



Brackett News

WEEKLY

TX DOT
Wildflower
Program
See Page 4

Thursday, March 22, 2012

Volume 24, No. 7

Kinney County is Home to Vanessa Martinez and Dana Johnson - Happy Birthday!

1 Section, 8 Pages

KINNEY COUNTY NEWS

OLD QUARRY SOCIETY UPDATE. Due to a traffic accident that seriously injured a principal cast member, it is with great disappointment that we are forced to postpone our scheduled performance of "Catfish Moon." But we are pleased to announce a replacement show for our season finale--the renowned BORDERLINE SINGERS, in concert at the Post Theater, Saturday March 31 at 7:30pm. Bring your season ticket or \$5 and be ready for a rollicking good time! www.oldquarrysociety.org

UMPIRE CLINIC
KC Little League is holding an umpire clinic for anyone interested in umpiring games this season. March 23 at 10:45 am at the KC Public Library. \$5 donation. For more info call EZ Rivas 830.563.0223.

BHS EVENTS
March 23- HS Tennis at Sabinal
OAP UIL Zone 3 Competition at SWTJC
V Baseball at Del Rio
March 24- HS UIL Academics Meet at Medina
March 27- V District Baseball at D'Hanis at 4:30 p.m.
Softball at LaPryor
March 28- FCA at 8 p.m. in the new gym
March 29- HS Track meet at Brackett

JONES ELEMENTARY SCHOOL EVENTS FOR WEEK OF:
March 22nd - NO TUTORIALS/ Parent Contact Day
March 23rd - Award Assemblies: 1:00 K- 3rd & 2:00 4th - 6th
March 26th thru 29th - NO TUTORIALS/ STAAR Testing
March 27th - STAAR Testing for 5th Grade Math & 4th Grade Writing Day 1
March 28th - STAAR Testing for 5th Grade Reading & 4th Grade Writing Day 2

CORRECTION
On Page 4 in the March 15 edition of the paper, Second paragraph under Kinney County Election, it read Martin Garcia, Jr. (D) filed by petition to challenge Dodson. However, Garcia's first application to run was denied and Garcia submitted and second application and paid a fee. Please forgive the error.

STATUS OF NEW VOTER REGISTRATION CARDS
By: Martha Peña Padron, Tax Assessor-Collector/VR
Kinney County Commissioners approved new political boundaries, polling places, election precinct boundaries by adopting Redistricting Plan on January 30, 2012 for the 2012 Primary Election. Implementation of this plan shall not take place until the receipt of pre-clearance approval by the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). All previously issued blue voter registration certificates expired on Dec. 31, 2011, but only the card expired. Only those voters who have changed addresses or names need to complete a new application. Voters currently registered to vote will automatically be mailed new yellow voter registration cards to replace the blue cards that expired, no later than April 25, 2012. In order to verify if you are currently registered to vote, please visit votetexas.gov. Please contact my office at 563-2688 if you have any questions.

New AC director; Sheriff gets \$1.8 mil

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

Kinney County Commissioners appointed Anita Ertle as the new Aging Center Site Director at a Regular meeting on March 19.

Ertle is an experienced business woman and former owner of Brackett Burger and Shake. According to the 2011 Kinney County Budget, the salary for the position is \$20,800.

The Aging Center provides a variety of services for the elderly, including the service of a free or low cost meal Monday through Friday.

Kinney County Sheriff's Deputy Cordelia Mendeke and

compliance liaison to the Kinney County Detention Center reported the facility housed 341 prisoners as of Monday morning. Mendeke later asked for the commissioners to consider allowing the detention center to use one of their metal detection machines. The matter is expected to be placed on a future agenda.

Kinney County Judge Tim Ward reported Mr. and Mrs. Neal Simmons, of Fort Clark Springs and local restaurateurs, suggested the kitchen appliances, including two convection ovens and two commercial that were replaced at the detention center be installed at the Kinney County Civic Center.

Ward said the equipment was currently in storage.

The commissioners approved the repairs and replacement of the roof and the air conditioning unit at the Kinney County Library. Ward said the roof was leaking badly and the main air conditioning unit was original to the building constructed in 1984. Librarian Sarah Terrazas added tarps have to be placed over the computers at night to prevent water from the leaking roof from damaging them. Terrazas also stated the carpet in one of the offices had to be pulled up after mildew had ruined it.

Commissioners approved an agreement for the City of

Brackettville and Brackett ISD to lease the AutoMark and M100 Scanner voting machines. The city and school district will each have to pay \$1,490, for the use of the equipment.

Kinney County Sheriff LK Buddy Burgess' request to apply for \$1.8 million from the federal Stonegarden Grant was approved. The grant money will be used to pay salaries for Linebackers, or deputies that support the US Border Patrol along the part of the Rio Grande River in Kinney. The request was approved. Burgess said his grant coordinator does a very good job preparing the paperwork for both Kinney and Uvalde coun-

ties. Uvalde applied for \$2.8 million by "piggy-backing" on Kinney County's grant application. Stonegarden money is for counties that actually border Mexico, but there is a special exception for counties such as Uvalde that do not border Mexico, but are severely affected by overflow crimes.

The meeting was adjourned in the memory of Former County Commissioner John Amos Plunker Sheedy that passed away in March.

Judge Tim Ward and commissioners Woody Massingill, Joe Montalvo and Dennis Dodson were all present. Commissioner Pat Montalvo was absent due to a recent motorcycle accident.

Heart of the County



Brackett News Weekly Photo By Ashley Castillo Sandoval - On March 21, CDI Early Head Start students took a Field Trip to the Kinney County Fire Rescue. Pictured from right: EMS Director Jim Titchenell, Leeland Hidalgo and Juan Garcia.

Our jailhouse rocks

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

Kinney County Sheriff LK Buddy Burgess announced the Texas Commission on Jail Standards (TCOJS) conducted a surprise inspection of the Kinney County Jail, located at 109 North Street in Brackettville. Burgess was pleased the jail was issued its Certificate of Compliance from the inspection conducted on March 6.

"The Certificate of Compliance demonstrates your outstanding leadership and the diligent work of your staff in complying with minimum jail stan-

dards. In addition, this achievement is a direct result of your office's commitment to excellence and is an example of dedication and professionalism in maintaining a safe, secure, and sanitary facility," TCOJS Executive Director Adan Munoz, Jr. said in a congratulatory letter dated March 7.

Burgess said the paperwork involved in operating the jail can be daunting and was happy with Jail Standards Inspector George Johnson's report.

Munoz added, "Providing the essential budgetary support for jail operations is also imperative to achieving compliance."



Brackett News Weekly Photo By Leigh Castillo - Kinney County jailers celebrate the favorable inspection results from the Texas Commission on Jail Standards on March 21. Pictured standing from left: Christi Helvey, Daniel Molinar, Ralph Gonzalez and Jesse Gonzalez. Seated from left: John Samaniego and Sergeant Andrea Garcia. Jailers not pictured: Sylvia Alvarado, Anna Amescua, Lynn Bealefeld, Gerald Lee De Hoyos and Ricky Alvarado.

Bluebonnet Baby



Photo Courtesy To Brackett News Weekly By Mari Montoya - Alexis Anali Montoya, 2, takes in the natural beauty of the Texas Bluebonnets. Alexis is the daughter of Cesar and Maria Montoya, of Brackettville. The photo was taken along the highway between Del Rio and Sonora on March 17. See article on Page 4.

Happy 90th Birthday!



Aqapita S. Morin

March 24, 1922

Happy
Birthday
Mom!

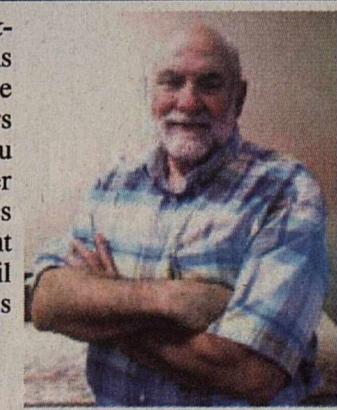
I think it is interesting that our *current Mayor said in her recent ad that she "is against any and all water being sold from the City of Brackettville"*. Guess she never drives by the City fire hydrants at City Hall or the East end of town and sees the tankers filling up with water or else turns a blind eye. Has she forgotten that the City sells water to Spofford as well? I'm confused by what I read and what I see happening. I feel we all have reason to doubt her sincerity. She, along with the current council, were told at a council meeting by the City Manager that the highway workers were using City water for their highway project and that he had set up an account for them with the City to collect money for that water. Did you forget that discussion, Madam Mayor? If you are against selling water, why did you not object then? Wonder if there are arrangements with other individuals or companies and, if the City is collecting monies for that water, *where's the dough?* Since there is no public accounting for any monies collected or spent by the City, we have no way of knowing what happens to monies collected for the sale of water. Is there tracking on the amount of water taken? These are just a few more reasons justifying the need for a change in administration. Remember...I have a plan but I need council support. Vote for the candidates who say they'll support my 12 Point Program and you'll start seeing positive changes in our community. Fear is a strong emotion and it can be manipulated to steer people into making emotional rather than reasoned choices.

Visit my website : <http://www.kentlowerymayor.com>

Early Voting starts April 30th

Election Day May 12th

VOTE LOWERY 4 MAYOR



Paid Pol ad Lowery for Mayor

ADVERTISEMENT SALES 830.563.2852

Email: tbnews@sbcglobal.net

mybrackettnews.com

Find us on Facebook

Brackett News Weekly

Opinion

email us YOUR opinion at tbnews@sbcglobal.net

Letter To The Editor:

Colleges and universities with Agricultural programs have it nailed down right in developing their majors to become future community, county, state and national leaders. It is mandatory in Ag curriculum to take "Speech", which includes conducting meetings according to Robert's Rules of Order. That is the reason that FFA, 4H clubs and 6th grade Citizenship Clubs use this format in conducting their meetings; therefore, assuring the meeting is conducted in a respectful and orderly manner.

According to the "Rule", certain language is required with the chairman as the only person to use the word motion since it becomes the subject to be discussed. The FCS's Board of Directors readopted Robert's Rules of Order after experiencing Sturgis Rules as being too loose. Also, a knowledgeable parliamentarian, Don Parks, was appointed to keep the meetings focused and on task. There were no outburst from board members, which indicates that such conduct is a loss of self control which is a required trait expected of effective leaders.

Every board member, as well as board candidates should familiarize themselves with proper procedures and practice that cardinal rule that their only power is setting policy for the Director of Operations to enforce.

As an individual outside the meeting, the power ceases. The do not "Bird Dog" employees, a sure road to sinking employee morale. They do not visit other board members to advance their personal agendas; however visiting socially is their personal choice.

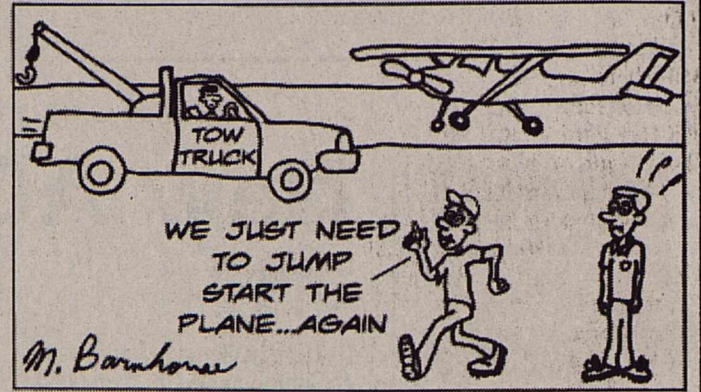
So, if the agricultural leaders have it right in observing proper rules of conduct in their meetings, as well as colleges, universities, FFA, 4H and 6th grade Citizenship clubs. Therefore, shouldn't organizations and associations who have adopted Robert's Rules of Order as their model for meeting follow the proper format? All is take is a little time to study and comprehend the rules and implement them? Is this too much to expect?

Woodie V. Hornburg

Small Town Tom



Mike Barnhouse



Calendar Happiness



Fly Lady Marla Cilley

A couple of years ago Dr. Steven Covey and I were speaking to an audience of over ten thousand people. Before the event he called me to his dressing room and wanted to know just exactly what "The FlyLady" did! I kind of laughed out loud.

I told Dr. Covey to think of it like this. Once my ladies graduate from FlyLady they can understand his planner. I still don't think he could grasp how anyone could not comprehend how to use his planner.

This is what has happened to us our whole lives. The born organized folks often looked at us in dismay because we could not do things the way they expected. Our inability to process Born Organized instructions does not make us stupid. Would we be ostracized if we spoke a different language?

We are creative people who just want to have fun. Our spontaneity can be an asset but it can also interfere with our creativity. When we miss an appointment or

an important event because we got sidetracked again; we feel guilty. This guilt becomes the roadblock to loving ourselves.

As I told Dr. Covey I help my ladies establish routines that include checking their calendars each morning and evening. In our excitement to start another beautiful day we sometimes forget to check our calendar for what's next. I know why this happens to us. With a planner; it is usually hiding from us in our bottomless pits of a purse. As with most things in our lives if they are "out of sight" they are "out of mind".

Over the years I have spent thousands of dollars on the perfect planner. Nothing ever worked well for me and I know why! I was afraid to mess it up with my handwriting. I would buy a planner system only to look like I had myself organized. You can't have the perfect planner if you allow your perfectionism to get in the way of using it. The sad part was that planners don't come with instructions. We are just expected to know how to use them.

I finally figured out I needed a calendar that would get my attention; one with big spaces so I could write large enough to see. The most important rule for using a calendar is to remember to

look at it. Procrastination is another big stumbling block to calendar happiness. When we have an appointment in hand we don't use the "Do It Now" Principle to put that appointment on our calendar.

We have people complain that using a wall calendar gets in the way of putting an appointment on your calendar when you are at the dentist office or other appointment. To that I say "NO EXCUSES"! Check your calendar before you go and then call yourself and leave a voice-mail. When you get home you can easily put a fun sticker on your wall calendar. The best part is that when your calendar is front and center; your entire family learns how to use it and everyone knows what is going on in the household. With color codes for family members you can tell at a distance who has something going on. Even small children can recognize their color. When we make it fun we will use it! This is your main family calendar. Every one's schedule is posted on this calendar. Each Sunday make a point to sit down at the dinner table and synchronize everyone's pocket calendar with the family calendar. If you don't asked you are never going to know what is going on in your home; especially with teenagers.

FlyLady's Calendar Tips

Check your calendar in the morning. Use our Stickers and other stickers to make it fun. Print when you post events on your calendar. Use small address labels to write on. Helps the perfectionist in you! Color code the address labels for each family member with a high lighter. Synchronize the family calendar on Sunday with individual schedules. Write "What's for dinner" on each day at the top when you plan your menus. Post events on your calendar immediately.

Leave yourself voice-mail messages when you can't post events immediately. On the 27th of the month check next month for birthdays and events. Check your calendar before going to bed. Your calendar along with the "Do it now" Principle will help relieve the stress in your life! Do it now! Don't wait! Let's Get Things Done!

For more help getting rid of your CHAOS, check out her website and join her free mentoring group at www.FlyLady.net or her book, Sink Reflections published by Random House and her New York Times Best Selling book, Body Clutter published by Simon and Schuster. Copyright 2012 Marla Cilley Used by permission in this publication.

Alibi Lounge Bar and Grill

Bar Open Tuesday - Sunday Noon - 2am • FREE WI-FI
1270 E US Hwy 90 In Brackett • 830.563.9400
COME & ENJOY MUSIC, POOL, GAMES, LARGE TV
Grill hours FRIDAY STEAK NIGHT 4-8pm RSVP
NEW FULLY FURNISHED ROOMS FOR RENT • DAILY, WEEKLY, MONTHLY

VAL VERDE REGIONAL MEDICAL CENTER

MANAGED BY METHODIST HEALTHCARE - SAN ANTONIO
Customer Care Line 830.703.1717

Texas Hill Country Opera & Arts

presents OPERA *piccola* of San Antonio

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart's

Così fan tutte

The battle of the sexes rages on in Mozart's most provocative comedy.

SUNG IN ENGLISH

MARCH 23, 2012 7:30PM
GRAND OPERA HOUSE

Tickets are \$25.00

CALL 830-278-4184 WWW.OCHARLES@UVALDETX.COM

Maxed out on your IRA and 401(K)? What's the next step?



Emily Cooper
Edward Jones in Del Rio

If you are contributing the maximum amount to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement plan each year, that's good. And if you're also "maxing out" on your Individual Retirement Account (IRA) annually, that's even better. But what then? If you're already fully funding your 401(k) and IRA, can you put away even more for retirement? Should you?

The answer to this last question is almost certainly "yes" — because you could spend a long

time in retirement. How long? Consider these statistics from the Society of Actuaries:

A man who's reached age 65 in good health has a 50% chance of living 20 more years and a 25% chance of living to age 92.

A 65-year-old woman has a 50% chance of living to age 88 and a 25% chance of living to 94.

There's a 50% chance that at least one member of a 65-year-old couple will live to 92 — and there's a 25% chance at least one of them will reach age 97.

Because you have a reasonably good chance of spending two, or even three, decades in retirement, you clearly need to accumulate substantial financial resources before you retire. So, if you consistently reach the contribution limits on your 401(k) and IRA, you're making a smart

move, as both these vehicles offer the potential for tax-deferred earnings and a variety of investment choices. But if you can still afford to put away more money, or if your income level prevents you from contributing to a Roth IRA, you may want to look at these possibilities:

Life Insurance Retirement Plan — A Life Insurance Retirement Plan (LIRP) is essentially a life insurance policy that can potentially help you generate tax-advantaged income during your retirement years. Until you begin taking withdrawals, the cash value of your policy has the potential to grow tax deferred. Then, when you retire, you can take tax-free payouts from your principal. (After the entire principal is paid, payouts are treated as loans against the contract.) And your beneficiaries will receive the balance of the death benefit income tax free, minus any loans or loan interest.

Annuities — You might find that a fixed annuity can be an appropriate way to supplement your retirement income. Like a LIRP, a fixed annuity's earnings have the potential to grow on a tax-deferred basis. Also, fixed annuities generally offer some type of guaranteed rate of return over the life of the annuity contract. And perhaps most importantly, you can structure your annuity to provide you with an income stream you can't outlive. (Keep in mind, though, that annuities are generally more appropriate for investors who are at least 45 years old.)

While you can certainly get some key benefits from a LIRP and a fixed annuity, you need to fully understand all aspects of these investment vehicles and make sure they are suitable for your situation and individual needs. Consequently, before investing, consult with a financial professional.

But don't wait too long. By preparing for your retirement well ahead of time, you can boost your chances of enjoying the type of "golden years" lifestyle that you've envisioned.

This article was written by Edward Jones for use by your local Edward Jones Financial Advisor.

Brackett News

www.mybrackettnews.com

For questions or corrections please call 830-563-2852 or email: tbnews@sbcglobal.net.

©Brackett News Weekly, 2012. All rights reserved. No part of this publication can be reprinted without the authorization of the owner. Published weekly by Frank Castillo, d.b.a. Brackett News Weekly, PO Box 929, Brackettville, Texas 78832. Phone 830-563-2852. Printed by Del Rio News Herald, 2205 Bedell Avenue, Del Rio, Texas 78840. Periodicals Postage Paid at Brackettville, Texas USPS 003987. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Brackett News Weekly, PO Box 929, Brackettville, Texas 78832.

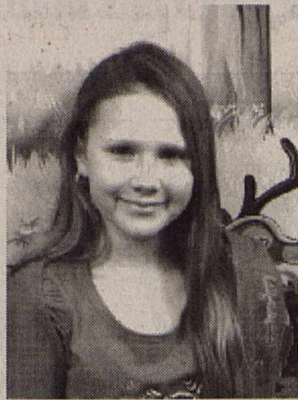
LETTER TO EDITOR POLICY

Brackett News Weekly welcomes and encourages letters to the editor. We reserve the right to edit all letters for accuracy, taste and grammar. We reserve the right to condense letters for space purposes. We reserve the right to refuse letters for any reason. Letters should be approximately 350 words in length. Letters to the editor should not attack private citizens. Letters to the editor regarding any upcoming election and/or candidates shall be charged the same rate as a political ad and will be subject to state law. All letters must be signed and include a mailing address and phone number for verification purposes. All writers are subject to being asked to provide proof of identity. Letters found or believed to be written by a person other than that of the signed author will be rejected. We do not publish form letters, copies of letters or letters written to other publications. Exceptions to the rules are made on a letter by letter basis. Unless otherwise noted, letters to the editor, advertisements and columns reflect the opinion of the writers/advertisers and not those of the Brackett News Weekly.

Tiger Page

Find Us On Facebook & See MORE Photos of the Tigers and Tigerettes

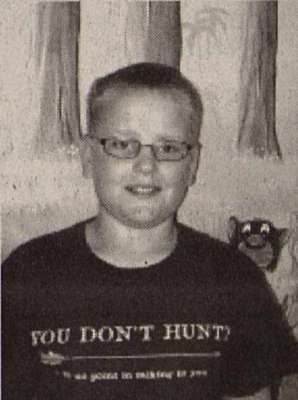
3rd Grade Author of the Month



Airplanes
By: Sidney Croy
3rd Grade

One day my mom was on the computer and I was watching t.v., she asked me to come over there and I thought I was in trouble. She wanted to know if I wanted to go to Hawi'i, I freaked out, then I saw she was looking up tickets. I didn't want to go anymore, at that time she said "The plane won't crash, Sidney." So it took me a couple of days for me to say "yes." Then my mom called American Airlines and got me a ticket, so we packed up and went to Los Angeles. We waited for our plane for two hours. Then we got on and it took us six hours to get to get to Hawi'i, we had a great time.

4th Grade Author of the Month



Quemado Rodeo
By Stetson Schuster
4th Grade

When I was five years old, I woke up early to go to the Quemado Rodeo. I went to the big metal barn to get my horse named Spyder. His water was left on all night so his pen was flooded. I then ran home to get my parents. They said, "Wait a minute and we will be there." Finally we got on the road. On the way we had a flat tire. Once we got there we realized I forgot my belt. While warming up, I roped a kid around his neck. My dad saw this and jerked me off my horse and spanked me. Since I am so smart...I said, "THAT DID NOT HURT!" Now it was on. He spanked me again harder. So I know now not to say that to my dad.

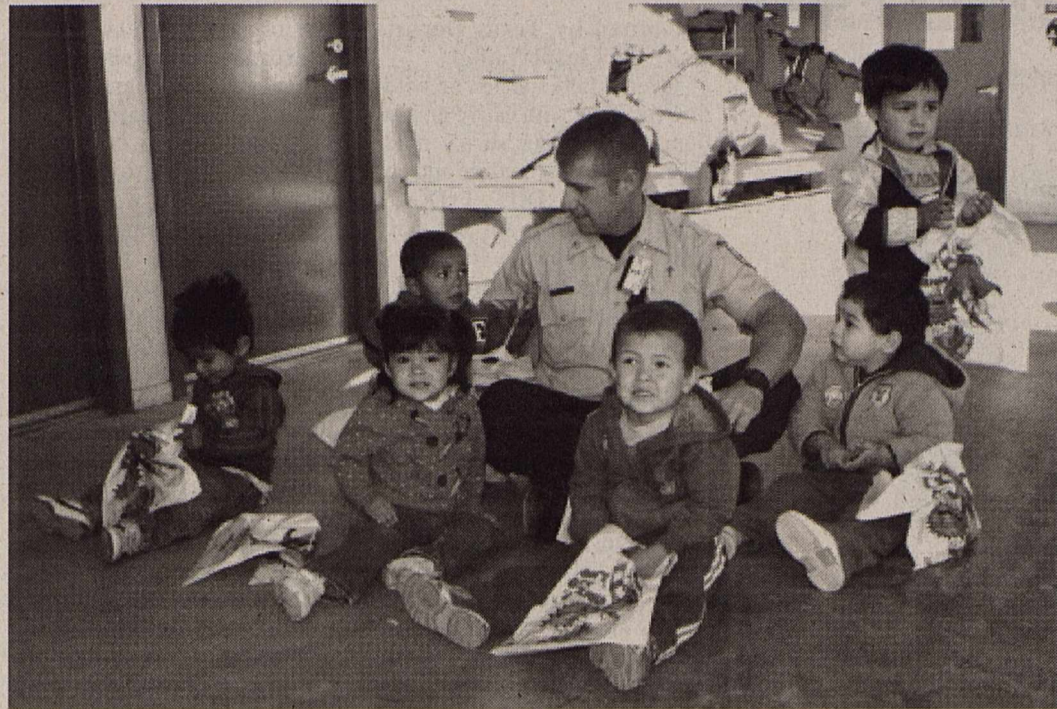
6th Grade Author of the Month



Old Yeller
By Carlye Easley
6th Grade

I never did like that dog, once he stole our food, and he was such a hog. I guess he did what dogs do, and that one day he gave me such a scare, but did all he could, he rescued arliss from the shebear, yes old yeller is very good, yes old yeller is the best, he saves us, he is better than the rest, everyone knows cause, old yeller is a great dog, and I was his freind, he rescued me from the hogs, but he met his end, we shot him down and I miss him so, he hit the ground, I love him more than anyone will ever know, some people ask me if I miss him I say yup, but they don't know how much, but I've still got the old speckled pup, and I love him a bunch.

CDI Early Head Start visits Fire Rescue



Brackett News Weekly Photo by Ashley Castillo Sandoval - Students from CDI Early Head Start program paid a visit to the Kinney County Fire Rescue Station on Wednesday, March 21. The student enjoyed seeing the inside of an ambulance and a fire truck. Pictured from Left: Leeland Hidalgo, Analiese Garcia, Juan Garcia, EMS Administrator Jim Titchenell, Michael Villarreal, Jadiel Pacheco and Trent Sandoval. Search Brackett News Weekly on facebook.com to see all the photos taken by Ashley at this event.

Don't mess with Texas scholarship open to High School Seniors

Submitted by TxDOT

AUSTIN, Texas — Texas high school seniors who care about the environment have the chance to win a college scholarship by composing a 350-word essay explaining what they've done to improve the litter situation in their community.

The ninth annual Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship is sponsored by BASF Corporation's Freeport, Texas, location in partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Don't Mess with Texas is accepting essays for the 2012 Scholarship March 15 through April 20, 2012.

"This scholarship is such a fit for what we at BASF are trying to accomplish. From the products we make that impact the quality of our lives every day to how we operate our facilities safely and as good stewards of our environment, we are living the 'Don't Mess with Texas' philosophy," said Chris Witte, Sr. Vice President and Site Manager, BASF Freeport.

"Plus, by supporting the educational initiative, it further aligns with our mission of ensuring we have trained, qualified people available to enter the workforce, or even join our industry one day. So BASF is proud — honored — to be able to support this scholarship and the Keep Texas Beautiful organization, while continuing to spread the word that those of us who live in Texas, need to take care of Texas."

The first-place winner will receive \$3,000. The second- and third-place winners will receive

\$1,000 each.

Don't Mess with Texas is a litter prevention campaign sponsored by the Texas Department of Transportation. The scholarship is one of TxDOT's efforts to generate more youth involvement in the campaign.

"The scholarship requires students to write an essay explaining the litter prevention efforts they've made in their community, and we're always impressed with how hard many high school students work to keep Texas beautiful," said Brenda Flores-Dollar, program administrator for TxDOT's Travel Information Division, which manages the Don't Mess with Texas campaign.

Eligibility:

- Any high school senior graduating spring 2012, who currently resides and attends school in Texas

- Seniors planning to further their education at an accredited two- or four-year college or university (public or private) in Texas

- Timeline: March 15, 2012 – April 20, 2012. Materials are due via email or must be post-marked by April 20, 2012.

Requirements:

- A 300 to 350 word-essay identifying a litter problem in the student's school or community and the action he or she took to address it

- A completed Don't Mess with Texas Scholarship application sent online or by mail with the essay by April 20, 2012. For the application, mailing address or further details, visit www.DontMessWithTexas.org.

Don't Mess with Texas has been educating Texans about litter prevention since 1986. TxDOT's litter prevention program includes Adopt-a-Highway and a grassroots partnership with Keep Texas Beautiful. Don't Mess with Texas activities also include a spring "Trash-Off," community outreach, a corporate partner program, and a new photo album where Texans can share their iconic Texas images. For more information, visit www.dontmesswithtexas.org.

The BASF Corporation is home to more than 100 manufacturing sites throughout the US, Mexico and Canada, including one of its largest sites in Freeport, Texas. Founded in 1958, the BASF Freeport site is home to 24 manufacturing plants making 23 different products. These products are the raw materials used to make many products that we depend upon every day, including fertilizer, food packaging, automobile parts, housing materials, fishing line, carpet, epoxies, paints and more. We have more than 1,100 people working here - direct employees and contractors - together ensuring we make our products safely, efficiently and

with minimal impact on our environment. Our site believes in giving back to the community who gives us the right to operate. We do that by supporting more than 50 organizations and their related activities each year, with our employees donating more than 500 man-hours annually to community goodwill. Along those same lines, BASF is a proud partner with our local public schools and our community college, realizing that our future workforce - our future leadership - depends upon what we teach our youth today.

The Texas Department of Transportation is responsible for maintaining 80,000 miles of road and for supporting aviation, rail, and public transportation across the state. TxDOT and its 11,000 employees are committed to working with others to provide safe and reliable transportation solutions for Texas by maintaining a safe system, addressing congestion, connecting Texas communities, and being a Best in Class state agency. Find out more at www.txdot.gov. Follow us on Facebook www.facebook.com/txdot. Follow us on Twitter www.twitter.com/txdot.

Cheap Cheap Cheap.
PROPANE
PICO PETROLEUM
FREE DELIVERY
Free delivery to Brackettville **830.278.5681**

Archie's
Landscaping and Lawn Maintenance
Experienced - Professional
Free Estimates
Let us solve your Lawn & Garden problems
880.568.5102 Archie and Jill Woodson

FAMILY PRACTICE
Brandon Lewis M.D.
1020 E. Leona Road In Uvalde • 830.278.4426
Workers' Compensation/Medicare/Insurance
Se Habla Espanol

T.W. Equipment, L.L.C.
Heavy Equipment Sales
830.563.9965
East on Hwy. 90 P.O. Box 1445
E-MAIL: ctward@rionet.coop www.twequipment.net

DRYDEN STONE CO.
West Texas Flagstone & Building Stone Est. 1992
HWY 90 & 100 DALLAS ST., DEL RIO
During Winter
Various hours
Please call before you come by...
STONE DIRECT FROM LANGTRY QUARRY!
WE ALSO CARRY MEXICAN STONE, AUSTIN LIMESTONE, SANDSTONE, MOSS ROCK & MORE.
BEN BAIZE 830-703-6840
BOBBY MUMME 210-415-4731
Email: drydenstoned@yahoo.com
TRUCKLOAD AND CONTRACTOR
DISCOUNTS AVAILABLE.
CASH OR CHECK ONLY
NO CREDIT CARDS AT THIS TIME

PAT COLLINS
AUTO SALES
Quality Pre-Owned Cars & Trucks
830.422.2749
2820 Veterans Blvd. Del Rio, Texas 78840

Care etc.
Homecare where peace of mind is just a phone call away...
500 N. Bedell Ave., Suite J
Del Rio, Texas 78840
Phone (830) 775-6858
FAX (830) 469-1987
(800) 381-9079
Rosie Phillips, Administrator
Becky Pendergrass, Alt. Admin
carecetera@yahoo.com

VISIT mybrackettnews.com
BRACKETT AUTO-PARTS & REPAIR
STATE INSPECTIONS
03-March Inspections NOW DUE
603 S. Windus 830.563.9906
(Across from Border Patrol Station)
Monday - Friday 8a-5p

AAA ROOFING
• Roof consulting and value engineering
• Commercial and industrial repairs
• Built up and Single Ply
• Standing seam metal roofs
• Copper, Zinc and Prefinished **830.563.9128**

Clinic Pharmacy
M-F 10 am to 12 noon and 2 pm to 5 pm
563.9334 • 201 James St.
We handle most major Insurance Cards
Pharmacist: B.E. Sweet

ABC Electrical Services
Commercial - Residential - Industrial
P.O. BOX 896
Brackettville, TX. 78832
830-563-7136
Licensed Bonded and Insured Master Electrician
Over 30 Years of Experience in the Electrical Industry
Available for after hour calls for Emergencies.
License # TECL 28415

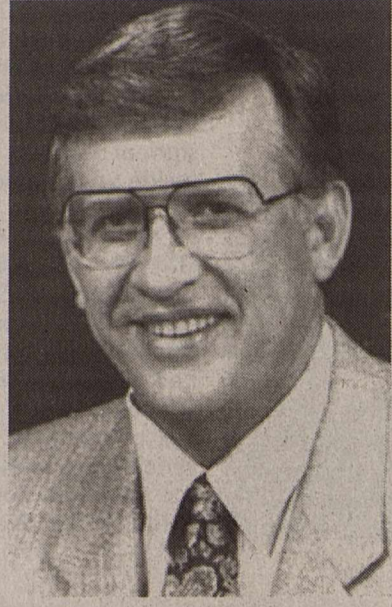
Community

Wedding, Birth & Quinceanera Announcements Printed FREE

OBITUARY

James Edward Heath

October 26, 1938 - March 7, 2012



James Edward Heath, age 73, of Little Elm, Texas, joined his Lord and Savior March 7, 2012. He was born October 26, 1938, in El Paso, Texas, to Wayne Edward Heath and Leah Ney Gibson McDaniel Heath.

Jim spent most of his growing up years in San Antonio where he attended Woodlawn Hills Elementary, Jefferson High School and graduated from Peacock Military Academy. While at Peacock, he was a member of the Zouaves, a crack drill team, and a member of the Monkey Drill Team, a team that performed trick riding on horses, sometimes straddling four or five horses at a time, jumping hurdles and forming human pyramids on a team of horses as they were being put through their paces. Jim was made an officer and was in charge of the Day Student Locker Room, among other things. He helped pay his tuition by working as a stocker and sacker at Handy Andy.

He then attended and graduated from Baylor University in 1961. He went on to the Navy OCS and was shortly thereafter medically discharged. Jim spent the majority of his career in economic development, which included working for the Texas Industrial Commission, Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce and San Angelo Chamber of Commerce, to name a few.

Jim was appointed to and a member of various community and state boards and councils which included the Texas Economic Development Council, the Texas Chamber of Commerce Managers Association, the U.S. Department of Commerce North Texas District Export Council, Texoma and Concho Valley Private Industry Councils, Grayson County Airport Board and the Lower Rio Grande Valley Workforce Board.

He was appointed by the Texas Speaker of the House to serve as senior consultant to the Joint House Committee on Textile/Apparel Industry Development where he developed state support to target textile/apparel development as a major industry classification due to the state of Texas' position as a significant raw material supplier. This led to the ultimate location of the American Cotton Growers denim mill to the Lubbock area.

Jim coordinated and developed a marketing program that secured multi-U.S. government enforcement agencies to locate to Texas including the U.S. Customs Area Enforcement/Interdiction, the U.S. Border Patrol and the Federal Aviation Administration Automated Flight Service Center.

Also, he managed numerous industry location projects, acting as liaison between the State of Texas and various industries, including the initial location of Motorola Corporation to Seguin, which resulted in additional Motorola plants in Austin and Dallas. Other companies that located to Texas because of Jim's efforts include Daiwa Spinning Company, Missouri Beef Packers and Evans Meat Company to name a few.

Jim will be remembered for his love of history, strong opinion of politics, love for the State of Texas and his never-ending devotion and love for his family. His sense of humor and jokes will live on through conversations amongst friends and family. Jim was a true artist who sculpted many western-themed pieces that will be passed on to those who appreciated them most. He is writing the western novel in Heaven that he didn't complete here on Earth.

Jim is preceded in death by his parents, Wayne and Leah Heath and is survived by his wife of 12 years Linda Dunevant Heath, children Kellie (Jack) Noel Heath White, Kimberley (Shawn) Kay Heath Brentham, Lisa Dunevant Griffin and Bobby (Donna) Dunevant, Jr., his sister Laura (Dan) Heath Smith, grandchildren Kye White, Lang White, Abbie Brentham, Gracie Brentham, Mollie Brentham, Jevin Griffin, Paige Griffin, Brandon Dunevant, Jessica Moon, Stacey Watson, nieces and nephews James Raymond Smith, Austin Smith, Rosemary Smith Bunch, Daniel Bunch, Victoria Bunch, Heather Smith Vacker, Courtney Vacker, Leanne Smith Davis, Ian Davis and Heath Davis.

A memorial service celebrating Jim's life will be held at 2 p.m. Saturday, March 24, 2012, at Sunset Memorial Park and Funeral Home, 1701 Austin Highway, San Antonio, Texas. Internment will follow the ceremony. The family will receive visitors prior to the service. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the American Cancer Society.

VOTE
Melony Talamantes
for Place 4
Brackett City Council

Paid Political Advertisement by Concerned Citizens

READ FOR LIFE

Tx Dot Wildflower Program

Submitted by Texas Department of Transportation

Over 5,000 species of wildflowers along with native grasses flourish along our state's roadsides, thanks to nature and attention from TxDOT. TxDOT's wildflower program not only helps our highways look good but also reduces the cost of maintenance and labor by encouraging the growth of native species that need less mowing and care. Environmental Benefits As with grasses, it strives to establish roadsides that blend into their surroundings. The grasses and wildflowers also help to conserve water, control erosion and provide a habitat for wildlife in all the natural regions of Texas. Shortly after the Texas Highway Department was organized in 1917, officials noted that wildflowers were among the first vegetation to reappear at roadside cuts and fills. In 1932, the department hired Jac Gubbels, its first landscape architect, to maintain, preserve and encourage wildflowers and other native plants along rights of way. By 1934, department rules delayed all mowing, unless essential for safety, until spring and early summer wildflower seasons were over. This practice has stayed in

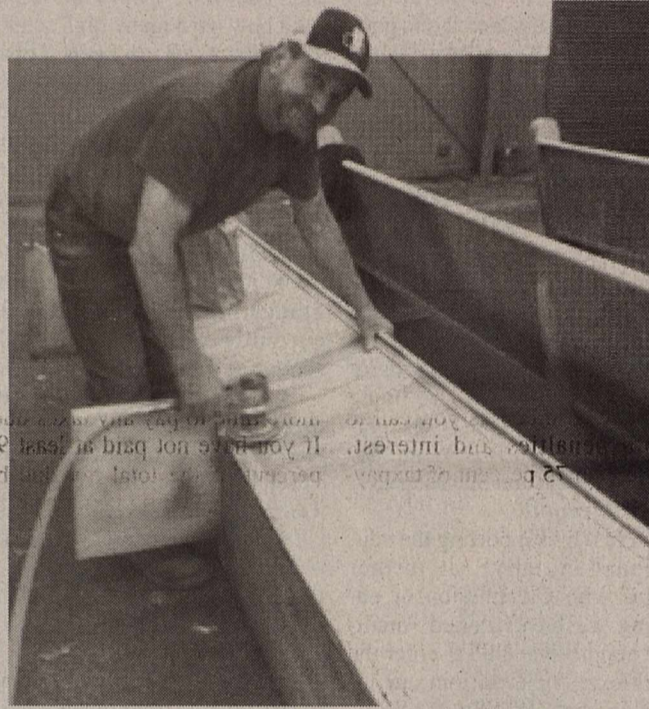
place for more than 60 years and has expanded into today's full-scale vegetation management system. Today, Maintenance techniques used to encourage wildflower growth include safety, or strip mowing which allow the wildflowers to bloom and allows native grasses to emerge. TxDOT buys and sows about 30,000 pounds of wildflower seed each year. The peak wildflower blooming season draws tourists from all across the nation to see the color unfold each spring.

Your ResponsibilityThe department is pleased with the attention wildflowers attract, however, we discourage picture-taking that damages the wildflowers. If too many wildflowers are trampled, they will die and not go to seed. Since many of these flowers are annuals, this means they have to go to seed to come back the next year. Naturally, we discourage picking the flowers for the same reason. The wildflower program is part of good stewardship. Today, TxDOT not only plants and enhances wildflower areas but, more importantly, protects and maintains the investment made in years past. Call (800) 452-9292 for more information.



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - Abigail Frets, dancing in the bluebonnets. She is the daughter of Rob and Nicole Frets, of Fort Clark Springs.

Refurb



Brackett News Weekly Photo by Leigh Castillo - Sergio Calvillo, of Brackettville, sands down benches from the Kinney County Courthouse on March 21. The benches, some original to the 100 year old courthouse, have been sandblasted and will be refinished as part of the District Courtroom restoration project.

Wes Robinson



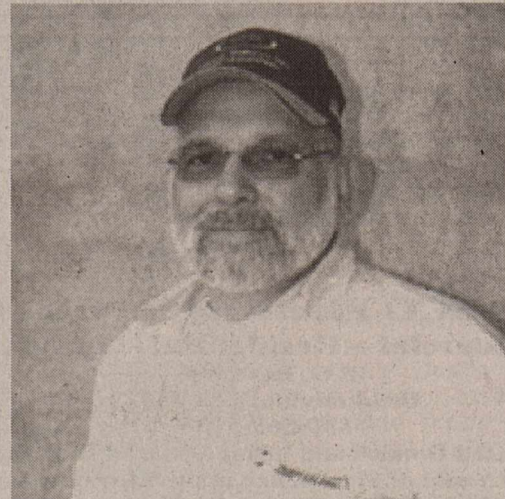
Place 5

Brackett City Council

Paid Political Advertisement by Concerned Citizens

VOTE

Vito LaGioia
for Place 2
Brackett City Council



Paid Political Advertisement by Concerned Citizens

BNW Political Advertising Policy

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

There have been several people wanting to know if the newspaper will endorse candidates in this year's local election. Our policy is as follows: Brackett News Weekly does not individually or collectively endorse candidates, however, we do encourage all of them to place paid advertisements in our paper from now until the election. We believe the people should be informed but the de-

cision on who they personally chose to elect is completely up to the voter, not the newspaper. BNW has coordinated candidate forums, won a statewide award for a special section voter's guide and published candidate biography's, and done so without charge to the candidate. We support the community being informed and even last week published an extensive article on all the local elections. We publish information, the voter can decide from there. READ FOR LIFE.

A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its value. If your home is valued at \$50,000 and you receive a \$15,000 homestead exemption, your home will be taxed as if it were worth \$35,000.

Who qualifies for an exemption?

Anyone who owns a home on Jan. 1 and uses it as a primary residence on that date is entitled to a \$15,000 homestead exemption to lower school taxes. It doesn't matter if your home is a house, condominium or mobile home. Counties, cities and special taxing districts may also offer homestead exemptions.

Are other exemptions available?

If you're disabled—or if you're 65 years old or older—you are entitled to an additional \$10,000 school tax exemption on your home. And if you qualify for the 65 or older or disabled exemption, you're also entitled to a permanent, locked-in "ceiling" on the school property taxes on your home. The county, city or junior college may adopt a tax ceiling for 65 and older or disabled homeowners. The age 65 or older homeowners school tax ceiling transfers to the surviving spouse, if the spouse is 55 years of age or older at the time of death and lives in and owns the home. The age 65 or older homeowners (or their surviving spouses 55 years of age or older) also may transfer the percentage of school tax paid, based on their former home's school tax ceiling to a new home.

If you're a disabled veteran who receives from the Veterans Affairs (VA)—(1) 100 percent disability compensation due to a service connected disability and (2) a rating of 100 percent disabled or a determination of individual unemployment, you are entitled to an exemption from taxation of the total appraised value of your resident homestead.

Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 2011, you won't need to reapply for 2012 unless your chief appraiser requires it. However, if you haven't received an exemption on your present home—or if you've moved to a new home—you'll need to file for an exemption for 2012. If you are 65 this year, you may file for the age 65 or older exemption up to one year after the date you turned 65. And if you became disabled, you need to file for the disabled person's exemption.

When and where should I file?

File applications before May 1 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

KINNEY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
PO BOX 1377 412 S. ANN ST
BRACKETTVILLE TX 78832
830-563-2323



Or contact:
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

or call: 1-800-252-9121 and press "2" to access the menu and then press "1" to contact the Information Service Team.

or on the Web at: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax



A public service announcement courtesy of your county appraisal district.

Community

Got News? 24hr News Number: 830.563.7153

Fort Clark Spring Community Council

Submitted by Allison Watkinson
Secretary, FCS
Community Council

The regular monthly meeting of the Fort Clark Springs Community Council was held on Saturday, March 10, 2012, at 10:00 A.M., in Shafter Hall, the 1st Vice President being in the chair and the Secretary being present. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved as read.

The Treasurer's report for January and February shows a balance on March 1, 2012 of \$3209.11 after deposits of \$309.29 and paid expenses of \$789.93 (including \$300.00 for the Livestock Show).

Under old business, officers for the 2012 fiscal year were sworn in, the scholarship committee chair gave a report, electricity usage at Shafter Hall was discussed, and an update on Fort Clarks Days was given. The Bake Sale held during Fort Clark Days made \$702.00 and was the most successful bake sale to date. The Bake Sale provides funds for Cavalry Brigade supplies and lunches.

Under new business Norma Rowland made the following motion after much discussion by community members: For the next five years, beginning in 2013, 60% of net profits from Fort Clark Days will be given to the Building Restora-

tion and Preservation Committee and 40% of the net profits will be given to the Community Council. Further, a strong recommendation is made to the Building Restoration and Preservation Committee to amend their charter to include interior restoration. Motion passed with one dissenting vote; however, the dissenting vote was not for use of funds, but against making the recommendation to another group to amend their charter.

A community outreach committee was formed with Steve Giblin as point of contact.

Reports were given by the following groups: Bingo, Birders, Building Restoration

and Preservation, Calvary Brigade, Garden Club, Historical Society, Recycling, Recreation Committee, and RV Park.

At least 35 members were in attendance. The following FCS board members were present: Debbie Isaacs and Steve Giblin as well as board candidates Kealy Peak and Lee Winchell.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the FCS Community Council is April 14, at 10:00 A.M. at Shafter Hall.

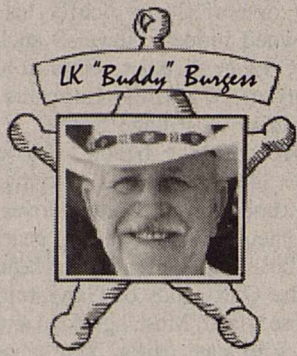
The above minutes are abbreviated. If you would like an electronic copy of the complete minutes and or by-laws for the FCS Community Council, please send an email to allisonwatkinson@me.com.

Rotary gets ducky



Brackett News Weekly Photo By Leigh Castillo - Brackettville Rotary Member Barbara Dillon donned the Duck Suit on March 3, for the Fort Clark Days Rotary Duck Race. The public was encouraged to purchase numbered, rubber ducky that were later let go into the Las Moras Creek. The first 17 ducks to cross the finish line won a variety of prizes. The Rotary sponsors the annual event to raise money for scholarships for local high school students.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



report in regards to a stolen wallet.

Tuesday, March 13

A 911 caller reported a car on fire in front of the hardware store on Spring Street.

A deputy reported Hwy 693 was covered in feed and advised the dispatcher to contact TxDOT but later cancelled the request when the ranchers returned to clean it up.

Wednesday, March 14

A security company called to report an alarm was sounding off at a ranch. A deputy was dispatched to the ranch and reported the family accidentally set off the alarm.

Thursday, March 15

A man called to report a white F-150 and a maroon F-150 were driving recklessly on Spring Street.

A woman called to report some children wanting to fight with her children. A deputy was dispatched.

A woman called to report a minor auto accident on Hwy 90 and Standard Lane. A deputy and EMS were dispatched to the scene. No one was transported.

A woman called to report a suspicious vehicle parked in front of her house.

Friday, March 16

A caller reported a disturbance. A deputy was dispatched to the scene.

Sunday, March 18

A caller reported a reckless driver in a brown, two-door Honda Civic was speeding and cutting off cars traveling west on Highway 90. A deputy was not able to locate the car.

A business owner called to report guests of her business had vandalized her property. The woman wanted a file report and have a deputy see if the guests were planning on paying for the damages. A deputy was dispatched to the business location.

Two callers reported a dark blue dodge truck driving recklessly on Fulton and Edwards streets.

Monday, March 12
A DPS trooper reported an injured deer on the side of Hwy 90 in front of the Burger and Shake.

A woman filed an incident

Six tips for reducing tax-time stress

Submitted by IRS

Tax preparation doesn't need to give you a headache. There are several ways to make it easier on yourself. The IRS offers six tips to help make your tax-filing experience a breeze this year.

Don't procrastinate. Resist the temptation to put off your taxes until the very last minute. Rushing to meet the filing deadline may cause you to overlook potential sources of tax savings and will likely increase your risk of making an error.

Visit the IRS website. More than 322 million visits were made to www.irs.gov in 2011. Make "1040 Central" your first stop to check for the latest news and find answers to your questions about tax filing.

Use Free File. Let Free File do the hard work with brand-name tax software or online fillable forms. It's available ex-

clusively at www.irs.gov. Everyone can find an option to prepare their tax return and e-file it for free. If you made \$57,000 or less, you qualify for free tax software that is offered through a private-public partnership with manufacturers. If you made more than \$57,000 and/or are comfortable preparing your own tax return, there's Free File Fillable Forms, the electronic versions of IRS paper forms. Visit www.irs.gov/freefile for options.

Try IRS e-file. Last year, 79 percent of taxpayers - 106 million people - used IRS e-file, which is the safest, easiest and most common way to file a tax return. If you owe taxes, you can file immediately and pay later (by the April 17 tax deadline). Best of all, when you combine e-file with direct deposit the IRS can generally issue your refund in as few as 10 days.

Don't panic if you can't pay. If you can't pay the full amount of taxes you owe by the mid-April deadline, you should still file your return by the deadline and pay as much as you can to avoid penalties and interest. More than 75 percent of taxpayers eligible for an Installment Agreement can apply using the web-based Online Payment Agreement application available at www.irs.gov. To find out more about this simple and convenient process, type "Online Payment Agreement" in the search box at www.irs.gov. You can also contact the IRS to discuss your payment options.

Request an extension of time to file - but pay on time. If the deadline clock is ticking, you can get an automatic six-month

extension through Oct. 15. However, this extension of time to file, which must be filed or postmarked by the April 17 deadline, does not give you more time to pay any taxes due. If you have not paid at least 90 percent of the total tax due by the April deadline you may also be subject to an estimated tax penalty. You can obtain an extension through Free File at www.irs.gov/freefile. Or, file Form 4868, Application for Automatic Extension of Time to File U.S. Individual Income Tax Return, available for downloading at www.irs.gov or by calling 800-TAX-FORM (800-829-3676) to have a paper form mailed to you. Allow at least 10 days for mailed forms and publications.

Vote for a NEW generation of LEADERSHIP

Theresa QUIROZ

for Brackett ISD School Board Trustee

"COME & SEE"

St. Andrews Episcopal Church will be having Breakfast & Music Sunday March 25th

Breakfast will be served at 10:30am; with music by special guests at 11:00

Corner of Fort & Henderson

Please Join Us for Breakfast, Music & Fellowship

FARMERS'

Auto • Home • Life • Business

Bus: 830.278.5161 • 146 East Nopal

PROPANE

ROADRUNNER ENERGY INC

The Full Service Company

Call: Woody @ 563.9594 or 800.543.2630

EYE CARE SPECIALISTS

DISEASES & SURGERY OF THE EYE

Sanjiv Kumar, M.D.
Board Certified Ophthalmologist

Edgardo Amaro, O.D.
Optometric Glaucoma Specialist

DIABETIC RETINOPATHY
ADVANCED CATARACT SURGERY
GLAUCOMA LASER TREATMENT
UVALDE OR SAN ANTONIO SURGERY
SE HABLA ESPANOL
830.278.2020

Medicare, Medicaid, major insurances accepted
927 East Main • Uvalde

Spiritual Living Church Directory

TEMPLE ELIENAI
EN DIOS ESTAN MIS OJOS
Jorge y Erika Rodriguez Patores
PO Box 212 Brackettville, TX 78832
404 El Paso St.

St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church
Weekdays: Tues: 5:30 PM Wed: 12 PM Thurs, Fri: 7 AM
Weekends: Sat: 5:30 PM Sun: 8 AM (Spanish) 10:30 AM
Parish Priest Father Pius Ezeigbo

Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Fort & Henderson
Sunday: Worship 9 am
Email: orlcbackett@gmail.com
830.563.7717
Pastor Dick Reinap

First United Methodist Church
109 James Street • 830.563.2823
Next to the clinic • Sunday School 9:30
Worship 10:45 Staffed Nursery
Every Sunday Hear the Bible,
Feel the Spirit, Find a Welcome!
Open hearts, open minds, open doors

First Baptist Church
Sunday: Bible Study 9:45 am • Worship Service 11 am
• Choir practice 5:30 pm • Evening Service 6:30pm
Wednesday: Evening Service 6:30 pm Youth 6:30 pm
• Pastor Jeff Janca • Youth Jake Earnheart •
301 N. Ann Ph: 830.563.2245

WELCOME! Church of Christ
808 N. Ann • 830.563.2616
Sunday AM 9:30 Classes & 10:30 Worship
Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm
Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes
Minister: Ray Melton

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
Corner of Ann & El Paso • Pastor Ned Sitzes • 830.563.5529

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

St. Johns's Missionary Church
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
116 W. Crockett Street • 830.563.3550
Welcome One Welcome All Come and Receive and Find Joy

Ranch & Rural Living

24hr News Number: 830.563.7153

Texas Rural Water Association honors Representative Tracy King

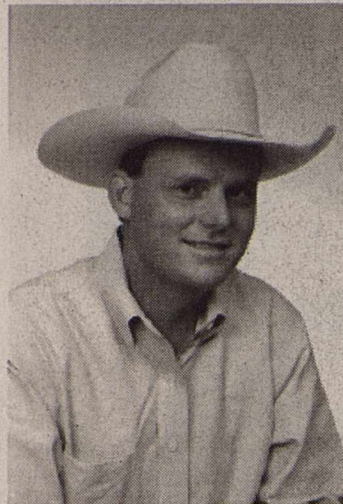


Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly

Submitted by (Fort Worth) - The Texas Rural Water Association presented Texas State Representative Tracy King with the TRWA Friend of Rural Water Award on Thursday at the association's Annual Convention in Fort Worth, Texas. Representative King is the 11th recipient of the honor in the association's 43 year history.

The Friend of Rural Water Award is the association's highest honor, which is given to people who have gone out of their way to preserve the way of life in rural Texas and protect Texas' water resources. As Vice

Chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee, Representative King played an integral part in the association's efforts to protect the environment during the 82nd Session of the Texas Legislature.

"We chose Representative King for his steadfast support of our efforts to protect rural water supplies and ensure safe, clean drinking water for rural Texans," said Tom Duck, the association's executive director.

"Managing and protecting our water resources is one of the most critical issues facing Texas today," said Representative Tracy King. "As we study this

topic, I will continue my efforts to ensure that there is adequate water for agriculture, industry and the environment."

Representing more than 800 communities, TRWA is dedicated to improving the quality of water for rural communities and protecting natural resources. TRWA is a nonprofit, grassroots organization promoting public health protection for rural communities and small municipalities. The association assists rural and small communities in their efforts to provide quality water to their communities, neighbors and families.

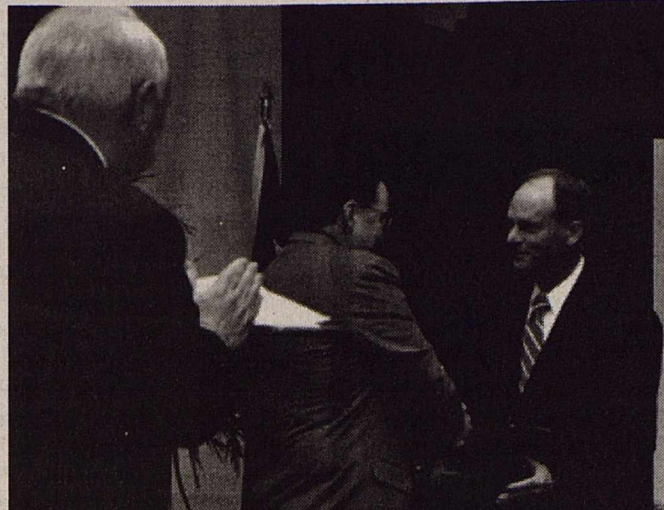


Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly

Kinney County Wool and Mohair
The Rancher's Shopping Center

"PARDON OUR MESS"
Woolhouse still open for business

*Livestock Feed * Game Feed *
 * Hardware * Lumber *

Monday - Friday 8a - 5p • Saturday 8a - 12 noon
 830.563.2471

Texas Parks & Wildlife offers 10 good reason to get outside this spring

Submitted by TPWD

AUSTIN - With the redbuds and bluebonnets blooming, it's time to get outside and enjoy spring in Texas.

"Much of Texas is still way behind its average annual rainfall, but it looks like winter rains in many areas of the state will make for an excellent spring," says Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Carter Smith. "Weather forecasters say we may still be in for more drought, so it's a good idea to make the most of spring while it lasts."

With apologies to a certain late night talk show host, here are the top 10 reasons to head outdoors and enjoy a great spring:

The fish are biting. The white bass, which travel like salmon upstream to lay and fertilize their eggs each spring, are already running in East Texas and in streams with sufficient water. The action should be starting any day now in Central Texas, with Colorado Bend State Park a perennial hot spot. Black bass are also heading into the spring spawning season with several ShareLunkers already on the

board at the Texas Freshwater Fisheries Center in Athens. Plan a visit to TFFC for an up-close and personal look at these amazing fish. Likewise, conditions along the coast are heating up and a tour of Sea Center Texas in Lake Jackson offers a front row view of some impressive saltwater specimens.

The wildflowers are beginning to bloom in all but the most drought-stricken parts of the state. Prime public viewing and photographic opportunities can be found in traditional wildflower havens such as Lyndon B. Johnson and Washington-on-the-Brazos state historic sites, as well as East Texas destinations like Lake Somerville State Park and Trailway, and Tyler and Purvis Creek. Sandy soils typically produce some of the better wildflower displays, so head to Palmetto, Inks Lake and Enchanted Rock State Natural Area to see bluebonnets, Indian paintbrush and other early bloomers. For wildflower sighting updates, starting March 15, call the Texas Department of Transportation Hotline at 1-800-452-9292.

The camping is great. Take advantage of mild days and cool

nights for overnight camping in more than 90 parks across Texas. Weekend campsites go early in the spring, so book your reservation now by calling (512) 389-8900 or visiting: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us>.

Go ahead, make some s'mores. In many parks, burn bans that were in place last summer and fall have been lifted. Depending on the weather and altitude, it's a wonderful time of the year to enjoy a campfire.

Hit the road, Jack. Well, hit the trail. Mild temperatures and relatively low humidity make it a perfect time to go for a hike. Not only will you enjoy the scenery and wildlife, from butterflies to game animals, you'll burn off those s'mores you ate around the campfire.

It's Texas history season. One hundred and seventy-six years ago, the Texas Revolution was underway. State parks at sites that played a role in the brief but sanguinary military campaign that gained Texas its independence from Mexico include Washington-on-the-Brazos, Goliad and the San Jacinto Battle Ground.

Go and park it. If you visit almost any of our state parks on

weekdays, you'll find them far less crowded than they are on weekends this time of the year. Try one of the typically less crowded hidden "jewels" such as Copper Breaks, Seminole Canyon, Caprock Canyons, Meridian or Village Creek.

Head to the beach. If you don't like crowds and partying, wait until Spring Break is over, and then pack your fishing gear, surfboards and sunscreen and head to the Gulf sands of Galveston, Goose Island, Mustang Island and Sea Rim state parks. You'll not only enjoy great beaches, but a variety of camping options.

Go turkey hunting. Rio Grande spring turkey hunting season opens in March and Eastern turkey season starts in April. With an abundance of gobblers available, the prospects look good this season.

Spring is for the birds. Spring is one of the best times of year for birding. Discover more than 950 places in Texas to see our feathered friends by picking up a Great Texas Coastal Birding Trail or Great Texas Wildlife Trail map by visiting: <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/huntwild/wildlife/wildlife-trails>

2012 Cattle Raiser's Convention to Feature Beef Industry Expert Panel

Submitted by TSCRA

FORT WORTH, TEXAS - A world class panel of beef industry experts will provide a look into how the cattle industry will transform over the next 15 years at the Opening General Session of the Texas and Southwestern Cattle Raisers Association (TSCRA) convention in Fort Worth. The session begins at 10:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31, at the Fort Worth Convention Center.

"The cattle industry has changed dramatically since

TSCRA was founded in 1877," said Joe Parker Jr., rancher and TSCRA president. "Ranchers are facing challenges such as smaller margins, overreaching government regulations, severe weather patterns and the impact of a fragile global economy. This panel of experts will help give Texas ranchers the insight they need to make future decisions regarding their operations."

Top beef industry executives include Rob Aukerman, president of U.S. Operations at Elanco Animal Health; Kevin

Good, CattleFax senior market analyst and manager of corporate accounts; Bill Rupp, JBS Inc., president of beef division; and John Ryan, president and CEO for Rabo Agrifinance. These experts will look 15 years into the future and predict the transformation the beef industry will undergo between now and 2027.

Registration for the 2012 TSCRA Convention Weekend will be available on-site. For more information including a complete schedule of events visit www.tscra.org.

TSCRA is a 135 year-old trade association and is the largest and oldest livestock organization based in Texas. TSCRA has more than 15,000 beef cattle operations, ranching families and businesses as members. These members represent approximately 50,000 individuals directly involved in ranching and beef production who manage 4 million head of cattle on 76 million acres of range and pasture land primarily in Texas and Oklahoma, but throughout the Southwest.

USDA Seeks Applications to Spur Job Creation, Economic Growth in Rural Areas

Funding Available For Regional Economic Development Strategies

TEMPLE, TEXAS, March 21, 2012 - Agriculture Secretary Tom Vilsack announced today that USDA is seeking applications for grants to help rural businesses create jobs and spur economic development.

"This funding is part of the Obama administration's commitment to using existing fed-

eral resources to foster regional innovation, create sustainable jobs and help ensure long-term prosperity," Vilsack said. "The funding will speed up job creation and new business start-ups and expansions by building regional economic systems in rural areas.

USDA Rural Development

plans to award up to \$8.6 million through the Rural Community Development Initiative program. Applications are sought for projects that:

- Provide technical assistance to improve the capacity of local organizations to complete successful housing, economic development and community facilities projects;
- Help recipients complete pre-development requirements - such as architectural and engineering plans;
- Help development organizations improve their board operations, management and knowledge of financial and information technology systems;
- Provide homeownership education or training for entrepreneurs.

"Our mission at USDA Ru-

ral Development includes the creation and preservation of jobs in rural Texas," said State Director Paco Valentin. "Investments offered through the Rural Community Development Initiative program will bring increased economic opportunity to rural residents and communities."

Part of the RCDI funds to be awarded may be used for projects associated with the Rural Jobs and Innovation Accelerator Challenge, which was announced on March 8, 2012. This initiative was designed by the Taskforce for the Advancement of Regional Innovation Clusters and the White House Rural Council. Secretary Vilsack chairs the Council. The Jobs Accelerator is being funded by USDA, the U.S. Department of Commerce's Economic Development Administration, the Delta Regional Authority and the Appalachian Regional Commission.

SUNSET MEMORIAL OAKS
 Cremation, Traditional, Veteran Services
 "Your Life. Your Memories. Our Priority."
 830.563.9600 302 E. Spring St.

Amistad Manufactured
 RB135751
 Vernetta Faver
 5375 W. US HWY 90
 manufacturedhomesdelrio.com
 amistadmfghomesllc@yahoo.com
 830.774.4300 830.768.0698 (Fax)

DonCo Hwy 90 W Uvalde, Texas
 Sell • Buy • Rent Heavy Equipment
BENTONITE DEALER (Pond/Tank Sealer)
 Shop 830-278-1308
 Mobile 830-591-8314
 Mobile 830-591-3008

VOTE
Kent Lowery for Mayor
 City of Brackettville
 Paid Political Advertisement by Concerned Citizens

Financial strategies. One-on-one advice.
 Emily S Cooper
 Financial Advisor
 3900 Veterans Blvd
 Del Rio, TX 78840
 830-774-5559
Edward Jones
 MAKING SENSE OF INVESTING
 www.edwardjones.com

DEL TEX RV & AUTO REPAIR CENTER
 MONDAY THRU FRIDAY
 8 AM - 5:30 PM
830-775-9715
 RV PARTS
 RV SUPPLIES
 HWY 90 W DEL RIO, TEXAS
 78840 • Closed Sat & Sun

En Español

El mejor halago es que lo imiten a uno.

NOTAS DEL CONDADO DE KINNEY

OLD QUARRY SOCIETY
Debido a un accidente de tráfico que hirió gravemente a un miembro del reparto principal, es con gran pesar que nos vemos obligados a posponer nuestra actuación prevista en "Catfish Moon." Pero estamos muy contentos de anunciar un programa de reemplazo para nuestro gran final de la temporada — los reconocidos **BORDERLINE SINGERS**, en concierto en el Post Theater el sábado 31 de marzo a las 7:30 p.m. Lleve su boleto de temporada o \$5 y esté listo para disfrutar un momento maravilloso!
www.oldquarrysociety.org

CLÍNICA PARA ARBITROS
La KC Little League estará llevando a cabo una clínica para árbitros (umpire clinic) para cualquier persona interesada en arbitrar partidos esta temporada. La clínica se llevará a cabo el 23 de marzo a las 10:45 a.m. en la Biblioteca Pública del Condado de Kinney. Donación \$5. Para más información comuníquese al (830) 563-0223 con EZ Rivas.

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS DE LA PREPARATORIA (HIGH SCHOOL) DE BRACKETTVILLE
22 de marzo
● Golf JV Varonil en Uvalde
● Tenis en Sabinil
● Competencia de atletismo (track) en Rocksprings
23 de marzo
● Tenis en Sabinil
● OAP UIL Zona 3 Competencia en SWTJC béisbol V en Del Rio
24 de marzo
● Competencia UIL académica en Medina
27 de marzo
● Béisbol V de Distrito en D'Hanis a las 4:30 p.m.
● Softbol en LaPryor
28 de marzo
● FCA a las 8 p.m. en el nuevo gimnasio
29 de marzo
● Competencia de atletismo (track) en Brackett

CALENDARIO DE EVENTOS DE LA ESCUELA JONES ELEMENTARY
22 de marzo
● No tutoriales/ Día de Contacto con los Padres
23 de marzo
● Reconocimientos (Award Assemblies): K-3rd. a la 1 p.m. y 4th-6th a las 2 p.m.
26 de marzo al 29 de marzo
● No tutoriales / Exámenes STAAR
27 de marzo
● Exámenes STAAR de Matemáticas para 5º grado y de Escritura para 4º grado - Día 1
28 de marzo
● Exámenes STAAR de Lectura para 5º grado y de Escritura para 4º grado - Día 2.

NOTICIAS DE LA BIBLIOTECA
Eventos semanales en marzo:
GRUPO DE ESTUDIO DE GED Lunes martes y miércoles. Curso básico de computación Lunes y viernes a las 9 a.m. **VITA** (declaraciones de impuestos gratuitas) lunes a jueves Programa de Asistencia de servicios urbanos Martes a las 10 a.m. Reunión del Grupo de Amigos Segundo lunes a las 5:30 p.m. Para obtener más información o una copia del programa, favor de comunicarse a la biblioteca al 830.563.2884 en el siguiente horario: Lunes, Miércoles y Viernes: 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Martes y Jueves: 10 a.m. - 8 p.m. Sábado: Mediodía - 8 p.m. Domingo: 2 p.m. - 6 p.m.

GRUPO DE APOYO DE PARKINSON
Segundo jueves de cada mes a las 7 p.m. en 212 Bowlegs, Fort Clark Springs McNurlins: Comuníquese al (830) 563-9587 para más información. Si usted padece la enfermedad de Parkinson o algún trastorno del movimiento similar, o es cónyuge o pareja de alguien que lo padece, únase a nosotros por favor. Estamos empezando un nuevo grupo de apoyo en Fort Clark, para las personas del área de Brackettville / Fort Clark. Esto nos dará la oportunidad de informarnos sobre los últimos hallazgos para ayudar con esta enfermedad. Estamos también aquí para ayudarnos unos a otros a medida que recorremos esa ruta. Diariamente se pueden descubrir nueva tecnología y medicamentos. Únase al grupo y si tiene alguna duda, favor de ponerse en contacto con nosotros.

SESIÓN DE AA
El Grupo Las Moras sesiona en Slaton Hall, 109 James St. de lunes a viernes a las 7 p.m.

SESIÓN DE ALCOHÓLICOS ANÓNIMOS
Sesión en Slaton Hall, 109 James Street, los martes a las 7 p.m.

READ

Programa de flores silvestres

Por Texas Department of Transportation

Más de 5,000 especies de flores silvestres, junto con las hierbas nativas florecen junto a las carreteras de nuestro estado, gracias a la naturaleza y a la atención del Departamento de Transporte de Texas (Texas Department of Transportation - TxDOT por sus siglas).

El Programa de flores silvestres de TxDOT no sólo ayuda a que nuestras carreteras se vean bien sino que también reduce el costo de mantenimiento y mano de obra, fomentando el crecimiento de las especies nativas que requieren menos siega y cuidado. Las hierbas y flores silvestres ayudan también a conservar el agua, a controlar la erosión y a proveer un hábitat para la fauna en todas las regiones naturales de Texas.

Poco después de que se organizara el Departamento de Carreteras de Texas (Texas Highway Department) en 1917, los oficiales señalaron que las flores silvestres estaban entre la

primera vegetación en reaparecer en los cortes de carreteras y rellenos.

En 1932, el departamento contrato a Jac Gubbels, su primer arquitecto paisajista, para mantener, preservar y estimular las flores silvestres y otras plantas nativas a lo largo de los derechos de paso.

Para el año de 1934, las reglas del departamento retrasaron toda siega de flores silvestres hasta que hubiera pasado la primavera y principios de verano, a menos que fuera esencial para la seguridad. Esta práctica se ha mantenido vigente por más de 60 años y ha continuado en gran escala hasta el día de hoy con el sistema de manejo de la vegetación.

Las técnicas de mantenimiento utilizadas para estimular el crecimiento de las flores silvestres incluyen la seguridad, o una franja de tierra que permite que las flores silvestres florezcan y permitan surgir al pasto nativo.

TxDOT compra y siembra unas 30,000 libras de semillas

de flores silvestres cada año. La época de primavera en que florecen todas las flores silvestres atrae a turistas de todo el país que desean admirar sus colores.

Aunque el departamento está satisfecho con la atención que atraen las flores, no recomienda la toma de fotografías por el daño que pudieran sufrir las flores silvestres.

Si demasiadas flores silvestres son pisoteadas, morirán y no darán semilla. Dado que muchas de estas flores son anuales, significa que tienen que dar semilla para volver a resurgir el próximo año. Naturalmente, nos oponemos a que corten las flores por la misma razón.

El programa de flores silvestres es parte de una buena administración. Hoy en día, TxDOT no sólo planta y aumenta las zonas de flores silvestres, sino, más importante, protege y mantiene la inversión realizada en años pasados. Para más información comuníquese al (800) 452-9292.



Foto Cortesía a Brackett News Weekly-Gloria Conrad

Ertle contratada como directora del centro de nutrición

Por Leigh Castillo Redactora Contribuyente

Los Comisionados del Condado de Kinney (Kinney County Commissioners) nombraron el 19 de marzo durante su sesión ordinaria a Anita Ertle como la nueva directora del Aging Center (Centro para Adultos Mayores).

Ertle es una mujer de negocios con experiencia y propietaria de Brackett Burger and Shake. De acuerdo con el Presupuesto 2011 del Condado de Kinney, el sueldo de ese cargo es de \$20,800.

El Aging Center ofrece de lunes a viernes una variedad de servicios para personas de la tercera edad, incluyendo el servicio de comida gratis o a bajo costo.

Así mismo, durante la sesión del 19 de marzo de los comisionados, la Subjefe del Alguacil del Condado de Kinney Cordelia Mendeke y enlace de cumplimiento del Centro de Detención del Condado de Kinney informó las instalaciones tenía 341 presos para la mañana del lunes. Mendeke pidió posteriormente a los comisionados que consideraran la posibilidad de que el centro de detención utilice una de sus máquinas de detección de metales. Se espera que el asunto sea agregado en una agenda futura.

Los comisionados escucharon también al Juez del Condado de Kinney Tim Ward, quien

informó que el señor y señora Neal Simmons, de Fort Clark Springs y restaurantes locales, sugieren que los aparatos de cocina, entre ellos dos hornos de convección y dos comerciales que fueron sustituidos en el centro de detención sean instalados en el Centro Cívico del Condado de Kinney. Ward dijo que el equipo se encuentra actualmente en la bodega de almacenamiento.

Los comisionados aprobaron también durante la sesión la reparación y sustitución del techo y de la unidad de aire acondicionado de la Biblioteca del Condado de Kinney. Ward dijo que el techo se llovía demasiado y que la unidad de aire acondicionado había sido instalada en 1984 desde la construcción del edificio. La Bibliotecaria Sarah Terrazas añadió que por las noches tenían que colocarse lonas sobre las computadoras para protegerlas y evitar que el agua de las goteras del techo pudieran dañarlas. Terrazas señaló también que la alfombra en una de las oficinas tuvo que ser retirada pues el moho la había arruinado.

Los comisionados aprobaron un acuerdo con la Ciudad de Brackettville y con el Distrito Escolar Independiente de Brackettville para arrendar las máquinas de votación AutoMark y M100 Scanner. La ciudad y el distrito escolar tendrán que pagar cada uno \$1,490 por el uso del equipo.

La petición del Alguacil (Sheriff) del Condado de Kinney LK Buddy Burgess para solicitar \$1.8 millones del Subsidio Stonegarden del gobierno federal fue aprobado. El dinero del subsidio será utilizado para pagar los salarios de los Linebackers, los oficiales que apoyan a la Patrulla Fronteriza de los Estados Unidos a lo largo del Rio Grande en el área del Condado de Kinney. Burgess dijo que su coordinador de subsidios hace un trabajo excelente al preparar el papeleo del Condado de Kinney y del Condado de Uvalde. El Condado de Uvalde aplicó por un subsidio de \$2.8 millones "llenando a cuestas" en la aplicación del subsidio del Condado de Kinney. El dinero de Stonegarden es para los condados que son frontera con México, aunque existe una excepción especial para los condados como el de Uvalde, que no son frontera con México, pero que se ve muy afectado por el desbordamiento de delitos.

La sesión se dio por terminada en memoria del ex-Comisionado del Condado John Amos Plunker Sheedy quien dejó de existir en marzo.

El Juez Tim Ward y los comisionados Woody Massingill, Joe Montalvo y Dodson Dennis estuvieron presentes en la sesión. El Comisionado Pat Montalvo estuvo ausente debido a un reciente accidente de motocicleta.

Nuestra cárcel es fenomenal

Por Leigh Castillo Redactora Contribuyente

El Alguacil (Sheriff) del Condado de Kinney LK Buddy Burgess anunció que la Comisión de Texas sobre Estándares de Cárcels (Texas Commission on Jail Standards - TCOJS por sus siglas), realizó una inspección sorpresa a la Cárcel del Condado de Kinney, ubicada en 109 North Street en Brackettville. Burgess se siente muy satisfecho de que la cárcel haya recibido el Certificado de Cumplimiento después de la inspección que le fuera realizada el pasado 6 de marzo.

"El Certificado de Cumplimiento demuestra su destacado liderazgo y el trabajo diligente de su personal en el cumplimiento de las normas

mínimas de cárcel. Además, este logro es el resultado directo del compromiso de su oficina con la excelencia y es un ejemplo de dedicación y profesionalismo en el mantenimiento de una instalación segura y sanitaria," dijo el Director Ejecutivo de TCOJS Adan Muñoz, Jr., en una carta de felicitación fechada el 7 de marzo.

Burgess dijo que el papeleo implicado en la operación de la cárcel puede ser de enormes proporciones y que se siente satisfecho con el informe del Inspector de Estándares de Cárcels George Johnson.

Muñoz agregó, "Proporcionar el apoyo esencial presupuestario para las operaciones de la cárcel es también imprescindible para lograr el cumplimiento."

Variedad de exenciones contributivas residenciales podrían reducir los impuestos de la propiedad

Una exención contributiva residencial reduce los impuestos de la propiedad al disminuir el valor de la misma. Si su residencia está valorada en \$50,000 y recibe una exención de \$15,000, la residencia pagará los impuestos de una residencia valorada en \$35,000.

¿Quién cumple con los requisitos para las exenciones disponibles?

Cualquier persona que es el dueño de una propiedad el primero de enero y la utiliza como residencia principal en esa misma fecha tiene derecho a la exención contributiva residencial de \$15,000 para reducir los impuestos escolares a pagar. No importa si la residencia es una casa, un condominio o una casa móvil. Los condados, ciudades y distritos imponibles especiales también pueden ofrecer exenciones contributivas residenciales.

¿Existe alguna otra exención?

Si usted es discapacitado o tiene 65 o más tiene derecho a una exención contributiva escolar adicional de \$10,000 para la residencia. Y, si cumple con los requisitos para exención por la edad de 65 o más, o es discapacitado tiene derecho a una cifra de impuestos congelada al llegar a cierto punto específico y permanente de impuestos escolares por la propiedad. El condado, la ciudad o universidad comunitaria pueden también congelar el límite de impuestos a pagar para las personas de 65 años o más y los discapacitados. Los límites de los impuestos escolares para las personas de 65 años o más son transferidos al cónyuge sobreviviente si el sobreviviente tiene 55 años o más al momento del deceso, es el propietario y reside en la propiedad. Los propietarios residenciales de 65 o más, o el cónyuge sobreviviente, puede transferir a una nueva residencia el porcentaje del impuesto escolar pagado y basado en el impuesto congelado.

Si es usted un veterano discapacitado quien recibe de la Administración de Veteranos (VA, por sus siglas en inglés) (1) 100 por ciento del beneficio por discapacidad (relacionado al servicio militar) o (2) VA determinó que no puede desempeñar ningún oficio, tiene derecho a recibir una exención contributiva para la residencia del valor tasado total.

¿Debo solicitar la exención anualmente?

No. Si usted recibió la exención residencial de la propiedad en 2011 no es necesario solicitar nuevamente a menos que el jefe de tasaciones así exige. Por otro lado, si usted no ha recibido la exención en la residencia actual o se mudó a una nueva residencia en 2011 debe solicitar la exención para 2012. En caso de cumplir 65 durante este año, tiene tiempo para solicitar la exención por edad de 65 o más hasta un año después de la fecha exacta de nacimiento. Y, si sufre de discapacidad puede solicitar la exención para personas con discapacidades.

¿Dónde y cuándo debo solicitar la exención?

Debe solicitar antes del 1ero de mayo en la oficina del distrito de tasaciones. De ser el caso de que necesita tiempo adicional, contáctenos en:

KINNEY COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT
PO BOX 1377 412 S. ANN ST
BRACKETTVILLE TX 78832
830-563-2323

Envíe un e-mail a: ptad.cpa@cpa.state.tx.us

Escriba a:
Texas Comptroller Susan Combs
Property Tax Assistance Division
P.O. Box 13528
Austin, Texas 78711-3528

llame al: 1-800-252-9121. Oprima el "2" para acceso al menú. Entonces oprima el "1" para contactar al equipo de información y servicio.

Visite: www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/

Este es un servicio público cortesía de su distrito de tasaciones del condado.

Vota por el desarrollo de una NUEVA generación de LÍDERES!

La mayoría de ustedes recordarán que crecí en Brackettville como Theresa Terrazas, hija del ya fallecido Ben Terrazas Jr. y de Terry Terrazas; Egresada de la Generación de 1993 de Brackett High Schol; y fui una pequeña Mighty Brackett Tigerette de principio a fin. Un llamado para criar a mi propia familia en Brackettville fue fácil de responder. Yo quería que mis hijos aprendieran los valores morales inculcados en mí por mi familia, amistades y maestros. Y así, Brackettville es el hogar de la familia Quiroz.

Hoy en día, como Theresa Quiroz, les pido humildemente su voto el sábado, 12 de mayo, 2012 para desempeñar un cargo en el Consejo Directivo Escolar. Mi compromiso con ustedes y con nuestros hijos es que siempre será justa, honesta y respetuosa. Si soy electa, ofreceré mis valores morales y mi dedicación al trabajo, y seré responsable.

Gracias por su apoyo y lo más importante, le doy gracias al Señor por esta oportunidad de servirles a ustedes y a los demás.

Anuncio político pagado por Theresa Quiroz

