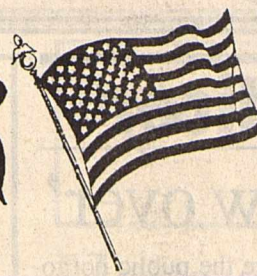


The Brackett News



Merry Christmas

9th year, No. 46

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

Gallego files for reelection

Pete Gallego has filed for reelection to the Texas House of Representatives.

"I am honored to serve as state representative, and I want to continue representing the people of the 74th District," said Gallego, D-Alpine, who was in Brackettville on Monday.

"During my time in office, there have been positive changes throughout our legislative district, and I am proud to have been a part of that change," he said.

"I will continue to work ... to see that the needs of rural Southwest Texas and the border area have a strong voice."

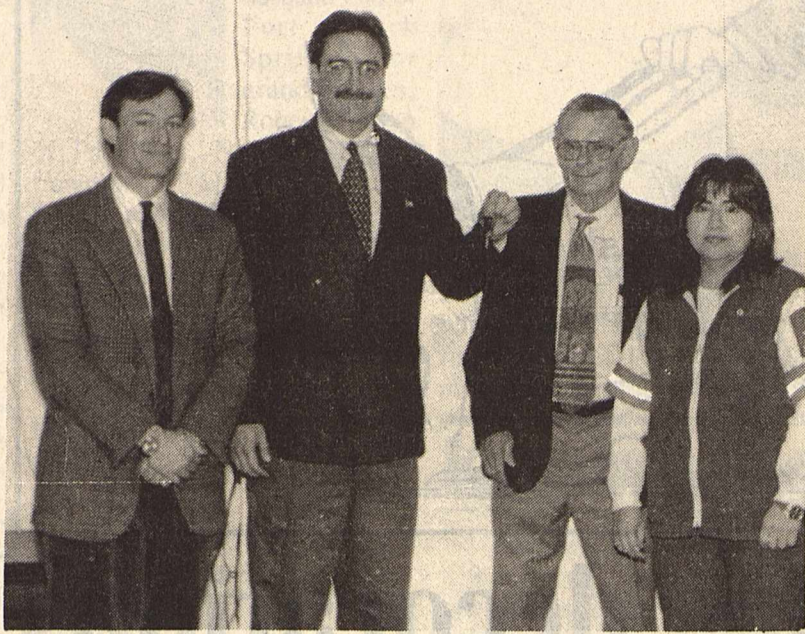
Rep. Pete Gallego

By virtue of his key positions in the House leadership, Gallego has helped obtain needed state dollars for an area that, in the past, had been largely ignored by state government. This included major increases in funding for new degree programs at Sul Ross State University campuses in Alpine, Del Rio, Eagle Pass and Uvalde; increased grants to city and county governments; and increases in funding to state agencies that provide services to taxpayers.

"While this increase in state funds is great, there is still much to be done," Gallego said. "Many needs and challenges remain. There are kids that need to be educated, colonias that need sewer and water, roads that need paving, and criminals that need to be taken off the streets."

"I will continue to work with local elected and appointed officials to see that the needs of rural Southwest Texas and the border area have a strong voice in the Texas House."

Gallego first took office in 1991 and is seeking a fifth term serving the Southwest Texas district, which includes Brewster, Culberson, Hudspeth, Jeff Davis, Kinney, Maverick, Pecos, Presidio, Terrell and Val Verde counties.



State Representative Pete Gallego, second from left, presents the keys to a new ambulance to Kinney County Judge Tommy Seargeant, second from right, on Monday as Texas Commissioner of Health William Archer III, left, and EMS Supervisor Michelle Rosas look on.

J.P.'s office may move to Task Force building

The Kinney County Commissioners Court will consider moving the justice of the peace's office to the Task Force building Monday at a special meeting.

The justice of the peace's office is currently located in the second floor of the County Court-house.

The commissioners will also discuss hiring a part-time employee for the J.P.'s office at the 9:00 meeting.

Other items on the agenda include:

- Appointment of two board members to the Kinney County Appraisal District Board of Directors.

- Cooperative agreement between the Kinney County Sheriff's Office and the DEA Eagle Pass Resident Office.

- Review of existing and proposed policy changes for carry-over of annual leave and sick leave.

- Agreement between Charles M. Trost and Kinney County for administration and management of projects.

- Agreed judgement on the Dick Herndon versus County of Uvalde/Kinney County case.

- Renewal of rent agreement between Kinney County and UniFirst Corporation.

- Budget amendments.
- Accounts, bills and department reports.

- Executive session: personnel and pending litigation.

County receives new ambulance

The Texas Department of Health presented Kinney County officials with a new ambulance Monday at Las Moras Inn.

"Certainly, it will be a big help," County Judge Tommy Seargeant said. "We've had some breakdowns on the other ambulances."

The new ambulance is valued at approximately \$112,000, according to Lee Sweeten, an emergency medical services (EMS) program administrator with the Texas Department of Health.

"The state bought this vehicle approximately three years ago," Sweeten said. "It's a '95 model, state-of-art vehicle and equipped it to the hilt."

"We took it around to conferences and we towed an old antique ambulance along so we could show then and now. It was also used in some training programs."

"The state decided it was time to look at giving it away and, at some point in the future, maybe purchasing another one and doing the same thing later down the road with it."

Sweeten, who recently concluded an assessment of Kinney County's EMS program, said the local program was definitely in need of a new ambulance.

"Kinney County currently has two ambulances, both of which have a lot of miles on them," he said. "They have had a lot of maintenance problems, so it was time to get a new vehicle."

"You're looking at a minimum transport of 30 miles, and sometimes longer, so it doesn't take long to put a lot of miles on a vehicle."

In addition to the ambulance, the Texas Department of Health presented \$168,593 in grants to six area EMS programs.



The Eagle Pass Fire Department received a \$35,000 grant for a new ambulance, the Maverick County Volunteer Fire Department received a \$5,243 grant for radio and medical equipment, and Val Verde Regional Medical Center received a \$1,549 grant for medical equipment.

On Monday afternoon in Alpine, Brewster County Ambulance Service received a \$5,585 grant for medical equipment, the South Brewster Responders received a \$5,243 grant for an automatic external defibrillator, and Culberson Hospital EMS received a \$5,522 grant for radio equipment and training.

State Representative Pete Gallego, who played a major role in Kinney County receiving the new ambulance, presented the keys to the vehicle to Seargeant at Monday's ceremony.

"I'm always real excited when the state of Texas can help out, particularly small towns that a lot of times tend to be passed over," Gallego said.

"EMS is important because lives are important. Every dollar that we can spend on EMS has a potential to save a life."

Three candidates file for justice of the peace

Incumbent commissioners to be challenged

Three Democratic candidates have filed to run for justice of the peace in the March 4 primary election.

Gregorio Juarez, J.E. Meil and Arnold Pinales have all filed for justice of the peace, according to Democratic Chairperson Mary Flores.

Incumbent Alvin Hall has made no official announcement about his plans for the upcoming election.

Four candidates have filed in the race for two county commissioners' positions.

Precinct 2 Commissioner Joe Montalvo is being challenged by

Candidates can file to run for election in the March primary through Jan. 2.

Flavio Talamantez and Precinct 4 Commissioner Paul O'Rourke faces opposition from Bill Bizzell.

Incumbent County Judge Tommy Seargeant has filed to run for a fifth term as a county judge and his only opposition thus far is the man that served in that capacity during his recent suspension, Herb Senne.

County and District Clerk Dora Sandoval and County Treasurer Janis Floyd have both filed for reelection, and currently have no opposition.

Candidates can file to run for election in the March primary through Jan. 2.

Applications can be picked up at the county clerk's office at the Kinney County Courthouse and must be filed through the respective party chairman.

Flores is the Democratic Party chairwoman for Kinney County and Ray Melton is the county chairman for the Republican Party.

City's rebates jump 8 percent

December sales tax rebates for the city of Brackettville have jumped 8 percent over the returns for the same period last year, according to State Comptroller John Sharp.

The city of Brackettville received a December sales tax rebate of \$2,869.75, up from the \$2,654.27 delivered to the city last year.

Kinney County's allocation for December totaled \$1,941.69, down 1 percent from the \$1,962.63 payment for December 1996.

Kinney County Health Services, one of 29 special purpose districts around the state, received a sales tax rebate of \$1,957.23, 9.9 percent higher than the rebate of \$1,780.23 for December of last year.

Publisher announces early deadlines

Because of New Year's Eve, The Brackett News has moved up its advertising and news release deadlines to noon on Monday, Dec. 29, Publisher Jewel Robinson announced.

The newspaper will be closed today in observance of Christmas. Tomorrow, the office will be open from 8 a.m. to noon.

"We wish everyone a Merry Christmas," Robinson added.

Middle Rio Grande Council to enter water discussions

Noting the vital role that water plays in sustaining the region's economy, the Board of Directors of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council (MRGDC) has expressed its desire to be a part of the statewide water resource planning process mandated by Senate Bill 1, passed in the last legislative session.

"The availability of water lies at the heart of the prospects of our communities for continued economic growth," said MRGDC President Garry Kyle of Del Rio.

"Water is ultimately our most important natural resource, and the region needs to do whatever it can to assure that ample water remains available to us."

The state's growing population and limited water resources have forced Texas to develop plans for the coordinated management of its surface and underground water resources for the first time.

The Legislature mandated the development of regional water plans for each of the defined water planning regions that would set forth the priorities in water uses and state-funded water development projects. The process is scheduled to be completed by the year 2001.

"The MRGDC Board felt we should represent the region's interests in this important process," said

Leodoro Martinez, the council's executive director. "And we intend to follow their direction."

In addition to being a regional Council of Governments and Planning Commission for the nine county region, the MRGDC has been designated by the U.S. Department of Commerce as an Economic Development District, responsible for economic development planning.

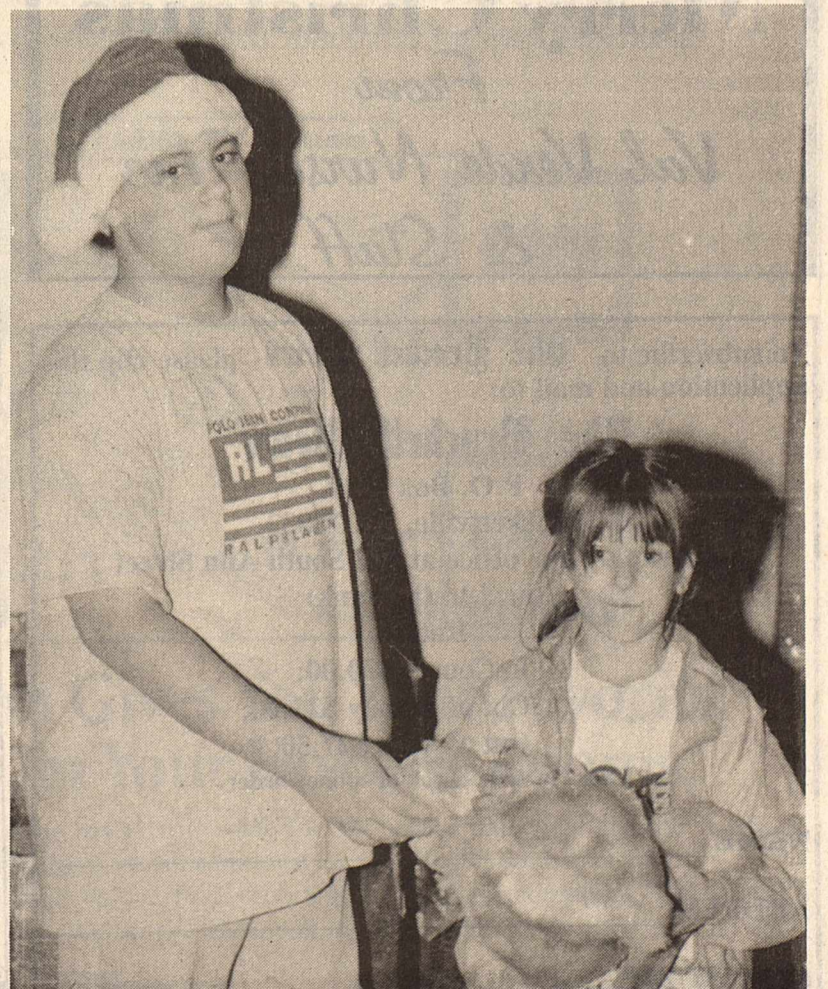
In this capacity, the council works to assure that the economy of the area has an opportunity to grow and develop. Since water is a key economic resource, concerns about water issues are central to this economic planning function.

Dimmit County Judge Charles Johnson has served for more than two years as chairman of a special Water Task Force created by the council to begin analyzing water resources and issues.

"Now it is time to put that special effort to work in the service of the region," Johnson said.

"Unless they unite and work together, rural communities like ours will get lost in such a complex process. That is why we have a Council of Governments."

To carry out the mandate of the board, the MRGDC staff will work closely with local government officials and the staff of the Texas Water Development Board, the designated lead agency for the state.



Dustin Slubar, left, gives Stefani Schuster a present at Sunday's Community Unity program, organized by the city employees. Slubar was one of the many elves helping hand out gifts to the children in the community. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

INSIDE

■ Joe Townsend

If you haven't driven around the area to see the Christmas lights, you should not wait another night to do this.

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■ Chuck Hall

My wife and I drove around the other night to look at Christmas lights. There are some spectacular displays in our community.

Community/Page 3

■ Tigerettes edge N.C.

La Toya Wright hit a jump shot with three seconds left to give the Brackett Tigerettes a 42-41 victory over Nueces Canyon.

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Letter to the Editor

Don't let waste 'blow over'

Trivia question: How many people from the Uvalde area have been to Hawaii recently, or ever, at taxpayers' expense?

Trivia answer: Too many! How interesting to learn from the Leader News that the Community Council here in Uvalde is headed by an arrogant person who has no fear of losing his job evidently.

He insults the public and takes an expensive trip to Hawaii at the public's expense when no other entity in the state of Texas attended.

What is so special about this office in Uvalde?

I spoke to a representative of the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs, Mr. Sam Guzman. He stated that his office and many other agencies who fund the Community Council made the decision not to attend the Hawaii meeting. They perceived it as an unnecessary expense and also felt the public would react adversely to such an expenditure.

Someone should inform Mr. (Jorge) Botello that seminars, conventions, conferences, etc. are available now on video tape for in-house training at a very nominal cost.

The thousands of dollars his office spent on this trip could have been used for the purpose for which it was intended, to help the poor.

However, the blame does not fall totally on Mr. Botello's shoulders. The board of directors, consisting of people who live and work in this area, approved this outrageous expense. The Leader News has printed a list of names of the entire board.

I would urge the public not to let this all "blow over in a couple of weeks," to quote Mr. Botello.

Contact the directors of this Community Council and let them know that the taxpayers are not a bunch of uninformed idiots.

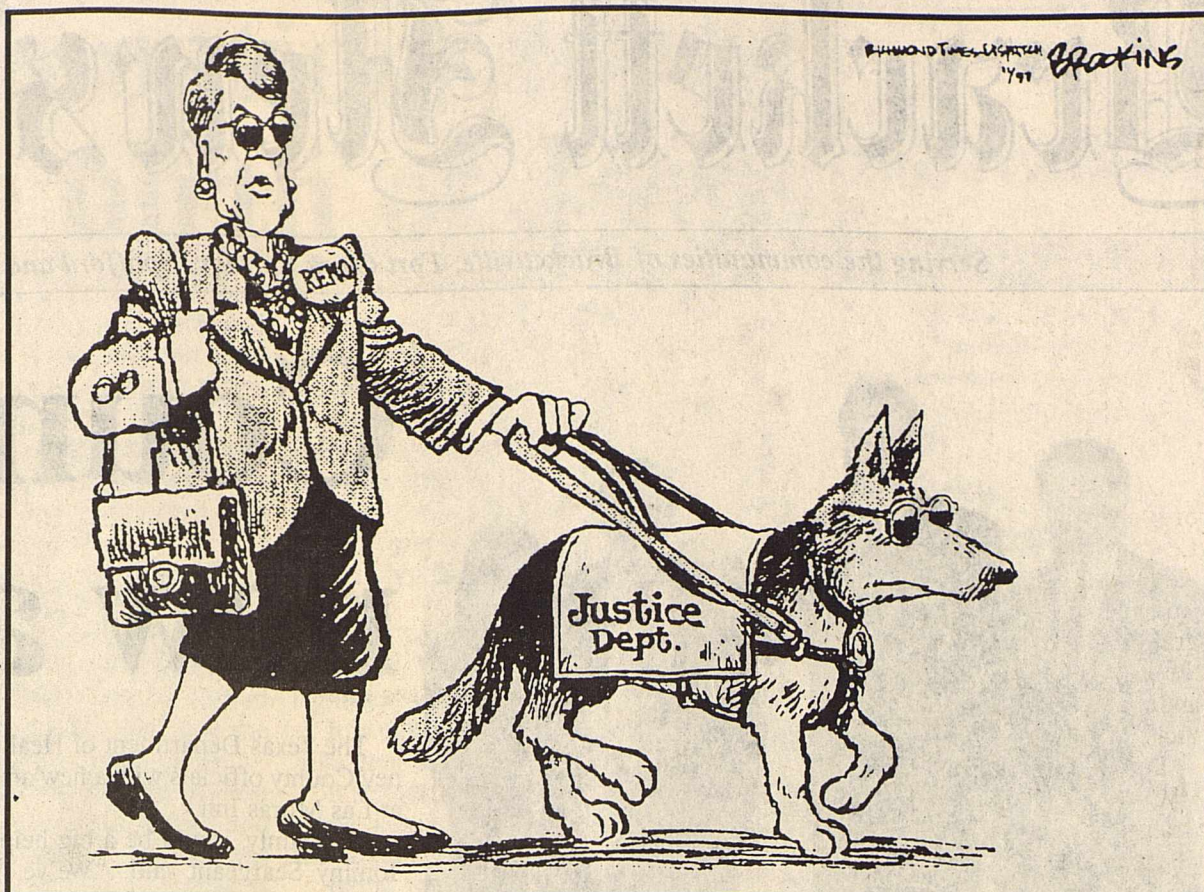
I, for one, am going to suggest that Mr. Botello should be replaced by someone who has some public relations training and some respect for the people who pay his salary.

Ella L. Colvin
Uvalde, Texas

Editor's note: According to a published report in the Uvalde Leader-News, the Community Council of Southwest Texas board consists of 28 people with one-third from the low-income community, one-third from the private sector, and one-third from public officials in Edwards, Kinney, Real, Uvalde, Val Verde and Zavala counties.

Board members include: Ramon Velasquez, Jim Davis, Edna Cuellar, Bill Mitchell, Evaristo Rendon, Eddie Najera, Gustavo Jimenez, Alpha Hernandez, Eloy Padilla, Jesus Dovalina, Gabriel Longoria, Heriberto Gallegos, Luis Gonzalez, Joe Williams, Pilo Vasquez, James Coleman, Mike Acosta, Carmen Berlanga, Kenneth Schackelford, Matthew McHazzlett, Nick Gallegos and Roberto Chavira.

The Leader News reported six current vacancies on the voting board of the council, including two vacancies from Uvalde and Val Verde counties, and one each in Kinney and Zavala counties.



Christmas decorations light up the community

I keep thinking there will surely be an end, or at least a respite, from ridiculous acts and statements by the president and his clones, but it seems this is an impossible dream.

This week, however, I want to turn aside to something much more palatable. After all, this is the season of joy and celebration for more important events.

If you haven't driven around the area to see the Christmas lights, you should not wait another night to do this.

In town and on Fort Clark Springs be sure you cover every street. There are beautiful decorations on every street and lane.

Never have there been more or more beautiful decorations in this area.

From simple strands of lights outlining the house, there are impressive and elaborate lights in profusion on trees, shrubbery, and fences.

Between Us

By Joe Townsend



There are a number of impressive nativity scenes. From a simple "Happy Holidays" framed with styrofoam cups in a chain link fence with lights in the cups to a sign in a yard saying simply, "Happy Birthday Jesus."

Myriad lights forming "reindeer" are seen in a number of yards. By far the most impressive is the panorama of Christian emphasis with tradition at the home and yard of the B. Sweet family on Fort Clark.

There are many tastefully decorated homes on Fort Clark and few elaborate and outstanding yards. It's great to see so many places reflecting the realization of

importance of the birth of Jesus. It bides well for our community.

I'll take this opportunity to wish every person a very Merry Christmas. May the blessings of God be poured out in full measure on each of God's children.

I could hope and pray that the worst day in the year ahead be better than the best day of the year just passed.

If there be those I have offended in the past, I'm sorry. I hope everyone will understand that my mental meanderings are meant to deal with issues and actions apart from personal delectations.

May this season be the greatest we have ever known and the year ahead the finest.

Letters to the Editor Policy

The Brackett News welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. The Editor reserves the right to 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.

Letters published and columnist's viewpoints do not necessarily reflect the editorial beliefs of this newspaper.



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

Wishing you good cheer!
Whatever the season brings, we sincerely hope that it will make you happy!
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JOY TO THE WORLD
...and to our many friends!
With all the tools at hand, may your holiday season be built upon love, laughter, peace and good will. We're proud to say thank you to all who've been there for us throughout the year.
Russell Hardware
Del Rio

Big Mama Sez!
He enjoys much who is thankful for little.

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

Christmas Greetings
We're glad to have an opportunity to greet you!
STOP N SHOP
830-563-9783
Freddie & Terri

Remember our troops on Christmas

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

As we sit down to enjoy Christmas dinner with our families, I know we will all remember the men and women serving in our armed forces around the world.

These men and women have left their families behind in order to ensure that all Americans live in peace this Christmas.

We should also remember the families of our military men and women. Mothers, fathers, husbands and wives have left home to serve their country in dangerous regions.

Many of these men and women have spending Christmas without a parent.

While we enjoy the warm company of our loved ones during the holiday season, our men and women are experiencing loneliness and uncertainty in a foreign land.

While their personal sacrifice is greatest at the holidays, we should remember that our military puts their lives on the line every day, not just on Christmas.

Whether they are serving on the ground in Bosnia, on patrol in the skies over Iraq, or on a submarine under the North Pole, their dedication and commitment to freedom is unparalleled.

Here in Texas, it is rare to have a white Christmas. But our troops in Bosnia will be battling cold winds and deep snow all winter long.

We should appreciate the great physical and emotional challenges that these men and women face in carrying out this mission.

In the Christmas spirit of "peace on earth, good will to men," we should all remember the brave people who fight for our nation.

I hope our troops will stay safe, and warm during this holiday season, and wish them a very merry Christmas and happy holidays.

Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

Again I want to highlight two people.

A couple moved here with their family, a good many years ago. The sons have grown up and the mother and father are still an integral part of the community.

As a pharmacist, he has served a very vital role in assisting people.

She is a fine wife and mother. They are both warm hearted, jovial, friendly people.

They have gone to a great deal of trouble and expense to make their house and yard a fantastic display of the Christmas season.

They have captured the very essence of the season in the many displays of traditions in addition to the basic recognition of the heart of the season, the birth of Jesus Christ.

It is a display that none should miss.

To know B. and Charlotte Sweet is to love them. Surely, they are Unsung Heroes.

Obituaries

John Weldon Davidson

John Weldon Davidson, 78, passed away Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1997, at Wilford Hall in San Antonio.

Davidson was born in Albion, Okla., to James and Josephine C. (Overton) Davidson on Oct. 4, 1919.

Davidson was a resident of Fort Clark Springs for over 20 years. He served his country in World War II, was in the Army and Army Air Corp, and retired from the U.S. Air Force in 1961.

After retirement, he worked for Shoprite Foods in San Antonio and Rio Grande Electric for several years.

Davidson is survived by his wife, Deretha of Fort Clark Springs; son, John C. Davidson



and wife Renee of Round Rock, Texas; daughter Linda Jackson and husband Bob of Fort Clark Springs; four grandchildren, Robert Jackson

of Papillion, Neb., Kathleen Lowrance of Muskogee, Okla., Kevan and Kyle Davidson of Round Rock, Texas; three great-grandchildren, Robert Jackson, Steve Lowrance, Kelly Jackson, and brother, Kenneth Davidson of Steilacom, Wash.

Davidson was a member of the VFW and will be buried in the Brackettville VFW Cemetery.

Arthur "Bud" Kroepel

Arthur "Bud" Kroepel, 77, of Park Falls, Wis., died Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1997, in Fort Clark Springs. He was born in Chicago, Ill., grew up in Michigan, and lived most of his adult life in Park Falls.

Bud retired from the U.S. Forestry Service in 1983. He was a member of the Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Park Falls Hospital Board of Directors, and the First Congregational Church, serving as treasurer for many years. He was an avid fisherman on the Great Lake Superior. While wintering in Texas, he attended Our

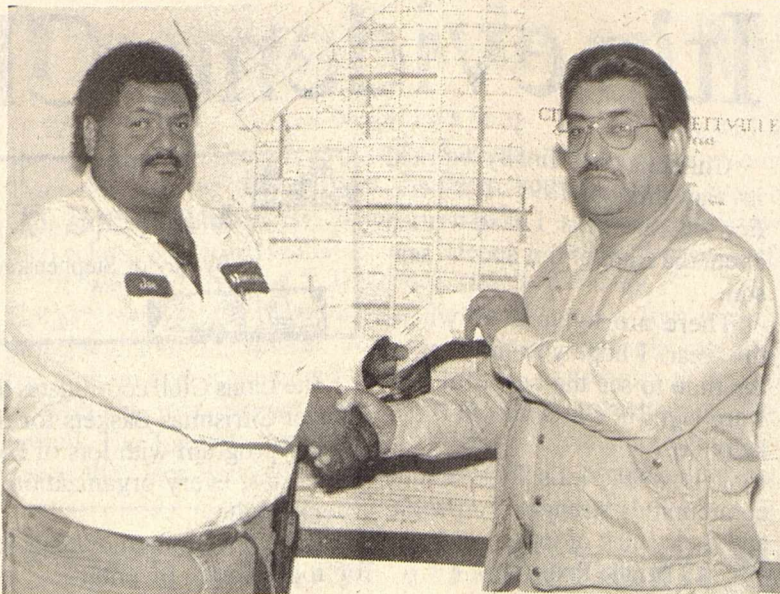
Redeemer Lutheran Church in Brackettville.

He is survived by his wife, Edna, two daughters, two grandsons, one granddaughter, two brothers, and numerous nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his parents and one granddaughter.

A memorial service will be held on Jan. 7 at 7 p.m. at Our Redeemer Lutheran Church.

Memorials may be made to Our Redeemer Lutheran Church, P.O. Box 1687, Brackettville, Texas, 78832.



Fire Chief Joe Williams, left, presents a \$600 donation for the Community Unity program to City Secretary David Luna on behalf of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department. The local fire fighters raised the money through a recent fundraiser. Williams also donated numerous toys on behalf of Falcon Cable.

But, I could be wrong!

By: Chuck Hall



Have a Merry Christmas!

My wife and I drove around the other night to look at Christmas lights. There are some spectacular displays in our community.

The various themes were reflected in the illuminated yards throughout Brackettville and Fort Clark Springs. Some really impressed me. Your hard work was not unnoticed or unappreciated.

Santas, reindeer, sleighs, snowmen, tinsel, and even elves were to be found.

But the ones I really enjoyed were those with a religious reflection.

The nativity scenes always capture my attention and thrill me the most. We celebrate this time of year because of the birth of Jesus Christ.

As I write to you this holiday season, I ask you to think about the meaning of Christmas.

May the spirit be in your heart all year long. And may you feel the gift of love long after the material gifts are gone and forgotten.

And may the time never come when you refer to this subject and say: "He could be wrong!"

Kinney County Sheriff's Report

Tuesday, December 16

9:57 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that someone had stolen her Christmas lights from her residence. She said someone had broken into her house through a back window. She said she was unable to locate her pistol and it may have been stolen also. Sheriff L.K. "Buddy" Burgess was dispatched to the scene.

Wednesday, December 17

11:00 a.m., Elizabeth Juana Garcia Rodriguez, 25, of Brackettville was arrested by Sheriff Burgess on charges of theft by check. She was released the next day on a \$750 personal recognition bond.

Friday, December 19

5:14 a.m., Pablo Verra, 21, of Mexico was arrested by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley and charged with no driver's license and no liability insurance. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Verra was released the next day after paying a \$387 fine.

10:24 p.m., An employee at Mario's Bar on W. Spring Street requested assistance in reference to a fight. Deputy Sheriff Karl

Chism was dispatched to the scene.

10:31 p.m., Gregorio G. Morin, 51, of Brackettville and Ernesto Flores, 46, of Del Rio were arrested on charges of public intoxication by Deputy Chism. They were booked into the Kinney County Jail. Morin and Flores were released the next day after paying a \$100 fine, plus time served.

10:45 p.m., Robert Pena Gonzalez, 21, of Brackettville was arrested on outstanding DPS warrants by deputy Chism. He is being held in the Kinney County Jail.

Saturday, December 20

8:42 a.m., An employee at Shorty's Cafe said there was a car parked behind the restaurant and that the people in the vehicle were acting wierd. DPS Trooper Richard Slubar was dispatched to the scene. He said the occupant was just resting.

9:30 a.m., A Border Patrol agent reported several hobos on an east-bound train heading from Del Rio to Spofford. Union Pacific officials were notified.

12:28 p.m., A motorist reported a live buck deer that had

been hit by a vehicle approximately five miles east of Brackettville on Highway 90. Constable Bill Lindeman was dispatched to the scene but was unable to locate the deer.

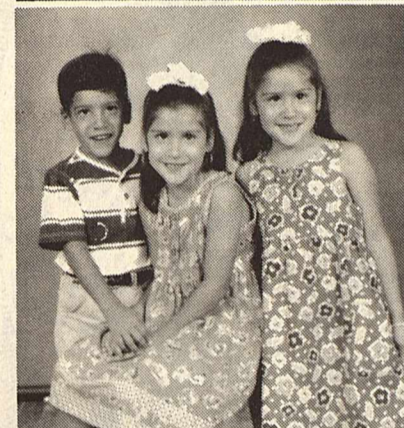
2:14 p.m., A motorist reported an injured deer at the roadside park west of Brackettville on

Highway 90. Constable Lindeman was notified.

Sunday, December 21

10:09 a.m., A Border Patrol agent reported that a buck deer was caught between two high fences at the La Fonda Ranch. The ranch's game foreman was notified.

Birthdays



Brackettville's Molinar triplets, Daniel, Elena and Elidia just celebrated their sixth birthday. They are in kindergarten. Their parents are Jose and Elena Molinar.

The Brackett News

The Brackett News (USPS 003987) is an entirely locally owned, independent newspaper published weekly on Thursday for \$20 per year in Kinney County, \$25 outside of county but in Texas, and \$27.50 outside of Texas, by The Brackett News, Inc., 507 S. Ann Street, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, (telephone: 830-563-2852, fax: 830-563-9538) and entered as second class matter at the U.S. Post Office at Brackettville, Texas, under the Act of March 3, 1878.

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Merry Christmas - Happy New Year
To All Our Customers
Let's Not Forget The True Meaning Of Christmas
310 Avenue F From San Antonio Hwy.
Del Rio, Texas Gilbert & Charlie Eagle Pass, Texas
830/775-1096 "Thank You To All Our Customers" 830/773-1157
775-2141, 774-6031 773-1158

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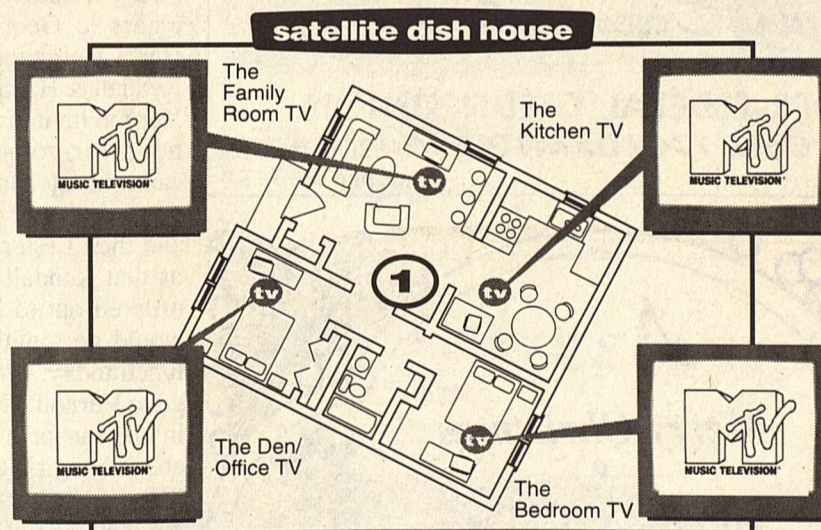


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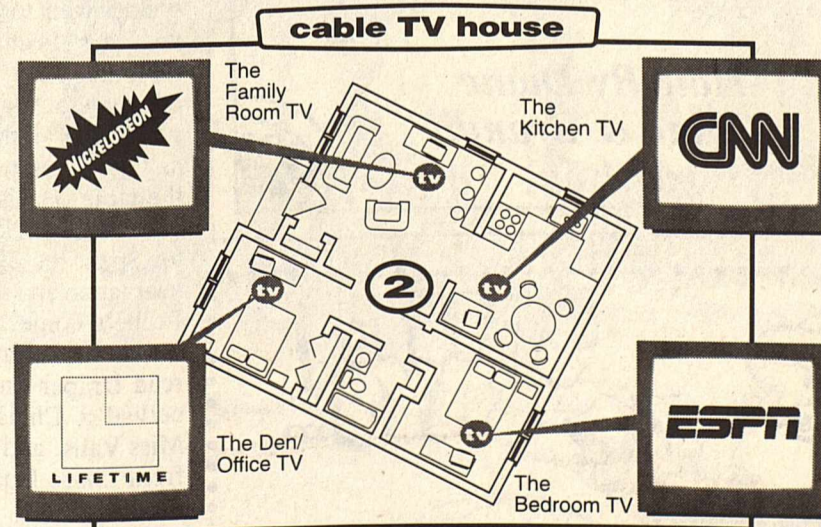
* Based on DirecTV's quoted charges of \$99 for installation (after current \$100 off rebate), \$499 for RCA Dual receiver, \$199 for additional RCA receiver for second TV, \$199 for optional 5-year extended warrantee, and \$4.99 per month per additional outlet. Charges total \$1,000.99. Price does not include state and local sales taxes where applicable. Price does not include DirecTV primary outlet monthly programming fees or fee for printed program guide. Both receivers require telephone line outlets in order to operate fully.

Which house would you like to call home?

Satellite dishes don't give you more, they charge you more!



If your family lived in this house (with a satellite dish) you would have to buy FOUR receivers to watch different channels in different rooms! And, depending on the satellite dish supplier, each receiver would cost between \$300-\$600!



Only Falcon Gives You Your Favorite Channels, in Your Favorite Rooms.

If your family lived in this house (with cable TV) they could enjoy their favorite channels in their favorite rooms at no additional charge! That's because this house has Falcon Cable. And with Falcon, basic cable is FREE on all the additional TVs hooked up to cable. Get the whole picture. Call Falcon today.



Your access to entertainment, information and beyond.

All channels may not be available in all areas.

Garden Club celebrates Christmas

The Mountain Laurel Garden Club met last Thursday in the Gorgas Room at Fort Clark Springs with 24 members and one guest attending. A short business meeting was conducted by President Clara McCord. There is a sign in the Iola "Jonesie" Jones cherry sage garden at the entrance to the Member Service Garden on Fort Clark. The sign was made by John Ford and donated to the garden club. Sondra Meil, owner of the Gift Box, and her design assis-

tant, Xyan McWilliams, presented the program on holiday arrangements. The utilization of twisted bark and tropical flowers in centerpieces provided many new ideas. Meil introduced a new brown or chocolate rose, the Leonidas from Columbia. A stunning arrangement of the rose was the door prize won by Aimee Skelton. Judy Matthews, Bobby Waddill's niece from San Angelo, won the hostess' door prize.

It's evident, Christmas is here!

Christmas has finally worked its way through 1997. It's here. For several weeks, I have written about the signs of this special season.

There are lights everywhere this year. I hope you have taken the time to see the beautiful outward signs of Christmas in Brackettville.

This week, let's look at our community's strength, its people and their spirit of unity!

Music Program

The elementary school music program was one where every child was given a chance to learn and to sing Christmas greetings.

That's right, the entire school was there on stage while an auditorium packed with parents, relatives and friends cheered them on.

It's special for every child to be able to participate. In Brackettville, that can be done.

Rev. William Adams told me after the program that this is the best school this side of Heaven.

Christmas Baskets

Saturday morning, I stopped at the Fort Clark Service Club to see the massive amount of food that had been purchased for needy folks in Brackettville.

MAKING A DIFFERENCE
By Taylor Stephenson, BISD Superintendent

The Lions Club coordinates the annual Christmas Baskets for the Needy program with lots of help from most every organization in Brackettville.

There were folks moving boxes of food, sacks of potatoes, and many of the staples that make for a happier day for those who are less fortunate.

The nice thing about it was it was a community effort to take care of our own. We didn't need state aid or Washington politicians to get involved.

The folks in our community donated and worked to show that they care about the needy of Brackettville.

Community Unity

On Sunday night was the Community Unity program where folks from every walk of life met to sing carols, gave Christmas greetings, sampled foods, and gave all of the kids in town a

chance to get a toy from good old Santa.

Folks like Rose Mary Slubar give of their time and resources to help others. There are many more who help organize and who donate money and time to this effort. It is a unique event that shows we care.

Gift for Needy

I have already written about the gentleman who gave a check to help take care of needy kids. One of the children received a new coat, jeans, socks and underwear.

This young man's teacher wrote to me about the pride that this child took in his new coat.

I personally went to check out the coat. The glow in the child's face was something that I would like to have been able to show our benefactor.

Hillcrest Foundation

Folks, we're living in the best community in the USA!

There's an outstanding citizen named D. Harold Byrd who comes by a couple of times a year to talk and visit our schools.

The Hillcrest Foundation has helped our schools get on the cutting edge by providing funds for library furnishings, computers, a file server for instruction, and TVs and VCRs for every classroom.

We are so appreciative of Mr. Byrd and the Hillcrest Foundation's interest in our school system.

After the tour, Harold and I agree that the children of Brackettville are indeed fortunate to go to school in Brackettville.

There's much more. I haven't written about the beauty of Fort Clark Springs and Kinney County. Nor have I talked about this climate which is the best in the world.

When you cut to the chase, it's people who make a difference in any community. They do so by working together for the good of the community.

This Christmas-time, our community shines brighter than others because we care. Merry Christmas.

SEASON'S BEST TO YOU!

Time to greet our many good friends and to say we hope you have the merriest Christmas of all!

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Del Rio

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With Special Thanks To All My Customers & Friends

Hair By Diane
Diane & Brandi Wilson

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Fort Clark M.U.D. & Staff

Francis Henry French was born in Fort Wayne, Indiana on September 27, 1857. Deeply impressed from his youth by the stirring deeds and stories told by veterans of the Civil War, he realized his ambition for a military career by entering the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York, where he graduated 12th from the Class of 1879. He was assigned as 2nd Lt. of "E" Company 19th Infantry and came West. Following service at Fort Garland, Colorado Territory and Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, the regiment moved to Fort Brown at Brownsville, Texas, where Lt. French was detailed as the Regimental Adjutant. In December of 1882, the 19th Infantry was posted to Fort Clark.

At Fort Clark, on January 1, 1883, Lt. French began diaries, which he faithfully maintained for the next 30 years.

Friday, December 25, 1885

What a contrast between this Christmas and last, for me. Mail had two letters from home for me, the first that have come since the baby's arrival. Was very glad to learn that both Sue and the baby were getting along well. After breakfast went into Capt. Vance's and then over to the office. Gave Sophy a bottle of cologne, some cigars to George and candy to Henry their adopted boy. Vernou, Kendall & Hammond called when Vernou invited me to his house at noon for some egg-nog. King came in later to play cards after we had played checkers a while; and then Lester came in and told us that Kendall and Farber were ordered out to New Mexico and would go tonight. Did not go to lunch today. While preparing to go to Vernou's Maj. Wilcox came in and sat for a long time talking about his girl, an only child and consequently a marvel. After he left went to Vernou's but was too late for the egg nog, confound it as it would have been very acceptable. Ate some cake and played piquet with Vernou. Went to Capt. Vance's a moment on way to quarters. Then just before five o'clock went to Col. Bliss' for dinner, Mrs. Feche't, Eckerson and wife and Capt. Vance being the other guests. Had a splendid meal, which was all the more enjoyable as Col. Bliss was at the head of the table. He is one of the most entertaining talkers I ever listened to. Spent the evening there until near tattoo and then escorted Mrs. Feche't home. After tattoo saw Kendall and Farber off and then read Draper until bed time. Received a Christmas card from Miss Valls, and a letter with card from Lizzie Hoagland.

Saturday, December 26, 1885

Mail had a bundle of papers from home. Started soon after guard mounting and wrote until lunch on the proceedings of the Court. Carried some letters to Cunningham for Kendall, went into Capt. Hall's to see him about Hewitt's coming and then over to the Library to look over the papers and to play a while on the organ. Then wrote until retreat on the proceedings. Hammond came in to play piquet but did not stay when he found my occupation. After dinner went to Capt. Hall's

Sunday, December 27, 1885

Mail had nothing for me this morning. It is too soon to look for the letter Lula was to write on Thursday, but hope it will be here tomorrow. After inspection read the day's paper and went into Capt. Vance's a while. During guard mounting carried up to Hewitt's the card Mother sent him. Then wrote on letter home. After lunch went up to Hewitt's and spent an hour or two talking. Then completed letter home and read the papers until dinner time. Capt. Vance was Officer of the Day and took the calls. Went into Hewitt's a minute before going to church and also in Capt. Vance's a while after dinner. Escorted Mrs. Hall home from church and then read and dozed until bedtime.

Monday, December 28, 1885

No mail for me this morning. Marched on guard this morning. Visited a sentry out with prisoners and then went up to the court martial rooms where an informal meeting of the Court was held to read over proceedings. Got up to reveille and by breakfast had the last set of proceedings completed. After the reading went to the Q.M. office to draw more stationery for the Court. Then red-lined, folded and briefed the three proceedings and directed them for mailing. After lunch wrote a letter to Harry Rhoads to order a silver bread and milk bowl for the baby. Hewitt came in and sat for a while. Then wrote to Miss Valls and Capt. Bradford and mailed all the letters when went to dinner. Made out guard report in the evening and wrote to Gardener. Then completed the first volume

FOOTSTEPS ECHO
The Fort Clark Diaries and Letters of Major General Francis Henry French

Courtesy of his descendants

and to Hewitt's house to see about his coming. Then wrote on proceedings until tattoo when Capt. Hall came up and told me he had received a telegram that he would come tonight. So went with him to Vedder's and arranged to go down to the railroad. Wanted to finish proceedings so as to have a meeting of the Court on Monday, but King came in and insisted on playing cards. Ought to have declined but gave way and will have to work hard Monday morning to complete proceedings before Court meets. About 10-30 went up to Hall's got the ambulance there and then went over to Spofford Junction. Had to wait about an hour for the train. Was mighty glad to see Hewitt. Talked coming back about the news. Nothing further is known at San Antonio of Maj. Smith's or Williams' cases and but little about poor Maddox.

Tuesday, December 29, 1885

Slept well until reveille. Vernou relieved me at guard mounting. Contrary to my expectation the mail had nothing for me this morning. Hoped to hear from home. Went to office and over to Library to look over papers and played a while on the organ in the chapel. Wrote little more in Gardener's letter and sealed it, and read a while in Draper. After lunch was playing cards with King when Dr. Town came up in his road cart and took me out for a long ride. He had a very easy riding cart and a fine mare, and the ride was very enjoyable. Intend to get a cart when my next leave is over. Am thinking of taking a leave in the Summer and must save all my money for that. After dinner went up to Hewitt's a while and then after a few minutes at Capt. Vance's went to Mrs. Gillmore's to offer to escort her to Hammonds's where the "Cercle Francais" meets tonight. Played a few games of piquet and then brought Mrs. Gillmore there. Some of the members were a little late and we did not get fairly started until near tattoo. Too much English was spoken; if we expect to improve we must enforce the rule about talking nothing but French. Dr. Town was very tiresome this evening as he took such a long time to read and had difficulty in getting the right pronunciation of certain words. Had cake, coffee, apples, and nuts for refreshments. This is an innovation that ought not to be kept up. After escorting Mrs. Gillmore home, stopped in at Capt. Vance's a while with Hewitt.

Wednesday, December 30, 1885

Mail brought the long expected letter from home. Sue and baby were doing very well and Mattie had arrived. So everything was well. Spent a short time in the office and then paid bills at Q.M. & C.S. offices and in town. Played checkers and cards with King. After lunch wrote usual letter home and commenced to read a light novel lent me by Mrs. Hammond. In the evening took a walk and then went down to the store where some Seminole women told me that one of the men had come in sick and said that Geary would be in either Saturday or Sunday. Wrote to him, directing the letter to Del Rio to come to my house. Sat in the office a while with Capt. Hall and

of Draper's book and commenced to re-read it, as it contains so much valuable information. Read and dozed until after midnight when Officer of the Day inspected.

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Thursday, December 31, 1885

Today completes the third year of my diary's existence. A Christmas card from Marie Gorgas and a French letter from Mr. Preston made up my mail today. Spent the morning at Capt. Vance's in the office and at the Library. Also read a little in the novel at quarters. Played checkers and cards at noon with King. After lunch went up to Hewitt's, who gave me this month's pay as he wants a check on New York for the amount. Sent off my pay accounts yesterday and asked to have check sent tomorrow. Then went to Q.M. office where settled with Mr. Kinney for mess account and informed him of my intention to join Hewitt's mess tomorrow. He was very pleasant and told me to return whenever I wished. Went to Capt. Vance's to settle with Sophy and George and had hair cut. At 2-30 Col. Bliss mustered and inspected in full dress the Infantry battalion and Maj. Wilcox the Cavalry. After this read until retreat. After dinner went to Hewitt's a minute and then over to the hospital where made an engagement with Black to meet him after guard mounting every morning to have my ears operated upon. Hope to have my throat healed up which will free me from that ringing in my ears. Later called at Gen. Smith's where met Miss Mabel Boyd, daughter of the late Capt. Boyd. She is a school girl yet, but will soon be old enough to come out. Then spent the rest of the evening playing whist at Vernou's, Mrs. V. & I against Black and Vernou. Hewitt came in later and took Black's hand. Mrs. Vernou made some egg nog which had too much whiskey in it for me. Stayed until midnight.

then went over to Capt. Vance's where learned that the whist club would meet tonight. So went to Mrs. Hall's with him and Hewitt and as usual had a very pleasant evening. Ought to have called at Gen Smith's and Col. Bliss' instead. After taking tattoo came to the house and carried a piece of the fruit cake up to Mrs. Hall. Hewitt and I were successful as usual. Had cake and beer.

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Ladd's team leads field

Gwen Ladd's team of Camille Neal, Nell Darling and Janet Christianson tallied a 158 to win a game of two best low balls in 18 Hole Golf League action.

Taking second place honors with a 162 was Beth Waller's team of Melba Turner, Pat Nelson and Jo Workman.

Tying for third place was Pat McKelvy's team of Carol Benfield, Luella Gilliland and Norma Reivitt, and Mary Stephenson's team of Leslie Houk, Diana Daniels and Joyce Williamson. Both teams had 165.

Betty Lee's team of Arlys Simpson, Sheri White and Margo Kendrick placed fifth with a 169.

In sixth place was Teresa Stephens' team of Ann Malin, Clara McCord and Ruth Spencer with 171.

Seventh place went to Kelly Dennis' team of Marge Madrich, Barb Miller and Edith Zipperer with 174.

Golf Roundup

Four people shared the chip-in pot: Neal and Miller on Hole No. 8, Dennis on No. 11, and Benfield on No. 17.

A total of 10 skins was won. Benfield had a par on Hole No. 9 and a birdie on No. 17 for three points, Mary Stephenson had a birdie on No. 11 and par on No. 5 for three points, Dennis won two points for her birdie on No. 15, Waller won one on No. 2 with a par, and Nelson had one with a par on No. 12.

9 Hole Golf League

The team of LaVon McLane, Jean Land, Peg Wilson and Bobbie Waddill combined for a score of 50 to take top honors in a game of "middle of the road," where teams had to throw out their best and worst hole.

McLane and Jeanette Hinton tied for a prize for low putts, each finished with 16 putts.

Tigerettes win on Wright's buzzer-beater

BARKSDALE - La Toya Wright hit a jump shot with three seconds left to give the Brackett Tigerettes a 42-41 victory over the Nueces Canyon Lady Panthers last Tuesday in girls' high school basketball action.

"It was real exciting," Tigerettes coach Gregg Nowlin said. "We were down by seven points with four minutes left. We made a good run at them and won on La Toya's shot."

With the win, Brackett improves to 7-5 overall. The Tigerettes resume action on Monday as they face Brackett's exes at 6 p.m. On

Tuesday, they will host a double-header with Uvalde's junior varsity. The first game is at 1 p.m. and the latter at 5.

Wright paced the Brackett's scoring attack with a 14-point performance against the Lady Panthers.

"La Toya is coming along," Nowlin said. "She's playing a lot better. She's developed some nice post moves. She hustles and gets a lot of rebounds. She is doing a great job for a sophomore."

Stephanie Terrazas also scored in double

figures for the Tigerettes. The junior finished the non-district contest with 10 points, including a pair of treys.

"Stephanie had a good game," Nowlin said. "She had a key three-pointer in the fourth quarter."

Lindsey Brotherton had nine points for Brackett, Patty Lopez scored seven, and Jennifer Ashabranner pitched in two.

Stephanie Powers paced Nueces Canyon with a game-high 15 points and Amanda Booher had 12.

Tigers host tournament

Brackett will host the annual Tiger Invitational high school basketball tournament on Monday and Tuesday.

This year's round robin tournament will feature Brackett and junior varsity teams from Del Rio, Uvalde and Eagle Pass.

The Tigers, 3-10 overall, are coming off of a 72-44 loss to the Nueces Canyon Panthers on Tuesday in Barksdale.

Brent Woelke was Brackett's

leading scorer in the contest with nine points, and Schiller Hill and Coty Williams both finished with eight.

Luis Guajardo scored seven for the Tigers, while Caleb Crumley, Rene Luna and Demitrus Williams all had four.

Clint Luce scored a game-high 18 points to pace Nueces Canyon. Winston Wright had 12 for the Panthers, Zeb Bureson chipped in 11, and Wade Tinsley had 10.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!



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Thank You and Best Wishes
for the Holiday Season
and a Happy New Year.

Representative
Pete P. Gallego
and
Maria Elena Ramon

Pol. Adv. Paid for by the Pete. P. Gallego Campaign, 1110 East Holland Alpine, TX 79831


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and
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to all our friends and
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Alfred "Chapo"
and Henry Castro

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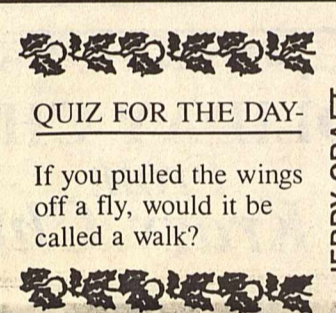
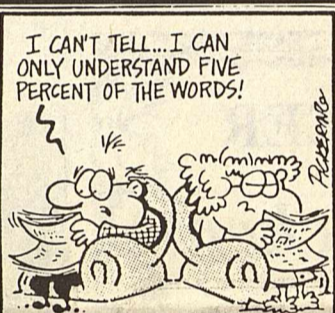
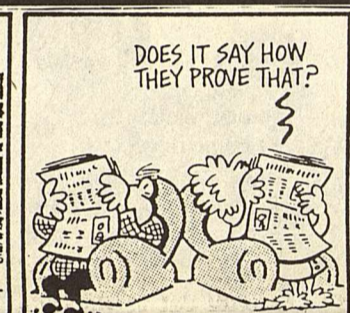
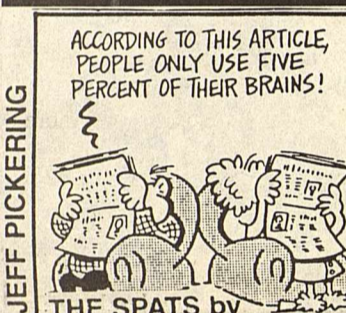
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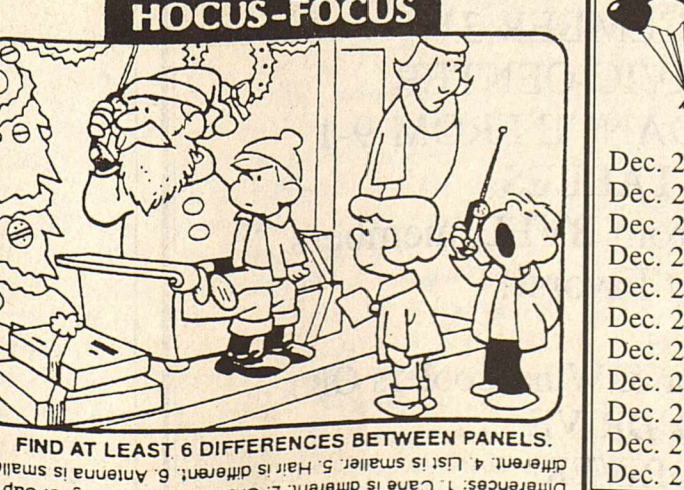
ACROSS
1 Good buddies
5 Renowned rabbit
9 Dreadful
13 Winter warmer-upper
18 Singer Adams
19 Recruit-to-be
20 Belling
21 Maxim
22 Controversial poet
24 Clairvoyance
26 Elephant's morsel
27 Secure anew
29 Feat of courage
30 Bonnie's beau
32 "Ben Adhem"
33 Roll with the punches
36 Photographer Adams
39 "Ad — per aspera" (Kansas motto)
41 Chanteuse Edith
44 "Uh-uh"
45 Part of S.P.C.A.
46 Marmaduke has two?
48 Colie's concern
50 Soho cinemas
53 Overcast
55 "The Twilight Zone" creator
57 Klipping novel
58 Envelope abbr.
59 Word form for "nerve"
61 Gold-plated
62 Blazing
64 They fill the bill
66 Critic's god?
67 On edge
68 Partner of 16 Down
69 "The Jack Benny Show" regular
74 Witch
75 — del Este
77 "Alley —"
78 Won over
82 Liama's turf
83 Freshen a fuchsia
85 Skirt shape
87 Garr or Hatcher
88 Hog heaven?
89 Merry
92 Amatory
94 Extend across
96 Way to go?
97 Alias, for short
98 Get by, with "out"
99 Spoon-bender
100 Resistance units
102 Grable or Gable
104 Get side-tracked
106 Pele's first name
108 Meso-potamian garden
110 Lipstick shade
112 Mideast gulf
114 The gods guzzled it
116 Opening-night mecca
120 "To Kill a Mockingbird" star
124 '84 Kenny Loggins hit
126 Cleave
127 Acts like Attila
128 Sitarist Shankar
129 Poet Wilcox
130 Pile up
131 Ages
132 Casbah site
133 Prepare cherries
DOWN
1 Nest noise
2 Carpenter's tool
3 Benito's bread
4 Rap session?
5 Pirate's prize (go over big)
6 Burmese statesman
7 Literary types?
8 Mean Marquis
9 Singer Buddy
10 Accumulate
11 Skater Midori
12 Patch
13 Planned a burglary
14 Nitric acid, e.g.
15 Butt, for short
16 Fireworks reaction
17 City.
20 Meteorology lines
23 Made taffy
25 Stun with sound
28 Texas city
31 "— Kapital"
34 Sidewalk slot machine
35 His and hers
36 Music org.
37 Nick of "The Prince of Tides"
38 Paddington
39 Slezak
40 Heavenly hammer
42 Common contraction
43 Make — with (go over big)
47 Sociable starling
49 Ballena artist
51 Hercule's creator
52 Hoskins role in "Hook"
54 Eastern Christian
55 Trick
56 Grapefruit garbage
60 Conclude
63 "... where angels — tread"
65 Unsullied
66 "Great Expectations" character
70 Have a bite to eat
71 Prominent
72 Mine entry
73 Chinese principle
75 Future of the present
76 Treacherous
79 Follow the trail
80 Soap star
81 Hazardous
83 Stocking stuff
84 Bit of gossip
85 Consecrate
86 Forsaken
90 Laundry worker
91 Russian coins
93 Farina or Buckwheat
95 Countenances
97 Fossey's friend
101 Nero's tutor
103 Big scene
105 Anguish
107 Whiffs
109 Knocks down
111 He was Gomez Addams
113 AMEX rival
115 Curly coil
117 No Einstein
118 Vacation location
119 Fashion line
120 Youth grp.
121 Dreamer's initials
122 Lehar operetta
123 — for the course (typical)
125 Breakfast of centuries?

MAGIC MAZE

SUBMARINES
M Y V T N Q O L I G S D B C Y
W T R P U M K I F E U D B R Y
W U S Q C O M K O I B F E E D
B Z S X L W S D U S M T P W S
R O O T E T E N E L A A O O J
H A K C A P F L O W R O C T F
D C N O R O I A R Y I B S W W
T S B O N S B E Q P N G I N L
K U T A S I D E H F E I R E C
B E V I D N Z Y W V R P E U S
R Y M S U L I T U A N Q P P N
Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.
Crew Nautilus Pigboat U-boats
Dive Navy Submariner Underwater
E-boats Nuclear Torpedoes Wolf pack
Missiles Periscope Tower

Your Horoscope by Natasha

ARIES (March 21 to April 19)
Good cheer abounds this week as you go about your holiday activities. You get a lot done around the house as well. This weekend, you're in a rather nostalgic and reflective mood.
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20)
You certainly are in the holiday spirit this week, lending enthusiasm to others. Much of your time is devoted to various holiday domestic tasks. This weekend, a loved one has surprising good news.
GEMINI (May 21 to June 20)
You'll enjoy yourself better if you get into the holiday swing of things. Later in the week, you're in the mood for a party and plunge right in. Financial prospects improve.
CANCER (June 21 to July 22)
It's a bit hectic as you go about trying to get that last-minute shopping done before the holiday. As a result, you don't make as much progress as you'd like with certain tasks. This weekend, a special holiday invitation comes your way.
LEO (July 23 to August 22)
While you feel this isn't the time to worry about money, do try to think ahead. Your holiday expenditures could be getting out of hand. Home-based activities are highlighted this season.
VIRGO (August 23 to September 22)
Because of the holidays, you're not ready to make a decision about an investment matter. Waiting until the new year makes sense. The weekend is tailor-made for holiday fun and socializing.
LIBRA (September 23 to October 22)
There's a lot going on now, both on the domestic scene and on the job. Most of it is holiday-related. Loved ones reach out to you this season with new understanding.
SCORPIO (October 23 to November 21)
Be careful as you rush around doing holiday preparations that you don't forget someone on your list. Happily, you're in a partying mood as the holiday approaches. This weekend, if you don't go to a party, plan your own special entertainment.
SAGITTARIUS (November 22 to December 21)
Because of everything that must be done before the big day, you get an early start this week on tasks which must be done. You come up with new business strategies as you discuss concerns with loved ones.
CAPRICORN (December 22 to January 19)
Before you sit down to that holiday feast, be sure that all is in place and no one has been forgotten. Don't despair if a family member isn't cooperative. This person soon comes around.
AQUARIUS (January 20 to February 18)
You're socializing before the holiday even begins. However, there are some tasks at work which need to be cleared up. Not everyone is as celebratory as you are.
PISCES (February 19 to March 20)
Your holiday plans are still up in the air, thanks to a cantankerous family member. By the time the big day comes, however, everyone is back on speaking terms. Enjoy this special time.
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FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.
Different: 1. Can is different; 2. Chair back is missing; 3. Cap is different; 4. List is smaller; 5. Hair is different; 6. Armrest is smaller.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Dec. 25 Michael Gass
Dec. 26 Dorothy Clark
Dec. 26 Pat Foster
Dec. 26 Pam Melancon
Dec. 27 Margarita Pena
Dec. 27 Christina Smith
Dec. 27 J.J. Smith
Dec. 27 Taylor Stephenson
Dec. 28 Kerry Barry
Dec. 28 Hortencia Castro
Dec. 28 Tiny Castro
Dec. 28 Patricia Garberick
Dec. 28 Jessie Garcia
Dec. 29 Joan Boutwell
Dec. 29 Clarisia Aguirre
Dec. 29 Myrna Gonzalez
Dec. 29 Judy Hooker
Dec. 30 Wallace Dimery
Dec. 30 Jason Kelley
Dec. 30 William D. Thornton
Dec. 31 Jerry Adams
Dec. 31 Vera Nash

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

LOCAL CANDY ROUTE. 30 vending machines. Earn apx. \$800/day. All for \$9,995. Call 1-800-998-VEND. Multi-Vend, Inc.

THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY to make money at home. We'll teach you to make simulated stone waterfalls, boulders and birdbaths that everyone will love. Molds, supplies and technical support included. \$3395. The Waterfall Company. 1-888-755-1996.

DRIVERS WANTED

\$1,000 SIGN-ON BONUS. PFT/Roberson, CX/Roberson's looking for flatbed and van semi-drivers. Up to 30-31¢/mile to start. Need Class A CDL, 1 year OTR. 1-800-473-5581. EOE/mf.

\$\$\$500 SIGN-ON BONUS\$\$\$ Thank you OTR drivers! *** Happy Holidays *** Great benefits * Minimum 23 years old. * At least 6 months experience * Dallas Carriers 1-800-727-4374 * EOE.

DRIVER - OTR - GIVE us 5 minutes! We'll give you a reason to quit reading the classifieds. 28-36 cpm, based on experience. *New Kenworths, *\$40 tarp pay *Full benefits. 1-800-635-8669 Ext. T1107.

DRIVER OTR TOP miles. Top pay. Leader in miles for five years running. \$1,000 sign-on bonus for experienced drivers. Call Covenant Transport, 1-800-441-4394 for experienced drivers and owner operator teams. 1-800-338-6428 graduate students.

DRIVER - PLENTY OF Texas freight! Up to 31¢/mile, plus brand new Century-Class condos arriving weekly! Great O/O program, too! CalArk International. 1-888-4CALARK. EOE.

DRIVERS - FLATBED 48 state OTR. Assigned new conventionals, competitive pay, benefits. \$1,000 sign on bonus, rider program, flexible time off. Call Roadrunner Trucking 1-800-876-7784.

DRIVERS: OWNER OPERATOR & company driver. Dalworth/ARNOLD is offering exceptional pay to qualified T/T drivers w/Class A/CDL. Call 1-800-454-2887.

EXPRESS FREIGHT SYSTEMS, Inc. seeks owner operator. .78c-.84c per mile. Tolls/lumpers paid, 1 year experience & clean MVR required. Rusty @ 1-800-331-9938.

JIM PALMER TRUCKING. Teams & % Team up with the #1 team in trucking today. We are the good looking fleet. Call 1-800-992-0117.

DRIVERS WANTED

FREE TRAINING & FIRST year income \$30K - Stevens Transport - OTR truck drivers wanted! Non-experienced or experienced 1-800-333-8595. EOE.

NATIONAL DISTRIBUTORS HAS great opportunity for your driving future! Free tractor trailer training. No contract, no gimmicks. For more details call 1-800-999-4944.

OTR DRIVERS! THIS is your opportunity to buy your own OTR truck with no money down. Requirements *2 years current OTR experience *\$5,000 line of credit *No bankruptcy *No Repos *No open liens. Carlton Skifter 210-666-6665 X-105, Beeper 1-210-613-4961.

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FOR SALE

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THERE IS A BIG difference in liquid wormers. All new Happy Jack LIQUI-VICT releases active ingredients more effectively. At farm and feed stores. (Visit www.happyjackinc.com)

MOBILE HOMES

ABANDONED BY OWNERS must liquidate this month 1996 Clayton Alamo 2 bedroom, 2 bath. Many extras call 1-830-768-0299.

BANK REPOS 3/2 Central Air/Heat. Any reasonable offer will be considered 1-830-775-6765

NEW 16X80 3/2 Central Air and Heat. Carpet over plywood subflooring, refrigerator and stove. No payment until February 1998 WAC call 1-888-611-7711.

NUEVA 16X80 3/2 aire central, refrigerador, con carpeta, \$27,579 solo \$500 enganche! 240 pagos de \$302.90 12.75 WAC. Llamen al 1-888-611-7711

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BUILD YOUR OWN home and business. Save \$\$\$\$. Call to hear Paul Harvey's message about Tri-Steel. Visit our offices in Denton or attend a workshop. 1-888-TRI-STEEL.

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O'Rourke Realty
Elsa & Paul O'Rourke
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FCS Memberships & Rentals Available

New on the market, picture perfect, professionally decorated, 2 bed, 1 bath, town house. Little maintenance with Mex. tile patio. Corner lot, wrought iron fence. Affords magnificent view of Las Moras Creek on 3 sides. All furniture and membership included. \$50,000.

14x80 2 bed, 2 full baths, mobile home in Unit 15. Surrounded on 2 sides by large common area. Utility shed 14x17. Hollywood bath off the master bedroom. Attractive, comfortable, low price.

2 bed, 2 bath, home on golf course, perfect surroundings, located near creek and clubhouse. By appointment only.

NOTICE TO CREDITORS

NOTICE IS HEREBY given that original Letters Testamentary for the Estate of POLLARD HICKMAN COATES, III, Deceased, were issued on December 22, 1997, under Docket No. 926, pending in the County Court of Kinney County, Texas, to: WYNELL YORK COATES. Claims may be presented in care of the attorney for the Estate addressed as follows: WYNELL YORK COATES, Estate of POLLARD HICKMAN COATES, III, c/o Robert S. Crawford, Jr., CRAWFORD, CRAWFORD & HUGHES, 218 N. Getty Street, Uvalde, Texas 78801. All persons having claims against this Estate which is currently being administered are required to present them within the time and in the manner prescribed by law. Dated this 22nd day of December, 1997. /s/WYNELL YORK COATES, Applicant.

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1.7 ac on Highway 90. Perfect business location. Very reasonably priced.

3 bedroom, 2 bath home on large corner lot. Fenced back yd with attractive patio. Close to historic area. Priced in the 80's.

3 bedroom, 2 bath 18 x 76 Remington Mobile Home on corner lot. Price reduced to \$27,500.

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MELISSA DAVIS
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104 A-E Spring

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

HIRING ORIENTATION FOR OTR TRACTOR TRAILER DRIVERS

WHEN: Monday, January 5, 1997, from 8 am - 4 pm

WHERE: Best Western Motel, Eagle Pass, TX

Salem Carriers, Inc., is the hottest growing truckload carrier in the Southeast, TX area. ... If your 1997 wasn't what you wanted, your 1998 could be great!!!!

SO...

If you live within a 75 mile radius of Eagle Pass, TX, and are a graduate of an accredited tractor trailer driving school or have over 6 months verifiable OTR tractor trailer experience, good work history and driving record, then you need to get your application started now!!!!

HERE'S HOW!!

- * Go by our Eagle Pass, TX terminal on Hwy 57 at any time
- * Call 1-800-709-2536, and we'll be happy to mail you one

*****WE OFFER*****

- * Our new pay package
- * Excellent pay, benefits, Christmas bonus, Safety bonus and more
- * Excellent home time
- * Run TX to the Carolinas, Florida and other locations
- * All dry van loads, mostly drop and hook

DON'T DELAY!!

In order to attend our orientation, you must be completely processed by Wednesday, December 31, 1997. This includes application process, road test, physical, drug scan and criminal record check. We look forward to meeting you. Equal employment opportunity.

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

END OF THE YEAR CLEARANCE SALE

Ends 1-5-98

1997 FORD F150 SUPERCAB
Brand New!!!

Stk #T4689
XL, OWL Tires, AM/FM Cass/clock, tutone, XL SPCL appearance pkg, 4.2L engine, speed control, Tilt, over drive transmission, air

OVER 30 SUPER CABS IN STOCK

Total Before Disc	\$20,755
Spec Added Disc	(\$1,100)
MSRP	\$19,655
G&B Disc	(\$2,660)
Sales Price	\$16,995 + TTL

Only One Left at this price

1997 FORD F150 FLARESIDE SUPER CAB
Brand New!!!

Stk #T4696
LARIAT, 4.6 L V-8, auto 4 spd transmission, leather interior, air, pwr windows, locks, cruise, tilt, floormats, sliding rr window, trailer tow pkg, cast alum wheels, 6 disc CD changer, remote keyless entry anti theft, limited slip axle.

Total Before Disc	\$28,866
Spec Added Disc	(\$1,850)
MSRP	\$27,016
G&B Disc	(\$3,400)
Sales Price	\$23,616 + TTL

Only One Left at this price

'97 ESCORT

Stk #F3024

Total Before Disc	\$13,940
Spec Added Disc	(\$335)
MSRP	\$13,605
G&B Disc	(\$1,610)
Factory Reate	(\$1,000)
Sales Price	\$10,995

Plus TTL or get 2.9% apr/ 48 mths in LIEU of rebate WAC ends 1/5/98

ONLY ONE LEFT

'97 MUSTANG

Stk #F3019

Total Before Disc	\$20,070
Spec Added Disc	(\$1,390)
MSRP	\$18,680
G&B Disc	(\$1,935)
Factory Reate	(\$1,750)
Sales Price	\$14,995

Plus TTL or get 1.9% apr/ 48 mths in LIEU of rebate WAC ends 1/5/98

ONLY ONE LEFT

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'86 GRAND MARQUIS
loaded
\$1,600
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\$1,695
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NOEL

MAY YOUR STOCKINGS BE FILLED WITH CHEER

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Answers to Super Crossword

1 2 3 4 6 7 8 9 10 12 13 14

37 PALS BUGS GRIM GOGGA
EDIE ONEA TRATE AXIOM
HARD GUNG SECOHIGH
PIEANY WELLOCK DEED
46 CLEVE ABOVE ADAPT
ANGEL STRATA FIFTH BEAT
51 GOR EMB HERD THEATRIS
CLOUDY RODSERLING KTIM
ATTN NEURIC GILT ADTHE
PIELIGANS PAIR HENSE
68 AAH BENNISIDAY HAG
PUNTA OOP ONSARMED
ANDIS MIST MAILING METIC
STV FIETHEKNOT EROTIC
TRAVERSE OOOO AKA ERE
GORT ORN PIIPIU STRAY
EDSON EDEN PEACH
ADEN NECTAR SARODIS
GREGON PIPICK FOOTLOOSE
SEVER SACKS RAVIT ELLA
AMASS ERAS ORAN STEW

128 129

Significant explanations to the meaning of the birth of Jesus

By Rev. Joe Townsend
Frontier Baptist Church

"There came wise men from the East — they fell down and worshipped him, they presented unto him gifts."

The Magi were from countries far east of Jerusalem. They were of the intellectual elite. They were astrologers.

In searching the heavens they found a strange star. Having heard that there was to come a king of the Jews, they decided the star signaled his coming.

They assembled a camel caravan and, being lead by the star, they made their way to Jerusalem. When they arrived they asked about the new king.

King Herod assembled the scribes to find out what they knew. They searched the scrolls and found that prophecy several centuries before had said he was to be born in Bethlehem.

When they went out, they saw the star had reappeared. They followed the star which led them to the home of Joseph, the carpenter.

When they went in, they found the young child with Mary, his mother. They fell down and worshiped the young child.

They presented unto him gifts. One presented him with gold. This was the traditional gift for a king. The basic idea was that Jesus was more important than the material things of the world, including gold.

Another presented him with frankincense. Outside the Holy of Holies in the temple was the altar of incense. Incense was burned continually as a tribute to God.

Once a year, the high priest entered the Holiest Place to sprinkle the blood of the sacrificed lamb on the mercy seat above the Ark of the Covenant. This signified that when God looked down on the broken law, he looked through the blood of sacrifice and saw the broken law as healed by the giving of life.

The high priest could not enter the Holiest Place without something between him and God. Smoke from the altar of incense was channeled into the Holy of Holies to serve as a go-between, between God and man.

One of the magi brought incense to present to the boy king. This signified that the new king was greater than the incense. No longer would there be a need for smoke from the incense to intervene between man and God.

Now there was one to be the intercessor. Jesus would be the one through whom man could reach God. There could be no way to reach God save through Jesus.

Another Magi brought myrrh. This was the spice used to anoint the dead. This signified that anointing the dead no longer held the portent of carrying the body to God. Jesus had to come to destroy death and personally escort the soul to God.

These men brought the produce of their countries, but in doing so brought eternally significant gifts.

It is significant that before they presented gifts they "fell down and worshiped him." It is significant that they worshipped "him" alone; not Mary, the mother, and not Joseph, the father.

Being warned by an angel, they bypassed King Herod and returned home another way. The episode gave significant explanation to the meaning of the birth of Jesus.

There will be another message from the Bible as people worship Sunday morning at 11:00 at the Frontier Baptist Church. Come and see.

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meets the 2nd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

School of Instruction meets the 1st, and 3rd Tuesday, at 7:00 p.m.

Visiting Brothers are Welcome

Many love to celebrate Christmas, but often forget about Jesus' other births

By Pastor Charolette Corey
Gateway Ministries

We love to celebrate the birth of Jesus the Christ (Messiah) when he was born in a stable. Yet sometimes we overlook the fact that after he was born as the son of Mary and our heavenly father, Jesus was born two more times.

The second most important birth was his born-again baptism in the Holy Spirit on the occasion when his cousin John baptized him in the river Jordan (Matthew 3:16-17).

When the Holy Spirit fell on Jesus at his baptism, it empowered him to perform healings, deliverances, and miracles here on earth and to resist the devil (Luke 4:14, 18-19).

After Jesus' ascension to heaven he sent the Holy Spirit back to earth to baptize his disciples which empowered them to perform the things he had done and more (Mark 1:8, John 3:5, Acts 1:5, 2:38, 11:15-16, 16:14, 1 Cor 12:7,13, 12:27-31).

But the most important birth of

Jesus was his birth from the dead as "first-born" from the dead.

Likewise, through faith in Jesus Christ, we also become born-again from the dead, (not having to suffer death as he did).

We are sealed by the same Holy Spirit by which Jesus was sealed and by whom Jesus was raised from the dead and given a glorified body.

Thus we are sealed unto redemption by the Holy Spirit and await our "glorified bodies" (Acts 13:33-35, 26:23, Romans 6:4-5,

8:11, 10:9, 15:20, 23, Ephesians 1:20-23, Col. 1:18-20, Col. 2:12, John 3:16, 1 Thes. 1:10, Eph. 4:29-30).

Yes, we celebrate the mass or death and resurrection of Jesus at "Christ-mass" time, but those who believe in Jesus Christ as their savior celebrate "Christ-mass" all year long as they walk in the same Holy Spirit that raised Jesus from the dead.

Jesus experienced three births so that we can ... stand in faith, rest in hope, walk in love.

Celebration of Jesus' birthday creates many visions

By Rev. Sheree Harris
First United Methodist Church

After our children led us in a celebration of Jesus' birthday, complete with cake and song, and the traditional service of lessons and carols, there are many and varied visions of Christmas dancing in my head — infant lowly, Mighty Counselor, Christmons, a young mother bewildered but trusting, Prince of Peace, angel choruses, amazed shepherds and humbled wisemen, awestruck communities of faith

gathered around the globe expecting and rejoicing. My heart sings Hallelujah! My soul is peaceful beyond understanding. My mind swims with the possibilities and challenges that the gift of Christmas brings.

This Christmas, as every Christmas, there is challenge, there is possibility. There is peace and there is Hallelujah!

Lincoln, William, Bill and I, and the whole Church family of First United Methodist Church, wish you a very blessed Christmas.

Praise the Lord!
Merry Christmas to all.

St. John's Baptist Church will have Christmas services on Thursday, Dec. 25, from 10 to 11 a.m. Everyone is invited.

"Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."
St. Luke 2:14.
Pastor Adams

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

THE SPIRIT OF Christmas

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Lozano's Welding

Henry & Carmen Lozano

Have a Wonderful Christmas

It's our pleasure to say "thanks" and to wish you all the best!

Employees and Directors
Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, INC.

Best Wishes for a
Safe, Happy Holiday Season!
From Your Friends at
Val Verde Regional Medical Center

Dear Friends,
Reflecting on the past year, we are thankful for our many blessings and are pleased with the great strides Uvalde Memorial Hospital has made to honor its commitments to the citizens of Uvalde and the surrounding area. Our goal is, and will continue to be, to improve and expand this region's health care. The cardiac cath lab, the rehab department (physical, occupational and speech therapy), the Women's and Newborn's center, the rural health clinics and the sub-specialists (cardiologist, gastroenterologist, orthopedist and surgeons) are contributing to meeting the growing health care needs of the region.

Our gift to you and your family this holiday season is to remain open and available to help anyone should the need arise. Our 350 dedicated employees will be here doing what we do every day -- just in case you need us! And, we'll be here to provide accessible quality care to you and your family for years to come.

Our wish for each of you is a joyous holiday season shared with family and friends and a healthy New Year.

"Well" wishes,
The Board of Directors
Medical Staff, Auxiliary
and Employees

Serving the Greater Uvalde Region since 1949.