wednesday

Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m. 6 p.m. Children's Ministry
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. 7 p.m. Bible Study
Discipleship Training 6 p.m.
Evening Service 7 p.m.

Pastor Jeff Janca Phone: 563-2245
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Weekly Business Profile



Pictured: Benita Villarreal-Gonzalez in her shop on Spring Street

SHOP FOR CHRISTMAS AT BASKETS & GIFTS

Business Name: Baskets & Gifts
Owners: Benita Villarreal-Gonzalez
Address: 105 W. Spring in Brackett
Phone Number: 830-563-5330
Store Hours: Tues-Fri 10am-5pm and Saturday 10am-3pm

Benita invites you into her gift boutique on Spring Street at the Five Points in Brackett to shop for all the people on your Christmas list. Benita has a wide variety of great gift ideas for under \$20. Shop for a basket or just one of her western or religious gifts, fashion jewelry, turquoise embellished purses and college team caps and accessories. If you're looking for a birthday or special occasion gift - send a candy-gram or a balloon bouquet.

Award W
 Sheryl Stoner (see the presentation and Taylor Steph

Bra

CASA - Sheryl Stoner was honored by Texas CASA as an appointed special agent, for her work and neglected child is a Child Protection legal worker. She has been involved in cases involving child abuse and neglect. Stoner works with parents and children to reunify the family given one year to sue that brought into care. While is located in Uvalde covered cases in Medina, Zavala, Verde, Maverick, Edwards counties. "Ms. Stoner is

True

By Pastor Jean

Last Saturday community learned it does a little bit, do a lot to produce event which every The Kinney County Alliance sponsored Bethlehem" proving success even last minute change illness of key part to quickly find "Mary" and "Joseph" Those who participated witnessed drama as the couple turned away "lodging".

Once they were into the "stable" Center and the Christmas was read, all praise music from a variety of folks as well as from booths set up churches and agencies. The cities of Brackettville and Spofford community to taste hot chocolate.

City Manager, and the entire community handed out individual fruit.

Nachos, Frito pie, cookies, hot dogs, punch rounded out everyone left as month's Thanksgiving.

In addition to the parties, First Baptist and First United Methodist churches, The Columbus, Los Mochis Organization, United Center and Carmer hosted the food and where Bibles and Candles were also distributed.

This was the beginning of a new tradition in Brackettville one that we hope will continue and grow year after year after Church Alliance is



Award Winner

Sheryl Stoner (second from left) poses for a picture after accepting an award for her work with abused and neglected children. Attending the presentation with Stoner are (left to right) Cynthia Stanukinos, CASA program director; and Stoner's aunt and uncle Shirley Stephenson and Taylor Stephenson.

Brackett citizen honored for significant contributions for the advancement of child abuse issues

CASA - Sheryl Stoner of Brackettville was recently honored by Texas CASA, a court-appointed special advocates program, for her work with abused and neglected children. Stoner is a Child Protective Services legal worker. She is assigned to cases involving children who have been removed by CPS due to abuse and neglect.

Stoner works with the children and parents in an attempt to reunify the family. Parents are given one year to address the issues that brought the children into care. While Stoner's office is located in Uvalde, she has covered cases in Uvalde, Real, Medina, Zavala, Dimmit, Val Verde, Maverick, Frio and Edwards counties.

"Ms. Stoner is the most ten-

ured legal worker in our service area with seven years of service in the legal unit. She serves as mentor to new legal workers and presents the CPS Legal and Investigative portion of CASA Volunteer training. Ms. Stoner works closely with CASA, therapists, parenting facilitators and drug treatment counselors in an effort to improve the quality of service to the families in our area," said Cynthia Stanukinos, CASA Program Director with the Bluebonnet Children's Center.

"We were honored to nominate Ms. Stoner. She does such tremendous work with the children. In a time when children have 3 to 5 caseworkers due to turnover, Ms. Stoner has been able to provide stability to the

children because she remains on a case till permanency is gained for the children," said Stanukinos.

Stoner was nominated by the Bluebonnet Children's Center CASA Program because of her dedication and great work ethic.

"She works well with all parties in the case including parents, attorneys and CASA. She is always respectful and courteous," Stanukinos said.

Stoner routinely requests a court-appointed special advocate on her cases. She seeks CASA's input on placement decisions and services, provides court reports, keeps CASA involved and updated with information, and utilizes CASA as a resource. A court-appointed special advocate is a trained volunteer who ad-

vocates for abused and neglected children involved in the court system and helps secure a safe and permanent home for a child. Local CASA programs in the state were able to nominate CPS workers for the Outstanding CPS Worker of the Year. There are 68 local programs in Texas.

Stoner was honored at the awards dinner at the 2008 Texas CASA Conference held in Austin in October. Attending awards dinner were Shirley Stephenson, Stoner's aunt, and Taylor Stephenson, Stoner's uncle, and Stanukinos.

For more information on the Bluebonnet Children's Center and the CASA Program, see the Web site www.bluebonnetcac.net or call 830-426-8848. For more information on the Department of Family and Protective Services go to www.dfps.state.tx.us.

How well educated is your chiropractor?



Dr. Kent Lowery, D.C., FIAMA

The facts may surprise you. Your chiropractor has over 3 years of graduate level college training, 600 hours of internship and must pass National Board exams identical to medical doctors to qualify for licensure in all states. They must also pass a rigid state Board exam and continue to meet the state's continuing educational requirements for annual license renewal.

Comparison of Minimum Class Hours*

Subject	Medical	Chiropractic
Anatomy/Embryology	452	456
Physiology	170	243
Pathology	564	296
Chemistry	100	161
Microbiology	128	145
Diagnosis	122	408
Neurology	120	149
Radiology	56	271
Psychiatry/Psychology	241	56
Obstetrics/Gynecology	108	66
Orthopedics	0	168
Total Hours	2061	2419

Grand Total Class Hours (includes specialty class requirements)

Doctor of Chiropractic	4,485
Doctor of Medicine	3,979

*Class hours compiled from curricula review of 22 medical schools and 18 chiropractic colleges.

First United Methodist Church

109 James Street, next to the clinic
 Sunday School 9:30 * Worship 10:45
 Staffed Nursery Every Sunday

**Hear the Bible, Feel the Spirit,
 Find a Welcome!**

open hearts, open minds, open doors

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 Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m. (October - April)
 Lutheran Church Women 11 a.m. Parrish Hall
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 PASTOR NATHAN LAFRENZ 563-9607

True community unity welcomes the Christmas Season

By Pastor Jean Reardon

Last Saturday we as a community learned that if everyone does a little bit, no one has to do a lot to produce a wonderful event which everyone can enjoy.

The Kinney County Church Alliance sponsored "Trek to Bethlehem" proved to be a rousing success even though some last minute changes caused by illness of key participants forced us to quickly find substitutes for "Mary" and "Joseph".

Those who participated in the posada witnessed a touching drama as the couple was repeatedly turned away from possible "lodging".

Once they were welcomed into the "stable" at the Civic Center and the Christmas story was read, all present enjoyed music from a variety of local folks as well as food and treats from booths set up by 9 local churches and agencies.

The cities of both Brackettville and Spofford treated the community to tasty treats and hot chocolate.

City Manager, Henry Garcia and the entire office crew handed out individual bags of fruit.

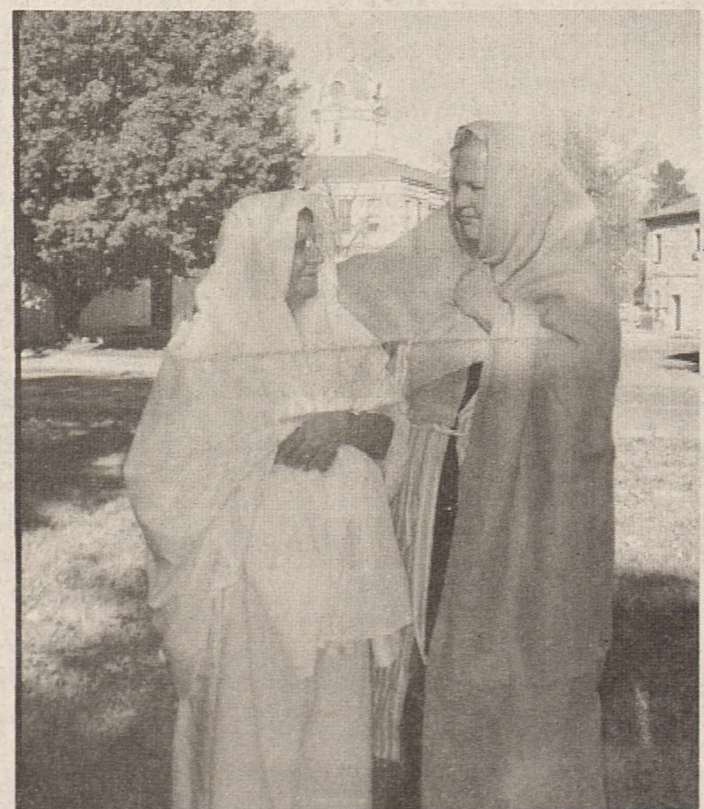
Nachos, Frito pies, cupcakes, cookies, hot dogs, iced tea and punch rounded out the menu and everyone left as stuffed as last month's Thanksgiving turkey.

In addition to the two municipalities, First Baptist, Frontier Baptist and First United Methodist churches, The Knights of Columbus, Los Moras Hispanic Organization, United Medical Center and Carmen's Boutique hosted the food and gift tables where Bibles and Christian videos were also distributed.

This was the beginning of a new tradition in Brackettville, one that we hope will continue and grow year after year. The Church Alliance is grateful to

everyone who participated in helping us return the focus of the Christmas celebration to the birth of Christ. I believe that

God is very pleased with such cooperation and selfless giving. I pray that all of you will have a blessed Christmas season.



Trek To Bethlehem

Photo by Leigh Volcsko
 Mary (Agnes Camp) and Joseph (Ray Brooks) made their way through the streets of Bethlehem (Brackettville) looking for a place to stay. The holy couple was followed by carolers as they made their way to the Civic Center where the community gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ with the Kinney County Church Alliance.

Welcome!

Church of Christ

808 N. Ann 563-2616

Sunday AM, 9:30 Classes
 & 10:30 Worship

Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm

Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes

Minister: Ray Melton

Wish your friends, family
 and customers a
Happy Holidays
 with a
Christmas Card
 in our special
Christmas Day Issue
 Thursday, December 25, 2008

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year from The Brackett News

Standing from Left: TBN's Greatest Former Employees Allison Taylor and Tara Eckenrod and Publisher Leigh Volcsko (seated)

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