



Brackett News

WEEKLY

Growing up on RR 674 See Below

Volume 23, No. 46

Thursday, December 22, 2011

Kinney County is Home to Elidia, Elena and Daniel Molinar! Happy Birthday Triplets!

1 Section, 6 Pages

Community News

Annual Gotta' Go See These Christmas Decorations

- Brackettville:**
 City Hall, West Spring Street
 Perez Residence, Beaumont St.
 Downtown At The Five Points
 Kinney County Buildings
 Flores Residence:
 West Thomas St.
 Cortez Residence:
 East Veltman St.
 Wright Residence:
 East First Street
- Fort Clark:**
 Fort Clark Gate
 69 Red Bud, Unit 36
 111 Red Bud, Unit 36
 153 Cenizo Circle, Unit 37
 Blankenship Residence,
 Mulberry Street
 Daly Residence, 42 Plaza
 Menorca, Unit 14
 Rueda Residence:
 Fort Clark Road
 Home at the Corner of Warrior &
 Pompey
 Home at 257 Shafter
 Home at 241 Shafter
 Home at 386 Bliss Circle
 Crowe Residence, Unit 1

BISD CALENDER OF EVENTS
 December 22-27: School Holiday
 December 27: VG Basketball at Sabinal at 5:00 p.m.
 December 28-30: School Holiday
 December 30: JVG, VG, VB District Basketball vs. Charlotte starting at 12:00 p.m.
 January 2-3: School Holiday
 January 3: JVG, JVB, VG, VB District Basketball at La Pryor at 10:00 a.m.
 January 4-5: School Holiday

THANK YOU
 Thank you to Rio Grande Electric, D & D Hardware and Jan Lee for your donations to the Nutrition Center. Merry Christmas!

PICTURES WITH SANTA
 Bring your child/children by the Public Library on Thursday Dec. 22 between 5:30 & 7:30 PM for a picture with Santa, help them work on a craft and enjoy some refreshments. For more details you may contact the library @ 830-563-2884

ST. ANDREW'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH
 Christmas Eve Service, 5:00pm Christmas readings & music

PARKINSON SUPPORT GROUP
 Second Thursday of every month 7:00pm at 212 Bowlegs, Fort Clark Springs McNurlins: call: 830-563-9587 for directions
 If you have Parkinson disease or similar movement disorder, or are the spouse or partner of someone who does, please join us. We are starting a new support group at Fort Clark, for people in the Brackettville/Fort Clark area. It will give us an opportunity to learn about the latest findings to help with this disease. We are also here to help each other as we travel on this journey. There is new technology and medicines being developed everyday. Join us an please call if you have questions.

8 vie for positions on Fort; DOO resigns

By Leigh Castillo
 Contributing Writer

Fort Clark Springs Association Board of Directors accepted a list of candidates from its election committee at a Regular meeting on December 17.
 Hattie Bertleth, Larry Farlow, Henry Garcia, Debbie Isaacs, Karen Peak, Roby Roberson, Ralph Sallade and Lee Winchell will all vie for the four open positions on this year's ballot. Fort Clark administrators said any others wanting to have their name on the

ballot can do so by petition until January 10, 2012. Election results will be announced at the Annual Membership meeting on March 31, 2012.
 The directors voted against the purchase of two maintenance vehicles in a 3-2 split. Directors Debbie Isaacs, Steve Gibling and Garland Young opposed the purchase, while Henry Garcia and Larry Farlow were in favor of it.
 The Art Club renewed its contract with the Fort for use of the building, located on the upper

floor of the Motorpool facility, where it currently houses its studio and gallery. The club agreed to lease the building for one year for \$600.
 Directors voted to support a resolution submitted by Chris Hale, a property co-owner and member of FCSA. The resolution reads the Fort would support the Texas Water Development Board (TWDB) - Groundwater Management Area 10's adoption of minimum water levels that would protect the Las Moras Spring. The resolution

also included a section the Fort would accept contributions from unknown sources to hire an expert hydrologist for the purpose of presenting scientific evidence to the TWDB in January, 2012. The TWDB will host a hearing regarding a petition presented by Grass Valley Inc, a water marketing company, that has challenged the Desired Future Conditions (DFC) as adopted by the TWDB. The DFC is the minimum spring and monitoring well levels set by the TWDB for the next fifty years.

Director of Operations Ron Stuard submitted his resignation of employment. Stuard said he was leaving the area and cited personal reasons for leaving his position effective December 31.
 Two other Fort employees, Mertia Hernandez and Dana Harris, have also submitted their resignations recently. Harris, who worked in the accounting, member services and real estate departments, cited the Fort's lack of health insurance and a retirement plan as her reasons for leaving.

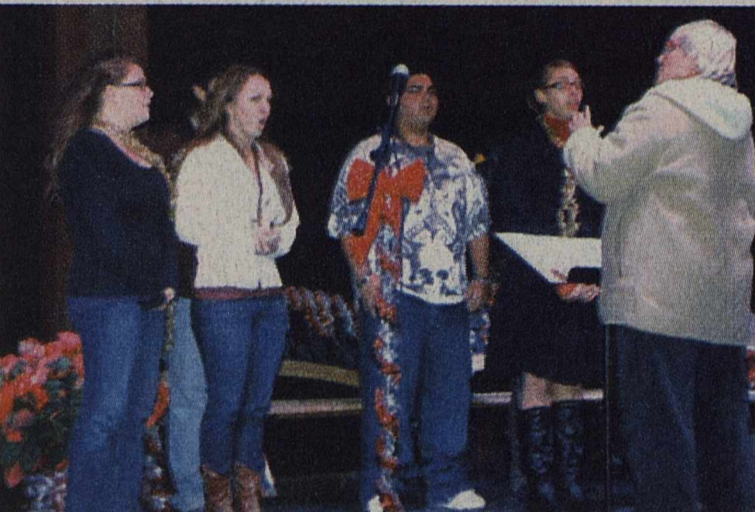
Kinney County Frontier Christmas and Rio Grande Electric host final Christmas event



Photos Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly By Rio Grande Electric -

On left the choir from Frontier Baptist Church and

On the right the BISD Choir sing a few Christmas songs.



Growing up on Ranch Road 674

By P.H. "Fourth" Coates, IV aka "Cuatro"
 Edited by Wren Barrett.

Just past the north-east corner of the Davis Ranch is the Leona Ranch which was owned by W.L. "Bill" Moody, IV of the well known Galveston Moody family. Bill Moody and his first wife, Peggy, lived on the Leona along with their three daughters. He ranched the Leona Ranch and also several others in the county, one being the Texiqite Ranch down in the south end of Kinney County near the Rio Grande River.

I can remember going with my dad and Bill down to the Texiqite Ranch to look at some root plowing Bill had done. Root plowing is a brush eradication method where a large blade type plow is pulled behind a D-8 Caterpillar bulldozer, cutting the roots out from under the brush. The brush is then stacked into piles and burned. Bill Moody was a very innovative rancher, a talent he and my dad shared. For hours they would discuss labor-saving devices or new and innovative ways to make ranching more profitable. In my opinion, they were true pioneers of the modern day ranching industry.

Bill Moody's second wife was Darlene, a Hollywood starlet Bill met and brought back to the Leona along with her daughter Valerie. At first, poor Darlene was a fish out of water for sure! I remember the time Bill brought Darlene over to our ranch for her first introduction to the Coates family. My mother was trying so hard to be proper and use good etiquette. As I recall everything went pretty well until we decided to go watch our horse breaker work with the colts. Darlene was wearing a very stylish pair of short leather boots with white fur lining

around the tops. While she and mom were looking through the fence at the show our horse breaker was putting on, I noticed that our old border collie, "Boy", became very interested in Darlene's boots. After sniffing the stylish fur-lined boots a time or two, ole "Boy" lifted his leg and squirted them with a fair amount of dog juice. When Darlene figured out what was happening, she screamed bloody murder, while mom had a fit and chased ole Boy away, kicking and throwing rocks at him the whole time! We didn't see ole Boy for two or three days after that. At first I was scared to laugh about it, but eventually Darlene, being a good sport about the ordeal, made it one of her favorite "Welcome to Texas" stories. You know, I don't think I ever saw Darlene wear those fur-lined boots to the ranch again!

Mom and Darlene quickly became great friends. Darlene was either at our house or mom was at hers at least two or three times a week during those days. Drinking coffee was a social event for ranching families, and as I recall everyone drank coffee. I probably started drinking coffee-milk at age four or five. Darlene introduced us to a California variation called iced coffee. I remember mom and Darlene and the other ladies drinking iced coffee at "42" and "Bridge" parties back in the day; they thought they were so cool!

Darlene's daughter, Valerie, was a couple of years younger than me and became like my kid sister because we spent so much time together. When Bill and Darlene would go on trips, Valerie would usually stay at our house. Valerie also rode the bus with us and many times she would come to our house after school because Darlene would

typically be over at our ranch drinking coffee with mom. My sister, Debbie, was three-and-a-half years older than me, but used to play Cowboys and Indians and fort building with Valerie and me. I distinctly remember the day, hour and minute that practice came to a screeching halt for Debbie. We had just attended Mrs. Harwood's annual piano recital and dance at the Brackettville Country Club. Debbie had caught the eye of several of the older boys and her dance card was full that night. Earlier that day, we had been fort building and it was quite warm so we were all pretty sweaty and grimy. Debbie had her long brown hair in braids and was wearing an old black felt hat and grubby jeans. We had just completed our fort project for the day, a tree house complete with a roof, ladder and a rope escape hatch, when we heard a car coming down 674 and slowing down to turn in our front cattle guard. Since we were up in the tree house, we were hidden, but we could see the occupants of any vehicle that happened to drive past. Debbie's face went ashen when she recognized two of the boys she had been dancing with the night before. Jack "Bubba" Whitworth and Frank T. Higgins were turning onto the road leading up to our house. I guess you could say she was panic stricken and was frantically trying to figure a way to get in the house without being seen. We sneaked back to the barn and hid until they drove off. That ended Debbie's fort building and tomboy days, something Valerie and I could not understand at the time.

The Moody ranch had one of the nicest ranch headquarters in the whole county at the time. It was a large 1960s ranch-style



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly

hacienda made out of rock with three or four separate wings for guests and servants. There was also a horse stable, a large swimming pool, tennis courts and a paved airstrip with an airplane-hanger. The road was partially paved up to the house and it had a circular drive with two carports for 6 or 7 vehicles. Summertime was a great time to visit and swim in their pool. For me, it was like visiting a very posh hotel or resort.

Bill Moody had a very nice library of books in the formal living room of their hacienda. Bill was an Edgar Rice Burroughs fan and had every book Burroughs wrote about Tarzan. I would check them out one at a time, and give Bill a

short oral book report about each book per his request. Evidently Bill's daughters had no interest in Tarzan, so it seemed to please him that I did!
 Bill Moody was a pilot and flew a Twin Bonanza. Dad was also a pilot and loved airplanes, so they went on several trips together in Bill's Twin Bonanza. When Bill paved his landing strip, he left his Twin at our ranch for about a week. I remember we drove some pipes into the ground at the end of our landing strip to tie it down in case the wind got up. We also had to build a fence around it to keep the horses from chewing the tail up. It seems that horses like the taste of airplane tails. Continued on Page 4

Mr. Brackett says....

We wish to share a Christmas thought from Agnes M. Pharo with everyone....

What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a passionate wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace.

Merry Christmas and Feliz Navidad,

With hope the New Year brings renewal to our city. We hope that everyone who lives in Brackettville dedicates themselves to seeing our city put right.

PAID ADVERTISEMENT BY P.O.P.

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. lalalucyddl
2. guitar
3. horse

Love,
Breanna Q.

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. train
2. trucks
3. CARS

Love,
Cord W

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. Baby Doll
2. Book
3. Deer

Love,
Abigail Frets

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. crayons
2. football
3. Toy Story toys

Love,
Andrew

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. BEAR
2. Ball
3. Mario

Love,
Makyla

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. Monster Truck
2. Toy gun
3. Bike

Love,
Troy S.

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. A Diddle bear
2. A Build a bear
3. A stuffed animal

Love,
Nicole

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. Mya front teeth
2. a teddy bear
3. a rocking horse

Love,
David Diaz

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. A Lala Lappo
2. a horse
3. a big stuffed animal

Love,
Desiree

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. legos
2. linkin logs
3. and a dog

Love,
Tyler Perez

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. Jack w the Box
2. Toy Airplane
3. Toy paper

Love,
Army

Dear Santa,

All I want for Christmas is

1. Woody
2. car
3. boat

Love,
Alex Short


All Santa Letters from the Kinney County Christmas Frontier Festival will be posted on our Facebook page: Brackett News Weekly.


Merry Christmas

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NHS Fundraiser Benefits Local Food Pantry



Submitted by BISD

The Brackett High School National Honor Society members would like to thank everyone that contributed to our fall fundraiser to benefit the Kinney County Church Alliance Benevolence Fund, which supports the local food pantry. We are pleased to announce that a check for \$1003 was presented on Friday!

Thank you again to everyone for your help, and we hope you will continue to support our fundraisers.

BISD Employee of the Week



MARY M. HERNANDEZ
Custodian, Brackett High School

Six Things About Me You Probably Didn't Know...

1. I was born in Brackettville.
2. My dream is to some day go to Hawaii.
3. That I once went to Germany on vacation.
4. That I have gone to Washington state twice in one year.
5. My favorite food is pot roast.
6. I used to be a beautician.

CDI Head Start visits KC Fire and EMS

Brackett News Weekly Photo by Ashley Castillo Sandoval- On December 16th, Head Start took a Field Trip to the Kinney County Fire Dept. and EMS Station. Pictured back row from left: Director Julia Terrazas, Jacobo Pena, Troy Sandoval, Efrain Talamantes, Hilario Garcia Jr., Kouvarious Cook, Nikolaus Villanueva, Alejandro Short, Aylin Duran, Joe Villanueva Jr., Shanadoah Tajchman, Claudia Garcia and City Manager Henry Garcia. Front row from left: Sparky, Jon Rockow, Phil Garcia, Bryan Fisher and Eric Titchenell.



Tigers prepare for District - Tigerettes win district opener

By Ashley Castillo Sandoval Contributing Writer
Stats submitted by Coach Almanza, Coach Voyles and Coach Marquardt

Brackett High School's Junior Varsity boys hosted Rocksprings on December 13.

The JV Tigers scored 4 points in the first quarter, 10 in the 2nd, 9 in the 3rd and 7 in the 4th. Scoring for the JV Tigers were Daniel Brinker (11 points), Blake Duncan (8 points), Saul Talamantes (5 points), Christian Quiroz (4 points) and Jose Falcon (2 points).

On December 20th, the JV boys travelled to Comstock to take on the Panthers. The Tigers defeated the Panthers 54-30.

The Tigers scored 7 points in the 1st quarter, 16 in the 2nd, 10 in the 3rd, 21 in the 4th. Scoring for the team was Saul Talamantes 18, Matt Gutierrez 14, Tony Flores 6, Daniel Brinker 5, Blake Duncan 4, Jose Falcon 3, Christian Quiroz and Gil Turner 2 each. The JV Tigers record is 3-3.

The Varsity Tigers competed in the Medina Tournament on December 15th and 17th.

In the opening round, the Tigers fell to Medina 68-54. Brackett tallied 8 points in the first quarter, 13 in the 2nd, 17 in the 3rd and 16 in the 4th. Leading the Tigers in scoring was Jonathon Quiroz with 17 points. Also scoring for the Ti-

gers were Erbey Martinez (12 points), Joelson Terrazas (9 points), EZ Rivas (7 points), Edgar DeLeon (6 points), Chris Cruz (3 points).

The second round of the Medina Tournament the Tigers faced Comfort, defeating them in a close game 42-41. Leading the Tigers was Erbey Martinez with 15 points. Also scoring for the Tigers were Jonathon Quiroz 8, Brandon Sandoval 6, Joelson Terrazas 5, Edgar DeLeon and Chris Cruz 3, and EZ Rivas 2.

In the final game at the Medina Tournament, the Tigers faced San Antonio Stacey, falling short 42-40. Leading the Tigers was Edgar DeLeon with 12 points. Also scoring for the Tigers were Erbey Martinez 9, Joelson Terrazas and Chris Cruz 7 each and Brandon Sandoval 5. The Tigers record is 9-4.

On December 20th the Tigers travelled to Comstock to take on the panthers, defeating them 46-40.

The Tigers scored 14 points in the 1st quarter, 7 in the 2nd, 14 in the 3rd and 11 in the 4th.

Scoring for the Tigers was Joelson Terrazas with 24 points, Brandon Sandoval, Erbey Martinez and Edgar DeLeon 6 each, Johnathon Quiroz and Chris Cruz 2 each. Their record is 10-4.

The Tigers next game will be the district opener, Fri. Dec 30th home vs. Charlotte.

The JV Girls played Jourdanon Freshmen on Friday, December 16th and won 35-19 with a record of 6-3.

Scorers: Vyviana Flores 8, Tea Sandoval and Natasha Samaniego 6, Marlinda Rivas 7, Peyton Bonner 4, Sierra Falcon and August Stephenson 2.

Steals: Vyviana Flores and Marlinda Rivas 5, August Stephenson, Peyton Bonner, and Natasha Samaniego 3, Denise Salmon and Sierra Falcon 2.

Assists: Peyton Bonner 3, Vyviana Flores 3, Sierra Falcon, Natasha Samaniego, Marlinda Rivas 1.

High Rebounder: Marlinda Rivas 6.

This was the first time we reached each of our 3 team goals. 35 points, 23 rebounds, and 25 steals.

On Tuesday, December 20th, the JV Basketball girls defeated Gervin 25-18, winning their first district game of the season.

Scorers: Vyviana Flores 8, August Stephenson 6, Natasha Samaniego 4, Sierra Falcon, Rivers Maddox, Marlinda Rivas 2, Peyton Bonner 1.

Steals: Natasha Samaniego 7, Peyton Bonner 6, August Stephenson, Kelsey Molano, Rivers Maddox 3, Vyviana Flores, Karina Perez 2, Jackie Yandel, Tea Sandoval, Marlinda Rivas 1.

Assists: Vyviana Flores and Peyton Bonner 2.

Rebounds: Tea Sandoval 6, August Stephenson 5, Peyton Bonner 4, Nadia Rodriguez 3, Sierra Falcon, Karina Perez and Marlinda Rivas 2 Our record is 7-3 overall and 1-0 in District.

The Varsity Tigerettes also won their first district game against Gervin 50-5.

In the first quarter the Tigerettes tallied 11 points, 8 in the 2nd, 19 in the 3rd and 12 in the 4th.

Leading scorer was Jaelyn Abbey with 18 points, Maddie Frerich 10 points, Selina Gerardo 6 points, Mercedes Ocasio and Shelby Shuster 4 points each, McKenzie Castillo and Clarissa Cruz 3 points each, Meghan Flores 2 points.

Leading offensive rebounder was Maddie Frerich, McKenzie Castillo and Meghan Flores all with 3 rebounds each. Jaelyn Abbey, Selina Gerardo, Clarissa Cruz and Shelby Shuster had 2 each.

Leading defensive rebounder was Shelby Shuster with 3 rebounds, Selina Gerardo and Clarissa Cruz 2 each, Meghan Flores 1.

Leading in steals was Clarissa Cruz with 5 steals. Jaelyn Abbey, Mercedes Ocasio and Selina Gerardo 4 each, McKenzie Castillo 3, Maddie Frerich and Meghan Flores 1 each. The Tigerettes are 1-0 in district and will go on to play the Sabinal Lady Jackets on December 27th.

STUCO makes puppets for children's hospital



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - The Brackett High School Student Council sponsored a project to make hand puppets for the children at Christa Santa Rosa Children's hospital in San Antonio. Student Council members, as well as art class members and student volunteers, created puppets and wrote short stories for each puppet. I am sending a picture of some of the students and puppets. We delivered the puppets in time for Christmas. The Student Council is sponsored by Mrs. Kathy Bader

October Authors of the Month

Charlie the Bionic Chipmunk
Part 1
Madison Haynes
5th Grade

It was one average day in a not-so average school called Greengurgie Intermediate School. Right now they were in the middle of their 3rd annual science fair. It was Henry Gray's turn to present his idea to the rest of the school. The day before the science fair he had done bionical surgery on his class pet, Charlie, a Chipmunk and had succeeded in doing so!! He brought the chipmunk to the table and told everybody the advantages for the new bionic Charlie. Charlie was super smart he couldn't speak but he could write notes in different languages. In fact he had super speed, excellent hearing, could jump buildings and become as light as air. But just then Charlie betrayed Henry and flew cut a window leaving behind a note: Henry, I have gone to other places in hopes of motivating other animals with "gifts." If you need me just call me. I will be resting on the clouds, waiting. And that was the last anybody heard of Charlie, the bionic chipmunk.

The Bat Who Couldn't Fly
By: Luis Guajardo
3rd Grade

Once upon a time there was a bat named Quest and he couldn't fly.

He was only seven years old. He tried flying but it didn't work. He even took flying classes but he still couldn't fly. 3 days later... POWW! His dad was shot and the hunters who shot him set the forest on fire.

Quest's home fell so he tried to fly. He said to himself "This is for you dad," then he started flying. He said "WHOOOO!"

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continued from page 1

I remember one instance when Bill and Darlene flew mom and dad to Las Vegas for a weekend trip. Of course the most memorable trip in the "Twin" was when Bill and Happy Shahan flew out to California to convince John Wayne to film The Alamo at Brackettville rather than in Mexico as he had originally planned. The story goes that Happy told the Duke that if he shot the movie in Mexico, no one in Texas would come and the publicity would be so bad no one in the U.S. would buy a ticket to see it. Poor "ole" John Wayne lost his shirt on The Alamo anyway. Supposedly, he had to take bankruptcy after spending 12 million dollars to build the set and film the movie. He might have come out alright if the building up at Fort Clark where he was storing the exposed film hadn't burned to the ground half way through the filming of the epic adventure... he had to reshoot every scene! My cousin, Tim Ward, recently bought that same building and is now slowly restoring it.

Galveston when Valerie was in her early teens. Bill was involved in the Moody's American National Insurance Company as well as the Moody's banks and hotels so his duties required him to move back to the original Moody base of power in Galveston. For the next several years, even in my college days, we would visit the Moody family and stay with them at their home. My sister, Debbie, had her first teaching job at Galveston and her first marriage was to a man from there. Bill still owns a ranch in Kinney County, El Rancho Rio Grande, located on the Rio Grande River on the far southern boundary of Kinney County and Old Mexico. Bill built a large hacienda out of adobe bricks as well as a Mexican-style village where several movies have been filmed, the most famous being the Lonesome Dove television mini-series starring Robert Duval and Tommy Lee Jones. My experiences with the Moody family left me some great memories and certainly exposed me to a lifestyle that broadened my horizons!

Bill and Darlene moved to

KC Fire Department Santa



Brackett News Weekly Photo By Leigh Castillo - Kinney County Fire Department Santa Rick Alvarado rides aboard Fire Truck E-1 heading to Jones Elementary to take pictures with the students on December 21.

Texas State University System gangs up to curb invasion of non-native species



Invader caught - Dr. Daniel Foley, Associate Professor of Biology at Rio Grande College, snags one of the thousands of pesky tropical catfish that are overtaking native species in Del Rio's San Felipe Creek. With its experience in studying ways to control such invaders, RGC is well positioned - like the other nine campuses in the Texas State University System - to be part of a centralized program to identify, assess and rapidly move to eradicate destructive such alien species. RGC Photo

Submitted by: Robert Parvin SRSU Rio Grande College Media

Balmy Texas, because of its many seaports and busy points of entry along the Border, plays an unfortunate role as the inadvertent host to more invasive non-native species than any other state.

They sneak in as a few then multiply to become the billions, as is the case with insects like red fire ants from South America, whose teeming mounds now span the southern half of the United States. The ever-growing hit list includes feral hogs, destroyers of croplands; the Raspberry Crazy Ant, whose attraction to electronics has shorted out computers at NASA and the power grid of a major chemical plant; and Giant Salvinia, an aquatic menace from Brazil that is strangling the life out of waterways and reservoirs in Texas and around the world.

These are among the more

than 800 invasive aquatic and terrestrial species that have so far found The Lone Star State a mostly unguarded gateway to North America. They've caused untold billions of dollars in damages as they settle in to their new home.

But now that the scientific resources of the Texas State University System are in collaboration to draw a line of defense across the breadth of the state, the invaders that have been so easily slipping through our borders are up against detection and restraint measures like they've never seen.

Before recent initiatives by ten-campus TSUS to become a sort of "central intelligence agency" for invasive species suppression, little effort was made to coordinate and streamline the programs of a dozen or so state and federal agencies that had been focused on their own pest species targets.

Texas Parks & Wildlife has

for years waged war against invasive water plants. Texas A&M has been trying to exterminate fire ants since they hopped the Sabine River some four decades ago.

There is a Texas Invasive Plant and Pest Control Council with a web site but no ability to act on the information it gets. The newly-mandated Texas Invasive Species Coordinating Committee makes policy, not war on pests.

Now, Sul Ross State University and Rio Grande College, along with their sister campuses in the Texas State University System (TSUS), are literally at the forefront of program set on early detection and rapid response to invasive species. The university system's so-called Institute for the Study of Invasive Species (ISIS) aims to fill the gap in dealing with unwanted plants and creatures via a centralized effort to assess, monitor, contain, and control or kill off species before they wreak havoc. Every entity involved with non-native species at any level will operate with the ISIS in strategic partnerships. The collaborative program will headquarter at Sam Houston State University, Huntsville.

From Sul Ross' hometown, Alpine, to the Southeast Texas campuses of Lamar State University, the TSUS institutions stand west-to-east line across the state. They are situated in half of Texas' environmental provinces. Experience already gained by their more than 40 science faculty members in the investigation and control of invasive species considerably adds to the value of at-the-ready resources TSUS can add to the fight.

"Creation of the institute (ISIS) is urgently important from two different perspectives," explains Dr. Daniel Foley from the fully-equipped biology lab at Rio

Grande College/Del Rio. In recent years, Dr. Foley and his students conducted studies to control the takeover San Felipe Creek by an introduced tropical fish. They are currently studying the introduction of natural predators to help eradicate the non-native *Carrizo* (giant cane) crowding the banks of other streams.

"First," he continues, "From a biological standpoint, invasive species typically decrease species diversity - a global concern. But more urgent are the billions of dollars in destruction they cause."

Foley cites the zebra mussel that has come from abroad water systems around the Great Lakes and the swarm of Asian silver carp into heretofore balanced stream systems of the Mississippi drainage. Closer to home, he foresees how the ISIS could rapidly respond to the suppression of a new leafhopper that has recently crossed into Texas from southwest Louisiana, where it has left sugarcane fields and pastures decimated.

"In such a case, the ISIS would operate like a kind of central intelligence agency, with action teams from the various state universities ready to act when the bad guys are first noticed," Dr. Foley explains.

The ISIS is almost ready for takeoff. Its objectives, staffing and budget have been carefully planned. But the estimated \$1.5 million in federal funds to fully support the program has yet to be okayed.

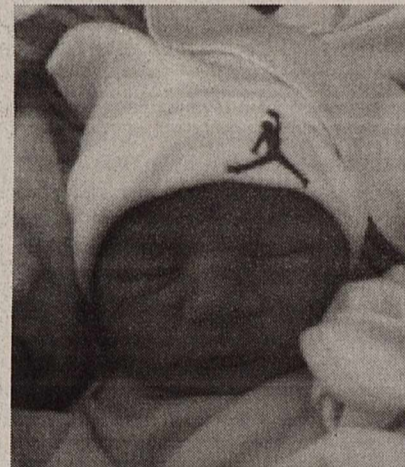
"Quite honestly, our elected officials are currently so wound up about government costs, this proposal might not make it this time around," Dr. Foley explains. "Yet the longer we put off solutions to our multi-billion-dollar pest problem, the more it'll cost down the line...in dollars, diversity and the wellbeing of humanity."

Cerna receives Masters from SRSU



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - Stephanie Cerna awarded a Masters of Education degree from Sul Ross State University Rio Grande College at the commencement ceremony held in Uvalde on Saturday, Dec. 17, 2011.

It's a Boy



Daulton Woodson and Roxy Gomez are proud parents to baby boy Bryson Everett Woodson.

Bryson Everett was born on Saturday, November 19, 2011, in Del Rio.

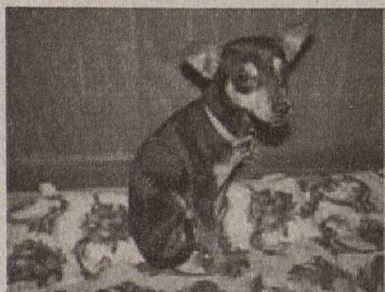
Baby Everett weighed 7 pounds, 2 ounces and was 20 inches in length.

Bryson Everett was welcomed into the world by maternal grandparents Sylvia Gutierrez and Raymond Gomez, of Brackettville.

Paternal Grandparents Rory and Maria Woodson, of Brackettville. Paternal Great Grandparents Donald and Linda Woodson, also of Brackettville.

Thank you family and friends for all the wonderful support and gifts that we received.

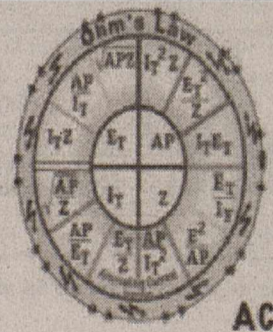
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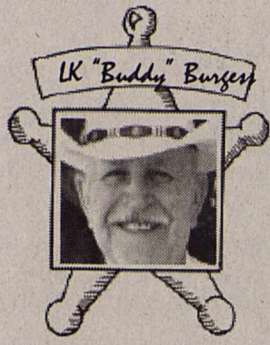
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Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Monday, December 12
Barry Perryman, 33, of Fort Clark Springs, was arrested on an outstanding warrant for possession of cocaine. Perryman was released the next day after

posting a \$3,000 bond. Fort Clark Security called to report some trucks tearing up the greens on the golf course.

A caller reported a single car accident at El Paso and Sheedy streets.

Tuesday, December 13
A woman called to report a loose cow west on town on Highway 90.

A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at a ranch on FM 2804.

Wednesday, December 14
A manager at a convenience store called to report she had found some marijuana.

An employee of a restaurant called to report a man inside the establishment that had too much to drink.

Thursday, December 15
A woman called to report a lost cell phone. A deputy called the cell phone number and the person who answered it would not identify themselves.

A man called to report some kids throwing rocks at his house.

A man reported he lost his wallet and passport in Hawaii and was told by the Hawaiian police to make a report at his local sheriff's department.

Friday, December 16

A caller reported loud music near West Rose Alley.

A caller reported an abandoned vehicle on Highway 90, near 3008

Saturday, December 17
A caller reported some hunters tried to run over a boy jogging near the Red Bridge on the Fort.

A woman requested a deputy's assistance in regards to a reckless driver that was repeatedly passing by her house.

Sunday, December 18
At 2:35 a.m. and again at 4:58 a.m. A caller reported loud music on Sweeny Street.

BNW goes to High School Football State Championship



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - Tony and Nancy Frerich attended the Football State Championship at Cowboy Stadium in Arlington. The 1A 11-Man Division game was between the Mason Punchers and the Stamford Bulldogs. Mason winning the State Championship 62-40. Submit photos of you and the BNW to tbnews@sbcglobal.net.

Kluzek graduates from LSU Commissioned 2nd Lt. in US Marines



Submitted by Kathy Kluzek
On Thursday, December 15th, Joshua Kluzek was commissioned as a 2nd Lt. in the United States Marines. On Friday, December 16th, he graduated from Louisiana State Uni-

versity with a bachelor of science degree. We are so proud of him, of his willing to serve in the military, and we have so much honor and gratitude for what he has chosen to do with his life.

Cooking tips for the Holidays

Submitted by Statepoint

The holiday season is upon us, which means you may be preparing food for more than your usual crowd. You're going to want your main dishes to impress your guests, and your desserts and sides to wow your hosts.

But you don't need a culinary degree to turn heads. These cooking tips will help you to keep the crowd pleased all season long:

- If you want to keep your friends and family safe, without leaving your poultry and pot roasts dry, invest in an instant-read thermometer. It's the best way to tell when meat is cooked to a safe internal temperature without overcooking.

- Using seasonal ingredients is the best way to ensure freshness and optimum taste. Online tools can help you identify what's in season in your region any time of year. When fresh produce isn't available, use preserved fruits and vegetables.

- Give your salsa dips an extra appetizing kick by roasting your own chili peppers. Forgo the broiler and opt for a gas stovetop, which allows you to get close enough to the flame to char the peel faster and prevent overcooking.

- But be sure to cook with a blue flame. A yellow flame indicates inefficient heating. Cooking with natural gas is also a great way to save money during the holidays. Gas cooking is 92 percent efficient compared to 32 percent when cooking with electric, according to the Council for Responsible Energy. More information can be found by visiting www.comfortableresponsible.org and clicking on "cooking."

- Make candy at home! The results will be far more delicious than anything store bought. Keep a stash of extracts like cinnamon, vanilla, mint, and cherry on hand, but be sure to wash your measuring spoons thoroughly between flavors. Remember, candy making is a precise science, so a gas stove, which allows you to precisely control temperature, is ideal.

- It may be too cold for barbecuing, but bringing a campfire inside makes for a fun activity that can involve your guests. Grab some skewers and some Graham crackers and make some stovetop s'mores. Be sure to supervise the little ones though as a marshmallows can catch fire.

The holidays are the time to strut your stuff in the kitchen. So have fun with it!

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Tracy O. King and family

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404 El Paso St.

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
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Weekends: Sat: 5:30 PM Sun: 8 AM (Spanish) 10:30 AM
Spofford - Sunday: 1 PM
Parish Priest Father Pius Ezeigbo

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Evangelical Lutheran Church of America
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Pastor Dick Reinap

First United Methodist Church
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Worship 10:45 Staffed Nursery
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First Baptist Church
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• Choir practice 5 pm • Evening Service 6pm
Wednesday: Evening Service 6 pm Youth 6:30 pm
301 N. Ann • Pastor Jeff Janca • Ph: 830.563.2245

WELCOME! Church of Christ
808 N. Ann • 830.563.2616
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Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes
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Come to the Frontier
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9:45 am Bible Study/Sunday School
11:00 am Worship Service
6pm Sunday Evening Service
Corner of Ann & El Paso • Pastor Ned Sitzes • 830.563.5529

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
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Sunday Evening family Night 6pm
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Debbie Trant Agent-Owner, Lawrence Mendive-Broker

New Listing: 1220 Fort Clark Rd: nice 2/2 stone home in immaculate condition. Choice location on golf course. Open kitchen/den, screened porch, patio & more!

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Unit 36: Rv property with small apt, now just \$28,500!

122 Lamotte: nice 3/2 home, FP, carport, fenced yard, will lease

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Accounts Payable Clerk II Brackettville, TX Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RGENC) is seeking to hire a fulltime Accounting Clerk for employment at its headquarters in Brackettville. The minimum education requirement for this position is a high school diploma or equivalent. Prior experience in general accounting, purchase order and work order processing are required. Basic computer knowledge and the ability to utilize Excel and Word are essential. Must be organized, detailed oriented and capable of meeting deadlines in a fast paced office environment. Wage is commensurate with experience; inquiries about salary & benefits should be directed to the Human Resource Department. Applications may be picked up at any RGENC office or may be requested by calling 830.563.2444. Completed applications must be returned to Human Resource Department, PO Box 1509, Brackettville, Texas 78832. RGENC is an EOE.

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4/2 ON ANN STREET-large corner lot with pecan trees, 2 fireplaces, enclosed porches, remodeled kitchen and bathrooms. Only \$129,995!

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NOTICE TO CONTRACTORS OF PROPOSED TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION (TxDOT) CONTRACTS

Sealed proposals for contracts listed below will be received by TxDOT until the date(s) shown below, and then publicly read.

CONSTRUCTION/MAINTENANCE/BUILDING FACILITIES CONTRACT(S) Dist/Div: Laredo Contract 1229-01-055 for ONE CRSE SURF TREAT & PAV MARKINGS in MAVERICK County, etc will be opened on January 04, 2012 at 1:00 pm at the State Office. Plans and specifications are available for inspection, along with bidding proposals, and applications for the TxDOT Prequalified Contractor's list, at the applicable State and/or Dist/Div Offices listed below.

If applicable, bidders must submit prequalification information to TxDOT at least 10 days prior to the bid date to be eligible to bid on a project. Prequalification materials may be requested from the State Office listed below. Plans for the above contract(s) are available from TxDOT's website at www.txdot.gov and from reproduction companies at the expense of the contractor. NPO: 38704 State Office Constr./ Maint. Division 200 E. Riverside Dr. Austin, Texas 78704 Phone: 512-416-2540 Dist/Div Office(s) Laredo District District Engineer 1817 Bob Bullock Loop Laredo, Texas 78043 Phone: 956-712-7400 Minimum wage rates are set out in bidding documents and the rates will be part of the contract. TxDOT ensures that bidders will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color, sex, or national origin.

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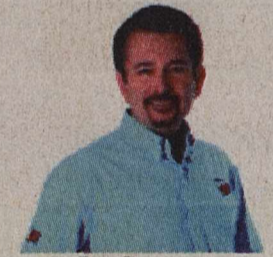
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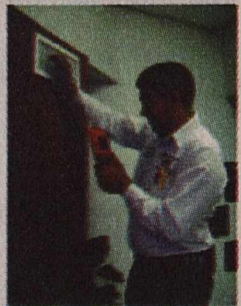
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