



Brackett News

WEEKLY

New Year's Resolutions
See Inside

Volume 23, No. 47

Thursday, December 29, 2011

1 Section, 6 Pages

Kinney County is Home to Buster Jamail - Best Chicken Chaser in Town!

Community News

BISD SCHOOL CALENDER OF EVENTS

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

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 and please call if you have questions.

AA MEETING

Las Moras Group. Slator Hall 109, James St. Mon. - Fri. 7 pm.

KINNEY COUNTY HERITAGE MUSEUM

The KCHM is open the 2nd and 4th Saturday of the Month: April 23: 1-4 pm; May 14 and 28: 1-4 pm; and June 11 and 25: 1-4 pm

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BRACKETT NEWS WEEKLY

Commissioners approve paving Gove and Beaumont

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

Kinney County Commissioners voted to approve the contract for paving Gove and Beaumont streets at a Regular meeting on

December 19.

The county will receive funds from the Texas Community Development Council Block Grant to pave streets located within the Brackettville City Limits. Grant Administrator Carl Esser

stated the paving is expected to begin in May or June 2012.

Kinney County Judge Tim Ward stated the State had given their permission to start the work on repairing the ceiling in the District Courtroom located on the

second floor of the courthouse.

Kinney County Sheriff's Deputy and Detention Center Liaison Cordelia Mendeke reported the facility housed 345 prisoners. The court lifted the county wide burn ban for thirty days, effective December 19.

December 19.

Judge Ward and commissioners Woody Massingill, Dennis Dodson and Pat Melancon were all present at the meeting. Commissioner Joe Montalvo was absent.

Two corrections officers involved in fatal crash



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - On Monday, December 26, a vehicle travelling east towards Brackett collided with another vehicle travelling west on Highway 90.

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

Two Kinney County Detention Center employees were involved in a fatal car accident on December 26.

A 911 caller reported a head on collision on Highway 90, near the main gate of the Foyt Ranch, at

6:24 p.m.

James D. Saenz, 30, of Del Rio, died from injuries he sustained after his car collided with a pickup Monday evening.

Saenz, a sergeant at the Kinney County Detention Center, was traveling east towards Brackettville in a 2006 Pontiac sedan.

Preliminary information released by the Kinney County

Sheriff's Office states Saenz was passing a vehicle, lost control of his car and collided with Ramon Saul Palomo, 48, the driver of a black Toyota pickup.

Saenz was pronounced dead at the scene at 7:19 p.m. by Kinney County Justice of the Peace Narce Villarreal.

Palomo, of Del Rio, was transported to Val Verde Regional

Medical Center in Del Rio for treatment of his injuries.

Pamela Villarreal, 29, of Del Rio, was a passenger in the white sedan.

Villarreal was air lifted to a San Antonio hospital. At press time, Villarreal was said to be still hospitalized. Villarreal is also an employee at the detention center.

Kinney County Detention

Center Assistant Warden John Bealefeld said the flag at the center was at half mast in honor of Saenz.

"He was a cherished individual and a very well liked young man," said Bealefeld. "This is a loss to the organization and he will be missed."

Saenz had been employed at the center for nearly three years.

City Police Chief to run for Sheriff

By Leigh Castillo
Contributing Writer

Kinney County Commissioner Precinct 3 Incumbent Dennis Dodson (D) filed to have a place on the Primary election ballot. Martin Garcia, Jr. (D) filed by petition to challenge Dodson.

Kinney County Commissioner Precinct 1 Incumbent Woody Massingill (R) filed for a place on the ballot.

Kinney County Attorney Incumbent Robert Bob Adams (R) filed for a place on the ballot.

Kinney County Sheriff Incumbent LK Buddy Burgess (D) filed for a place on the ballot. Dave Crowe (D) filed by petition to challenge Burgess.

On the Republican side, Vito LaGioia has filed to run for sheriff.

Kinney County Constable Incumbent Bobby Guidry (D) filed for a place on the ballot. Ralph Gonzales (R) has filed for Constable at Large.

Kinney County Tax Assessor-Collector Incumbent Martha Padron filed for a place on the ballot.

The Primary Election will be held on March 6, 2012, followed by the General Election on November 6, 2012.

County Republican Chairman John Quigley stated those interested in obtaining information about the Republican Primary candidates and the election information can visit kinneycotxgop.us.

County Democratic Chairwoman Mary Flores said information about the Democratic Primary candidates and election information can be obtained by calling, 830.563.9414.

Second car crash sends 2 to hospital



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - On Wednesday, December 28, a vehicle with 4 occupants rolled over on Hwy 90. Two of the occupants were transported and the other 2 refused treatment. The vehicle was travelling west bound, when it reportedly lost control.

Mr. Brackett says..... Texas has a law called the Texas Public Information Act which allows a person to request and receive information from a government agency, in this case the City of Brackettville. Some people I know have come to us with complaints of the City stonewalling them on some 20 Open Records Requests dealing with budget and financial records. Since July of 2011, there have been at least 26 Open Records Requests made, of which only 5 have been completely filled. Some of the requested information that would answer the question "Where's the Dough?" have been stonewalled. They are:



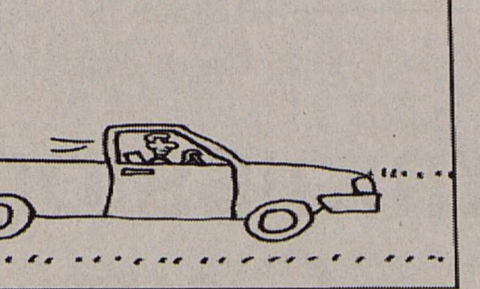
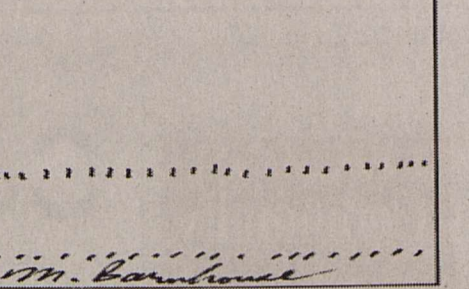
- ◆ Budget for 2011-2012.....**STONEWALLED**.....
- ◆ Monthly financial statement for years 2008-2011.....**STONEWALLED**
- ◆ STEP Grant accounting.....**STONEWALLED**.....
- ◆ Monthly bank statements for all accounts 2007-2012 to see where money came from and where it went..... **STONEWALLED**.....
- ◆ Audits as required by law 2009, 2010, 2011.....**HAVE NOT BEEN DONE**

The above requested information would have answered the following questions.....◆ **Where is the Trash money going?**

- ◆ **Where is the Gas Surcharge money going?**
- ◆ **Where is the Electrical Surcharge money going?**

When government is not forthcoming with financial information..... **it invites suspicion.**

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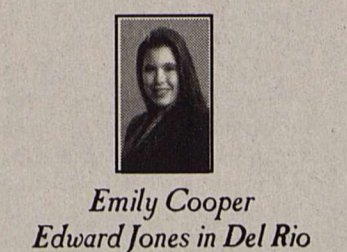
For questions or corrections please call
 830-563-2852 or email: tbnews@sbcglobal.net.

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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.

Time for New Year's Financial Resolutions



Once again, it's time to make some New Year's resolutions. This year, in addition to hitting the gym, learning that second language and getting better organized, why not also consider a few financial resolutions?

What types of resolutions might you consider? Here are a few suggestions:

- Contribute more to your retirement accounts. The new year means that you are one year closer to retirement. To help yourself build resources for the lifestyle you've envisioned as a retiree, try to boost your contributions to your 401(k) or other employer-sponsored retirement

plan. You can do this if you get a salary increase and devote at least part of it to your 401(k). At the same time, try to "max out" on your Individual Retirement Account (IRA). For 2012, you can contribute up to \$5,000 to an IRA, or \$6,000 if you're 50 or older.

- Reduce your debts. Look for ways to cut down or consolidate your debts. It may not be easy, but it's worth the effort because the lower your debt load, the more money you'll have available to invest for the future.
- Build an emergency fund. If you don't already have an emergency fund containing between six and 12 months' worth of living expenses, start building one soon. Keep the money in a liquid vehicle — one that's separate from your everyday checking and savings accounts. Without such an emergency fund, you may be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for unexpected costs, such as a major car

repair, a new furnace or a large medical bill.

- Don't overreact to volatility. In 2011, the financial markets have been volatile, with big gains followed by big drops followed by big gains — a true roller-coaster pattern. Try not to let large, short-term price movements influence your investment decisions. Many of the factors that cause jumps or declines are not that relevant to long-term results — and as an investor, you want to focus on the long term. Concentrate on building a portfolio that's suitable for your individual goals and risk tolerance.
- Be aware of different types of risk. For many investors, "investment risk" strictly means the possibility of losing principal when the value of an investment drops. Consequently, to cut back on their risk in the face of a volatile market, they may sell off stocks and load up on certificates of deposit (CDs), bonds and other so-called "safer" in-

vestments. But each investment actually carries its own type of risk. For example, if you own CDs that pay a 2 percent return, and the inflation rate is 3 percent, you will lose purchasing power over time. And if you wanted to sell your bonds before they had matured, you'd have to sell them at a discount if the market interest rate had risen above the "coupon" rate of your bond because no one would pay you full price for them. Just be aware that no investment is "risk-free," and try to build a diversified portfolio that can lessen the impact of one specific type of risk.

By following these suggestions, you can go a long way toward making 2012 a good year in which to make progress toward your important financial goals. So plan ahead — and make the right moves.

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

New Year, New you in babysteps



With each New Year we resolve to eat less, move more and take better care of ourselves. We have all made these resolutions and end up with broken spirits because we have set ourselves up for failure once again. I would like to look at our expectations and come up with a way to do all these things in simple BabySteps that can change our lives.

We don't need a new year to decide to take care of ourselves. What do we mean when we decide to "Take Care of Ourselves"? It all boils down to a lifestyle change for many of us. Now we could go cold turkey and go away for a month to some elaborate spa where they fix our meals for us, put us on an exercise regimen, run medical tests and pamper us or we can learn from them and do it ourselves.

If you went away to one of these retreats for a month what would be the first thing they

would do to you? We would have to sign a waiver, get a physical and blood work. Why do you think they would make you sign a waiver? This is to relinquish them from any liability that could result from you killing over from a heart attack. This in itself should be a wake up call for most of us. Our lifestyles are contributing to the increase of heart disease, obesity, and diabetes in our country. With this in mind it is up to each one of us to take charge of our bodies and our minds and go get a physical along with the blood work. We should do this before we start any new lifestyle changes. This is our barometer to help guide us. Do not procrastinate about this. Make your appointment today because this is the first step to the rest of your life. Talk to your doctor about taking these BabySteps to change your life. Ask for help and as long as you are getting blood work done get them to run a full panel thyroid screen.

At the spa you will probably be forced to go cold turkey when it comes to smoking, alcohol, and caffeine. So how can we limit these things for us while we are enjoying our Home Spa? Let's look realistically at how much we are doing these things during a day, week or a month.

For some people money can be a motivating factor for others they just need to decide that moderation is the key. So instead of 5 cups of coffee a day; just have one. Then replace the coffee with a bottle of water. With dinner have water and one glass of wine instead of a bottle. Smoking is very a very hard habit to break so look at when your body is craving a cigarette and when it is just a simple habit to light up. You will be able to tell the difference. Be nice to yourself and don't punish yourself by taking everything away cold turkey. You know how fad diets work. You feel deprived and then just throw the diet out the window and devour all you can get your hands on. During the process we are going to learn to nurture ourselves at the same time we are making the lifestyle changes. This way you do not have to feel like you are being tortured.

We can turn our homes into nurturing spas with just a few little additions to our grocery lists. Spas have good wholesome snacks just waiting for you to enjoy them. They require you to eat several times during the day. We don't normally do this because we are too busy to eat. The main reason we don't eat good wholesome foods is because there are not any in the refrigerator. So add whole fruits, cut up veggies, nuts, cottage cheese cups, yogurt, and salad fixins to your weekly grocery list. Remind yourself to eat between meals. Imagine that; you have permission to snack.

At a spa you never see anyone without a water bottle. There are water coolers everywhere and little reminders to drink up. I am not talking about over doing here; just getting eight cups of water a day. If you eat 3 meals a day and 3 snacks a day then drink a small glass with each then you have had 6 glasses of water. Now add one when you get up while you are getting dressed and then another one before bed. You have done it; 8 glasses in a sixteen hour day. That is only one glass every couple of hours. Set your timer if you have to so you will remember to drink your water.

Now for the hard part of being at a spa! They are going to force you to get into shape. We have been couch potatoes for a very long time and we have given them permission to help us. Well let's give ourselves this same permission. You may need to ask a friend to help you. It is

much easier if you have someone that you are accountable to. Not moving is not an option, the Spa trainer is not going to accept any excuse for your inactivity; Moving can be as simple as walking around your yard or on a treadmill. Start by adding a fifteen minute walk to your morning routine. Then gradually you will be incorporating other babysteps to your daily walk through life. Little things like parking farther from the front door at the grocery store or taking the stairs. Before you know it you will be playing in the yard with the children or taking the dog for a romp having a great time incorporating loving movement into your every day life. When you make it fun it will continue to bless your heart.

A spa has lots of ways to pamper you; Starting with your bedroom. The beds are nice and inviting. They encourage you to go to bed at a decent hour by having a curfew. When was the last time you went to bed before 11:00 pm. There are fresh sheets on your bed and plump pillows to curl up with a good book for a few minutes of leisure time. Getting your rest is one of the keys to helping our bodies renew themselves and heal. There have been studies that correlate obesity to not enough sleep. Let's go to bed and quit making our bodies beg for sleep. Our bodies need good food, water, loving movement and rest to function properly.

We also need to reward ourselves for the simple life changes we are making. At our home spa we can do things like manicure, pedicure, bubble baths, facials and other little things to help us feel good about the babysteps we making part of our routines. These little rewards help you to feel good about you and teach you to FLY (Finally Love Yourself) and isn't that what blessing your heart is all about. We deserve to live happy, healthy productive lives. Enjoy your spa!

Finally Loving Yourself is easy with a Spa Attitude.

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 2011 Marla Cilley Used by permission in this publication.

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2011-12 Kinney County 4-H Photography

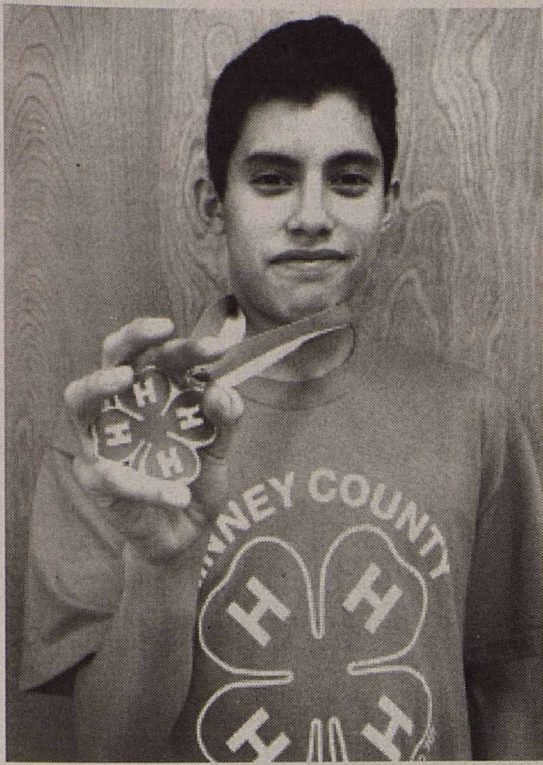


Photo on left courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - Dante Luna was selected as this year's Top Photographer award recipient. Dante has been active in the 4-H Photography Project for 4 years, has improved his photography skills a tenfold, and exhibits the true spirit of 4-H. Congratulations, Dante!

Photo on right courtesy to Brackett News Weekly - Kinney County 4-H Photographers have completed another successful year and are excited to present an incredible photography show at the Kinney County Livestock Show, January 13th-14th. Pictured left to right: (top row) Volunteer leader Kim Keyser, Dante Luna, Peyton Bonner, Kaitlyn Partlow, Elizabeth Rangel, Kimberly Stafford; (bottom row) Christopher Martinez, Kate Linn Spence, Sara Titchenell, Raegan Clark, Breanna Quiroz. Not pictured: Dakota Britton, Shannon Gammill, and Shelby Schuster.



State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness STAAR

Submitted by Bisd

1. What is STAAR?

The State of Texas Assessments of Academic Readiness, or STAAR, will replace the Texas Assessment of Knowledge and Skills (TAKS) program beginning in spring 2012. The STAAR program at grades 3-8 will assess the same grades and subjects as are assessed on TAKS. For high school, general subject-area TAKS tests will be replaced with twelve STAAR end-of-course (EOC) assessments.

2. Why is there a new assessment program for Texas students?

The Texas Education Agency (TEA), in collaboration with the

Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board (THECB) and Texas educators, is developing a new assessment system in response to requirements set forth by the 80th and 81st Texas legislatures. This new system will focus on increasing postsecondary readiness of graduating high school students and helping to ensure that Texas students are competitive with other students both nationally and internationally.

3. In what grades, subjects, and courses will students be assessed under the new STAAR program?

At grades 3-8, students will be tested in mathematics and reading. Students will also be

tested in writing at grades 4 and 7, science at grades 5 and 8, and social studies at grade 8. STAAR EOC assessments will be available for Algebra I, geometry, Algebra II, biology, chemistry, physics, English I, English II, English III, world geography, world history, and U.S. history.

4. In general, how will the STAAR assessment program be different from the TAKS assessment program?

The most significant changes to the assessment program include

- increasing the rigor of both the assessments and the performance standards for all grades, subjects, and courses;
- changing high school assessments from grade-based to course-based assessments;
- establishing postsecondary-readiness performance standards for Algebra II and English III; and
- using empirical validation studies as part of the standard-setting process to ensure that performance standards are linked from grade to grade and are also linked to external evidence of postsecondary readiness.

5. What are the most significant differences between the STAAR assessments and the TAKS assessments?

- The rigor of items has been increased by assessing skills at a greater depth and level of cognitive complexity. In this way the tests will be better able to measure a greater range of student achievement and establish stronger links to postsecondary readiness.
- The total number of test items for the STAAR assess-

ments has been increased for most grades, subjects, and courses.

• A four-hour time limit has been established for STAAR assessments, as opposed to TAKS, which was untimed.

• STAAR assessments in mathematics and reading will be linked from grade to grade as well as to postsecondary-readiness standards for the Algebra II and English III assessments.

• STAAR assessments have been designed to focus on readiness standards, which are defined as those Texas Essential Knowledge and Skills (TEKS) student expectations that are not only essential for success in the current grade or course but also important for preparedness in the next grade or course. By focusing on the student expectations that are most critical to assess, STAAR will better measure the academic performance of students as they progress from elementary to middle school to high school.

• STAAR EOC assessments will differ from the current TAKS high school assessments in that each STAAR EOC assessment will cover only the content from a particular course (e.g., Algebra I will assess only Algebra I content) rather than content from multiple courses (e.g., Algebra I and grade 8 mathematics were assessed on the TAKS grade 9 mathematics tests).

• STAAR writing assessments at grades 4 and 7 will be extended to two days.

• STAAR EOC assessments for English I, II, and III will be administered over two days, with the writing component on day one and the reading component on day two.

• The test designs for STAAR

grades 4 and 7 writing and STAAR English I, II, and III will require students to write two essays addressing different purposes for writing rather than one longer personal essay, which TAKS required.

• In reading assessments for STAAR, greater emphasis will be given to critical analysis rather than literal understanding. The test designs for English I, II, and III will allow for the reading and writing components to be equated and scaled separately so that reading and writing scores can be reported separately. This means that a student will need to retake only the portion of the STAAR English I, II, or III assessment (reading or writing) that he or she did not pass.

• Most STAAR mathematics and science assessments will have an increased number of open-ended (griddable) items to allow students the opportunity to derive an answer independently without being influenced by the answer choices provided with the questions.

• STAAR grade 3 assessments will have separate answer documents instead of scorable test booklets.

6. How will student performance be described on STAAR?

There will be two cut scores, which will identify three performance categories. For the general STAAR assessments, STAAR Modified, and STAAR L, the labels for the performance categories are

- Level III: Advanced Academic Performance
- Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance
- Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

For the STAAR Alternate assessments, the performance labels are

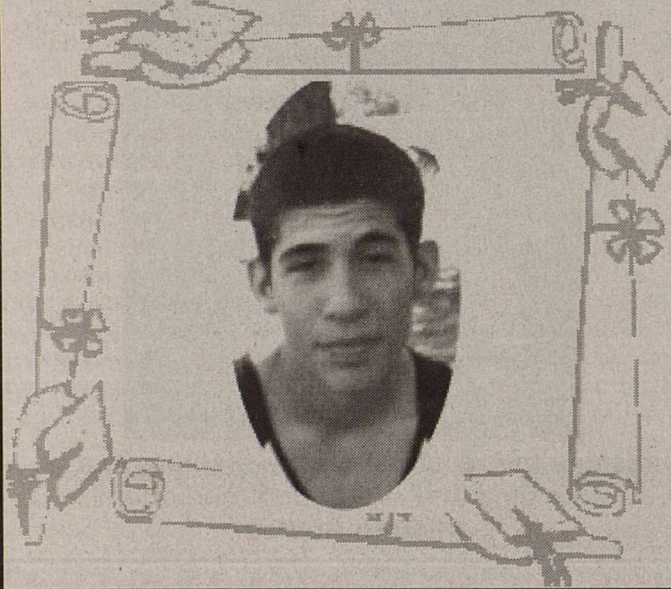
- Level III: Accomplished Academic Performance
- Level II: Satisfactory Academic Performance
- Level I: Unsatisfactory Academic Performance

7. What is the timeline for establishing student performance standards for the STAAR program?

The timeline for standard-setting activities will differ for STAAR 3-8 and STAAR EOC because of the timing of available assessment data and different legislative requirements. For STAAR EOC, operational assessment data are available from the spring 2011 administrations. Therefore, Texas Education Agency Student Assessment Division August 2011 performance standards will be set in February 2012, prior to the spring administrations. However, operational assessment data for STAAR 3-8 will not be available until after the spring 2012 administrations; for this reason performance standards will be set in October 2012.

Legislation requires a system of performance standards that are linked from grade to grade starting with postsecondary-readiness performance standards down through grade 3. Therefore, STAAR EOC performance standards must be established before standards for STAAR 3-8 can be set. Additionally, districts must be provided with test scores on STAAR EOC assessments so that they can be used as 15% of the students' final course grades for the 2011-2012 school year.

Class of 2012 BHS SENIOR SPOTLIGHT



Joelson Terrazas

Parents: Joel and Sara Terrazas
Siblings: Cecilia Solis and Celina Montalvo
What grade did you start attending school at Bisd? Kinder
What are your future plans? To get my liberal arts degree in music.
In five years I will be... following GOD'S plan

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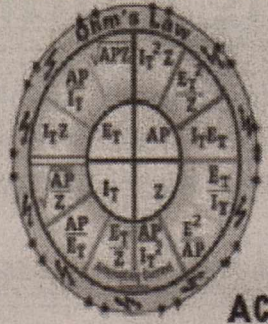
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Public invited to participate in Colonia Plan and Study

Submitted by Kinney County Judges Office

Kinney County recently was awarded a Colonia Planning Fund contract from the Texas Department of Agriculture, Office of Rural Affairs, formerly known as the Texas Department of Rural Affairs, in conjunction with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. These program funds will allow Kinney County to conduct a comprehensive Colonia Plan and Study for those unincorporated

communities within Kinney County.

The plan's purpose is to assess the conditions in Kinney County's unincorporated communities in order to identify needs and possible solutions for those needs with particular emphasis on water, sewer, housing, roads, streets, and drainage.

In order for Kinney County to gain public input in regards to this Comprehensive Colonia Plan and Study a public meeting is scheduled for Tuesday January 17 at 6:00 p.m. in the

Commissioners Courtroom Kinney County Courthouse. Kinney County encourages citizens who live within Kinney County Ranch Estates, Leona Ranch, N-Bar Ranch, and outside the incorporated limits of Brackettville to attend this important meeting in identifying goals and objectives for this Kinney County Comprehensive Colonia Plan.

For additional information please contact Tim Ward, Kinney County Judge at (830) 563-2401.

Our Redeemer distributes food baskets

Submitted by Ruth Spencer

The week before Christmas, Our Redeemer Lutheran Church distributed Christmas food baskets to residents of Brackettville.

The bags included canned ham, bags of apples and oranges

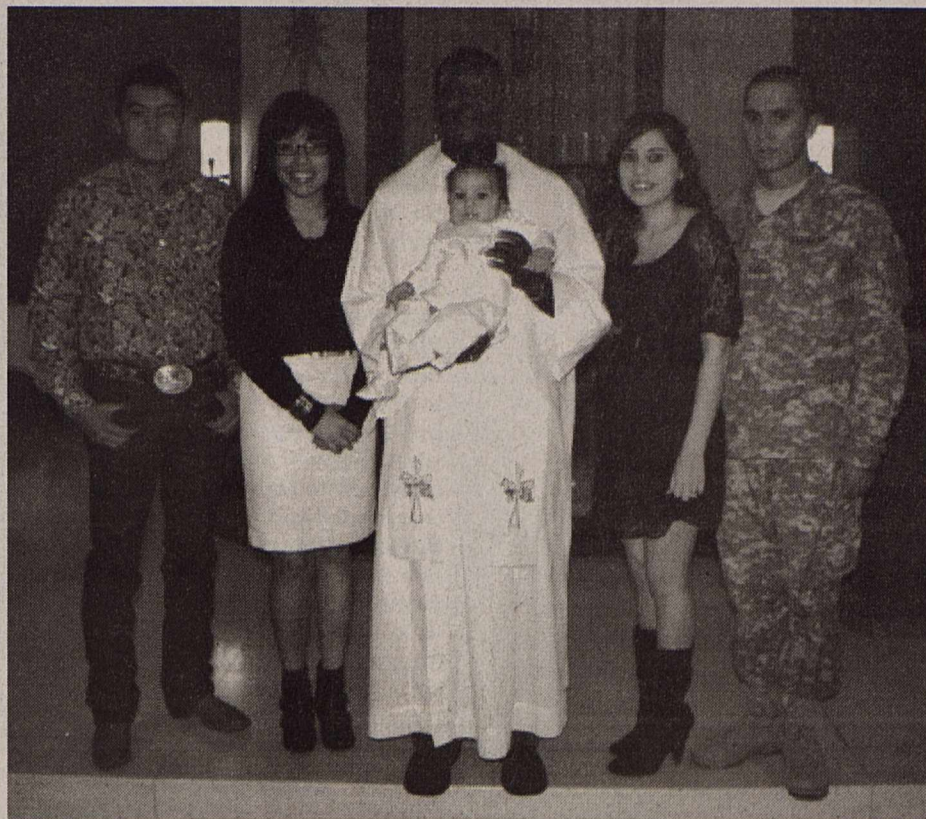
plus other canned and boxed food to assure these families of a delicious meal for Christmas. Assisting Pastor Dick Reinap in this community mission project were Gladys Lewis, Amie Skelton and Barbara Williams.

On a cold, rainy Wednesday

evening several members of Our Redeemer Lutheran also went Christmas caroling around Brackettville.

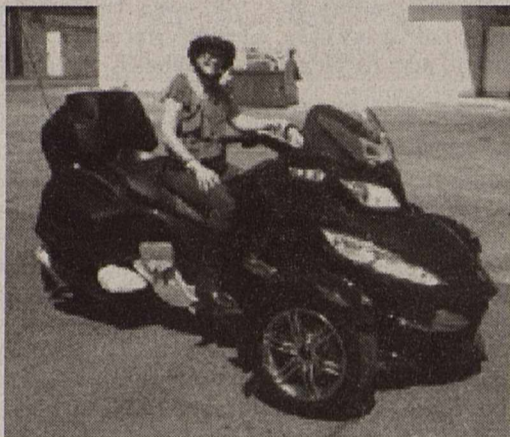
This was enjoyed by local residents and they were thanked for their thoughtfulness on a rainy evening.

Congratulations on your Baptism



Brackett News Weekly by Ashley Castillo Sandoval - On Saturday, December 24th, Father Pius (center) of St. Mary Magdalene Catholic Church baptized Sammie Jess Stewart III. Sam and Nayellie Stewart (right) are the proud parents of Baby Sammie, Victor Elizondo and Erika Villanueva (left) are proud Godparents.

My 2012 New Year's Resolution...



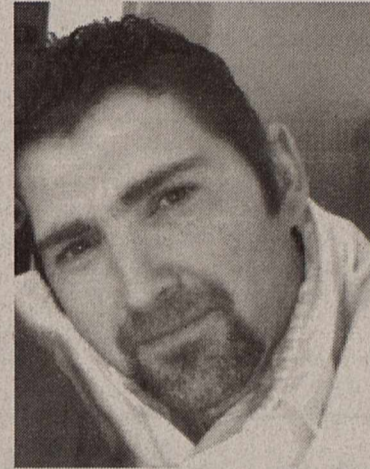
Be a lot nicer to the husband! After all he did buy me a new can- am spider this year. It just doesn't get much better than that.

-Judy McNeel Schillick



I am going to start making the Lord our God a bigger part of our daily lives!!! We seem to look for him only when something goes wrong in our lives, but if you praise him daily and thank him for the good and bad, I believe you will get the strength to make it through. I think this is a lot easier than trying to lose weight!!!!

-Susanna Terrazas Castillo



I'm going to write a book about life, love and the end of everything!

-Glenn Grinner, T Sharp

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To start serving more than just hot pockets and instant noodles for dinner!

-Courtney Quiroz



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SEASON'S GREETINGS

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Financial Advisor

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Worship 10:45 Staffed Nursery
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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. 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
Spofford - Sunday: 1 PM
Parish Priest Father Pius Ezeigbo

First Baptist Church
Sunday: Bible Study 9:45 am • Worship Service 11 am
• 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

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church
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Sunday Worship 10:30 AM
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM
(October - April)
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Our Redeemer Lutheran Church
Fort & Henderson
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Email: orlcbackett@gmail.com
830.563.7717
Pastor Dick Reinap

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Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm
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Minister: Ray Melton

St. John'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

3 Host Families needed to host boys

Submitted by ERDT/SHARE! High School Exchange Program
3 Host Families needed to host boys from Germany, Brazil and Denmark.

Host Families are needed for 3 international exchange students for the 2012 spring semester. The students hope to arrive shortly, in early 2012 and will

stay with the host family for one semester. They are in need of caring families-with or without children- to provide a home and share with them this unique experience. The host family will provide a bed, meals, as well as friendship, understanding, and a genuine desire to share the American way of life with these

youngster from overseas. The students will attend the high school closest to their family's home, are between the ages of 15 and 18, speak English, are covered by medical insurance, and have spending money for their personal expenses.

The SHARE! High School Exchange Program is sponsored

by Educational Resource Development Trust (ERDT). Families are able to review student applications and select the boy they feel will best match their family. For more information, please contact Yvette Coffman at the SHARE! Southwest Office at 800-941-3738 or www.sharesouthwest.org

OBITUARY

Dora L. Goodloe

February 14, 1926 - December 23, 2011

Dora L. Goodloe, age 85, entered into rest December 23, 2011, in Del Rio, Texas. She was born February 14, 1926 in Uvalde, Texas. She was preceded in death by her husband Johnny Goodloe and her parents Eddie Phillipps and Grace Grant and brother Tommy Grant.

Left to cherish her memory are her son's: Roy Goodloe, Frank Goodloe and wife Josie, Ricky Goodloe and wife Nellie, Raymond Goodloe and wife Tammy, Sterling Goodloe, Arthur Goodloe and wife Carmen. Daughters Carol Dimery, Augusta Pines, Darnetta Hardrick and husband Robert, Brothers, Jay Cardenas, Theo Phillipps, Conway Phillipps, Sisters, Lucinda Phillipps, Joyce Phillipps. Also survived by 45-Grandchildren and 28-Great-Grandchildren and 3-Great-Great-Grandchildren. Also survived by numerous nieces and nephews.

Pallbearers will be: Sammy Goodloe, Rafael Gonzalez, Demetrius Williams, Berney Cervantes, Joe Garza and James Shirley.

Visitation will be held Friday, December 30, 2011, 5:00pm-9:00pm, Brackettville Sunset s Funeral Home.

Funeral Service will be held Saturday, December 31, 2011, 10:00am, at First Baptist Church in Brackettville, Texas

Interment to follow at Seminole Indian Scout Cemetery.

Please visit our website at www.sunsetfuneralhomes.com and sign our online guestbook.

Funeral arrangements are entrusted to Sunset Memorial Oaks Funeral Home & Cemetery, 2020 Bedell Ave., Del Rio, Texas 78840, (830)778-2020.

Texas State Parks Announce \$4.6 million Appeal for Help:

Record heat, drought, wildfires spark call for park visits, donations



Photo Courtesy to Brackett News Weekly by TPWD - Texas Parks and Wildlife Executive Director Carter Smith Tuesday appealed to the public to visit state parks and make donations to help offset revenue loss caused by heat, drought, wildfires and a resulting drop in park visitor revenue. He said a "triple whammy" of record heat, devastating wildfires and a decline in park visitation and revenue had created a critical need for Texas state parks.

Submitted by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

AUSTIN - The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department today hosted 11 news conferences at different locations across the state, appealing to the public to visit state parks and make donations to help offset a revenue loss caused by heat, drought, wildfires and a resulting drop in park visitor revenue.

"A 'triple whammy' of record heat and drought, devastating wildfires and a corresponding decline in visitation and revenue has created a critical need for Texas State Parks," said Carter Smith, TPWD executive director. "So, we are reaching out for help."

TPWD held news conferences at the following state parks or other locations in cities across Texas: McKinney Falls/Austin, Government Canyon/San Antonio, Sheldon Lake/Houston, Cedar Hill/Dallas-Fort Worth, Abilene SP/Abilene, Amarillo Convention and Visitors Council office/Amarillo, Mustang Island/Corpus Christi, State Parks

Office/El Paso, Estero Llano Grande/Rio Grande Valley, Tyler SP/Tyler, and Mother Neff/Waco.

Visitor fees fund about half the \$69 million operating budget for the state park system, subject to legislative appropriations. For many years, there's been a steady upward trend, with more people visiting parks generating more revenue to operate them—until this year.

Through the summer and into early fall, traditionally a busy time for parks, many Texans stayed home because of the dry heat. Shriveling lakes and rivers disrupted swimming, fishing and boating, and burn bans prevented campfires. Also, three popular state parks—Bastrop, Davis Mountains and Possum Kingdom—suffered major wildfire damage and produced no revenue for weeks, though all are now back open to varying degrees.

As a result, in August state park system revenue declined 25 percent compared to the same month last year. So far this fall

revenue is down 11 percent—improving, but still not close to what park leaders say is needed.

"The bottom line is we have a \$4.6 million gap in our 2012 park system operating budget," Smith said. "This is the amount we need to raise to help keep state parks open. We want to alert people now while there is still time to help."

TPWD is rolling out a multi-faceted awareness campaign stressing three calls to action:

One, go to www.tpwd.state.tx.us/helpparks to make a tax-deductible, year-end donation.

Two, starting Jan. 1, make a donation when you renew your motor vehicle registration.

And, most important, because visitor fees pay for about half of park system operating costs, visit state parks.

"Cooler weather makes fall and winter a fine time to visit state parks, which are great places for holiday outings and gatherings," said Brent Leisure, TPWD state parks director.

"Also, recent rains are allowing many of our parks to lift burn bans. That's making campfires possible once again, an important tradition for many park visitors."

Leisure said state parks are important for many reasons. They protect unique places and provide settings for healthy outdoor recreation and family fun for millions of people.

State parks are also economic engines for nature tourism. In a 2008 study, the Texas Comptroller found state parks draw outside tourists into host counties, generating millions in annual retail sales and local resident income.

The Texas State Parks operating budget is based on legislative appropriations, but relies on revenue generated by visitor fees. This year, an additional \$3 million in revenue was pro-

jected.

Also, the legislature passed a new option that allows people to make a donation when they renew their motor vehicle registration, estimating that would raise at least \$1.6 million per year. Starting Jan. 1 drivers can donate \$5 or more when renewing their registration by mail, at the county tax office or online in counties offering online payment.

"The state park system 2012 budget was set anticipating those two items would raise a total of \$4.6 million," Smith said. "But the money is not there because park visitation and revenue are down markedly due to drought and wildfires, and the vehicle registration donation program is just getting underway for renewals due in January."

The department is also providing video, radio, web and social media resources for the media and public, all emphasizing the same three calls to action.

Many state parks offer reduced camping fees during "off-peak" fall and winter months, especially for longer stays. Many parks have lifted burn bans—check online for the latest information. And dozens of state parks are hosting special holiday events in December. See <http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us/calendar/holidays> for dates, locations and descriptions.

To learn about the various Texas State Parks and their offerings, or to make online camping reservations, visit <http://www.texasstateparks.org>. Or call state park information at 1-800-792-1112, option 3, between 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

Resources for news media, including photos of drought and wildfires, downloadable video, and radio news soundbites, are in a Park Awareness News Roundup online.

New Year's resolution: Make time for family travel

Submitted by StatePoint

Losing weight, quitting bad habits and getting out of debt are all great New Year's resolutions to make, but they are also all difficult to keep. A study from Quirkology, a psychology research team, indicates that of those who make New Year's Resolutions, only 12 percent actually achieve their goal.

So if you want to feel a sense of accomplishment this year, why not include at least one self-improvement initiative not rooted in restriction. This year resolve to broaden your horizons and spend quality time with your family by taking a vacation together.

Sit down and make a list of all the places you want to go as a family. Make a point to check off at least one item on your list this year. If you need inspiration, the new edition of "1000 Places To See Before You Die" by Patricia Schultz is a great place to start, profiling destinations off the beaten tourist path. For more information, visit: www.1000places.com.

Travel can mean anything from relaxing on a beach to going on a safari. Figure out what kind of trip you want to take. You can consider more exotic locales like Austria or the Caribbean, or choose the familiar, and opt for a road trip to a nearby state park for a more active vacation.

Don't think you need to go halfway around the world to

have a worthwhile experience.

"The number of miles covered has nothing to do with the real pleasures of travel—the inherent beauty of the world and the discovery it promises is all around us," says Schultz.

If you're on a budget, there are many online resources to help you find the best deals on flights, accommodations and car rentals. A little bargain hunting will go a long way toward putting your dream vacation within reach.

And if you don't have the resources to make a trip happen now, open a special savings account designated solely for travel and contribute a small portion of every paycheck.

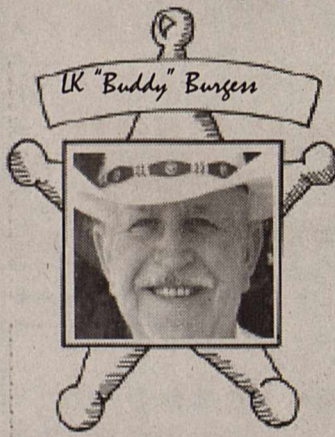
Vacations are also a great way to improve your health and happiness. Leisure time is known to reduce the risk of stress-related health issues and a Harris Interactive poll indicates that women who take more vacations are happier in their marriages.

Plus, a great vacation is a terrific way to make lasting memories with your family. And the experiences you have together will improve your understanding of the world.

"There really is no downside to travel, save a little jet lag and a dented bank account," says Schultz.

So put those excuses aside. Demanding jobs, school schedules, and all of life's little details may make finding the time for a trip difficult, but when there's a will there's a way.

Kinney County Sheriff's Report



before Cline on the northside. The owner of the loose cows was contacted.

A man reported his credit cards had been misused.

Tuesday, December 20
A Fort Clark man reported his ten speed bicycle has been stolen.

A Fort Clark man reported one of his neighbor's friends hit his car.

Wednesday, December 21
Joaquin Flores, 23, of Brackettville, was arrested for disorderly conduct. Flores was released on December 23 with time served.

A 911 caller reported a white van with Kentucky plates was weaving all over the road.

A 911 caller reported a brown and white dog on El Paso Street that would not let him pass by. The City of Brackettville was notified.

A caller reported a domestic situation.

A caller requested a deputy's assistance with a person who had fallen down.

Thursday, December 22
Tully Ray Brown, 35, of

Campwood, was arrested for assault causing bodily injury-family violence. Brown was still being held at press time.

A man called to report a domestic situation at the old Longhorn Hotel.

A woman called to report a two car accident at Highway 90 East and FM 1572.

Friday, December 23
A Fort Clark man called to

report a break in.

Saturday, December 24
Ravil Mukhammetjanov, 26, of Brackettville, was arrested for public intoxication. Mukhammetjanov was still being held at press time.

Sunday, December 25
A caller reported a possible roll-over accident on Highway 131.

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New Listing-Unit 37: cute 1BR, 1B apartment, FP, covered RV parking, storage, great winter home!

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

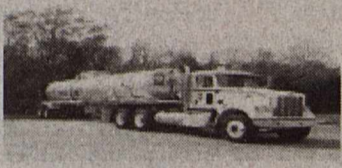
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Accounts Payable Clerk II Brackettville, TX Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. (RGE) is seeking to hire a fulltime Accounting Clerk for employment at its headquarters in Brackettville. The minimum education requirement for this position is a high 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 RGE 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. RGE is an EOE.

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21' Tioga Motorhome Class C. 26K Miles on Ford 460. Full bath in rear of RV. Sleeps 6. New refig. Possible as temporary housing on jobsite. In FCS. \$14,000 Call 503.602.2229

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Deborah Isaacs Agent/Residential Sales 830-563-7272

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1332 ACRES, GREAT LODGE with indoor swimming pool, foreman's house, walk-in cooler, Exotics!!!! Just 18 miles N of Brackettville on 674.

3/2 ROCK HOME on large specialty lot behind the Historic District. Home has had some remodeling and electrical work recently done. The home has tile floors, and the full length front porch makes a great spot to sit and watch the wildlife. Please call for a showing. \$120,000.00

NEW Listing 2/2 MANUFACTURED HOME with double roof, carport, and a nice front porch. Home has an add on which contains a family room and laundry room. The new Ac/Heating unit was installed last year. There is a storage shed, the yard is no maintenance and is selling fully furnished. \$48,000.00

REDUCED 1/1 MASTERS CONDO- remodeled, 2nd floor, laminated wood floors in living room and hall, new paint and updated bathroom, selling fully furnished. MUST SEE!! \$38,000.

2 RV LOTS IN UNIT 38- one has a full 60 x 35 cover with small living quarters, 2nd lot has 12 x 18 storage building and carport cover. Asking \$98,900.

2/1 MOBILE HOME- Storage building and carport. \$16,500. owner will consider owner financing.

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

FOR SALE or LEASE

3/2 HOME IN BRACKETTVILLE- close to school, fenced yard, large covered carport, laminated wood floors in kitchen, dining room and living room. Approx. 1300 sf. Rent \$700/month plus utilities. Sale Price \$74,999.

3/1 UNIT 7 49er- Sale Price \$39,900 or Rent \$500/month plus utilities.

1/1 MASTER CONDO- 1st floor, overlooking #1 fairway, fully furnished.

RENTALS

2/2 TOWNHOUSE IN HISTORIC DISTRICT- refig, stove, and dishwasher furnished, storage shed, screened in front porch and small patio in the back.

3/2 Rock Home for rent- Stove & Refig carport fenced yard and storage shed. \$750/month plus utilities.

If you are thinking about Selling give us a Call and let us Help.

www.Tejas-Properties.com

HOMES FOR SALE

HOME FOR SALE: 56 Warbonnett, Fort Clark Springs. 2-car carport/perfect to protect your RV, metal roof, 1-lot with nice yard overlooks the green "open" area, approx. 1628 total sqft heated space, large family room addition with a wood burning stove & French doors open to covered side porch, 3/2, spacious storage/work room and large covered front porch. For information or schedule visit: 7 7 0 - 3 3 9 - 7814warbonnett56@yahoo.com Free pet bunnies with cage. Call 830.563.7516

HOME FOR SALE- 2 Bed/1 Bath. On 2 corner lots across from school, 103 W. Edwards St. Call 830.563.9249

HOME FOR SALE BY OWNER 1058 Fairway Circle, 4/2.5 custom built 2008 home w/ 2450 sq feet. Stop by and pick up flyer for more information or call 830-734-6955

REAL ESTATE

KEN BARNETT REAL ESTATE

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

FORT CLARK

- New Listing Unit 38 Block A Lots 22,23: Fantastic location \$20,000
- New Listing 60 Birdie Rd: Unique 2 BR/2B Custom built home w wrap around porch on 5 lots in great secluded area of Fort Clark. \$97,500. UNDER CONTRACT
- 25 Birdie Rd. SOLD
- 271 Crockett. Darling 4BR/2B home with tiled floors, great open floor plan, sunroom and beautiful fenced back yard with guest quarters. Many upgrades! Reduced \$128,000
- 73 Broken Arrow. 2BR/2B mobile home. Needs a little TLC. Priced to sell
- Fairway Circle: 72'x120' Lot. Walking distance from Las Moras Creek! \$9,500. MOTIVATED SELLER
- Fairway Circle: 2 Golf Lots w/ mature Oaks. Just walking distance from Las Moras Creek! Beautiful area. \$25,000

BRACKETTVILLE

- 403 Brown St. 2BR/1B Home on lg. lot
- 7 City Lots - Spring St.
- 109 W. Spring St.: Downtown Brackettville 4,400sq. ft. Great Rental Property!

RANCHES

- 225 Acres: Live Oak County. SOLD
- 819 Acres: 16 miles N. of Brackettville on Hwy 674. Unbelievable Opportunity Price Reduced
- 318 Acres: 17 miles S. of Brackettville on Hwy 131
- Carta Valley: Hunting Camp. 191 acres. Six miles west of Carta Valley. Includes RV 4 Deer Stands, generator and 12x20 storage bldg. \$925 per acre

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

Kinney County Realty

408 East Hwy 90 Brackettville, Texas 78832
(830) 563-9993 www.kinneycountyrealty.com

Pat Owens, Agent Hattie Berleth Broker/Owner Tom McNew, Agent

610 Fairway Circle 3BR, 2BA, Custom Built 3 yrs old, Country Kitchen, LR living Area, 2 Decks, 1920 SqFT. NEW LIST\$159,000

139 Bliss Circle, 2BR, 2BA, Mobile Home, Remodeled, New Floors, Master Bath, Kitchen, Appliances, PRICE REDUCED.....\$23,500.00

Cavalryman Condo, 1BR, 1BA, Fully Furnished.....\$40,000.00

403 Bliss Circle, 2BR, 2BA, Screened Porch... Quick Sale \$15,000.00

602 N Ann St, 4 BD, 3 BA, 2890+ sqft, Lg living Rm, kitchen/bar, Office, Great for Family, Price Reduced Appointment only.....\$140,500.00

515 W Crockett, 3 BD, 2 BA, 1144 sqft, Kitchen, Living Rm, utility Rm, Price REDUCED for quick sale\$69,000.00

FOR RENT

2BR, 2BA Mobile Home FCS\$600.00

1 BR, 1BA, Loft Unit 22 FCS.....\$400.00

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