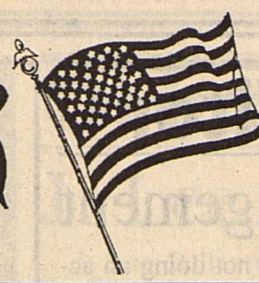


# The Brackett News



Nowlin gets 200th coaching victory  
See story, Page 5

9th year, No. 48

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

1 Section, 8 Pages

## Ford to run for justice of the peace

John Ford announced his candidacy for justice of the peace last week.

Ford has been a resident of Kinney County for three years, but has been a visitor to the area since 1978 while residing in San Angelo.

He has been a self-employed businessman for close to 30 years, and has helped the community's appearance with the design and construction of many signs in the area.

Ford is currently the president of the Brackettville Rotary Club, serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors, and is a member of Fort Clark Springs' Architectural Committee.

■ See **FORD**/Page 3



John Ford puts the finishing touches on the new bank sign on Tuesday. The First State Bank is now officially Bank and Trust, Brackettville Branch. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

## Six file in J.P.'s race

### Eight candidates seek two commissioners posts

By J.J. Guidry  
News Editor

Six Democratic candidates have filed to run for justice of peace in the March 10 primary election.

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

Judge Alvin Hall is not seeking re-election as the county's only justice of the peace.

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

Precinct 2 Commissioner Joe Montalvo is being challenged by Jerry Mayes, Dennis Slubar and Flavio Talamantez. In Precinct 4, Incumbent Commissioner Paul O'Rourke faces opposition from Bill Bizzell, Pat Melancon and Jerry Strother.

■ List of candidates .....Page 3

■ Rail commission job attracts Garza .....Page 3

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 has filed for re-election and has no opposition in the Democratic primary.

Incumbent County Treasurer Janis Floyd has also filed for re-election. She will be challenged by Julie Fuentes Molano.

Flores announced that she will not seek re-election as the county's chairperson for the Democratic Party. No one filed for the position. On the Republican side, County Chairman Ray Melton is seeking re-election.

## New policy allows county employees to accrue more vacation, sick leave

Kinney County employees can now accumulate up to 30 days of vacation time and 30 days of sick leave.

The changes to the county's personnel policy were made by the Commissioners Court last week at a special meeting.

Under the previous policy, employees could not carry over excess vacation and sick leave into a new fiscal year without approval from the Commissioners Court.

Employees who have worked for the county over five years receive 15 vacation

days annually, and employees who have worked less than five years receive 10 vacation days.

All of the county's full-time employees receive 10 days of sick leave per year.

Precinct 4 Commissioner Paul O'Rourke made the motion to approve the policy changes. His motion was seconded by Precinct 3 Commissioner Joe Williams.

Commissioners O'Rourke, Williams, Freddie Frerich and Joe Montalvo all voted in favor of the changes.

### Administrative Agreement

The court voted to pay Charles M. Trost a \$4,000 administrative fee for management of the Pinto Creek Bridge project.

Trost has recovered construction costs from the original bridge, and will now proceed with the design and construction of a new replacement bridge over Pinto Creek.

### Rental Agreement

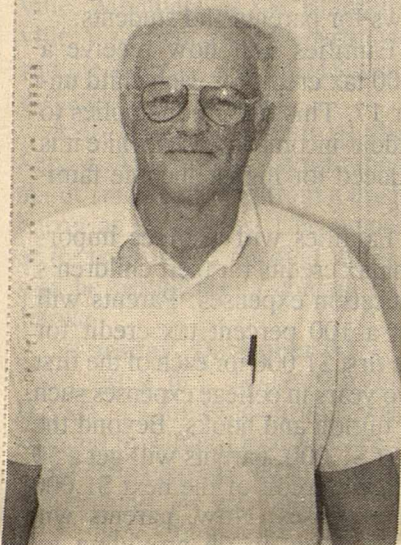
The commissioners discussed the renewal of a rental agreement with UniFirst Corporation, but took no action.

### Budget Amendments

The court approved two budget adjustments at the special meeting.

A judge's \$5,000 salary supplement for judicial duties received from the Office of Court Administration was approved.

The commissioners also agreed to shift \$452 from cash reserves to equipment purchases for matching funds for a computer and printer for Kinney County Aging Services.



JOHN FORD

## Melancon enters commissioners race

Pat Melancon has announced his candidacy for Kinney County commissioner of Precinct 4.

Melancon and his wife, Pam, moved to Kinney County with their three children 10 and a half years ago, living in Spofford for four years and the last six and a half years at Fort Clark Springs. "It has been a wonderful place to raise our three children," he said.

Melancon has his own business as an air conditioning contractor and his wife is a teacher in the Brackett school system.

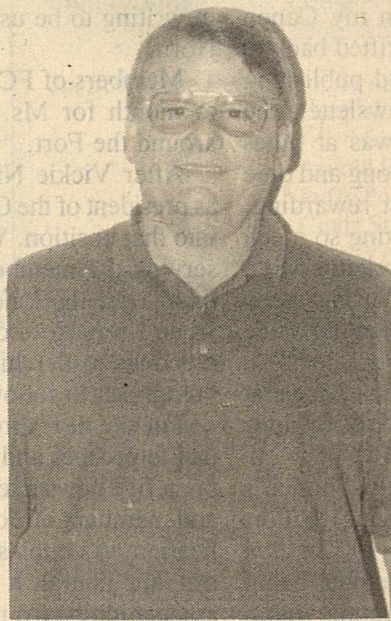
He has a bachelor of science degree in criminal justice from the University of Houston and has owned and operated his air conditioning business for the last 12 years.

"Kinney County has been good to my family and me, and I have tried to reciprocate by staying involved in the community," Melancon said.

He has been active in coaching Little League, the 4-H Club and other youth programs, the Old Quarry Society, and the Knights of Columbus.

Melancon has served on the Brackett School Board, the Fort Clark MUD Board, and the First State Bank Board.

"Through the years of experience with my own business and dealing with the public, I feel I have a lot to offer this county and I hope to make the people as proud of me as I am of this community," Melancon said.



PAT MELANCON

## O'Rourke seeks bid for second term on court

Paul L. O'Rourke has announced that he is seeking a second term as county commissioner for Precinct 4.

O'Rourke has lived in Kinney County since 1973, when he retired from the U.S. Air Force.

During his 25 years in the community, O'Rourke has served as a director on the Fort Clark MUD Board, the Kinney County Library Board, the Brackett School Board, the Chamber of Commerce Board,



PAUL O'ROURKE and the Rio Grande Electric Coop Board.

"I believe my experience on these boards has helped me be a more effective commissioner," O'Rourke said.

"I am a fiscal conservative who believes taxpayer money should be spent only on essential county functions. Every decision I make is carefully and thoroughly weighed, ever mindful of the people's wellbeing."

"To the citizens of Precinct 4, I would appreciate your support and vote in the March 10 Democratic Primary," he added.

### INSIDE

#### ■ Henry Bonilla

Whether you knew it or not, this New Year's Day rang in more than just a new year. It also rang in a host of new tax cuts. **Opinion/Page 2**

#### ■ Historical marker

Dedication ceremonies for the Texas Historical Commission marker on the Fort Clark Post Theater will be on Jan. 15. **Community/Page 3**

#### ■ Tigers top La Pryor

Brackett used a balanced scoring attack Tuesday night en route to an 80-48 win over the La Pryor Bulldogs in basketball action. **Sports/Page 5**

### INDEX

Classifieds .....	8
Community .....	3
Deaths .....	3
Health .....	7
Lifestyles .....	4
Opinion .....	2
Outdoors .....	5
Religion .....	7
Sports .....	5

9th year, No. 48  
8 pages

## ROADSIDE TRAVELERS

### Manning, Texas Slim like the outdoor life

By Sonja Shell  
Staff Writer

Manning and Texas Slim have adopted a lifestyle that many folks have yearned for. The two set out from San Saba nearly six months ago with a horse and two dogs. Slim rides "Lone Star" and Manning drives the tractor that pulls their wagon home dubbed "Phoenix."

Their camper started out as a broken down cotton wagon sitting in a field, and while it lacks the slick looks that a new R.V. has, it serves quite well as a home. It is snug and warm and boasts a vented propane heater.

Traveling as they do has caused no end of curious stares. They have made the acquaintance of many sheriffs since they started.

They laugh and say, "If we were bad guys we would have chosen a different mode of trans-

portation. We sure can't make a fast getaway."

The pair were inspired by reading such authors as Zane Grey, Louis L'Amour and Luke Short. Both served time in the armed forces and found that they liked the outdoor life.

After years of talking and wishing and dreaming, they did what so many say: "Just do it!" So they did.

They had planned to spend part of the winter at Amistad Lake. Upon arrival, they were informed that they could not have a horse on the National Park, as there were no designated horse trails. They were given a warning ticket and told to leave. Needless to say, they were disappointed.

Lone Star has been a good horse with few bad habits. He puts up with huge trucks, air horns, and other diversions.

One thing that just drives him crazy, though, is the unexpected

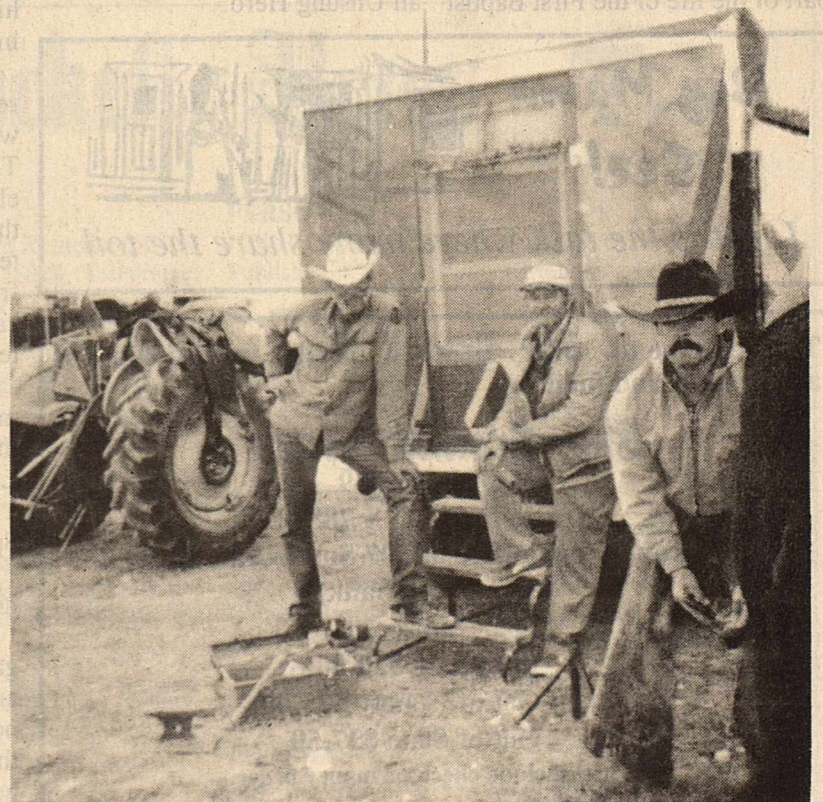
emus that he has encountered on the trip. Texas Slim says that Lone Star can do the fastest 180 degree turn he has ever had the pleasure to ride through.

Manning and Texas Slim recounted the many kindnesses shown to them by nice people during their travels. There were two in particular they spoke of.

One was Jeanette Williams, who lives 17 miles north of Junction. She allowed them to stay on her riverfront property near the Llano river crossing. She even provided a bale of hay for Lone Star.

Then, there was L.D. Gephart, who lives in the same area. He showed his hospitality by allowing them to camp on his property. And when they failed to catch fish from the river, he provided them with fish from his freezer.

Manning and Texas Slim are living their dream for the present.



Texas Slim (from left) and Manning watch as Alex Solis shoes Lone Star. **Brackett News Photo by Sonja Shell**

Manning would like to trade his tractor for a team of mules though.

His tractor is a 1964 Ford that uses propane for fuel. That limits the distance between towns they can travel. A team of mules could

travel further between stops than the tractor, he has decided.

So, if you see these two unshaven guys traveling the side roads, stop or give a wave. They are just out to enjoy the scenery.

## Letter to the Editor

### Fort Clark lacks management

The beginning of the calendar year, Jan. 1, 1997, the Fort Clark Springs Association Inc. was operating in black figures with the leadership of Mr. Bill Haenn as general manager.

After four months of operation in 1997, Mr. Haenn was terminated, leaving this association at the mercy of incompetent management, or no management?

The new management team decided to reconstruct the management of Fort Clark Springs Association with seven additional managers.

First, the interim general manager terminated the golf course manager, Mr. Slate, and turned over the operation of the snack bar to the Las Moras Inn management, who had a record of staggering losses.

The golf course and snack bar had been profitable under the management of the Slates. After the termination of our golf course manager, we have slipped to Camp Run-A-Muck with no management.

We are blessed with a golf course with no management and no control. We continue to have members and guests play golf anytime without paying green or trail fees. We have employees that do more damage to the fairways and cart paths than all golf cart use. Our maintenance expense is in a run-a-way mode.

We have little or no control of the employees in all departments of this association, with no management. We have the blind leading the blind.

The R.V. Park is operating at about 50 percent capacity as per 1996 records. What's wrong here?

The memberships should be increasing, but it's going backwards. Members are giving their memberships away to anyone that will pay the assessments.

The management of the Security Department was turned over to our Maintenance Department.

Why? They are not doing an acceptable job in that department. What are they doing trying to manage our security?

The Board of Directors has been running this association for the past seven months with little or no management. They have even changed our identity to "Fort Clark."

What happened to Fort Clark Springs Association, Inc.?

The financial statement is totally unacceptable. What! More incompetence?

We are going into another year with a huge deficit and little hope of change, with the present board of directors and management.

When you have total secrecy of management, you get totally nothing. When you are aiming at nothing, you hit the target every time.

There has never been a successful business in this country that was operated with more than one manager. With seven managers, you get exactly what we have at the present time.

The secret-seven try to silence their critics any way possible. They know nothing about tried and proven methods of doing business.

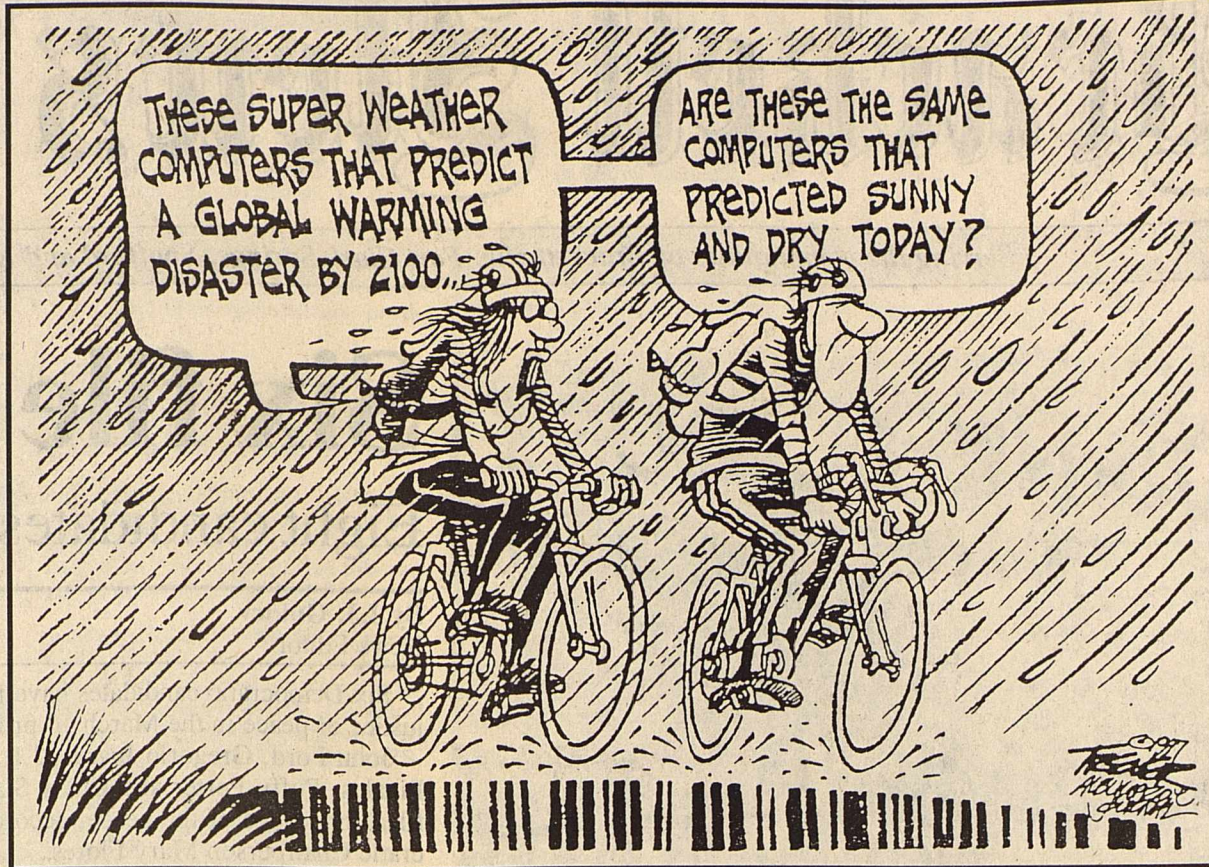
It's about time that the stockholders and members of this corporation put a stop to this incompetent management. Now! We could be on the verge of bankruptcy now! It's about time to bring this funny farm to a halt!

We are about to enter into another election year. We need seven new board members, not three.

We need good competent members that know how to serve as a body, not some more bodies elected and approved by the Good Government Group.

I would think it's about time that the Good Government Group realized that their group has caused this catastrophe.

Robert Moore



## Media should return to basics

In my first class in journalism in high school, one of our texts was the Sunday New York Times.

In college in a course of contemporary history, our text was the Sunday edition of the New York Times.

In those days, the New York Times was in fierce competition with the Christian Science Monitor to be the best newspaper in the nation. Competition was based on accurate news reporting, unbiased and unslanted.

It's a pity that such a great newspaper has deteriorated to a media giant that even its news reports are subject to question.

This is only a sample of the news media, both printed and aired.

The large elements of news media have come to such bias that their motive is to shape the masses to their point of view rather than disseminate the news and allow people to decide for themselves

*Between Us*  
By Joe Townsend



what they want to believe.

A case in point was the recent expansion of Medicare coverage. For the last two weeks, I've heard on ABC, CBS, NBC and CNN how the president had broadened Medicare for the benefits to children.

In reality, the only part the president played was to sign a bill passed by Congress. He did not advocate the expansion nor did he push it. It was an initiative by the Republican Congress.

The media in general is radically liberal and has been for many years; 95 percent of the people in the media voted for Clinton.

Now that the nation sees the chicanery of the White House and

begins to rebel, the news media must try to continue their efforts to glorify him.

A casual survey of the major media networks will find a departure from basic principles of journalism to tools of the insidious liberal philosophy which bids fair to destroy our nation. It's time for people to wake up and think.

As the ratings of network news shows are continuing their downhill slide, more and more people are being turned off by the lack of integrity by the media.

It's high time the networks and newspapers, like the New York Times, The Washington Post and the San Antonio Express-News, return to the high plane of objective reporting.

## The Rise and fall of the Little Horn

By Les Roper  
Contributing Writer

While recently "pecking" away on my Canon Pro 5000 word processor, my mind drifted back to the few years I devoted to writing and publishing the Community Council's monthly newsletter, the Little Horn. Even though the work was at times tedious and challenging and the hours long and time consuming, the end results were most rewarding. Probably the justification for my devoting so much of my life to the people's bantam newsletter was a desire to help members of Fort Clark Springs keep abreast of the current events that were taking place on and around Fort Clark Springs.

With the demise of the Little Horn, a service that has never been replicated on Fort Clark Springs disappeared.

My initial interest in the Community Council's newsletter occurred shortly after moving to Fort Clark Springs. I can't recall who was writing and publishing it at the time, but I can remember being impressed with the response it was creating within the membership. I do recall being contacted early after establishing residency on Fort Clark Springs to assist in the typing, but at the time I placed a higher priority on playing golf than I did performing a civic duty.

Writing and publishing the Little Horn was the responsibility of the Community Council officers, with the president usually being appointed editor. The earlier publications were typed on a manual or electric typewriter and printed on a copy machine that was purchased by the Community Council. A team effort by the officers and volunteers selected from the Community Council resulted in the publication of the members' very own monthly newsletter.

Shortly after the election of officers for the Community Council resulted in the selection of one of the Fort's most courageous ladies as president, the Little Horn took its first major step to evolving into a newsletter that would expand into one of Fort Clark Springs most popular publications.

This lady in reference was Ms. Vicki Nichols, now deceased.

Ms. Nichols was intelligent, communicative, gregarious, and talented. She believed in women's lib and had a combative spirit. If she thought she was politically correct, she would courageously approach the "big guns" of the FCS association and express her feelings. She refused to be "backed down" by peer pressure. However, if proven wrong, she would graciously surrender her convictions with a word of apology. As president of the Community Council, she gave her all to representing the members of Fort Clark Springs.

The Little Horn, under the guidance of Ms. Nichols, immediately began to gain prominence. Her confrontations with the FCS board and some of its officers are still remembered by many old guard members who attended monthly board meetings on

a regular basis. Immediately following these encounters, Ms. Nichols would rush home and devote the rest of the day putting the results of these skirmishes in writing to be used in the next issue of the Little Horn.

Members of FCS could hardly wait from month to month for Ms. Nichols' views on happenings around the Fort.

After Vickie Nichols completed her two terms as president of the Community Council, I was elected into that position. With it came the responsibility of serving the members of Fort Clark and providing them with the kind of leadership they anticipated when I was elected. Ms. Nichols had unveiled tremendous leadership qualities which left me with a "tough act to follow."

For the next three years, the Little Horn continued to prosper and grow as it evolved into the only bona fide newsletter ever provided for the residents and members of Fort Clark Springs. The little publication was unbiased, nonpartisan, impartial, neutral, and liberal. It withstood numerous attempts by association board members to have it censored before being printed. It took on a new format that proved extremely popular with those who read and supported it. Not only had it gained popularity with the members, but also with some association board members as well. The president of the board and general manager requested space in the newsletter. One full page was allotted to Bill Haenn, the manager at the time, and one page was made available to Frank Cheaney, who was president of the board during this time. Between these two leaders and their monthly reports made available through the Little Horn, pertinent business questions were answered that created a calm among the membership that soothed many exposed "nerve endings." Their columns gave straight forward answers pertaining to the financial status of FCS. No beating around the bush.

According to many members of FCS, an empty feeling resembling the loss of a good friend occurred following the closing of the Little Horn office. After the Little Horn disappeared into the sunset, it left me with a void in my life. It had provided me with lots of enjoyment and satisfaction.

The disappearance of the monthly newsletter left me with a tarnished view of life on Fort Clark which played a major part in our (Maye and I) decision to sell our property and relocate.

I have an archives of floppy disc with every issue of the Little Horn stored away. Some days I spend hours recalling these old publications and reading about "life on Fort Clark Springs."

After reviewing these old editions, from start to finish, I am convinced that life during the earlier years on the old army post had a little more quality than life as we know it today.

I just wonder if the faithful readers who never missed reading a copy of the Little Horn ache for it as much as I do writing and publishing it?

I would like to think so.

## Unsung Hero

By Joe Townsend

Another longtime asset to our community has gone home to be with God for eternity.

In 1921, a man decided there was a need for a Baptist church in Brackettville. Brother Hill gathered a few followers and started a church.

The church was short-lived, but a few years later in 1927, Brother Bailey started the church that has lasted until today.

Brother Hill, who originally pastured the Baptist Church, was the father of J. Lee Ballantyne. She was an integral part of the new church and that concern and conversant activities carried over to the later organization which eventually became the First Baptist Church.

J. Lee was a very important part of the life of the First Baptist

Church the remainder of her life. She was the organist. No church ever had a more capable and faithful organist than J. Lee.

J. Lee taught fourth grade in what was to become Jones Elementary School. After many years, she retired in the mid-1980s.

One fact I'll always remember about J. Lee was that each summer her front porch was graced with large pots of beautiful caladiums.

J. Lee was the very epitome of a fine wife and mother. She was a warmhearted and friendly person.

She has joined her longtime friends and her husband in the mansion prepared for her by Jesus himself.

Surely, J. Lee Ballantyne was an Unsung Hero.

Big Mama  
See!



Light is the task where many share the toil.

But, I could  
be wrong

By Chuck Hall



I ran into some old friends the other day (no, they weren't hurt). They were from out of town. Deer hunters.

I hadn't seen them since last year. I have known them for over 10 years. But if I was hard pressed, I'm not sure I could tell you their names. Or that they could tell you mine. But they are my friends.

They asked about my kids. Why does everyone in the entire civilized free world think more of my kids than they do of me?

Don't answer that question. I struck back by asking about their families. Two can play that game (just to let them know that I'm not just anybody's fool).

Seriously, they are friends. Their pleasant friendliness has made quite a positive difference in my life. I can only hope I have made a similar impression on them. But I could be wrong.

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### Historical marker to be dedicated at fort's Post Theater

Dedication ceremonies for the Texas Historical Commission marker on the Fort Clark Post Theater will be on Thursday, Jan. 15, at 1:30 p.m.

The Brackett High School Band will present four selections. The dedication address will be presented by Ben Pingenot, who did the research and submitted the application to secure the marker.

The sponsoring organization is the Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts, which made available the funds to pay for the marker.

Marker approval was granted by the Fort Clark Springs Association, the Kinney County Historical Commission, and the Texas Historical Commission.

The Fort Clark Post Theater marker will be the sixth state historical marker erected on Fort Clark Springs.

Following the ceremony, refreshments will be served.



The Brackett varsity cheerleading squad will be the guests of the University of Texas Longhorn cheerleaders on Saturday. The squad will meet with the UT cheerleaders prior to Saturday's basketball game between the Lady Longhorns and the Texas Tech Lady Raiders. Varsity cheerleaders are, front row, from left: Jessica DeLeon, Cherrise Ward (head cheerleader), Rajah, Stephanie Terrazas and Amanda Petrsoy. Back row: Laura Lee Ballew, Katy Hagler, Tina Meek and April Crumley.

### Sheriff's Report

**Monday, December 29**  
2:48 p.m., The Del Rio Fire Department reported a grass fire on Highway 90, west of Brackettville. Members of the Brackettville Volunteer Fire Department and the Kinney County EMS were dispatched to the scene.

8:30 p.m., Residents at the Senior Apartments complained about smoke coming from a trash barrel at Parts Plus. The owner of Parts Plus was notified and he said he would try to contain the smoke.

**Tuesday, December 30**  
11:00 a.m., Jesse Wayne Davida, 19, of Brackettville was arrested by Chief Deputy Johnny Fritter and charged with criminal trespassing. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Davida was released the same day on a \$500 personal recognizance bond.

8:30 p.m., James Elton Cottle, 42, of San Antonio was arrested for driving while intoxicated, first offense, by DPS Trooper Richard Slubar. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Cottle was released the following day on a \$750 surety bond.

8:30 p.m., Robert Leslie Smith, 46, of San Antonio was arrested by DPS Trooper Slubar for public intoxication. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Smith was released the following day after paying a \$200 fine.

**Wednesday, December 31**  
10:04 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs woman reported that her husband's motorcycle helmet was stolen from their residence. She said he had left the helmet on his motorcycle the previous night and it turned up missing.

10:48 a.m., A Fort Clark Springs man reported that someone had stolen his remote control holder containing his prescription glasses from his unlocked pickup at the R.V. Park.

4:53 p.m., Border Patrol officials reported a brush fire on Highway 90, west of Brackettville.

8:30 p.m., A motorist reported that he was travelling near the rest area on Highway 90, west of Brackettville, and was passed by two vehicles that were racing towards the city limits. Deputy Sheriff Karl Chism was dispatched to the scene.

9:40 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that she had a fight with her boyfriend because she wanted to go home rather than "party in Mexico."

**Thursday, January 1**  
12:07 a.m., A Brackettville man reported that his neighbor was shooting a gun in the air. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

11:39 a.m., A Brackettville woman asked to speak to Sheriff

L.K. "Buddy" Burgess about the city's ordinance concerning fire works.

7:48 p.m., A Brackettville woman complained about fireworks on Edwards and Gove streets. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

**Friday, January 2**  
12:58 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported that someone was in her back yard at her residence on Ann Street. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

1:10 a.m., Loud music was reported near the Filippone Building. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene.

11:55 a.m., Michael Woodward Clements, 40, of Bedford was arrested by Trooper Slubar for driving while intoxicated, third offense, driving while license suspended, and speeding. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.

4:16 p.m., A Brackettville woman reported that her neighbors were shooting guns.

**Saturday, January 3**  
8:38 p.m., Pedro Martin Hernandez, 19, of San Antonio was arrested by Deputy Sheriff Adrian Pena for driving with no driver's license and no insurance. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.

11:40 p.m., Alfonso Soto Jr., 55, of Del Rio was arrested by DPS Trooper Tony Ashley and charged with public intoxication. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Soto was released the following day after paying a \$100 fine, plus time served.

**Sunday, January 4**  
12:15 a.m., Roberto Soto, 52, of Del Rio was arrested for driving while intoxicated, first offense, by Trooper Ashley. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail. Soto was released the same day on a \$500 cash bond.

3:18 a.m., A Brackettville woman reported that an intoxicated subject was knocking at her apartment door. Deputy Chism was dispatched to the scene. He took the subject to his residence on Spring Street.

1:55 p.m., Juan Bernardo Cervantez, 35, of Brackettville was arrested by Chief Deputy Fritter and charged with theft, more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.

**Monday, January 5**  
10:10 a.m., Johnny Cuellar, 47, of Brackettville was arrested by Chief Deputy Fritter and charged with theft, more than \$1,500 and less than \$20,000. He was booked into the Kinney County Jail where he is still being held.

### Primary elections

Primary post	Democratic candidates	Republican candidates
U.S. Representative District 23	Charlie Urbina Jones Allen Rindfus Joe Sullivan	Henry Bonilla
Governor	Garry Mauro	George W. Bush R.C. Crawford
Lt. Governor	John Sharp	Rick Perry
Attorney General	Gene Kelly Jim Mattox Morris L. Overstreet	John Cornyn Tom Pauken Barry Williamson
Comptroller	Paul Hobby	Carole K. Rylander
Land Commissioner	Richard Raymond	David Dewhurst Don Loucks Jerry Patterson
Ag. Commissioner	Ernesto L. De Leon Pete Patterson	Susan Combs Hamp Hodges
RR. Commissioner	Gary Dugger Joe B. Henderson	Tony Garza Steve Holzhauser Steve Stockman
State Senator District 19	Frank Madla	
State Representative District 74	Pete P. Gallego	
County Judge	Tommy Seargeant Herb Senne	
Justice of the Peace	John Ford Gregorio Juarez J.E. Meil Arnold Pinales Puffy Porter Cindy Stafford	
Commissioner Precinct 2	Jerry Mayes Joe Montalvo Dennis Slubar Flavio Talamantez	
Commissioner Precinct 4	Bill Bizzell Pat Melancon Paul O'Rourke Jerry Strother	
County and District Clerk	Dora Sandoval	
County Treasurer	Janis Floyd Julie Fuentes Molano	

### Ford files in race for J.P. office

Continued from Page 1

"Kinney County is a great place to live," Ford said. "I have had an interest in local politics for quite some time. After watching and listening, I feel like it's time to become involved."

"Every person in this county has helped make this community what it is today. I think it is extremely necessary to realize that within the county government when decisions have to be made."

"I believe that the position of justice of the peace is a give rather than a take position in the county," he said. "The justice of the peace is charged to prevent breaches of the peace, among other duties. If elected, I will help maintain a friendly and peaceful county."

Ford added that he was "ready, willing and able" to serve the citizens of Kinney County.

### Obituary

#### J. Lee Ballantyne

J. Lee Ballantyne of Brackettville, died Jan. 2, 1998, in Midland, Texas. She was born March 29, 1901, in Falcon, Colo., to Dr. F.M.D. Hill and Susanne Elizabeth Burt Hill.

Ballantyne's father established the First Baptist Church in Brackettville, where she was church organist for 40 years.

She married Campbell Burn Ballantyne on Aug. 31, 1923, in San Antonio.

Ballantyne was a Brackettville school teacher for over 30 years. She was voted Kinney County Outstanding Citizen in 1991.

She is survived by her daughter, Susanne Brice and husband Hollis, of Midland; granddaughters, Jana Levens and husband F.T. Levens, of Midland, and Carrie Ann Brice of Amarillo; grandson, Tom Brice and wife Pamela, of Midland; great-grandchildren, Leah Coats of Midland;

Brian Coats of Ogden, Utah; and John Brice of Midland.

Visitation was held on Sunday, Jan. 4, at the Brackettville Funeral Home Chapel.

Services were held on Monday, Jan. 5, at the First Baptist Church in Brackettville. Burial followed at the Masonic Cemetery in Brackettville.

Pallbearers were Zack Davis, Lloyd L. Davis, Allen Kreiger, Jr., Tim Ward, Dick Coats, and H.C. Hunt.

Honorary Pall Bearers were P.H. Coates, IV, Bud Connally, Tully Shahan, Charlie Ward, Joe York Jr., and Tommy Seargeant.

Arrangements are under the direction of the Del Rio Funeral home, dba Brackettville Funeral home, 114 North St.

Memorials can be sent to First Baptist Church, Brackettville, Texas, 78832, or Hospice of Midland, 911 W. Texas, Midland, Texas, 79201.

### Rail commission job attracts Garza

AUSTIN — Republican Tony Garza, who resigned as secretary of state six weeks ago to run for land commissioner, got on a different track Friday. He filed as a candidate for the Railroad Commission instead, the Associated Press reported.

Just hours before the deadline to file for the 1998 primary elections, Garza joined former U.S. Rep. Steve Stockman of Friendswood and state Rep. Steve Holzhauser of Victoria in the GOP primary for the Railroad Commission nomination.

Gary Dugger of Austin and Joe B. Henderson of Huntsville are seeking the Democratic railroad commissioner nomination.

In a year when no incumbent Democrat is seeking re-election to one of the top statewide jobs, Garza became the second Republican to change his mind about what office he would like.

Last summer, current Railroad Commissioner Barry Williamson jumped from the comptroller's race into the attorney general's race.

Friday was the deadline for candidates to file for the March 10 Republican and Democratic primaries.

Heading the state GOP ticket is Gov. George W. Bush, who is trying to become the first governor re-elected to a second consecutive term in more than 20 years. The last was Democrat Dolph Briscoe in 1974. Also running for governor in the GOP primary is R.C. Crawford, a Round Rock contractor.

Four-term Land Commissioner Gary Mauro, who twice headed

Clinch's campaigns in Texas, is seeking the Democratic gubernatorial nomination.

The lieutenant governor's race drew two officeholders: Comptroller John Sharp, a Democrat, and Agriculture Commissioner Rick Perry, a Republican. Incumbent Bob Bullock is retiring.

The race for attorney general will have one of the largest fields of candidates after incumbent Democrat Dan Morales opted against seeking a third term.

Seeking the Republican nomination are former Supreme Court Justice John Cornyn, former party Chairman Tom Pauken and Williamson. On the Democratic side, candidates are Court of Criminal Appeals Judge Morris Overstreet, former Attorney General Jim Mattox and Gene Kelly of Universal City.

The race for comptroller drew one candidate in each party: Republican Carole Rylander, currently a railroad commissioner, and Democrat Paul Hobby.

Two Republicans, Susan Combs and Hamp Hodges, are vying for the nomination to replace Perry as agriculture commissioner. State Rep. Pete Patterson, D-Brookston, is seeking his party's nomination.

With Garza's exit, the GOP primary for land commissioner is a three-way race: David Dewhurst, a Houston businessman; state Sen. Jerry Patterson of Pasadena; and Don Loucks of Bastrop. State Rep. Richard Raymond, D-Benavides, is seeking his party's nomination to succeed Mauro in the job.

### American Red Cross to sponsor CPR course

DEL RIO — The American Red Cross will sponsor a community CPR course on Sunday, Jan. 18.

The class will begin at 8 a.m., break for lunch from noon to 1 p.m., and conclude at 2:30 p.m.

The course will be held at Van-

tage Home Health of South Texas at 105 Fletcher Drive.

The cost of the course is \$20, which includes the manual and certification.

For more information, call 775-8626 or 298-5125.

Member of

## The Brackett News

Texas Press Association

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**MEMBERSHIP:**  
Texas Press Association.

Deadline for news releases is noon Tuesday.

## Briefs ...

## Hatley, Melancon named to JC Honor Roll

UVALDE — Two Brackettville residents, Brannon T. Hatley and David W. Melancon, were named to the Dean's Honor Roll at Southwest Texas Junior College during the 1997 fall semester.

Hatley and Melancon were among 72 SWTJC students named to the Honor Roll, which was announced by Gloria A. Rivera, SWTJC dean of instructional services.

According to Rivera, in order for students to make the Honor Roll, they must have been enrolled in at least 14 semester hours and achieved a grade point average of 3.6 or higher.

Rivera noted that SWTJC uses the four-point system, which means an A is equivalent to four points.

The 72 SWTJC students have been selected from a total of 1,750 full-time students that were enrolled during the fall semester.

## Shrine Club hosts annual Christmas party

The Fort Clark Shrine Club held its annual Christmas party in the Cavalry Room of Fort Clark Springs with 36 members and guests present.

Among the guests from the Alzafar Shrine Temple in San Antonio were Past Potentate and Recorder George Labinski and his wife, Jackie, and Past Potentate and Treasurer Ed Vest and his wife, Margaret.

Following a delicious prime rib steak dinner, Labinski installed the officers for the ensuing year 1998, including: Thomas R. Faulkenberry, president; Thomas L. Ertle, vice president; Bruce Clements, secretary and treasurer; and Howard B. Wakefield, chaplain.

Clements announced that the ticket sales for a raffle for \$300, \$200 and \$100 gift certificates totaled \$1,875.

The club then held the drawings for the gift certificates. The \$300 certificate went to Joanna Montemayor of Del Rio, the \$200 certificate went to Joe Villarreal of Uvalde, and the \$100 certificate went to Sandy Haynes of Del Rio.

The club made a net profit of \$1,275, which was donated to the Alzafar Shrine Hospital Fund.

"The club wishes to thank everyone who purchased tickets for this worthy cause," Clements said. "We're sorry that everyone could not be a winner, but consider yourself a winner knowing that your contribution may help to make a crippled child walk."

The Shrine is a part of the Masonic Organizations and contribute more than 1.5 million each and every day to charity, with a big portion of this going to help crippled children walk.

"There is never a charge to the child or their parents for treatments," Clements added.

## Chism hosts Theta Sigma sorority meeting, club makes donation to Alzheimer's research

Theta Sigma Chapter met Sunday in the home of Luella Gilliland. Jan Chism hostess, for the meeting, served a light supper of frito pie, with iced tea or coffee. For dessert, she served a delicious spice cake. There were 13 members were present.

President Nancy Frerich conducted a short business meeting. Betty Inman made the motion to donate \$25 to the Texas State Alzheimer's research. The motion carried.

Chism introduced Ken Curry, her guest speaker, who gave a very enlightening program on drug abuse.

Following the program, the meeting was adjourned. The next meeting will be in the home of Doraline Keller on Jan. 19.

## Borden hosts Laureate Epsilon Iota meeting

Mildred Borden was hostess for the Laureate Epsilon Iota Chapter Christmas party, on Dec. 15. Her home was decorated in Christmas decor with angels, nativity scenes and Christmas trees with presents.

After a seated dinner, guests exchanged secret sisters gifts and played games for other presents.

A motion was made by Orlean Riley for the chapter to make its annual \$25 donation to the Lion's Club for gifts and food. The motion passed unanimously.

Members then drew 1998 secret sister names.

Members present were Borden, Riley, Betty Schlatterer, Oleta Townsend, Lily Schwandner, Hawkins Huey, Walela Gum, Nakai Breen, and Jean Crowe from Alaska.

Schlatterer will be hostess for the January meeting.

## BISD receives visit from the DEC team

It was a rude awakening returning to school after the New Year's break to try to relate to a schoolwide educational program evaluation.

The Texas Education Agency folks arrived right on schedule, Monday at 1 p.m. The District Evaluation and Compliance (DEC) Evaluation was underway!

The first scheduled visit was with Brackett ISD's Educational Improvement Council. This is a committee of teachers, parents, students, business, and community representatives who meet together to try to improve Brackett ISD.

Many of the recommendations for district improvement are studied and acted on by this committee. Thelma Adams has done an outstanding job for two years leading the team.

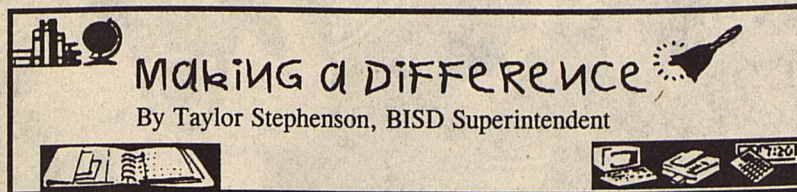
The first meeting lasted four hours — from 1:30 to 5:30 p.m. It was an upbeat meeting from the beginning to the end. I am very proud of this committee.

The team then met with the Brackett Board of Trustees in a session to talk about the board's efforts to improve student learning.

Every board member was present for this important meeting and the DEC team was highly complimentary of efforts of the Board of Trustees.

President Lloyd Lee Davis has been impressive working with six excellent board members in placing the needs of our kids first.

The DEC team then met with parents from regular education



and from special education. We had a nice turnout of parents who met with the DEC team without any school staff present.

The team was complimentary of the turnout and of the parental support of their schools at BISD.

On Day No. 2, the DEC team met with the Campus Improvement Committees from Jones Elementary, Brackett Middle School and Brackett High School.

Our campus teams are very active in studying student performance and trying to suggest ways of improvement. These committee meetings went very well, and the team was pleased with campus efforts to improve the schools.

In the afternoon, our team members began their compliance visits to check on all federal programs and state programs in compensatory education, ESL, and special education. We had about 15 staff members involved in this review.

Team members checked documentation to show that the district was meeting requirements of the program.

Wednesday was a day for visiting the campuses to actually look at students in the classrooms. The main thrust was on special education program visits.

During the entire week, there was a staff of DEC evaluators re-

viewing special education student files to make sure each required component was there. They were looking for information on referrals, evaluation, diagnostic information, due process indicators, and evidence that the district was in compliance with federal and state law.

Our district staff worked hard to do the DEC visit right! The board, parents, staff, students and community deserve a big pat on the back for a job well done.

Our schools are in compliance and district efforts are viewed as very successful. I'm very proud of BISD!

That's about it. I'll have more to say about recommendations from DEC during the weeks ahead!

In the next couple of weeks, I'll try to get the conversational Spanish classes organized.

We're full up with about 60 folks — probably two nights with about 30 in each session. We'll call or write in the next week and let you know the schedule.

In closing, try this one, whose author is unknown: Looking back, may you be filled with gratitude; looking forward, may you be filled with hope; looking upward, may you find strength; looking inward, may you find peace.

## Host families needed for exchange students

Foreign high school students are scheduled to arrive soon for academic semester homestays, and the sponsoring organization needs a few more local families.

According to Pacific Intercultural Exchange (PIE) Executive Director John Doty, the students are all between the ages of 15 and 18 years, are English-speaking, have their own spending money, carry accident and health insurance, and are anxious to share their cultural experiences with their new American families.

Families who host for PIE are also eligible to claim a \$50 per month charitable contribution deduction on their itemized tax returns for each month they host a sponsored student.

For the upcoming programs, PIE has students from Spain, Germany, Poland, Russia, Finland, Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Paraguay, Australia, New Zealand, Yugoslavia, Belgium, China, Ghana and many other countries.

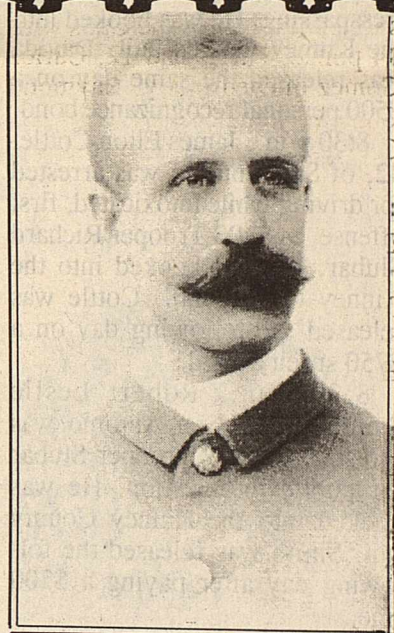
Doty encourages families to contact the program immediately, as it will allow the proper time for the students and hosts to get to know one another before they actually meet for the first time.

Brackettville area families interested in learning more about student exchange or arranging for a meeting with a community representative may call PIE, toll-free, at 1-800-631-1818 or via the internet at <http://www.pieusa.org>.

## FOOTSTEPS ECHO

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

Courtesy of his descendants



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, January 8, 1886

One week in the new year gone. Received a letter and bundle of papers from home and an O.B. After breakfast went over to hospital for treatment and then to office a while. Later on went down to Q.M. office and returning stopped at the company quarters to inspect the new kitchen. Then read papers from home until notified to go to the Q.M. office to draw clothing. Took some little time to draw this. After four o'clock went over to company and made an issue of clothing. It was a cold job as the issue was made on the porch. Shaved before this, but the quarters are too cold for comfort. Have to hurry through dressing as fast as possible and run to the stove in the front room. After dinner played cards a while with King and then went up to Hall's and sat until tattoo. After this tried to read papers from home but dozed in chair. This morning's letter brought a short one from Sue, the first since her confinement. Am very glad that she is getting along so well.

Saturday, January 9, 1886

Much to my pleasure Capt. Vance and the others returned last night. No mail for me this morning. After breakfast went into Capt. Vance's a while and found him somewhat under the weather. He had a pleasant trip and saw Miss Young who visited here in November. Spent a short time over in the office. Then read papers in quarters and played cards with King. Also completed some O.B.'s and prepared them for mailing. Hewitt went out hunting and was late for dinner. While waiting for him took a walk out on target range. After dinner spent a short time in Kings's and then

tried to read Draper but dozed in the chair. Read a little after tattoo.

Sunday, January 10, 1886

Capt. Vance felt sick and did not attend inspection. Received a letter from home and advertisements in today's mail. After inspection went to Capt. Vance's a while and then to office. Succeeded in taking a bath in Geary's room where a stove has been put up. Then commenced letter home, but did not write much before Dr. Town came up and took me out for a drive to the Las Moras mountains. Went to dinner after the drive, Geary dining with us. Completed letter home and mailed it before church, sending the check for \$30 with it to pay Lena and for birthday presents. Attended chapel in the evening. The Chaplain disgusts me at times by cracking a joke in the midst of a sober sermon. A joke is well in its place, but a church is not the place. After service sat a while at Capt. Vance's. Tried to read Bible after tattoo, but dozed in the chair. Geary moved into his own house today much to my relief as he had the Seminoles and they brought in a heap of dirt into my room. Geary is a very pleasant fellow and I like to have him around.

Monday, January 11, 1886

Capt. Vance commenced to take reveille this morning. Over slept myself and was a little late at breakfast. Went over to hospital afterwards but Black did not come over. Vernou and Hammond came up to my house then to play piquet. At noon witnessed some clothing rolls at the company and then went to the Library to look over the papers. After shaving King came in to play cards and then Vernou came for a little piquet. Capt. Vance being Officer of the Day did not have to take the calls. After dinner Hewitt and I went to Capt. Vance's to read over the French lesson. Then we all went to Mrs. Hall's and had a very enjoyable

evening at whist. Hewitt and I had usual success. Some excellent potato salad was served after the games for refreshments. It commenced to snow this evening and at midnight the ground was covered about three inches and still snowing.

Tuesday, January 12, 1886

Snow lay three or four inches deep all over this morning and children had good snowballing. After breakfast went over to hospital but did not have anything done as the instrument had not arrived yet. Went into Capt. Vance's a while and then to office and over to the Library. Williams and family returned last night and are quartered in the new building. He does not look like a man that has been very sick. Went to lunch at noon and intend to keep this up as it will be better for my digestion. After lunch cleaned up my inkstand and shaved. Geary came in for a while to talk. Then corrected company fund account. Had a snowball fight with the children at noon. Hall came into Hewitt's just before dinner and said that he had drawn up charges against Williams, which would be forwarded for trial after he had made his explanation. Hope he will be dismissed. After dinner went into Capt. Vance's to look over the French lesson and then went to escort Mrs. Hammond to the Cercle Francais at Mrs. Gillmore's. She didn't care to go and so had neglected to have her servant stay with her little niece. Spent a very pleasant as well as instructive evening at Mrs. Gillmore's. Had to leave to take tattoo, but returned afterwards. Mail brought me a letter from home.

Wednesday, January 13, 1886

Mail had nothing for me. Marched on guard this morning. After guard mounting met on a board of survey at the orderly room of "C" Co. in the case of a deserter. Then wrote on proceedings of Board after inspecting sen-

tinels until near noon, when went to the hospital and had Black treat my ears. Think that he has commenced the right treatment and will be able to give me relief now. After lunch completed proceedings and wrote letter home. Officer of the Day inspected before retreat. Spent the evening and night until after midnight in writing letters to Ogle and Johnston. After inspection by Officer of the Day turned in. Weather is moderating and snow is disappearing. Met Williams and shook hands with him today.

Thursday, January 14, 1886

No mail for me this morning. Expected a letter from home. Marched off guard, Cunningham relieving me. After guard mounting went into Capt. Vance's a while and then over to the office where learned that charges against Williams for absence without leave were sent to San Antonio last night. It is thought that other charges will be drawn up there to cover his money transactions. After a bath and shave went to lunch. Hewitt went out hunting and was not present at lunch. After lunch played cards with King and read Draper, and walked up and down the porch for a little exercise. Had to wait dinner on Hewitt. Sat in Geary's a while and then took him to call on Mrs. Gillmore who had quite a number of callers this evening. Excused myself after a short stay and then went to Mrs. Hall's where the whist club spent a very enjoyable evening. Capt. Vance took tattoo as he wanted to see Col. Lyster.

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Saturday, January 17, 1998  
at  
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12:00 PM

TOPIC:

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AFTER THE  
1997 TAX PAYER RELIEF ACT

WHICH INCLUDES BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO:



- Estate Tax Relief
- Capital Gains
- New Rules for Sale of Residence
- Wills, Trust, Power of Attorney
- Individual Retirement Account (IRA)
- Tax Breaks for Families with Children

Guest Speaker:  
James Ross

Attorney at Law, CPA - Board Certified Tax Law and Estate Planning  
and Probate Law, Texas Board of Legal Specialization

Seminar Courtesy of:  
Anders Nordlof

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# Nowlin gets 200th career win

## Ashabranner scores career-high to lead Tigerettes over La Pryor

By J.J. Guidry  
Sports Editor

Gregg Nowlin picked up his 200th career coaching victory Tuesday as Jennifer Ashabranner scored a career-high 19 points to lead the Brackett Tigerettes to a win over the La Pryor Lady Bulldogs in non-district basketball action.

Nowlin now has a career record of 200-89 in 10 years as Brackett's head girls' coach.

"It feels great, especially with a win like this," Nowlin said of the milestone. "The girls played their best game of the year."

With the victory, the Tigerettes improve

to 10-5 on the season. The Lady Bulldogs fall to 4-12 overall.

Brackett led 27-13 at halftime, but broke the contest open with a 16-2 run in the third quarter. Ashabranner nailed a three-pointer with 1:01 left in the period to cap the spurt, putting the Tigerettes up 43-17.

Ashabranner scored 10 of her game-high 19 points in the third period, including three treys.

"I was extremely pleased with Jennifer's performance," Nowlin said. "She finally stepped it up and played to her abilities. She has a lot of talent."

Lindsey Brotherton and La Toya Wright also scored in double figures for Brackett.

They both had 13 points.

The Tigerettes took their biggest lead of the contest at 61-25 with 2:58 left as Laura Lee Ballew hit a jump shot in the lane.

Lisa and Melissa Pargas and Rachel Perez all had 10 points to pace La Pryor's scoring attack.

Stephanie Terrazas had eight points for Brackett, including two treys. Ballew finished with four, Patty Lopez and Hilda Aguirre each scored three, and Tricia Robinson had two.

The Tigerettes will face Leakey on the road Friday before opening their District 30-2A slate in Center Point on Tuesday. Both games begin at 6:30.

# Baker, Smith honored

Brackett's Wes Baker and Brent Smith were named to the All-Southwest Texas Area football team, which was released this week by the Uvalde Leader-News. Baker was honored as a defen-

sive tackle and Smith as a line-backer. Both are juniors.

Jerald Klett of Fredericksburg was named the Coach of the Year and the Pleasanton Eagles were the Team of the Year.

# All-Southwest Texas

The 1997 All-Southwest Texas Area football team as selected by area sports writers and released this week by the Uvalde Leader-News:

**Quarterbacks:** Colin Trulove, Sabinal, senior; Dusty Parker, Uvalde, senior; Shea Haass, Medina Valley, senior; Bobby Livingston, Devine, senior; George Villa, Hondo, senior; Joseph Hatcher, Pleasanton, senior; Ruben Campos, Charlotte, senior.  
**Running backs:** Ryan Garcia, Crystal City, junior; Freddie Cantu, Fredericksburg, senior; Victor Caballero, Uvalde, junior; Charlie Arcos, Hondo, senior; Cody Dailey, Hondo, senior; Giovanni Gonzalez, Carrizo Springs, junior; Tate Saathoff, Devine, senior; Wes Wilkins, Devine, senior; Roger Surita, Eagle Pass, sophomore; Jeff Webb, Boerne, senior; Lane Pepper, Sabinal, senior; Manuel Gonzales, Fredericksburg, sophomore; Travis Smith, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Tyrone Charles, Pleasanton, junior; Fabian Santos, Dilley, junior; Gary Vallejo, Charlotte, senior; Kris Benke, D'Hanis, senior; Lorenzo Ortiz, Nueces Canyon, sophomore; Brad Armstrong, Medina, junior; Devon Hayes, Harper, junior.  
**Wide receivers:** Kiko Munoz, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Mario Diaz, Eagle Pass, senior; Baudel Fuentes, Sabinal, senior; John Driskill, Sabinal, senior; Kyle Klaerner, Fredericksburg, senior; Nano Rendon, Uvalde, senior; Seth Thomas, Boerne, senior; Shane Crow, Poteet, sophomore; Jason Ruple, Charlotte, junior; Dennis Schlueter, Medina Valley, senior; Richard Fohn, D'Hanis, senior; Justin Morley, Rockspings, senior; Cullen Loeffler, Ingram, junior; Jimmy Stimmell, Bandera, senior; Michael Medrano, Pearsall, junior.  
**Tight ends:** Noe Rodriguez, Eagle Pass, junior; Eric Frantzen, Fredericksburg, senior; Wes Collier, Uvalde, senior; Chris Collie, Boerne, senior; Brett Wiggins, Pleasanton, senior; Travis Whitewood, Harper, senior; Erik Cuellar, Crystal City, senior.  
**Offensive linemen:** Jesse Gutierrez, Uvalde, senior; Lilo Rendon, Uvalde, senior; Anthony Lorick, Kerrville Tivy, senior; George Garza, Kerrville Tivy, junior; Scott Clements, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Jason Rowlett, Boerne, senior; Billy Evans, Hondo, senior; Jim Cody Welch, Hondo, junior; Joe Cantu, Eagle Pass, senior; Ray Andrade, Del Rio, senior; Lane Roberson, Devine, senior; Will Carter, Jourdanton, senior; Jose Sanchez, Pleasanton, senior; Ben Anderson, Pleasanton, senior; Scott Morgan, Medina Valley, senior; Jay Pease, Bandera, senior; Chris Sanders, Bandera, senior; Adam Trevino, Poteet, sophomore; Josh Ray, Charlotte, senior; Will Gates, Charlotte, senior; Paul Myers, D'Hanis, junior; Wayne McDonald, Nueces Canyon, senior; Ernie Pena, Rockspings, junior; Zach Joseph, Medina, senior; Joey Perez, Dilley, senior; Robert Sanchez, senior; Michael Isaguirre, Cotulla, senior.

**Defensive linemen:** John Craig, Boerne, senior; Lee Jack, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Shawn Henderson, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Jacob Benavides, Devine, senior; Cesar de los Santos, Eagle Pass, junior; Steven Pesek, Fredericksburg, senior; Barrett Durst, Fredericksburg, junior; Sergio De La Garza, Fredericksburg, junior; Steven Mann, Hondo, senior; Will Dodson, Sabinal, senior; Chad Van Pelt, Sabinal, junior; Randy Sambrano, Dilley, senior; Charlie Taylor, Medina Valley, senior; Migue Zepeda, Medina Valley, senior; Adrian Guevara, Crystal City, senior; Jason Garcia, Pleasanton, senior; Ronald Brill, Pleasanton, senior; Nohl Bryant, Pleasanton, senior; Jacob Kubish, Jourdanton, senior; Jimmy Lopez, Carrizo Springs, senior; Russell Salazar, Leakey, senior; Roy Perez, Rockspings, junior; Wes Baker, Brackett, junior.  
**Linebackers:** Craig Swanson, Hondo, senior; Frank Denny, Hondo, senior; Rusty Jenschke, Fredericksburg, senior; Freddie Lopez, Uvalde, senior; Hunter Ray, Uvalde, junior; Waylon Martinez, Del Rio, senior; Malachi Boyuls, Freericksburg, senior; Casey Freeland, Boerne, junior; Lane Pepper, Sabinal, senior; Patrick Meyer, Sabinal, senior; Calvin Ables, Pleasanton, senior; Brandon Weston, Medina Valley, senior; Lee Crisp, Medina Valley, senior; Neal Gift, Carrizo Springs, senior; Daniel Floyd, Jourdanton, senior; Kenneth Kiser, Poteet, senior; Bo Groom, Dilley, senior; Mark McMillian, Dilley, junior; Brandon Bendele, D'Hanis, senior; Brent Smith, Brackett, junior; Roy Saucedo, Crystal City, senior; Will Harrell, Rockspings, senior; Robert Wadkins, Cotulla, senior.  
**Defensive backs:** Jeff White, Fredericksburg, senior; Ryan Kiefer, Boerne, senior; Abel Alejandro, Sabinal, senior; Joseph Valdez, Sabinal, senior; Chad Crowell, Hondo, sophomore; Mike McCalla, Kerrville Tivy, senior; Randall Mangum, Jourdanton, senior; Joey Tijerina, Charlotte, senior; Dubby Sutherland, Uvalde, junior; J.P. Gonzales, Uvalde, senior; Nino Trevino, Medina Valley, senior; Jason Rodriguez, Carrizo Springs, senior; Jacob Rodriguez, Carrizo Springs, senior; Patrick Gonzalez, Pleasanton, senior; Jesus Sanchez, Eagle Pass, junior; James Bermea, D'Hanis, senior; Winston Wright, Nueces Canyon, junior; Brad Bode, Ingram, senior; Enrique Flores, Crystal City, senior.  
**Place kickers:** Escar Rivera, Kerrville Tivy, junior; Jack Hartung, Carrizo Springs, senior; Michael Patino, Rockspings, senior; Fabian Santos, Dilley, junior; Pat Mazurek, Bandera, senior.  
**Punters:** Danny Marquardt, Fredericksburg, junior; Tim Gard, Bandera, senior; Kyle Pfeiffer, Boerne, senior; Aaron Sales, Rockspings, senior.  
**Return specialists:** Chico Contreras, Uvalde, senior; Chad Friesenhahn, Devine, senior; Jesse Garcia, Cotulla, senior.

# Briefs ...

## J.V. tops Eagle Pass

The junior varsity Tigerettes defeated Eagle Pass 20-10 on Tuesday. Jaime Bader led Brackett with six points, Erika Garcia scored four, Tiffany Eckenrod and Marty Payne had three apiece, and Queta Garza and Gracie Terrazas added two each.

## Brackett claims titles

Brackett's eighth grade teams won six games this week, including two titles at Nueces Canyon.

Juan Flores scored 28 points on Monday as the Brackett Cubs (3-3) picked up a 43-31 win over Canyon. Fabian Farias had nine points, Raymond Gomez scored four, and David Campos had two.

On Saturday, the Cubs edged Sabinal 27-23 in the championship game of the N.C. tournament. Farias scored 10, Flores had seven, Tony Molinar finished with five, Carlos Gomez scored four, and Tommy Gomez had one.

Brackett opened the tourney with a 40-31 win over Rockspings. Flores led the Cubs with 14 points, Farias had 12, Carlos Gomez pitched in six, Raymond Gomez had four, and Molinar and Carl Dalton had two apiece.

The Cubettes defeated Canyon 17-13 on Monday. Susannah Davis paced Brackett with seven points, Sherry Villarreal scored four, and Migdalia Gonzalez, Stephanie Gomez and Duquesa Hunt all had two.

The Cubettes topped N.C. 15-12 in Saturday's tournament final. Davis had five points, while Gomez, Gonzalez, Hunt, Villarreal and Erica Meyer all scored two.

Brackett edged Rockspring 21-20 in OT in the tourney opener. Gomez finished with eight points, Hunt had six, Ana Talamantes scored three, and Meyer and Deidra Townsend both had two.

## Seventh graders win

The seventh grade Cubs picked up a 22-14 win over Nueces Canyon Monday. Jared Hobbs led the way with nine points, Jake Bostick scored eight, Boyd Brotherton had three, and Phillip Munoz scored two. Hobbs had 21 in the Cubs' 33-16 win over Rockspings.

Mayra Aguirre scored 14 as the Cubettes topped N.C. 26-10.

# Balanced scoring attack leads Tigers over Bulldogs, 80-48

By J.J. Guidry  
Sports Editor

Brackett used a balanced scoring attack Tuesday night en route to an 80-48 win over the La Pryor Bulldogs in basketball action.

With the victory, the Tigers up their season record to 6-11. The Bulldogs fall to 1-13.

"I was happy with the win," Brackett coach Art Finkenbinder said. "We played good defense in the second half."

The Tigers were up 37-29 at halftime, but outscored the Bulldogs 21-6 in the third quarter. Schiller Hill scored on a fast break with eight seconds left in the period to cap a 12-2 run, giving Brackett a 58-35 lead going into the final stanza. Hill, a freshman, finished the contest with a career-high 14 points.

"I was pleased with Schiller's play," Finkenbinder said. "He is continuing to improve."

Hill was one of four Tigers to score in double figures. Luis Guajardo had a season-high 17 points. Brent Woelke scored 13 and Phillip Juarez had 11.

"Balanced scoring is what you look for," Finkenbinder said. "When that happens, you know you're playing as a team."

Rene Luna finished with nine points for Brackett, Caleb Crumley had six, and Demitreus and Coty Williams scored five apiece.



Xavier Toms (40) and the Brackett Tigers picked up an 80-48 win over La Pryor Tuesday. Brackett News Photo by J.J. Guidry

# Spencer finishes ahead of field of 24

Ruth Spencer led a field of 24 golfers in a game of best nine holes minus half handicap in 18 Hole Golf League action.

Spencer took top honors after finishing with a gross score of 90, best nine of 43 and a net of 27. She edged out Gwen Ladd who was second with a gross of 84, best nine of 37 and a net of 27.5.

In third place was Ann Malin with a gross of 89, best nine of 41 and a net of 29. Marge Madrich took fourth with a gross of 87, best nine of 41 and a net of 29.5. Kay Roberts was fifth with a gross of 94, best nine of 42 and a net of 30. Finishing sixth was Beth Waller with a gross of 85, best nine of 38 and a net of 31.

Best low gross of the day was visitor Christina Culverhouse who shot a 41-41, 82.

Skins were won by Gwen Ladd with a par on No. 9, Carol Benfield with a par on No. 12, Mary Stephenson with a par on No. 7, Betty Lee with a par on No. 10, and Beth Waller with a par on No. 16.

There were four chip-ins with two of them coming on hole No. 8.

## 9 Hole League

Diane Daniels won first place in a game of low score and low putts. She finished with a score of 43 and a total of 14 putts.

Second place went to LaVon McLane with a score of 50 and 17 putts.

Other players were Bobbie Waddill, Jeanette Hinton, Mylo Unruh, Orlean Alvis and Betty Mathison.

# OUTDOORS

## Updated version of Birding Texas booklet available

AUSTIN -- Birdwatching buffs can now turn to the latest version of the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) booklet, Birding Texas, for up-to-date information on Texas birding festivals, Texas bird checklists and other birding-related resources.

The free 16-page booklet is the third edition of Birding Texas, originally published in 1980 by TPWD. The department decided to reprint the booklet after copies of the five-year-old second edition were exhausted.

"Birding Texas has been very popular," said Natural Resources Program biologist Mark Lockwood, who helped compile the recent edition. "We've given away more than 250,000 copies since 1980. The booklet contains good basic information to introduce new birders or those from out of state to what's out there for

**A Little On The Wildlife Side**  
By Henry Lutz  
Kinney County Game Warden

Alliance, Timber Ridge Tours and the Rockport-Fulton Area Chamber of Commerce.

The public may obtain a free copy at Texas State Parks, TxDOT Travel Information Center or request the booklet by calling TPWD's Wildlife Information line, 512-389-4505.

Information on Birding Texas also is available on the Internet at www.tpwd.state.tx.us. A current Checklist of Texas Birds also can be found on the TPWD website under the "Nature" page.

TPWD also sells the 37-page A Checklist of Texas Birds for \$2 at most Texas State Stores, The Hummingbird Wheel for \$11.95 and Texas Hummingbird Roundup backyard survey packet for \$6.

For general Texas Parks and Wildlife information, call 1-800-792-1112 (menu 5, selection 1).

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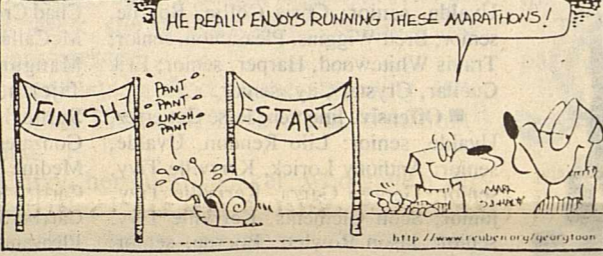
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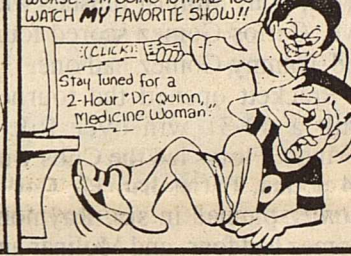
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GEORGE by MARK SZORADY



MAMA'S BOYZ by JERRY CRAFT



Super Crossword

ACROSS 1 Nag, nag, nag 5 D'Urberville lass 9 Go to the mail 13 Engrave with acid 17 Island group north of Tonga 18 Native American 19 Gypsy 20 Sert's forte 22 Pindar, for one 23 River flowing to Hudson Bay 25 Valuable dark wood 26 Huckleberry Finn's river 28 U.S.-Mexico border river 30 Bat wood 31 TV soap star Braeden 32 Guido's highest note 34 Reticule 35 Dangerous curve 36 Presently 37 Game bird of the marshes 39 Pet of Nick and Nora 41 Recognizes as valid 44 Selects for special duty 46 Work energetically 50 Investigative clues 51 Round or mount starter 52 Word of woe 54 Winter forecast 55 Cooking spice 56 Branching 59 American author/critic 61 Christie or Karenina 62 It landed on Ararat 63 Washington crossed it 65 Long river in Georgia 67 - Gay; historic plane 69 Contemptible person 71 Nick of Hollywood 72 Unobstructed view 75 River to the Ohio 77 Mrs. in Madrid 80 Cutting tool 81 Canine cries 83 Construction serviceman 84 Russian despot 85 Bonnie of songdom 87 Wife of Silva 89 Footlike organ 90 Lakes or Plains 91 Not ours 93 Regain one's health 96 Engenders 97 Meadow munchers 99 DDE's home state 100 Dry, as wine 101 Political incumbents 104 Muni or McCartney 106 Capitol VIP 107 Lotion ingredient 108 Chew the fat 111 Alabama river 114 Missouri River feeder 117 Uncomplaining one 118 River rising in Big Stone Lake 120 Being in debt 121 Sicilian volcano: var. 122 Potent or puncture starter 123 Attack the fly 124 Rich sources 125 Blind 126 - Hamilton Woman\* 127 Sale condition 128 Cake ingredients DOWN 1 Moslem 2 Strict 3 Seamstress 4 Doctors' clients 5 Warning signal 6 Element in moral philosophy 7 London fog? 8 Eden invader 9 Kind of sailing ship: abbr. 10 Broadway musical 11 Kukla's friend 12 Jal alal 13 Retired from active duty 14 Wind instrument 15 Hag 16 Members of the crew 17 Intoxicating plant juice 21 Corrosives used in soap 24 Eyelashes 27 Broadway hit signs 29 Flatter effusively 33 Town on 17 Across 36 Military assistant to 37 Goat antelopes 38 Logan or Fitzgerald 39 Part of B.A. 42 Beloved 43 River rising in Great Slave Lake 44 Russian council 45 Droops in the middle 47 River feeding the Ohio 48 Chanteuse Horne 49 Greenland settlement 51 Highly seasoned sausage 53 Medium's sessions 56 Kind of race 57 Slamese measure 58 Lake, port and canal 60 Call forth 63 June beetle 64 Nine: comb. form 66 Like a pub drink 68 Existing in the intellect 70 Public warehouses 72 Actor's portion? 73 Esau's wife 74 On - (equivalent to) 76 Above, in Aachen 78 Electric catfish 82 Proofreader's mark 84 Weight allowance 86 Sultry 88 Cooling desserts 90 Repulsive 92 Stolen goods 94 Kind of daisy 95 Redgrave of the theater 96 Forehead 98 Put forward an opinion 100 Swells with fluid 101 - girl! 102 Observes 103 Struck heavily 105 The original "Scarlett" 107 Asian mountain system 108 - "My Way" 109 Baxter and Bancroft 110 Asks for charity 112 Twining stem 113 Sicilian tourist town 115 Makes meadow sounds 116 Small branch 119 - picker (overly fussy one)

MAGIC MAZE

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

Find the listed words in the diagram. They run in all directions-forward, backward, up, down and diagonally.

Big time	Headlines	Road	Target
Brakes	High spots	Sack	Trail
Dirt	Mark	Skids	Wall
Hay	Pavement	Streets	

Your Horoscope by Natasha

**ARIES** (March 21 to April 19) You are able to come up with new money-making ideas. It's a good week to take up a new hobby or activity. Items purchased for the home prove to be of an unusual nature.

**TAURUS** (April 20 to May 20) You don't believe in love at first sight, but it could happen, even to you. An unplanned entertainment revitalizes you later in the week. A close friend has good news about a work concern.

**GEMINI** (May 21 to June 20) An inspiration requires quick action on your part, so don't be afraid. Some begin a home decorating project. A weekend out and about socializing is exciting.

**CANCER** (June 21 to July 22) There is a special romantic connection this week between couples. A spontaneous outing for just the two of you is enjoyable. Family members know how to be discreet.

**LEO** (July 23 to August 22) A hunch you have about money is inspired. At work, you encounter fresh chances to get ahead and succeed. This weekend, you run into someone from your past.

**VIRGO** (August 23 to September 22) A partner has a pleasant surprise early in the week. Singles are taken by surprise with a romantic introduction. Creative types should feel free to present their work to the public.

**LIBRA** (September 23 to October 22) You begin this week on a productive and optimistic note. All your plans fall smoothly into place. When opportunity knocks, don't be afraid to answer.

**SCORPIO** (October 23 to November 21) You're at your social best that eases your path. You impress

others with what you have to say. Your original, innovative thinking has those around you willing to follow your lead.

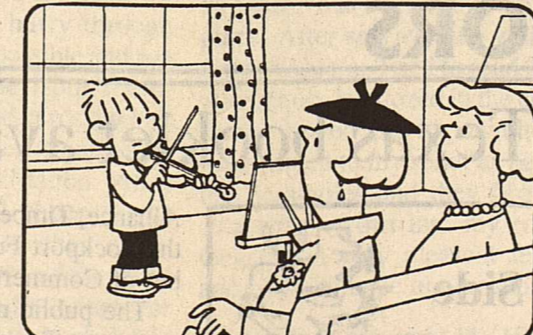
**SAGITTARIUS** (November 22 to December 21) Something you discover while out shopping proves to be a rare find and could be valuable. Buying and selling are particularly favored. The weekend finds you optimistic.

**CAPRICORN** (December 22 to January 19) You know just how to show your accomplishments off to the best advantage. Bigwigs are suitably impressed. Intuitive urges are strong and should be needed in romance.

**AQUARIUS** (January 20 to February 18) A business opportunity falls right into your lap. Time spent on your own proves to be unusually productive. You reach some amazing conclusions and gain insight this weekend.

**PISCES** (February 19 to March 20) An unexpected social invitation takes you happily by surprise. This is great time to share with friends. You make progress in business as well.

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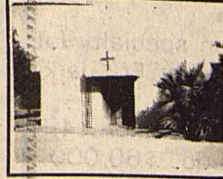


**HOCUS-FOCUS**  
FIND AT LEAST 6 DIFFERENCES BETWEEN PANELS.  
Different: 1. Flower is missing; 2. Lamp is different; 3. Drape is lower; 4. Flower is missing; 5. Lamp is missing; 6. Nickline is lower.

Nylon was first introduced to the public in 1938. Research chemists made this elastic material by combining water, air, and a by-product of coal.

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY**

Jan. 8	Viola Peel	Jan. 11	Hawkins Huey
Jan. 9	Linda Barrett	Jan. 11	Jean Somers
Jan. 9	Stan Somers	Jan. 11	Ramon Garansuay
Jan. 10	Jose Cole	Jan. 11	Martin Kelso
Jan. 10	Monica Falcon	Jan. 13	David Zumaya
Jan. 10	Monica Castillo	Jan. 13	Donna Smith
Jan. 11	Jerry Henry	Jan. 14	Veronica Rivas



**Frontier Baptist Church**  
Rev. Joe Townsend, Pastor



**First United Methodist Church**  
Rev. Sheree Harris, Pastor



**Gateway Ministries**  
Pastor Charolette Corey

The best and most all inclusive resolution one can make for the New Year is simply to be happy. If at any time you are not happy there is no place to put the blame but on yourself. Happiness is a condition of the soul and this depends solely on one's self. One cannot truthfully blame others, events, or conditions for being unhappy.

There are a few pointers to help one be happy. The first is to think. Someone has said 98 percent of the people allow 2 percent of the people to think for them. This fact is proved almost daily. Millions of people refused to eat apples because some kook said Alar could cause cancer. It was not so, but many allowed a "know nothing nobody" to think for them.

Millions today are letting "activists" think for them about smoking. If anyone will simply take the fallacious claims of the harm of tobacco smoke (second hand and other) and think for themselves the fears gripping millions would melt away. The greatest and silliest scam fostered on the world ever is the ridiculous idea of global warming. 20 years ago the same people preaching global warming and the destructive nature of greenhouse gasses were predicting a new Ice Age. Even Al Gore and his puppets who spread the poison of global warming will admit the worst result will be maybe one degree warming in 100 years. If you will think, you will see

the fallacy of much of the rabid claims of dooms day promoters. Four people die with a strain of flu formerly found only in chickens so 1,400,000 chickens are slaughtered. Four people in England die with "Mad Cow disease" and many Americans quit eating beef. 16 people get sick from "ecoli" found in hamburger meat and 250,000 pounds of hamburger is destroyed. T.V. commercials talk of salmonella from chickens and thousands quit eating chicken. The medical profession and the news media preach the dangers of cholesterol and eggs became a no-no. In time the scare was proved false. These problems would be nothing if people would only think. If you will just think and not believe every cockamania you'll be much happier.

To be happy think positively. Refuse to think negatively. Always keep looking up and think good. Think good about people. Think good about today. Think good about the future. To think negatively hurts no one but the one thinking negatively. Forget the bad of the past and remembering the good gone by think good for tomorrow. The core to happiness is to think Jesus Christ. Think of his birth. Think of his promise. Take Him to heart and know true happiness all through the year.

There will be another message from the Bible as the heart of worship Sunday morning at Frontier Baptist Church. Come and see.

My son, William, received a pair of binoculars and a couple of books about the night sky for Christmas. When he looked through them and out into the sky for the first time, he was truly amazed. "Wow! Look at all the stars!" We didn't locate any constellations that night, but we did see a lot of stars we hadn't been able to see before.

All this stargazing makes me mindful of Epiphany, the revelation of God's Son to the Gentiles (namely the magi or wise men) that the Church celebrates on January 6. What special gift did they see that enabled them to see the Bethlehem star and to discern its meaning? What spiritual "binocu-

lars" did they have? Did they have a book to help identify it and explain it?

I believe that God is still giving us signs and guidance. God has given us a book to help us understand the signs. In addition to the Bible, God sends the Holy Spirit to help us extend and broaden our vision. The Spirit helps us see through various kinds of binoculars: an event or occurrence, the church, nature, a stranger, and anything else God so chooses.

My prayer is that you will see all the stars in your life and that you will follow them and receive the life and joy God offers you.



**St. John's Baptist Church**  
Pastor Wm. P. Adams, Sr.  
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Marvel not, my brethren, if the world hate you. We know that we have passed from death unto life, because we love the brethren. He that loveth not his brother abideth in death.

Whoever hateth his brother is a murderer; and ye know that no murderer hath eternal life abiding in him. By this perceive we the Love of God, because he laid down his Life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren.

But whosoever hath this world's good, and seeth his brother have need, and shutteth up his bowels of compassion from him, how dwelleth the Love of God in him?

My little children, let us not love in word, neither in tongue, but in deed and in truth.

And by this we know that we are of the truth, and shall assure our hearts before him. 1 John, 3: 13-19.

Praise the Lord!

**Briefs ...**

**Lutheran church to host annual bratwurst Meal**

The tradition continues with the fourth annual "Wisconsin-style" bratwurst meal, scheduled for Sunday, January 18, noon till 3 p.m. It will be held at St. Andrews Church, Henderson and Fort St., Brackettville.

The meal will consist of bratwurst "imported" from Wisconsin, sauerkraut, German-style potato salad, buns, bars, iced tea and coffee. Texas hamburgers will also be available.

Pre-sale tickets can be purchased from Our Redeemer Church Members for \$4.50. Tickets will be \$5.00 at the door. Children under 12 can eat for \$2.50. Additional sandwiches will be \$2.50.

Again, this year, the event is co-sponsored by Our Redeemer Lutheran Church and Lutheran Brotherhood Insurance, Wintergarden Branch 8871.

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church services are held every Sunday morning at 9:00 a.m. at St. Andrews Church, Brackettville.

**Church holds mission**

The Catholic Church held the mission (Parish Enrichment) Dec 14-18. It was well attended on all four days.

Discussions were based on issues faced by young and old as well. Sessions were conducted by Redemptorist Father John Phelps and assisted by Father Alex Steinmiller and local pastor, Father James Cashin.

Refreshments were served on all four nights by volunteers. Refreshments were donated by parishioners.

**HEALTH**  
**Air attack on rabies begins**  
Unprecedented decrease shows Texas experiment is working

The bright yellow planes from the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources were scheduled to lift off Tuesday in the launch of the latest round in the Texas Department of Health's (TDH) multi-year aerial assault on rabies in South, Central and West Texas.

Providing there were no delays due to inclement weather, the planes were scheduled to take off from Alice Municipal Airport loaded with small baits containing a concealed packet of vaccine that, once eaten by coyotes and foxes, immunizes them against rabies.

This is the fourth year for the baits to be airdropped over thousands of square miles of South, Central and West Texas, and health officials are pleased with the success of the experiment.

A deadly virus that was quickly spreading northward, rabies has been halted in its march toward more populated areas in Texas.

TDH officials say the experimental bait drops and subsequent immunizations of coyotes and foxes against rabies are beginning to push rabies away from domestic animals and humans.

"Before the bait drops began, the virus was spreading northward," said Gayne Fearnelyhough, director of TDH's Oral Rabies Vaccination Program. "There was no reason why it couldn't spread throughout Texas and potentially become a national threat. The bait drops have, in just three years, stopped the spread of a deadly virus."

Coyotes are the primary hosts for the virus, which is easily spread from coyotes to domestic animals to people, but gray foxes are also targeted.

**Counties in the Bait Drop Zones**

Counties in the 1998 Texas Department of Health Rabies Bait Drop Zones:  
■ **Gray Fox Bait Drop Zone in West-Central Texas (52 counties):** Bandera, Bexar, Blanco, Borden, Brewster, Brown, Burnet, Callahan, Coleman, Comal, Comanche, Coryell, Crane, Dawson, Eastland, Ector, Erath, Fisher, Gillespie, Glasscock, Guadalupe, Hamilton, Hays, Howard, Jeff Davis, Jones, Kendall, Kerr, Kinney, Lampasas, Llano, Martin, Maverick, Medina, Midland, Mills, Mitchell, Nolan, Pecos, Presidio, Real, San Saba, Scurry, Shackelford, Stephens, Taylor, Travis, Upton, Uvalde, Ward, Williamson, Zavala.

■ **Coyote Bait Drop Zone in South Texas (29 counties):** Aransas, Atascosa, Bee, Bexar, Brooks, Cameron, Dimmit, Duval, Frio, Hidalgo, Jim Hogg, Jim Wells, Karnes, Kenedy, Kleberg, La Salle, Live Oak, McMullen, Maverick, Medina, Nueces, Refugio, San Patricio, Starr, Webb, Willacy, Wilson, Zapata, Zavala.

■ **Editor's Note:** Bexar, Maverick, Medina and Zavala counties are included in both lists.

In 1994, the year before the baits targeting coyotes were first dropped, 166 cases of canine rabies were recorded. Since then, the number of canine rabies cases has plummeted 98 percent to only three cases in 1997.

Now up to 87 percent of the coyote population has been immunized, and no cases have been reported north of the bait drop zones.

"What began as an experiment here in Texas is now a model for other states that are having problems with rabies," said Guy Moore, director of the Oral Rabies Vaccination Program for Gray Foxes. "They are using the program we have here to plan their own bait drop programs to fight rabies."

Since 1990, five human lives have been lost to rabies in Texas. In South Texas alone, two people have died from canine rabies and more than 2,500 people have taken post-exposure injections of rabies vaccine after being exposed to a potentially rabid animal.

Though treatment is effective if given in time, once rabies de-

velops it is always fatal in humans.

The South Texas rabies epidemic in animals, or epizootic, began in 1988 in Starr County on the Texas-Mexico border and has spread to 21 other counties in its move northward toward more densely populated areas.

This year's airdrop follows similar TDH airdrops in 1995, 1996 and 1997 and is part of a five to seven year plan to first contain and then eliminate the canine and fox strains of rabies.

TDH is working with the Ontario Ministry of Natural Resources, using Canadian-built Twin Otters to drop 2.6 million baits over 42,000 square miles of South, Central and West Texas.

The Canadians have virtually wiped out fox rabies in an area about the size of Texas, and TDH hopes to do the same.

Over the next five weeks, the planes will fly from Alice, Odessa and Burnet.


The small rectangular baits containing the vaccine used in the airdrop are made of fish meal and dog food and are harmless to other animals and humans.

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**Baby Shaking Can Be Fatal**

Everyone knows babies are fragile. Or so it would seem. A group in Uvalde County has begun a campaign to warn the public about just how fragile children are. Community Council of southwest Texas, Inc. is educating the community about "Shaken Baby Syndrome" which occurs when a baby or small child is shaken by the arms, legs or shoulders.

Many parents, or other persons responsible for a child's care, think shaking is a harmless way to make a baby stop fussing. It may also seem effective since the baby will stop crying. But this practice is not harmless.

Babies cannot protect themselves from the force of shaking. Their heads are larger in proportion to their bodies and their neck muscles are relatively weak. Since a baby's brain is not fully developed, a whiplash motion causes the brain to hit the front and back of the skull. Blood vessels are torn which results in bruising, bleeding, and swelling. Often the retina of the eye is damaged. Victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome may suffer from brain damage, seizures, blindness, and spinal chord injury. Many go into a coma or suffer a heart attack and die.

Shaken Baby Syndrome is tragic because the injuries it causes are permanent. It is equally tragic that many care givers are not aware of the dangers of shaking. Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc. has two years implementing the program.

"We want to make the people in our community aware of Shaken Baby Syndrome hoping that we don't experience any fatalities with our children", stated Cindy Rodriguez, Director of Dependent Care Services.

Funding for the campaign was made available by the Children's Trust Fund of Texas. CTF is a special fund created by the Texas legislature in 1985 to finance community-based programs to prevent child abuse and neglect in Texas. Twenty-six programs in Texas received CTF grants to develop local awareness campaign on Shaking Baby Syndrome.

For more information contact:  
Cindy Z. Rodriguez,  
Director of Dependant Care Services  
Community Council of Southwest Texas, Inc.  
Phone, 830-278-6268

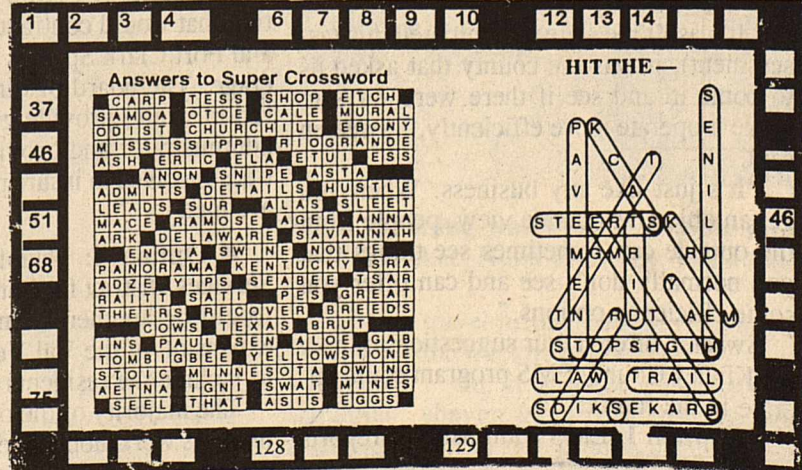


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37	38	39	40	41	42	43	44	45	46	47	48
49	50	51	52	53	54	55	56	57	58	59	60
61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70	71	72

HIT THE -



**THANKS**

We wish to express our heartfelt thanks to our friends of Our Redeemer Lutheran Church for the kind words, the food, and all the support given as we grieved the loss of husband, father, and grandfather.

We especially thank Pastor Nathan Lafrenz for his many visits and prayers shared with us.

Your words of kindness and sympathy extended to us in our profound loss will never be forgotten.

The Family of Arthur "Bud" Kroepel.

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**REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS**

**THE MIDDLE RIO GRANDE** Development Council (MRGDC) is requesting proposals (RFP's) from qualified health insurance agencies for an Employee Benefit Plan for MRGDC. The deadline for submission of this RFP is 10:00 a.m., January 26, 1998, at the following address: Middle Rio Grande Development Council, 307 W. Nopal St. P.O. Box 1199, Carrizo Springs, Texas 78834. Proposal packets may be obtained by contacting Ramon S. Johnston, Deputy Director of Administration of the Middle Rio Grande Development Council. Voice of TDD telephone number 830-876-3533. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council is an equal opportunity employer. Auxiliary aids and services may be made available upon request to individuals with disabilities. The Middle Rio Grande Development Council reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

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# Resolution for 1998: Follow new laws

By Laura Tolley  
San Antonio Express News

**AUSTIN** - While many Texans may be pondering which resolutions they will attempt to keep in 1998, they should know there are a few new rules they will have to abide by - thanks to state lawmakers.

Most bills passed by the 1997 Legislature took effect in September, but some others went on the books last week on the first day of the new year.

These new laws include those that boost some traffic fines, allow home-equity lending, implement new sanctions on teens who smoke and protect the rights of contact-lens wearers.

Already, advertisements have been spreading the news that Texans will be able to borrow against the equity in their homes. Lenders have been taking applications for such loans, but no lending was allowed until 1998.

Voters in November passed a constitutional amendment allowing home-equity lending, although loans will be allowed only for sharply limited purposes such as paying taxes or making home improvements. The Lone Star State was the last to permit home-equity lending.

The only potential stumbling block is

a pending lawsuit challenging part of the law by a group of Houston remodelers. No hearing date has been set.

Several amended laws started last week, including one aimed at getting tough on teens who smoke.

The warning signs have been up in stores for months, but teenagers soon will face fines and the possible suspension of their driver's licenses if they are caught smoking.

Beginning last week, youths under 18 who possess, buy or consume tobacco products face fines up to \$250 and community service or smoking-awareness class. Subsequent violations could result in the suspension of a teen's driver's license.

Under another law, judges will be able to double traffic fines for moving violations that occur in marked highway construction or maintenance zones where workers are present. Those fines currently range from \$1 to \$200, but they will increase to between \$2 and \$400.

Warning signs have been up for six months advising motorists they could face hefty fines for violations in those areas.

Between 1990 and 1996, more than 76,700 accidents were in construction-maintenance zones, according to the agency. There were nearly 7,000 acci-

dents resulting in more than 12,000 injuries in work zones in 1996. Additionally, 99 fatal accidents in work zones resulted in 113 deaths that same year.

The 1997 Property Taxpayer Bill of Rights took effect last Thursday. Among other things, homestead appraisal increases will be capped at no more than 10 percent a year, and a homeowner will be able to defer paying a higher tax caused by an appraisal increase of more than 5 percent.

The bill was passed as lawmakers wrestled with a multibillion-dollar proposal to lower local school property taxes. That proposal ultimately failed, but lawmakers did pass a \$1 billion tax cut and the appraisal bill of rights.

A law that allows senior citizens to transfer part of their local school property tax freeze if they move to another home has also taken effect.

Another new statute affects Texans who wear contact lenses.

Beginning this year, eye doctors will have to release contact lens prescriptions to patients on request and without charging a fee.

Twenty-two states already require eye doctors to release contact lens prescriptions to their patients.

The Texas Optometry Board newslet-

ter has recommended, but not required, licensees to notify patients of their prescription-release policies prior to administering an eye exam. Previously, Texas law did not explicitly require optometrists or ophthalmologists to release prescriptions to their patients. Some eye doctors released prescriptions, and some did not.

Eye doctors defend the practice of withholding prescriptions, saying it's needed to ensure quality and control and protect themselves from liability.

But opponents of the practice counter that has meant Texas consumers often spend more for contact lenses because they are unable to purchase them from other vendors at more competitive prices.

Other laws effective last week include:

- A law requiring a speedier adoption process by limiting the time a court has to decide whether to terminate parental rights. Under this statute, once a child is put in foster care, a court has 12 months to decide whether to return the child to its parents or allow it to be put up for adoption. Previously, some children have spent years in foster care as the court makes a determination.

- A law allowing the state to charge prison inmates a \$3 co-payment for all non-emergency health care visits initiated by the inmate.

**In Texas, it's the law**

- New state laws that took effect on Jan. 1:
- Homeowners may borrow against the equity in their homes.
  - Teenage tobacco users will be subject to fines, community service, smoking awareness classes or suspension of their driver's licenses.
  - Speeding in a construction zone will cost offenders double if caught when workers are present.
  - Appraisal increases on homesteads will be limited to 10 percent a year with homeowners having the option of deferring any amount over 5 percent.
  - The courts have just 12 months to return children in foster care to their parents or put those children up for adoption.
  - Eye doctors must, without charge, release the contact lens prescription to the patient if asked.
  - Senior citizens may transfer a portion of their school property tax freeze if they move to another home.
  - Prison inmates will be required to pay a \$3 co-payment for all non-emergency health care that they initiate.

- A law establishing guidelines for performance evaluation of tenured faculty at some higher education institutions. Tenured faculty will have to be reviewed at least once every six years but not more than once a year, and their evaluations will be based on their professional responsibilities.

Tenured faculty members will not be subject to revocation or other disciplinary actions unless professional incompetency or other good cause is determined.

## Officials discuss future of EMS

Local officials from a variety of entities met last month to consider changes for the Kinney County's Emergency Medical Services (EMS) program.

Lee Sweeten, an EMS program administrator with the Texas Department of Health, met with local officials to discuss his recent assessment of the local program.

"It wasn't the state that initiated this (assessment), it was the county that asked us to come in and see if there were ways to make it operate more efficiently," Sweeten said.

"It's just like any business. When you get an objective outside view, people from the outside can sometimes see things that you normally don't see and can offer you some efficiency options."

Sweeten offered four suggestions of how the Kinney County EMS program could operate in the future:

- Option 1:** EMS administrator reports

directly to the county judge and commissioners court.

- Option 2:** County, city and Fort Clark Springs jointly appoint an advisory board to guide an EMS administrator hired to direct the daily operation of EMS. The administrator would report directly to the board.

- Option 3:** Create a non-profit corporation that would contract with the county, city and Fort Clark Springs to provide EMS coverage. The board of directors for the corporation would provide guidance for the EMS administrator and provide a report to the entities involved to insure performance standards are met.

- Option 4:** Establishes an Emergency Services District for both fire an EMS, which would be another taxing entity, or possible expansion of the Val Verde Hospital District to include the residents of Kinney County.

The majority of the officials present at last month's workshop agreed that Option 3 would

best suit the local entities.

Sweeten added that Option 3 would take the EMS program out of local politics.

"I think when you take things out of the direct political control, it's better for those governing entities because they should not have to deal with the day to day activities of such an organization," he said. "And it's good for the organization because they shouldn't have to deal with the day to day political aspects that go on any governing body."

Sweeten said he was pleased with how last month's workshop evolved.

"I was very pleased," he said. "I thought there was a lot of good discussions."

"I was impressed with the in-depth questioning. It showed the people that came to the table, had looked at the assessment, and had some specific things that they wanted to deal with. I think we made a lot of progress for the community."

## County stock show set for Jan. 16-17

The 1998 Kinney County 4-H and FFA Livestock Show is set for Jan. 16-17 at the Kinney County Civic Center.

All market animals will be weighed on the west side of the Civic Center from 8 a.m. to noon on Friday, Jan. 16.

The judging will begin on Jan. 16 at 4 p.m. with the angora goat classes, followed by the finewool ewe lamb classes at 4:30, the market pig classes at 5:30, and the rabbit classes at 6.

On Jan. 17, market lamb classes will be judged at 8 a.m., followed by the market goat classes at 9:30.

A barbecue lunch will be catered by the Kinney County Live-

stock Show at noon on Jan. 17.

Meal tickets are currently available through the County Extension office and are being sold by local 4-H and FFA members. Tickets are \$4 pre-sale and \$5 at the door.

Following the lunch, stock show awards will be presented at 1:30 and the junior livestock show premium sale will begin at 2.

"The FFA and 4H members and their families would like to express their appreciation for the public support from local and surrounding businesses as well as individual contributors," County Extension Agent Robert Elledge said. "Without your support, this major event would not be a success. Thanks to you, it works."