

Brackett News

Weekly

Thursday, December 23, 2010

Kinney County Is Home To Courtney Kirkland and Diego Castillo - Happy Birthday!

1 Section, 6 Pages

What's Happening

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS
Upcoming holiday schedule for BSD: Christmas Holiday: Early release on Dec 22 @ 1pm and return on Jan 11 as scheduled; Spring Break: Early release on March 11 @ 1pm and return on March 21 as scheduled

AA MEETING
The Joy of Living Group of Alcoholics Anonymous closed meetings, has changed its meeting time from Saturday at 7pm to Friday at 7pm at 803 E. Crockett Street

USDA-NRCS REQUESTS PROPOSALS FOR WATER AND LAND CONSERVATION PROJECTS

The USDA-Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is seeking proposals for projects under two NRCS programs that will bring partners together to help farmers, ranchers and private nonindustrial forest landowners implement beneficial water and land conservation practices. Project proposals can be submitted under the Agricultural Water Enhancement Program (AWEP) and the Cooperative Conservation Partnership Initiative (CCPI) programs. Project requirements can be viewed at www.regulations.gov. The NRCS will provide financial and technical assistance to eligible producers in approved project areas.

"These voluntary conservation initiatives provide farmers and ranchers the opportunity to receive financial and technical assistance to improve water conditions on their agriculture land," said Salvador Salinas, acting NRCS state conservationist for Texas. "Our goal is to support projects that will improve the health of the natural resources on their land and bring the environmental and economic benefits of conservation to their local communities."

Through AWEP, NRCS provides support for projects that conserve and improve water quality, use irrigation water efficiently, mitigate the effects of drought and climate change and take other actions that benefit water resources. NRCS enters into partnership agreements with federally recognized Indian Tribes, state and local units of government, agricultural and forestland associations, and nongovernmental organizations to help landowners plan and implement conservation practices in designated project areas. Three projects approved for AWEP funding in fiscal year (FY) 2010 are supporting water conservation efforts in Texas. For example, the Ogallala Aquifer project, sponsored by the Texas Water Development Board, received \$4 million in funding to address water quantity issues in the 49 Panhandle counties within the aquifer area. Through CCPI, NRCS and partners assist producers in implementing conservation practices on agricultural and nonindustrial private forest lands. NRCS leverages financial and technical assistance with partners' resources to install soil erosion practices, manage grazing lands, improve forestlands, establish cover crops, reduce on-farm energy usage and other conservation measures. CCPI is open to federally recognized Tribes, state and local units of government, producer associations, farmer cooperatives, institutions of higher education and nongovernmental organizations that work with producers. Proposals for AWEP and CCPI projects must be received by NRCS by January 28, 2011.

Total of seven arrested in local bust

By Leigh Jenkins
Contributing Writer

After months of investigation, the Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) arrested a total of seven people for trafficking cocaine in Brackettville.

In the early morning hours

on December 16, more than 40 law enforcement agents descended upon four homes across the city leading to the arrests of Guadalupe Lumbieras, 31; Marivel Fernandez, 23; Manuel Fernandez, 30; Vicente Flores, 18; Salvador Pacheco, 41; and Roxanna Julian, 20.

One other female was brought in for questioning last Thursday, but released that same morning without being charged.

Two days after the initial raid, Cesar DeLeon, formerly of Brackettville, was reportedly in town to attend a wedding and was scooped up by officials and

transported to Del Rio for processing. (See Photo Page 5.)

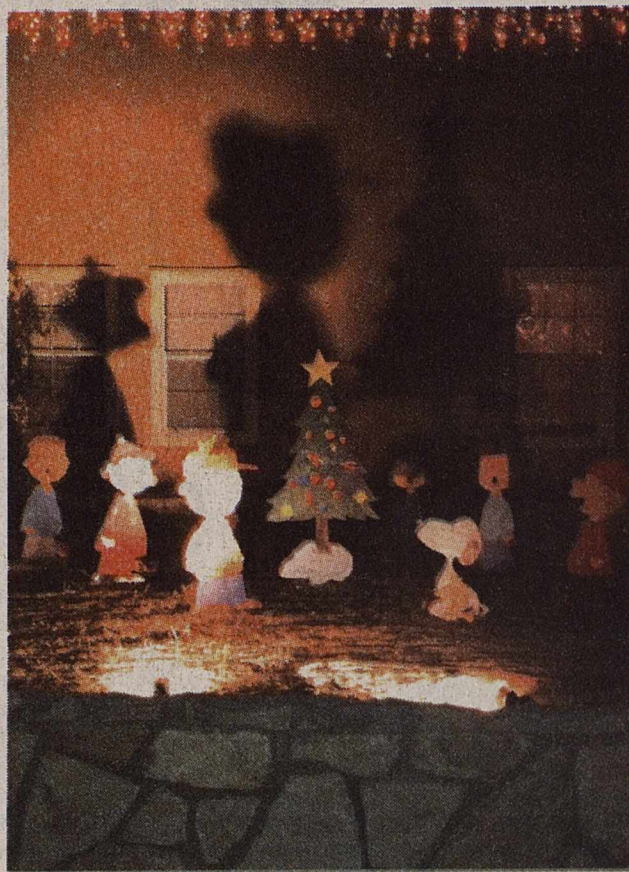
The first six to be charged were magistrates in Federal Court in Del Rio on Friday, December 17 and a bond hearing took place on December 22.

According to the Federal court, charges against the indi-

viduals include possession with intent to distribute and even selling cocaine to undercover federal agents.

Drug Enforcement Administration Resident Agent In Charge Armando Ramirez said more arrests may follow as the investigation continues.

Christmas Decoration "Gotta' See This" List



Brackett News Weekly Photo By Leigh Jenkins - Pictured at left is the Perez Family Home on Beaumont Street in Brackettville. The Perez home features the Peanut Characters and a large light display. Pictured at right is the Flores Family Home on West Thomas Street in Brackettville. The Flores Home covers all the holiday favorites from Santa Claus to the beloved Holy Mother.

Brackett News Weekly "Gotta' See This"

2010 Christmas Decoration List

FORT CLARK:
111 Red Bud, Unit 36
77 Mesquite
42 Plaza Menorca, Unit 14
Fort Clark Road, Rueda House
#15 Colony Row, Shipley House
Entrance to Unit 1
#120 Av. Juarez, Crowe House

BRACKETTVILLE:
Downtown Businesses @ Five Points
County Buildings
City Hall
West Thomas St, Flores House
39 Remote Alley
Nativity at First Baptist Church
Ann & Veltman, Medoza House
E. Second St, Luna House
311 E. Veltman
Nativity at Smiley's on Fort Street
RGEC on Highway 90, East
E. Spring Street, Garza House
Beaumont Street, Perez House

Gift Of The Long Night Moon



John Woolf
Formerly of Brackettville

Short Story By Robert C. Guenzel Jr and John Woolf
Printed with permission

Strongheart was pleased—his spirit soared as he loped along the crest of a snow painted hill. The sun was low on his left side, and the wind, which had been fierce and cold all afternoon, had finally blown away. He rained to a stop at the very highest point, and scanned and horizon ahead.

The jutting, pine-covered bluffs were outlined clearly against a deepening blue, cloudless sky. It would be dark soon, but he did not feel tired. He turned and gazed proudly at the five horses he was leading. He had left home leading only one.

Never before had a winter hunt been so successful. Through a span of twelve days, he had killed three deer, two bison and elk. His strong hands were sore from the skinning and cutting. Then, just as he was ready to give up trying to load it all on his one pack horse, a small Crow hunting party pitched camp just across a frozen stream, and never even knew he was there—until they awoke to find their horses gone. Now he had enough meat to last most of the winter, packed neatly onto four Crow ponies.

If the wind had not died, or he had smelled fresh snow on the air, he would not have considered a night ride. But the bluffs were so close; he knew that if he traveled through the night, he could be home by mid morning.

There was really no decision to make—he was too excited to sleep anyway. He urged his pony into a canter, and the others, on their halters, followed close behind.

Strongheart thought about his wife and little boy—how he had missed them! They would be putting in wood for the night, for they could see the big, red sun, just as he did, stroking the edge of the world. And they would be worried about him, as they always were when he left to hunt. Their prayers would loft out of the teepee, swept on the still night wind to the Great Spirit, whose hands encompassed the whole Circle of the Universe. He wrapped more tightly in his great, bison skin robe as the evening air began to chill, and chanted his own prayer for the safety of his family during his absence.

The bright star of the north, which he kept in front of him, was the Great Father's gift to the night traveler. The glorious full moon splashed the whole countryside with silver, shimmering light. It was still, and peaceful, and Strongheart felt so glad to be alive—so grateful to be a part of the Circle. His own breath, and the horses', wafted out in little cloud puffs and floated in the air. The only sound was the staggered crunching as each hoof broke the frosted snow. Soon the bluffs loomed large and dark above him, and the horses pants came more rapidly as they started the upward climb. The vast, bluish silver plains dropped away behind, and Strongheart was finally enveloped in the pine forest of his winter home.

Suddenly horsed and rider straightened, all ears pinned to the quiet night. Strongheart reined to a stop as the silence was again disturbed by what he at first sensed was the sound of a gunshot. Now he realized it was the sound of the ax meeting timber. Someone was ahead in the trees, chopping wood, which seemed very strange considering the sun was well down. It would have been but a short delay to go around the person, and cer-

tainly safer, but Strongheart's curiosity was aroused. He wanted to find out who was making camp within a days ride of his own winter quarters. He continued straight on, but more slowly and cautiously than before.

As Strongheart moved up the side of the bluff, the chopping became louder and slower. The woodcutter was apparently tiring, which also seemed strange, as he had not been cutting long. Then, ducking branches, Strongheart passed between two trees into a little clearing, and he found out why.

Before him, well lit by the bright moon, was a boy of nine or ten about the age of his own son. The boy turned startled, as Strongheart emerged from the trees. He was a white boy, his face pale in the moonlight, and he froze in mid chop. Strongheart stopped, and studied the boy for a moment, then strained his senses to detect another presence—a father, or older brother—but the boy was apparently alone. The boy's eyes flicked sideways, just for an instant, and Strongheart followed that glance to an old rifle propped against the snowy branches of a pine. But the boy remained fixed, the ax poised threateningly in the air—he knew he could never make it to the rifle.

Strongheart was now even more curious. What would a boy be doing alone in the forest, so late in the evening, chopping wood? He sniffed the air carefully, but caught now smell of a nearby fire. It made no sense. Finally, he pulled his leg over the horse's neck, and slid to the ground. The boy moved forward a step simultaneously, set his feet, and waved the ax above his head. This white boy was obviously frightened, but no coward.

An owl swooped silently above them, its black shadow ripping across the silver blue snow between. Strongheart smiled, and raised his hand in



Santa Ladies

Brackett News Weekly Photo By Leigh Jenkins - Pico #15 Convenience Store employees Janie Villarreal and Veronica Llanas spread a little Christmas cheer to their customers on December 22.

50th Anniversary



Mr. and Mrs. Manolo Rosas, Sr.



Mr. and Mrs. Manolo Rosas, Sr. are celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary on December 23. They will celebrate with their four children, Laura Rosas, Marivel Pina, Manolo Rosas, Jr. and Mario Rosas; eleven grandchildren; and five great-grandchildren. The couple is originally from Del Rio, but now make their home at Fort Clark Springs.

BURN BAN
In Effect
Until Mar 15

continued on page 4

Paper Log: PLOG by Leigh Jenkins

I did a few things over the weekend that I just have to talk about...

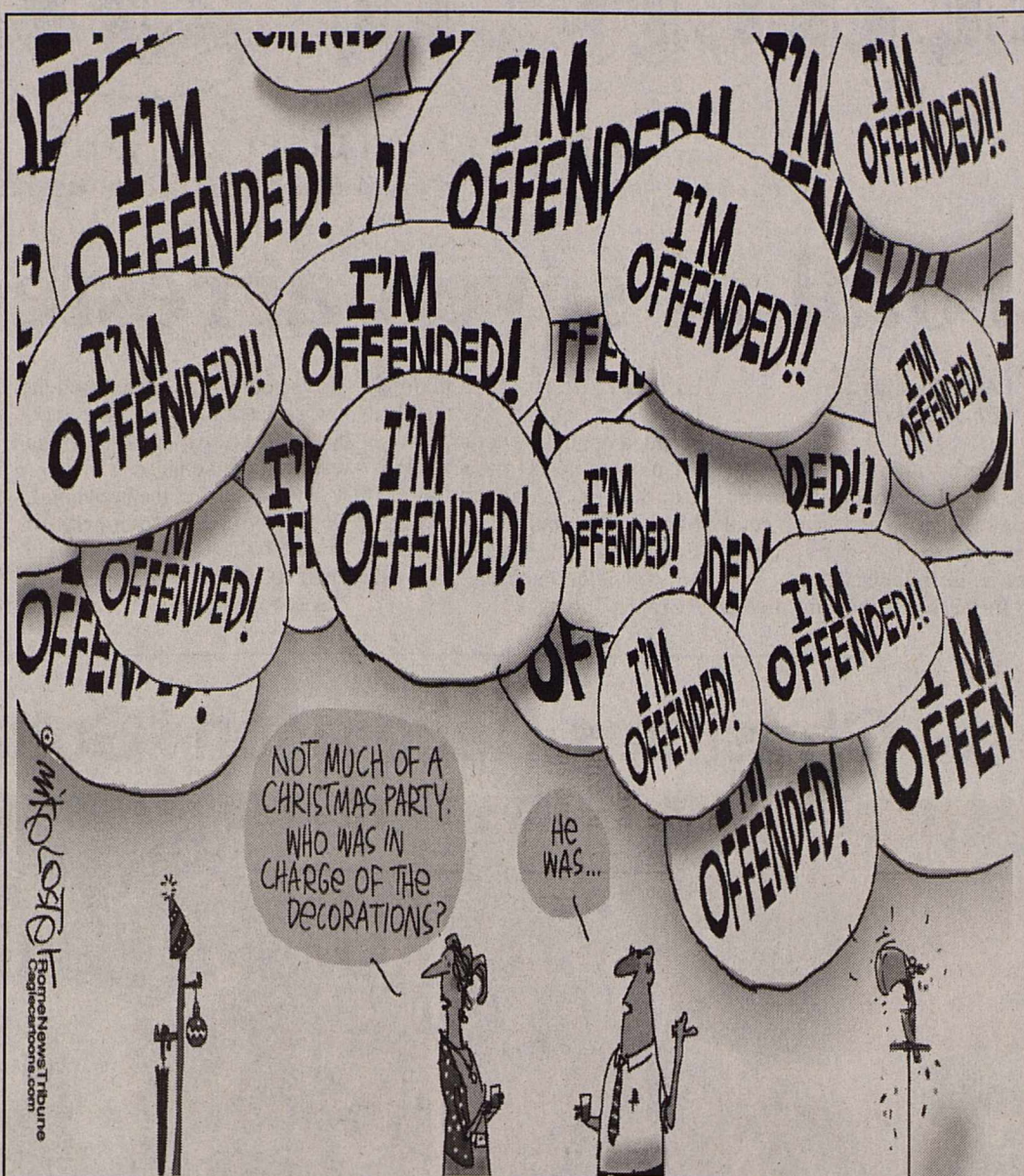
I have been "in training" for the last year. I plogged last week about running and how much I hate to exercise but I do it because I'm vain. I run quite often and I am surprised by the number of people in our small town that run. Its like a little club that I never knew about. I wonder if they have meetings? Anyway, when I first started running I didn't really run I just kinda' fast-walked and my face turned all red and spent the whole time trying to convince myself not to quit. I think the first day I ran the equivalent of a 1/4 mile. Seemed like a lot longer. On Saturday I reached my first goal and completed my first 5K run. It was just over three miles, but in Leigh-world it was the Boston Marathon. My goal was to finish. Not finish first, but finish. After a long, long few years with personal and professional drama, completing that race made me feel good, stronger, faster, braver...so watch out because Leigh is back.

Another thing I did this past Saturday was go to the Old Quarry Christmas show. Im not much on Christmas music, but it was absolutely FAB! I popped in on a rehearsal the week before. I wanted to snap a quick picture and was listening to a few minutes of the play and then out comes Nathan Lafrenz singing "O Holy Night". I was again caught in one of those moments where I found myself blinking my eyes real fast because I could feel the tears coming on. "O Holy Night" is my favorite Christmas song. The rest of the time, if a Christmas song comes on the radio I quickly change it and the whole time Im in a store that is playing Christmas music I am complaining about how ridiculous Christmas music is. BUT, Lafrenz sang the song that gave my Scrooge-like heart a little CPR. Not that I want you to quit your church, but maybe just once during the holiday season you should play hooky and go hear Lafrenz sing at his churches (you know the ones, the Episcopal and Lutheran). Maybe he takes requests like a DJ.

Happy Christmas to all.

We will have a short week next week, so get your content in early.

Leigh J.



Three keys to estate planning



Emily Cooper
Edward Jones in Del Rio

When people hear the words "estate planning," they often assume it's an activity only for retirees or near-retirees. But if you have a family, it's never too soon to create your estate plan.

Of course, estate planning can seem like a daunting task. But you'll find it easier to handle if you break it down into three key areas: distributing your assets, protecting your family and reducing estate taxes. Let's look at these topics:

Distributing your assets — Obviously, it's essential that you let your family know just how you'd like to see your assets distributed, and to whom. At the very least, you'll need to draw up a will. If you were to die without one, the state could end up distributing your resources, and it might do so in a way you wouldn't have wanted. But even a will may not be sufficient. Many people design a living trust, which provides them with more flexibility in distributing assets — for example, you could direct your living trust to disperse assets to children or grandchildren at specific ages — and allows assets to be distributed without going through the time-consuming, and public, probate process.

Protecting your family — Estate planning isn't just about dollars and cents — it also involves taking the necessary steps to preserve the welfare of your family if you are not around or become incapacitated. Consequently, you'll need to name a guardian for your minor children — someone who can step in and raise them should anything happen to you and your spouse. And when your children are adults, you'll want to help them with decisions that could prove agonizing. For example, by creating a living will, you can state whether you want your life prolonged if you ever face a terminal illness or catastrophic brain injury and are no longer able to make decisions for yourself. And by drawing up a health care power of attorney, you can name someone to make health care choices for you if you are unable to do so.

Reducing estate taxes — Depending on the size of your estate, your heirs may never have to worry about estate taxes. But that's hard to predict, especially given the fact that federal estate laws have gone through several changes in recent years, and may do so again. Your best bet is to stay informed about the exemption level — the amount you can pass on to your heirs, free of estate taxes — and look for ways to reduce the size of your taxable estate. You could, for instance, make charitable gifts, thus moving these assets from your estate. You may also want to consider arrangements such as an irrevocable life insurance trust — under which you can transfer a life insurance policy out of your estate and have the trust distribute the proceeds to the beneficiaries you've chosen — or a credit shelter trust, which allows both you and your spouse to take full advantage of both your estate tax exemptions.

A trust can be a complex instrument, so before establishing one, you'll need to consult with your tax and legal advisors. In fact, you'll want to consult with them on all aspects of estate planning. It will take time and effort, but it's worth it to leave the type of legacy you desire.

The most precious gift



Fly Lady Marla Cilley

All of our lives we have spent putting out fires. These fires were started by our perfectionism and our procrastination. Along with panic of these fires come the squeals of martyrdom and yells of dissatisfaction. We have all done this and it is our family who have had listen to it.

Why do we torture our family with hurtful words? I can tell you why! You are so stressed out and feeling like a martyr! This has got to stop! I can help you get rid of the stress, but it us up to you to curb those angry words. The first steps is to follow our directions for your routines, getting dressed to shoes, hair and face.

It is up to you to change your attitude toward your family! Once you change your martyred outlook to one of blessing your family and giving teaching moments, you will see a change in them. I know that you don't believe me, but you can only change yourself. It is by your

example that your family will begin to help and support your efforts to secure a peaceful home.

What does your wicked tongue do to your children, your husband and most of all you. It doesn't tell them you love them. It makes them feel less than; it hurts their self-worth. They feel that they have no say in things. It makes your husband feel that he is married to his mother! I don't even want to go there. They feel like servants, instead of family members. Those harsh words are worse than a whipping. You cut your family out of the conversational loop. The family can't even say what is on their mind because they are afraid of you. Home life is based on the fear of not making mother mad. Your family members hide from you. They become afraid to tell you when something happens.

After those words have come from your lips, just how do you feel then? Do you feel laden with guilt or do you even realize you are barking nasty remarks their way. Oblivious to the torture you have inflicted upon your loved ones.

There is absolutely no excuse for this. I don't want to hear that this is the only way I can get my family to do anything. This is the

lie that you tell yourself to not feel guilty. It is time to forgive yourself and then ask them to forgive you.

Many times in our lives we are faced with things that are difficult. As sidetracked people we allow our perfectionism to hurt us and our children. We just do not know that is what is causing us to be raving banshees.

Now you have a chance to change by taking actions. You may not have known how to change in the past but you are learning. Take these words into your heart and forgive yourself. You know the things you have said. This can be the beginning of a new relationship with your family.

I would like to suggest that you start writing your feelings down too. Not just the pain you are feeling but how you can change. First you have to forgive yourself. You are just learning these things; the more you write the more you will discover about yourself. You are not expected to be perfect. Love yourself enough to take these words and go forward from here. This is not the end but the beginning of a new life. After you forgive yourself and get in touch with your own feelings; then you can ask for forgiveness. My heart goes out to you! My prayers are with you and your whole family.

You can do this; you found us because you were looking for a change in your life. You are willing to make changes.

Your tongue can criticize or it can encourage. The choice is all yours. If you have not changed your attitude, then how can you expect to see a change in them. It has to come from the heart. If not they will see right through you. They may not even believe it at first, because you will not be sounding like the mother that have been used to all your life. The children may think the aliens have taken their real mother away. Prove to them and their father that you have changed. Sprinkle your words of love, encouragement and teaching, all over your home. Apologize for your tongue. Don't play the martyr game anymore. No one loves a martyr. Not even you!

It time to FLY without the Guilt; forgive yourself!

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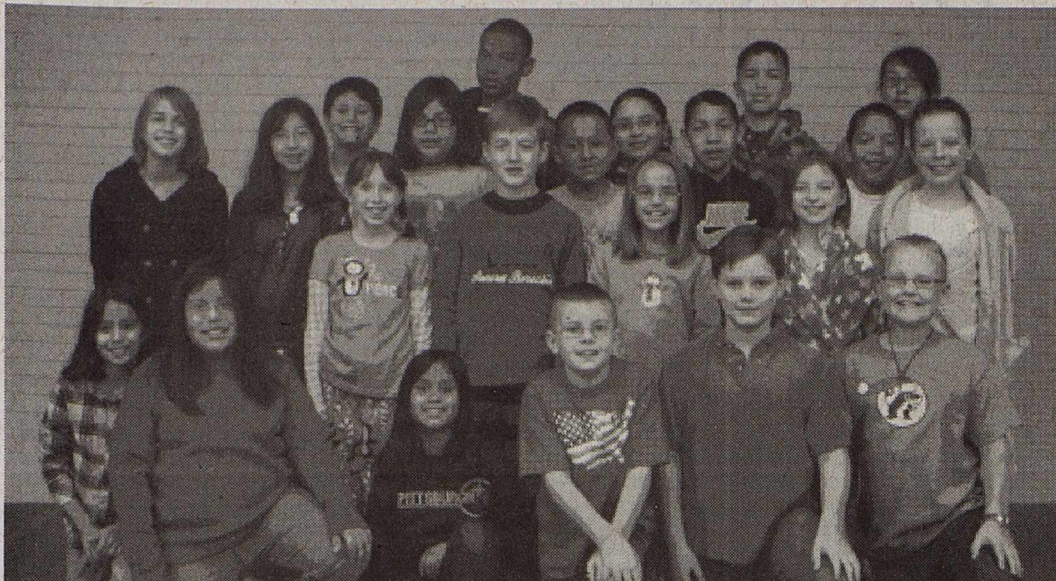
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Try Keeping Up With These Kids...



Photos Submitted By Jones Elementary/Intermediate School - Pictured above are the Jones Elementary/Intermediate Students who placed 1st in the 2010 2011 UIL Meet: 3rd Grade Music Memory Team: Andie Gerardo, Cati Guzman, Evelyn Abendroth, Austin Britton and Zuehl Conoly. 3rd Grade Music Memory Individual: Evelyn Abendroth 3rd Grade Ready Writing: Stetson Schuster 4th Grade Music Memory Team: Kristina Rangel, Tyler Winfree, Taylor Smith, Taylor Gass and Sam Palmer. 4th Grade Oral Reading: Craci Maddox 5th Grade Music Memory Team: Jackie Pacheco, Nathaniel Talamantes, Roman Rosas, Tatum Presnall and Natalee Terrazas. 5th Grade Dictionary Skills: Roman Rosas 6th Grade Dictionary Skills Team: Tyler Schuster, Cheyenne Hibbitts and Justin Hidalgo 6th Grade Listening Team: Justin Hidalgo, Darius Richards and Cheyenne Hibbitts 6th Grade Calculator Team: J.T. Rosas, Leann Salazar and Jackson Abbey 6th Grade Calculator Individual: J.T. Rosas All Jones E/1 students who participated in the 2010 2011 BISD UIL Meet will be recognized and receive their awards at the 2nd Nine Week Awards Assemblies on Friday, January 14, 2011. A special thanks to the BISD Faculty/ Staff and community members who helped make the 2010-2011 BISD UIL Meet a success this year.

Brackett takes second at UIL meet



Tyler Schuster

On Saturday, December 11, Brackett ISD hosted the UIL meet for the Elementary and Junior High.

In the Elementary division D'Hanis placed first with a total of 968 points.

Second place went to Brackett with 534 points.

Sabinal placed third with 326 points, followed by LaPryor in fourth place with 324 points.

In the Junior High division D'Hanis placed first with 1,275 points.

Brackett placed second with 945 points.

Sabinal placed third with 641 points and in fourth place was LaPryor with 303 points.

D'Hanis place first overall for the meet with a total of 2,243 points.

Brackett placed second with 1,479 points; Sabinal third place, 967 points; and in fourth place was LaPryor with 627 points.

Jones Elementary School, staff and all the day's participants were thanked for participating.

BRACKETT AUTO-PARTS & REPAIR

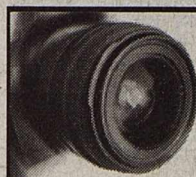
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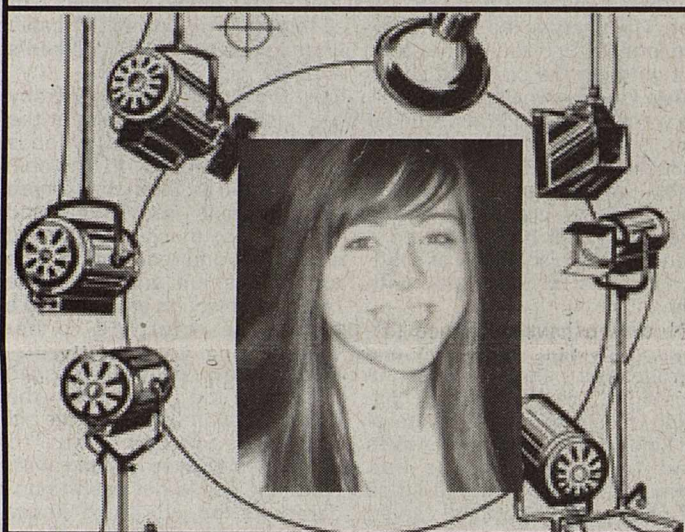
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Class of 2011 BHS SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Janine Rex

Parent: Larry Rex

Grandparents: Russell Williams and in loving memory of Joy Williams

What are your plans after graduation? I plan to attend college and study to be an elementary teacher.

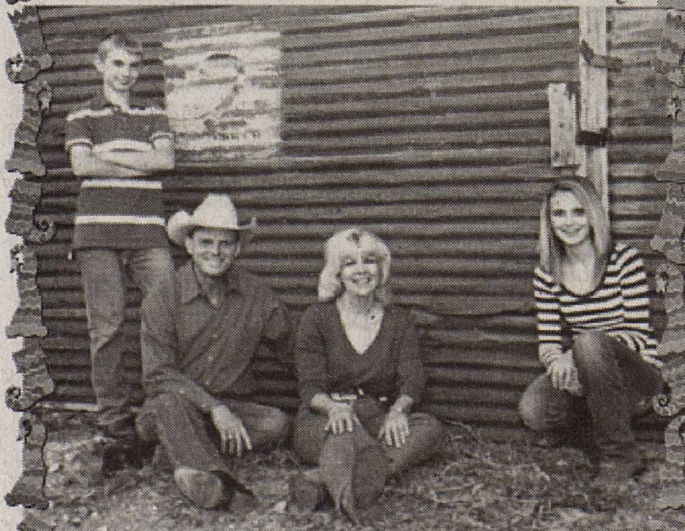
What teacher influenced you the most? Ms. Misty Rose influenced me the most because she taught me to be honest and care for others. And Yolanda Rueda because she taught me to be a go-getter.

What are you most looking forward to after graduation? To get out of Brackettville.

What do you think you will miss the most after graduation? I will miss my friends and driving my golf cart around the Fort.

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Respectfully,
Tracy, Cheryl, Katelyn and Clayton King.



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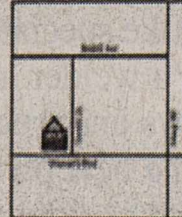
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Gift Of The Long Night Moon

continued from page 1

greeting. The boy scrutinized him cautiously. Strongheart knew the boy could not hold the ax up for long, and so he continued to smile and raised his hand patiently again. Finally, the boy eased the ax down on the snow; strongheart moved forward several steps, and then raised his hand a third time in friendship. The boy's features softened a little. He loosened his grip on the ax, and returned the gesture.

There had been white people through the area before, usually alone or in small groups, hunting and trapping farther south, along the river, there was a white mans road which was heavily traveled in the spring and summer. But Strongheart had little contact with these people, and only knew a few words in their language. So he spoke slowly in his own tongue, using his hands to sign. He tried to ask the boy what he was doing in the woods so late, but the boy just cocked his head and knitted his brows. Then suddenly, his face lit up. From the gestures which Strongheart made, he gathered at least some understanding of what he was being asked.

The boy stared speaking rapidly,

in words which Strongheart could not comprehend. He pointed several times to the little pine tree, then back along the bluff to the east. It was obvious that he wanted to take the firewood back to a campsite or cabin. The base of the tree, however, where the boy had been chopping, was hardly scratched through the bark—the ax he was using was rusty and dull. The boy would have chopped away half the night to get it down, even though it was a small tree. Strongheart went back to the his horse and unlashed his own hatchet. He kept it clean and sharp always. When he struck the tree, wood chips flew, and scattered out over the snow. Within minutes, the tree leaned and fell. The little boys eyes were wide he had never seen such short work made of a tree. Strongheart did not even stop for a breath, but turned and poised himself to remove the branches. He stopped, though. For some reason, the boy became very agitated, waving his arms and crying, "NO! NO!" Strongheart knew that white man's word. He looked curiously at the boy, and then stepped back.

The boy was talking to him again, tiring to explain, pointing again from the tree to the east

and back. Finally he gave up, and took his ax and old rifle, propping them into the branches of the fallen tree. Then he grabbed the trunk, waded at Strongheart, and stared to drag the tree intact out of the clearing. Strongheart watched him for several minutes, as he struggled through the snow, dragging the tree behind him. It was obvious the child was tenacious enough to persist in his effort, even if it took all night. He looked to the north, where the star he followed gleamed brightly above his own home. Then he shrugged his shoulders, took his horse's bridle, and went after the boy.

With rope, he tied the tree to drag behind the rear pack horse, and then he swung up on his own. When he reached down, the boy didn't seem to understand what he wanted. Strongheart patted the rump of the horse, and then reached down again. For the first time, the boy broke into a smile—a wide smile—and no words were needed to express his feelings as he took Strongheart's hand, and was pulled up on the horse. Strongheart felt the boys arm encircle him, and squeeze tight, and he was glad he had decided not to leave him struggling alone with the tree.

The boy had started back along his own tracks, and it was easy in the moonlight for Strongheart to follow them. The tracks went on and on, for nearly a mile, up the side of the bluff. How the boy had figured to drag the tree so far, Strongheart couldn't imagine. Finally, cresting a little rise, he spotted dim lights on the edge of a small clearing. As they came closer, Strongheart could see it was a tiny cabin, the light from inside glowing through the oilskin covered windows. But there was no smoke curling from the chimney. The night was still, and not dreadfully cold, yet surely if anyone was there, a fire would be burning. The boy had drifted in and out of sleep, so that Strongheart held his hands from time to time when he began to slip. But now he was awake and agitated again. It was clear he was also concerned about the lack of smoke. Strongheart waited on his horse. He could see little inside as the boy cracked the door and slid in. Several moments passed. Smoke began to curl from the chimney, and the boy reappeared, took several split logs from a tiny pile off his horse, untied the pine tree and pulled it over to a nearby stump, which was surrounded with a carpet of woodchips. He took his ax, and

was preparing to reduce the tree to firewood when the boy came running over, waiving and shaking his head.

The whites were obviously a strange breed. Strongheart watched, amazed as the boy dragged the entire tree to the cabin and though the door, inside. Then the boy reappeared, and waved at Strongheart to come along as well. Strongheart did so, mainly to find out if the boy planned to chop up the tree right in the cabin.

Inside, there were two more children, another boy about eight and a small girl about five. In the corner, shivering under several threadbare blankets, a woman, drawn, pale, and obviously feverish, regarded him fearfully through glazed eyes. He looked around the room quickly and knew immediately that this little family was in serious trouble. A partial bag of flour was the only sign of any food, and hunger was plain in the children's eyes. The two boys had pushed the trunk of the small tree down a crack in the dirt floor, and were propping it upright with stones. But Strongheart had no time to consider this newest curiosity—there was work to be done. He went outside, and unlashed all the strips of deer, elk and bison meat which he had labored so hard to obtain. He now knew why the Great Spirit had been so generous to him. He rubbed the shaggy bison hide, which was going to be his sons' winter hunting cloak, and then unlashed it. He had scraped it clean but was not cured and was stiff with the cold. Still, it would keep the woman warm. He carried it and a huge slab of eat inside. He put the robe tenderly over the woman, tucking it tightly around her. Then he packed their cooking pot with clean snow, and hung it over the crackling fire.

While the snow melted in the pot, he went back outside and stowed the remainder of the meat in a little storage shed adjacent to the cabin. In the stream bed behind the house, he scraped snow from the bank until he uncovered a good, fat reddish chunk of sandstone. This he took back with him.

Inside it was brighter. Several additional candles had been lit, and Strongheart beheld another curious sight. The children were giggling, busily hanging trinkets of all kinds on the pen tree—knives and forks and spoons and thimbles and spoons and strips of cloth and little hand carved decorations. They were having such fun, he smile as he watched, even though he did not understand why they would do such a thing. The woman, still looking weak and feverish, was no longer trembling. She was smiling, watching from the warmth of the bison robe—there was even a hint of sparkle in her eyes.

Strongheart did not want to interrupt the fun but he did want to get home to his won family. He called the older boy aside, and showed him quickly hot to dampen the sandstone and then with smooth, circular sweeps, use it to hone the edge on the ax. Within minutes, the old blade was sparkling again, and sharp enough to carve meat. The boy smiled in understanding, nodding his head; then Strongheart waved him back to the other children.

The slab of meat was not completely thawed, but Strongheart placed it in the boiling water, and went back outside. He felt good,

and the ax sang in the air, woodchips swirling around him like snow. When he was finished, there was a pile by the cabin door that would last a month. And he had developed an appetite as well, which he thought would last a month. There was a heavy smell of cooking meat mixed with baking bread, and his mouth watered as he went back inside.

The little tree had been transformed—it sparkled with light and glowed with color. The children had worked magic. The table was set with plates and cups, and a heaping pile of biscuits. Strongheart removed his robe, and rubbed his aching muscles. The younger boy was cutting the meat, while the older was helping the woman drink broth. Suddenly he felt a tug on his sleeve, and looked down to see the little girl looking up at him, her big eyes bright and beaming. She held a crudely carved star in her hand, and she was talking to him, pointing to the tree. He followed her cover, unsure of what she wanted, but she kept pointing to the top of the tree. He decided that she wanted him to place the star there, where none of the children could reach. He took the star and realized that the chatter had ceased, the room was silent, and all four members of the little family were watching him.

He still wasn't sure it was what they wanted, but using a piece of yarn, he tied the star to the very top of the tree. Suddenly, the three children, and even the woman under the bison skin, began to sing together. It was a slow, almost wistful song which Strongheart somehow knew was sung to the Great Spirit. When it was finished, the older boy read some words from a book and then, after several moments of absolute silence, the little cabin erupted again with the children's exuberance.

The little girl took Strongheart by the hand, and seated him at the head of the table. Heaps of foods were dishes out to all. The children giggled as Strongheart tired to copy their use of knife and fork, only to massacre his food almost beyond recognition. The woman sat up and ate some meat and biscuits as well, and a glow was returning to her cheeks.

Finally, one by one, each pushed back from the table, full to the point of discomfort. The little girl and younger boy went to Strongheart, eyes welling with tears and he did not need to understand the words to know their meaning. Then they clamored under the bison skin with the woman, and sank into sleep. The woman waved to Strongheart to come over. She said nothing, but she took his hand in hers, and squeezed it tightly.

The sun would be rising soon, and Strongheart knew, as it was he would not be home until after dark that night. He wrapped his robe around his shoulders, and turned to look one last time at the magical tree. Then he smiled at the older boy, who was just dozing off by the fire, and swept silently out into the still night.

He took one of the best of the Crow ponies, and left it in the empty corral. He had no need for four ponies. Then he mounted his own, and stared for home. But just as he reached the edge of the clearing, he heard a shout from behind, and stopped. The boy came running full speed across the snowy, rocky meadow and leaped through space lie a mountain lion. Strongheart grabbed him in mid-air and pulled the boy onto the horse. His arms encircled Strongheart's neck in a full bear hug, and then the boy slid off the horse, and trotted back toward the cabin.

Strongheart urged his horse up the steep, slippery bluff, back again on his northward journey. There was enough food at home to last awhile—he would rest a few days, and then hunt again. He was tired, but he felt a warm glow inside—a wholeness; a unity of spirit which could only come from a unity with the Circle, the Great Hoop of the World. This white family had not been his people in need; but they had been people in need—children of the Great Spirit, as his people were. He thought of his own wife and son, who were probably just starting to stir awake. They were alone when he went hunting. Someday, they might need help—and if that would ever happen, perhaps the Great Spirit would provide for them, as he had provided for this white family.

Cresting a jutting, rocky crag, Strongheart could see back down into the little meadow. The whole eastern sky was flaming red, thought the sun had not crept into view. It was the most beautiful sunrise he had ever seen; the red light shone across the plains and up the bluffs, turning the whole world a glorious, crimson hue. He could see the boy, sitting on the woodpile. The boy waved—a slow, goodbye, thank you, God-bless-you wave. Strongheart raised his arm high, and then turned his way toward home.

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**To All A Very Merry Christmas
And A Happy New Year**

Tom and I would like to Thank All of Our Customers for their business for the last 15 Years. We have met a lot of interesting people from all over the US and from several foreign countries - we have been blessed.

We have sold Southwest Service Company and we will close on December 24 at noon an the new owners will take over December 27.

The name will change to Southwest Auto & Tractor Services Inc and the new owners are John Hope and Barbara Wilson. John and his sister Barbara live on a ranch north of Brackettville and are members of the Church of Christ. The Business Manager will be Steve DeGeorge and employees will be Mike Flores, Glenda Flores, Tony Flores and Joe Luna.

The phone, fax and address will all stay the same. Mike specializes in diesels, tractors, dozers, etc. and Tony is a welder and a mechanic. Joe will continue to work on cars and trucks. Glenda will be in the parts house.

The new owners will work in the shop and out in the field and as time goes by they will offer more services. Please stop by and meet the new owners and employees.

Thank you all,
Tom & Anita Ertle

avon
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and the ax sang in the air, woodchips swirling around him like snow. When he was finished, there was a pile by the cabin door that would last a month. And he had developed an appetite as well, which he thought would last a month. There was a heavy smell of cooking meat mixed with baking bread, and his mouth watered as he went back inside.

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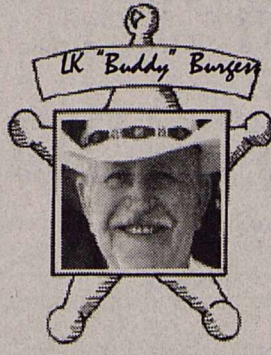
Community

Rojas - Castillo Wedding



Hortencia and Ricardo Rojas announce the marriage of daughter Evelyn to Jose Antonio Castillo, Jr., son of Guillermina and Jose A. Castillo, Sr. The lovely winter wedding ceremony took place at the Kinney County Civic Center on Saturday, December 18, followed by a reception dance.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Tuesday, December 14

Lora Rae Childress, 31, of Brackettville, was arrested for fraud. Childress was released the same day after posting a \$1,200 bond.

A Border Patrol Agent called to report an alarm was sounding off at a ranch on Highway 2804.

Wednesday, December 15
A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at the Dollar General. A deputy reported back that all was secure.

A man reported a suspicious vehicle at the entrance of Kinney County Estates.

A woman called to request help from a deputy. The woman reported she had fallen and needed help getting up.

A man called to report someone had broken the fittings on his jet ski and wanted to file a report.

A woman reported a neighbor was trying to speak to her and wanted a deputy to tell him to stop bothering her.

Thursday, December 16

A Super S employee called to report a car accident in the store's parking lot.

Friday, December 17

Arnulfo Garcia, 21, of Brackettville, was arrested for assault, causing bodily injury. Garcia was released on December 18, after posting bond.

A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at the school.

A man called to report someone had "ran" the gate at his Spofford ranch.

Saturday, December 18

Ryan Garcia, 24, of Brackettville, was arrested for evading arrest with a vehicle; driving while intoxicated, second offense; and driving with a license invalid. Garcia was released the same day after posting bonds for \$2,500, \$1,500 and \$1,200, respectively.

A 911 caller reported loud music near Ann and Edwards street. The man stated the music had been playing since 7 pm and it was now midnight and he wanted the problem addressed.

A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at the school.

A DPS trooper reported a single car accident on Highway 334, ten miles north of town. No injuries reported.

A woman called to report she had a flat tire and was stranded on Highway 90 west with her three daughters.

A woman called to request assistance at a local convenience store.

Sunday, December 19

A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at the school.

A man called to report he had hit a herd of deer with his car at Bader Hill on Highway 90 west.

The passenger was complaining of chest pains. EMS was dispatched.

A woman called to report

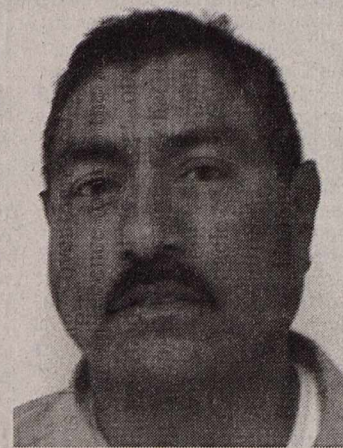
loud music and a bon fire at a house behind her own on East Fulton Street.

A man reported loud music and juvenile drinking at a house near East Fulton Street. Two juveniles were cited for underage drinking and released to a responsible adult.

A DPS dispatcher called to report a stranded motorist two miles west of the Pinto Rest Area on Highway 90.

Total of seven arrested in local bust

continued from page 1



Cesar DeLeon

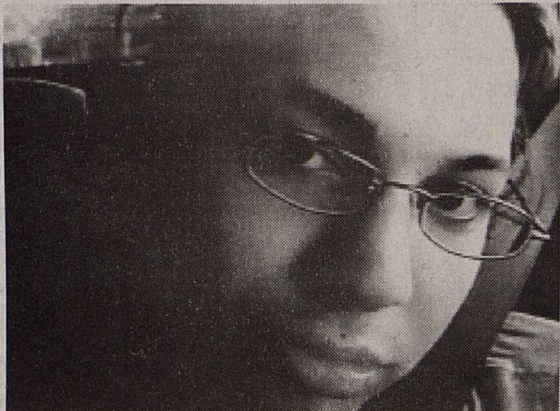
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Broker
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In Memory



Edward T. Solis

August 28, 1992 - December 17, 2008

With tears we watched you suffer
as you slowly fade away
Our hearts were completely broken
as you fought so hard to stay
We knew you had to leave us
but you never went alone
Because part of us went with you
the day you left your home

We miss you every day! Love, Your Sister Sandra Rivas

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Luke 2:14

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**Church Services
Schedule:**

Tuesdays - Teachers meeting @ 6pm
Wed. Bible Study @ 6pm
Thursdays Choir Rehearsal @ 6pm
Friday Prayer Night @ 6pm
Sunday morning Sunday School 9:30-10:30am
Sunday Evening family Night 6pm

**St. Andrew's
Episcopal Church**

"Welcomes You"

Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM (October - April)
Corner of Fort and Henderson

Reverend Nathan Lafrenz
830-719-2082

First Baptist Church

301 N. Ann
Phone: 563-2245

Sunday
Bible Study: 9:45 am
Worship Service: 11 am
Children & Youth Bible studies 6pm
Evening Service 7pm

Wednesday
Evening Service 7pm

Pastor Jeff Janca

First United Methodist Church

109 James Street,
830-563-2823
next to the clinic
Sunday School 9:30
* Worship 10:45
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Open hearts, open minds, open doors

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Evangelical Lutheran Church Of America

CORNER OF FORT & HERDERSON

Sunday: Worship 9 a.m. Bible Study
Wednesday 7 p.m. (October - April)

Email:
www.ourredeemerlutheran.org
Pastor
Nathan LaFrance
563-9733

Come to the Frontier

A Bible Based New Testament Church
9:45 am
Bible Study/Sunday School 11:00 am
Worship Service 6pm
Sunday Evening Service

830-563-5529
Pastor: Ned Sitzes

Corner of Ann & El Paso
Frontier Baptist Church (SBC)

Welcome! Church of Christ

808 N. Ann
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10:30 Worship
Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm
Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT County Clerk will be accepting applications for a temporary part-time employment position. Last day to present applications is 12-22-2010. Any questions, please call 830-563-2521.

FOR RENT

UNFURNISHED 2/BB 1/B fenced yard @ The Fort Clark \$450 plus utilities. Call O'Rourke Realty 830-563-2713 [eo]

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FOR SALE Guitars and Violin acoustic or electric. Call 830-865-3087

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Golf Carts. \$800 to \$3000. Call 563-5010 or 563-3455

GARAGE SALE

Yard Sale coming in January to raise money for the dog park, so please leave donated items on the porch at 8 colony row.

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COMPLETELY UPDATED 3/2 rock home in Historical Area on Fort. 2009 new elec wiring & box, insulation, inside a/c, light fixtures, Moen plumbing fixtures, shower & surround, pedestal sink, dishwasher, stove, ceramic tile, double pane windows, raised garden, extra large SINGLE lot with sprinkler system abutting green area, rear alley access and more. Priced to sell fast at \$120,000 830 563 0272 [nm]

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SPECIAL GOVERNMENT PROGRAMS; zero down if you or family owns land; applications accepted over the phone. (210) 673-9025 (800) 934-9644 RBI 03190 [cly]

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS December 23, 2010 City of Spofford P. O. Box 1541 Brackettville, Texas 78832 REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS On or about January 10, 2011, the City of Spofford will submit a request to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs for the release of Community Development Block Grant funds under Section 104(f) of Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 as amended, to undertake a project known as TXCDBG 710671. Spofford intends to make water treatment plant improvements and increase water storage in order to ensure its citizens a safe and adequate water source. Construction shall include the installation of a new ninety seven thousand (97,000) gallon ground storage tank, pressure tank with foundation, pressure control system, plant building, and electrical controls, fencing and all necessary appurtenances. The construction shall take place within Spofford at the existing water plant located on South Railroad Street, Block #28. FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT The City of Spofford has determined that the project will have no significant impact on the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA) is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (ERR) on file at Spofford City Hall and may be examined or copied weekdays 8 A.M. to 5 P.M. PUBLIC COMMENTS Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the City of Spofford. All comments received by January 10, 2011, will be considered by the City of Spofford prior to authorizing submission of a request for release of funds. Commentors should specify which part of this Notice they are addressing. RELEASE OF FUNDS The City of Spofford certifies to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs that Alex Solis in his capacity as Mayor consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The Department's approval of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and related laws and authorities, and allows the City of Spofford to use Program funds. OBJECTIONS TO RELEASE OF FUNDS The Texas Department of Rural Affairs will consider objections to its release of funds and the City of Spofford certification received by January 27, 2011 or a period of fifteen days from its receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if they are on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer or other officer of the City of Spofford approved by the Department; (b) the (RE) has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient or other participants in the project have committed funds or incurred costs not authorized by 24 CFR Part 58 before approval of a release of funds by the Department; or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written

REAL ESTATE

Tejas Properties

Phyllis & Les Meyer Broker/Ranch Sales 830-563-9911

Deborah Isaac Agent/Residential Sales 830-563-7272

2/1 mobile home at Unit 32-196 Shafter, Fully Furnished, Screened Porch, Corner Lot CONTRACT PENDING **3/2 on Bowleg**, Approx. 1380 sf and a 2 car garage, fully furnished. CONTRACT PENDING **245 Crockett Rd.**- 2114 Sq. Ft., 2 bedroom, office or small 3rd bedroom, rock home with 2.5 bath and 3 car attached garage. Separate 1 car garage with work shop. REDUCED TO \$124,900. **2/1 with RV cover.** Cover is Approximately 17x38, room for the RV & car both. All electric with central heat & air. Unit 36, Redbud, Fort Clark. **4/2 on Ann Street**, remodeled kitchen and bathroom, large corner lot with pecan trees, recently painted throughout, enclosed porches. Only \$129,995.00! **Unit 14, RV Cover** with living quarters, bedroom, living room, 1.5 bath, and laundry. **LOTS!! RV Cover** Unit 14, Res. lot Unit 15, 1 Golf Course Lot. **RENTALS-** 2/2 & 2/1 in the \$850, Master Condos, 3 bedroom 1 bath 49er, both fully furnished. **BEVERAGE BARN!!!!** Established Business, fully equipped and ready to go. Great Business Opportunity!!! 1270 Acres 3 miles East of Brackettville, 3/3 stone home, barns, bunkhouse, wells, center pivots, high fenced

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www.Tejas-Properties.com

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finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to the Texas Department of Rural Affairs at P.O. Box 12877, Austin, Texas 78711. Potential objectors should contact the

PUBLIC NOTICE

Department to verify the actual last day of the objection period. Alex Solis, Mayor City of Spofford

WANTED

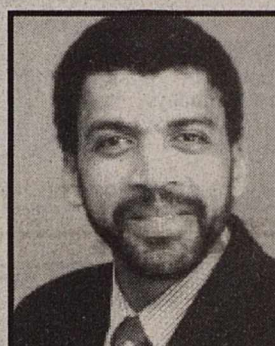
I AM LOOKING to buy a used flat Screen computer monitor in good working condition. 563-3455.

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ACROSS

- 1 continent where TX mohair is exported
- 5 Linden is seat of this county
- 6 TX Pecos Bill
- 7 TXism: "___ could strut sitting down" (big ego)
- 8 quilting or spelling
- 9 across the border from El Paso
- 15 done after drinking Dr. Pepper too fast
- 16 Jacksonville's Tomato Fest stages "Battle of ___"
- 19 this "Tex" created Pecos Bill in 1923
- 21 eats a fancy supper
- 22 UT's Ricky Williams '98 award
- 27 Tex Ritter sang the theme to film "High ___"
- 28 TX Larry Hagman sitcom: "___ of Jeannie"
- 29 Fort Worth has world's oldest ___ rodeo
- 30 TXism: "___ slate clean" (good-bye)
- 33 ex-QB Meredith Rock's sound
- 36 TX "Enchanted Rock" sound
- 37 TXism: "mad as a wet ___"
- 38 most favorable
- 39 "room ___"
- 41 TXism: "ugly as homemade ___"

- 42 this De Carlo starred in TX-based "Calamity Jane and Sam Bass"
- 45 makes a mistake
- 46 for example (abbr.)
- 47 she sheep
- 48 TX-OK border River
- 49 Rockport festivals
- 52 coiled wire toy
- 53 TX Tierney
- 54 in the manner of
- 55 gains by RB in 22-across (abbr.)

DOWN

- 1 C&W music org. (abbr.)
- 2 TXism: "got more on his plate than he can ___ grace over"
- 3 Reba's "___ Life Out There?"
- 4 TXism: "___ clothes" (fake)
- 8 TXism: "___ some boot leather" (run)
- 9 TX 50s actress
- 10 TX George Strait tune: "___ wound"
- 11 TXism: "spread like gossip ___ a church meeting"
- 12 TX "Trekkie" Gene

- 13 "big dog" in Iran
- 14 western writer Grey
- 15 TXism: "fat as a ___ house cat"
- 16 TXism: "happy as a pig in ___"
- 17 puzzling problems
- 18 this Marie is "a little bit country"
- 20 cut of beef
- 22 short salutation
- 23 Ranger's long-time broadcaster (init.)
- 24 TX Meatloaf's "___ Anything for Love..."
- 25 daytime dramas

TEXAS CROSSWORD

by Charley & Guy Orbison
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O'Rourke Realty

Elsa O'Rourke Broker
830.563.2713
orourke06@sbcglobal.net
www.orourke Realty.net



FORT- ROCKLEDGE MANOR APARTMENT BUILDING FOR SALE. Ten apartments in all, located in the historical area. Presently 100% occupancy, it includes the owners' large and luxurious quarters with jacuzzi room. There is a walk-in cellar accessible from the kitchen. Visit orourke Realty.net and see the business potential. Call any day \$465,000.00. **UNIT 14** - must see house with 2Br/1.5 B, dining room, laundry room, carport. All appliances includes JEANAIR stove with convection oven. It has a water filter and softener. Golf cart storage, furnished or unfurnished. \$44,000.00. **UNIT 1** - Two, side by side, townhouses with connecting door. One bedroom ,1 bath each. Will sell separately or together. The roof has a 10-year guarantee as of April 2010. Price - \$40,000 for one and \$35,000 for the other. Call us for more information.

Kinney County Realty

408 East Hwy 90 Brackettville, Texas 78832
(830) 563-9993 www.kinneycountyrealty.com
Pat Owens, Agent Hattie Berleth Broker/Owner Tom McNew, Agent

- 308 E. 4th 2438 +/- sqft, 4BD, 2BA, on 2 tree filled lots, workshop, pool, Front & Back decks, screened porch, 4 space carport, Dining & living room, fireplace, Large kitchen with breakfast bar, \$135,000.00
- 120 Bliss Circle 1232 sqft 2BD, 2 BA, Mobile Home, lg Kitchen, 2 LA, furniture, appliances, Golf cart/shop, UNDER CONTRACT...\$25,000.00
- 139 Bliss Circle, 2BR, 2BA, Mobile Home, Remodeled, New Floors, Master Bath, Kitchen, Appliances, Furniture, \$25,500.00
- 206 E. Fulton St 2BR, 1BA bungalow, close to school, large backyard, central heat/AC, ceiling fans \$65,000.00
- 507 N. Fort, 3 BD 2 BA, 1307 sq ft, Remodeled, Large fenced yard, New Appliances, \$89,900.00
- 602 N Ann St, 4 BD, 3 BA, 2890+ sqft, Lg living Rm, family RM, kitchen/bar, Office, fenced yd, Shed, ...By Appointment only.....\$152,900.00
- 515 W Crockett, 3 BD, 2 BA, 1144 sqft, Kitchen, Living Rm, utility Rm,Price REDUCED for quick sale\$69,000.00
- 514 W Crockett, 3 BD, 2 BA, 1423sqft, Kitchen, Dining, Lg, Living Rm, ...Price REDUCED.....\$105,000.00

LAS MORAS REALTY

104 E. Spring Street Brackettville, Texas 78832
830-563-2997 phone, lasmorasrealty.com
Debbie Trant Agent-Owner, Lawrence Mendive-Broker

- New Listing-203 Oak Lane:** custom built Mediterranean style home with open floor plan. Home offers 3 BR, 2.5B, with 2,998 +/-sq.ft. & beautiful tile flooring. Features include huge den with exposed beams, a cooks dream kitchen, two fireplaces, sunroom with hot tub, hobby room. Lovely landscaping, sprinkler system & courtyard with fountain.
- 117 Dezavala:** darling 2/1 stone home, tile flooring, covered patio, shed, great starter/ winter home.
- New Listing-152 Bliss Cr:** nice 2/2 mobile home with metal roof, carport, stone skirting, shed & fenced yard. Recent upgrades.
- 73 Broken Arrow:** nice 2/2 mobile home with spacious addition, large carport, lovely fenced yard, only \$22,500.
- 705 N. Ellen:** A Must See! 3/2 brick home, 1,900 +/- sq.ft., custom remodeled, tile baths, metal roof, workshop, fenced. Reduced to \$74,999.
- 15 AC:** close to town, fenced, private road
- Spring St:** large building in choice location, rental income.

KEN BARNETT REAL ESTATE

102 W. Spring St., Brackettville, TX 78832
Ken Barnett - Melissa Davis
www.kenbarnettrealestate.com

FORT CLARK

- **New Listing:** 210 Airport Rd. Darling 2Br/2B cottage style home on 1 lot in a great location! 1000sq.ft. +- \$65,000.
- **75 Wainwright** Adorable multilevel home with 2 living areas, 3BR/2B + screened porch and upstairs balcony! Includes 15x18 workshop. \$115,000. REDUCED \$105,000.
- **407 Ft. Clark Rd.** Unique town house located in the heart of the Historical District. 1BR/1B w/ many upgrades \$53,000.
- **Unit 14:** RV Lot w/ metal cover. 8x10 Morgan Bldg + washer/dryer hookups. Located next to green area. \$22,000. REDUCED \$21,500
- **240 Pompey:** Three lots in a fantastic neighborhood in Unit 31.
- **Anderson/Travis:** Cut 3BR/1.5B on 1 lot. \$42,500.

BRACKETTVILLE

- **New Listing:** 204 E. Fulton St. Darling little 2BR/1B Cottage on 2 large fenced lots! Located close to schools. Priced to sell!
- **Fairway Circle:** 2 Golf Lots w/ mature Oaks. Just walking distance from Las Moras Creek! Beautiful area. \$25,000.
- **403 Brown St.** 2BR/1B Home on lg. lot.
- **7 City Lots - Spring St.**
- **109 W. Spring St.:** Downtown Brackettville 4,400sq. ft. Great Rental Property!

ACREAGE

- **717 ACRES:** 8 miles N. of Brackettville on Hwy 334.
- **318 Acres:** 17 miles S. of Brackettville on Hwy 131.

OFFICE: 830-563-2446 or 830-563-5121