

# The Brackett News

Thursday, April 16, 2009

Volume 21, No. 11

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

1 Section, 6 Pages

## WHAT'S HAPPENING

**PROM PRESENTATION**  
Come see Brackett High School celebrities in the latest prom fashions at the red carpet event of the year. Prom Presentation will be held in front of the Kinney County Courthouse on Saturday, April 18, 2009, at 7:30 p.m.

**SPRING CARNIVAL**  
On April 24 from 4pm-7pm at Elementary Parking lot. The class of 2011 will have a Bingo, Bottle toss, Cake Walk, Snow Cone, Cotton Candy, Tri-Cycle Race, Tattoos, Funnel Cakes, Jumping Castle, Jail, dunking booth IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO HAVE A BOOTH, PLEASE CONTACT Yolanda Rueda (830-563-2491 ext 412)

**FOOD BANK NEWS**  
THE CSFP OVER AGE 60 DISTRIBUTION will be on Friday, April 17 from 11am - 5pm at the newspaper office. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. ALL FOOD MUST BE PICKED UP ON THIS DAY. FOOD WILL NOT BE HELD FOR YOU TO PICK UP AT A LATER TIME. All clients must present a Photo ID every month. Distribution dates for 2009 are as follows: April 17, May 22, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20 and December 18.

**TEXCAP FOOD 4 FAMILIES DISTRIBUTION** will be on Friday, April 17 from 11am - 5pm at the newspaper office. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY. ALL FOOD MUST BE PICKED UP ON THIS DAY. FOOD WILL NOT BE HELD FOR YOU TO PICK UP AT A LATER TIME. You will not receive a phone call, it is first come, first served. All clients must present a Photo ID every month. Distribution dates for 2009 are as follows: April 17, May 22, June 19, July 17, August 21, September 18, October 16, November 20 and December 18.

**CANCER SURVIVORS**  
You are invited to a Dinner in Your Honor. When: Saturday, April 18, 2009. Time: 6:30 p.m. Where: Church of Christ Annex. Given By: Relay For Life Committee. Please bring your Spouse or Caregiver. For More information contact: Elena C. Luna at 830-563-5021.

**L/L OPENING DAY**  
Kinney County Little League Opening ceremony this Saturday, April 18th at 5pm. BBQ fundraiser begins at 4pm. Come and enjoy the band "Clumbroke" and game to follow.

**BRIDGE-A-THON**  
The Dizzy Dames Bridge Club is sponsoring a Bridge-A-Thon Bridge Tournament to be held on April 29, 2009 in the Saber Room on Fort Clark at 1pm. The entrance fee is \$10 per person with all fees donated to the American Cancer Society Relay For Life. All Bridge players are encouraged to take part. There will be lots of door prizes and refreshments. Please respond by April 25. Call Carol Hayter, 563-9865, Katie Brown, 563-3455 or Helen Marie Jones at 563-9492 to sign up.

**4H MEETING**  
There will be a 4-H General Meeting on Sunday, May 3 at 6:00 pm in the District Courtroom of the County Courthouse. We will elect officers, and club managers. Pizza, drinks and dessert will be served! Don't miss it!

**Weekend WEATHER Friday**

High: 86  
Low: 59

Scattered T-Storms

**Saturday**

High: 88  
Low: 59

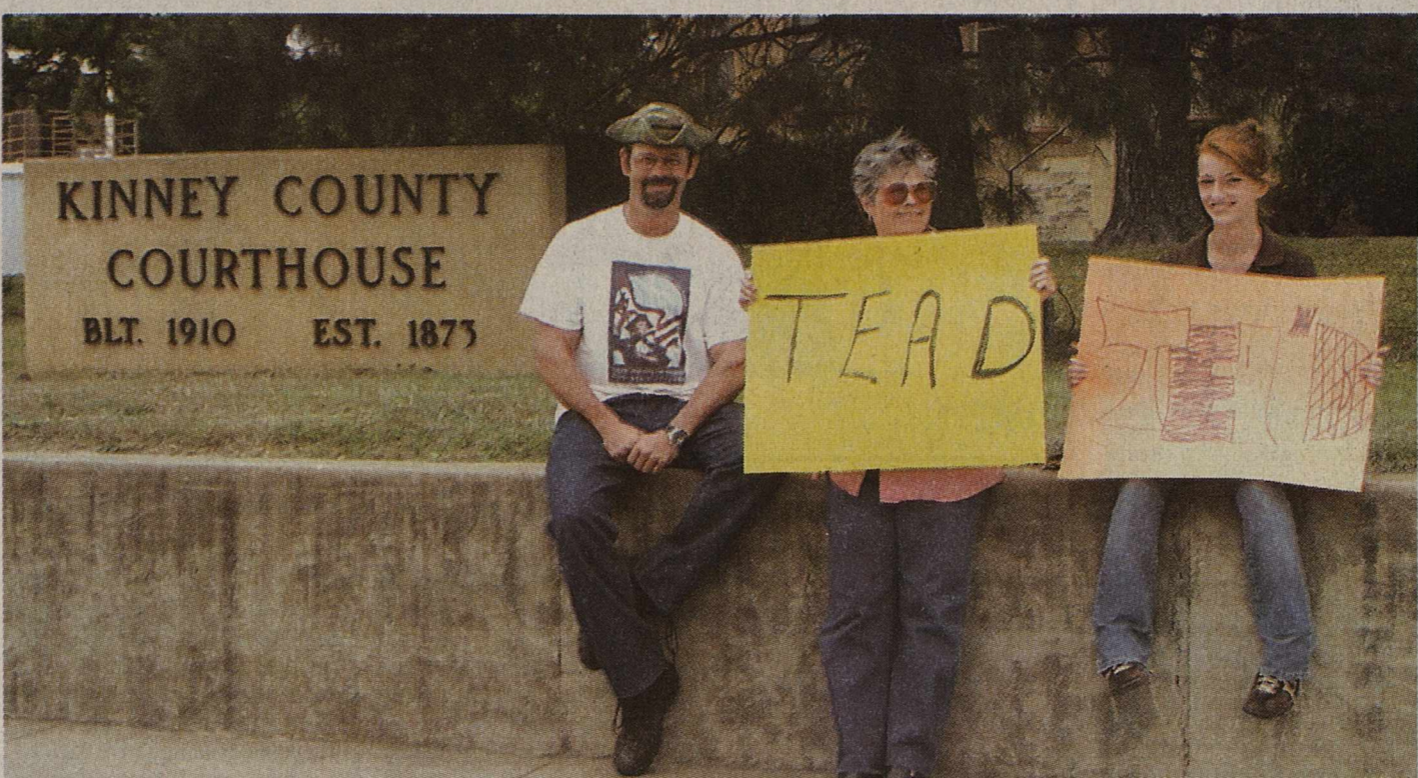
Partly Cloudy

**Sunday**

High: 83  
Low: 57

Mostly Cloudy

# All TEA'd off



TEA - Taxed Enough Already

Photo By Leigh Volcsko

Sharon Melton, center, will not be able to attend the Kinney County TEA Party on Saturday, so she decided to exercise her First Amendment right and spent the day, April 15, in front of the Courthouse with her sign to let the government know that she's 'TEA'd off! Different people kept Melton company throughout the day. Pictured from left: Kent Partlow, Sharon Melton and Cheyenne Billings.

## Pena couple graduate law enforcement schools

By Leigh Volcsko  
tnews@sbcglobal.net  
Adrian Pena and his wife Laura have made enforcing the law a household career.

Adrian, a Brackettville native and 1993 graduate of Brackett High School, graduated from the United States Marshal Service Academy in Brunswick, Georgia on January 22.

Prior to joining the Marshal Service, Adrian served with the Uvalde County Sheriff's Department.

Adrian completed a 23-week training course and will now serve in the Western District of Texas with his base of operation being in Del Rio.

Laura Pena, a former police officer in Uvalde, graduated the Texas Department of Public Safety (DPS) Academy in Austin on March 27. Laura's academy was 26 weeks long.

Laura is originally from Pearsall and says that joining DPS was a goal of hers and manages to smile even though she still has months of post-academy studying and training to complete.

Laura has been assigned to the Del Rio outpost, but will train for the next six months in Brackettville.

Adrian is the son of Tencha and Hector Pena, Sr., of Brackettville and Laura is the daughter of Maria Elisa and Miguel Jasso, of Pearsall.

Family members are planning a party to celebrate the couple's achievements in the near future.

**Kinney County T.E.A. Party**

**Taxed Enough Already Protest on Saturday, April 18, at 6pm at the Courtyard at the Five Points in Downtown Brackett**

This event is nonpartisan - EVERYONE is invited. Bring a tea bag and wear your favorite party hat. Prizes will be given for the BEST decorated Republican, Democrat and Independent hats! Don't miss the opportunity to express yourself because you have been Taxed Enough Already!



Laura and Adrian Pena

## Beta Sigma hosts reunion

By Katie Brown  
Staff Reporter  
A reunion for the ladies of the Brackettville Chapter of Beta Sigma Phi got together for lunch at Julie's on April 15. The local sorority chapter was disbanded in 2007 when the membership drastically declined leaving very few full timers here and not enough to fill the officer's chairs. Many members moved away for medical reasons; some were winter Texans who just couldn't make the trip south any longer; others have passed on.

Many remain members of the sorority at large; they still maintain their memberships in Beta Sigma Phi International.

Friends gathered to visit with two members who had moved away. Louise Pflughoeft, who is here visiting family, had given up her winter Texan status to move permanently back to her home in Wisconsin with her husband Earl to be near their children and closer to their doctors and medical facilities. Wilma Lewis and her husband Cliff just moved back to Brackettville which they consider to be home and where they are surrounded by friends who love them.

Jan Chism notified as many of the members as she could and invited them to lunch. Twelve of the sorority sisters were able to come, most of who live locally. Still, there was a lot of catching up to do and the chatter filled the room. It was a joyous reunion that made us all

wonder why we don't take the time to gather more often. Attending the luncheon were Jan Chism, Nancy Frerich, Hawkins Huey, Shirley Hadsell, Wilma Lewis, B.J. Eckenrod, Katie Brown, Doraine Kellar, Arlys Simpson, Lynn McNew, Louise Pflughoeft, and Jana Murphy.

Although we usually associate sororities with a college or university, Beta Sigma Phi is a non-academic sorority with chapters world-wide. It was started in 1931 by Walter W. Ross to fill a need for women to socialize, build friendships, to support each other and to indulge in cultural and educational stimulus. It was an era of more genteel events such as afternoon teas and grand balls. During WWII the organization worked hard to raise \$22 million in war bonds.

Today, the organization is less formal, but the strength of a sisterhood that grew out of a need during the depression can today boast a membership of over 200,000 members around the world. Although most chapters still cultivate cultural pursuits and enjoy festive affairs that often include family and friends, they also contribute to their communities by providing services or donating to charities and other worthwhile causes.

The Greek letters of its name Beta Sigma Phi represent Life, Learning and Friendship, the organizations motto; qualities strongly evidenced in the group that met at Julie's.

## BHS seniors prepare to graduate

Ask any high school senior how many days are left until graduation and you will get an answer quicker than the same student could shout, "I'm outta' here".

Twelfth graders at Brackett High are no exception. Forty-nine local students are candidates for graduation, set for May 29 at Tiger Stadium.

At the beginning of the 1996-97 school years, there were 52 kindergartners in the "Class of 2009".

Thirty of the 49 students scheduled to graduate next month started their educational careers at Brackett ISD. The other 19 joined in sometime after their kindergarten year.

Brackett High reported there were no drop-outs.

Positive results from an internal poll of the candidates revealed that 20 of the students have pledged to begin their studies at a 2-year college; twenty-one plan to attend a four year college. Three students have committed to joining the armed services, while five plan to immediately join the workforce.

The Brackett High Junior-Senior Prom is scheduled for this Saturday, April 18. Prom-goers and their guests will walk the red carpet in the traditional prom presentation at 7:30pm at the County Courthouse. The presentation gives the entire community the opportunity to admire the colorful dresses and slick suits.



Beta Sigma Phi Reunion

Photo By Katie Brown  
Ladies attending the Beta Sigma Reunion on April 15 are from left: B.J. Eckenrod, Lynn McNew,

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### Newspaper welcomes two new employees

The Brackett News welcomes its first roaming reporter and a new editor.

Sara Rivas, of Brackettville, was originally hired as a clerk on January 1, but was recently promoted to an associate editor position.



Sara Rivas

"Sara quickly proved she was more than just another smiling face sitting at the front desk. She's a wife and a mother and knows how to manage multiple things at once. Sara is smart and determined. In less than three months she has learned how to use some pretty complicated software and now builds the pages for the newspaper from scratch each week. I really needed a solid person to come in and get the job done - and she's the man for the job! And to top it off, she's never late to work and the customers love her," said Leigh Volcsko, Publisher of The Brackett News.

Katie Brown, of Fort Clark Springs, began writing for the paper in February. Brown will cover the city and county governments, as well as write some lifestyle-esque profiles about Kinney County residents.



Katie Brown

"Katie is the first reporter hired since I took over the paper in March, 2006. Katie is an accomplished songwriter and poet and really charms you with her words. She is a lovely person inside and out, and she brings a certain softness to the table. I love to go to the post office on Friday after one of her pieces has printed, because everyone raves over them. Katie is strictly a reporter, and she doesn't know how lucky she is that she'll never have to man the phones," said Volcsko.

Love us? Hate us? Forward all questions, concerns or story ideas to any TBN employee at tnews@sbcglobal.net.

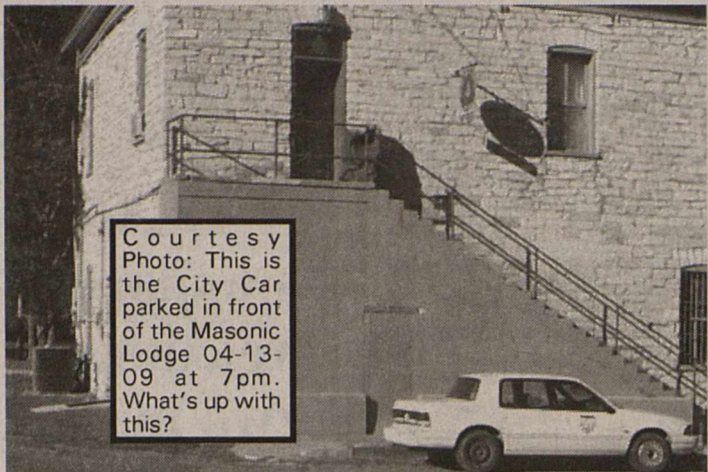


## Publishers PLOG

Once again I have been bombarded with questions via email and in person as I have moved about town.

Here's what the people want to know: Does the City of Brackettville's "police chief" Thomas Nemia even has a license to act as a police officer? The answer as of today is no, not really.

I must tell you these questions have been on hold as the City Manager is on a well-deserved vacation, but once I received this picture below by a concerned reader and I had no choice, but to share it.



I wanted to give the city a heads-up, so I relayed some of these items to a city council woman one afternoon when I saw her in town. Here are the questions I have for the City:

#1 How many applications did the City originally receive for Police Chief? How many women? How many men?  
#2 How many individuals did the City interview?  
#3 Did the City know Nemia was not a certified peace officer when he was hired on January 13, 2009?

#4 Why did the council hire Nemia when the ad published in the newspaper called for a peace officer "currently licensed by TCLEOSE"?

#5 In a phone conversation with Mr. Garcia in late Feb/early March, Garcia stated Nemia was an "administrative police chief" which without a license he can only legally be an administrative police chief for one year and then he's out per TCLEOSE regs. The agenda reflects only the hiring of a police chief, not an administrative police chief. Why is this? Is this legal? What can an admin chief actually enforce?

#6 I have been told by Garcia that Nemia is trying to get everything in order to become an officer, but is Nemia driving the City car to Del Rio, Austin, etc to get certified? Is the City paying for or paid for any of the courses Nemia needs to become Certified?

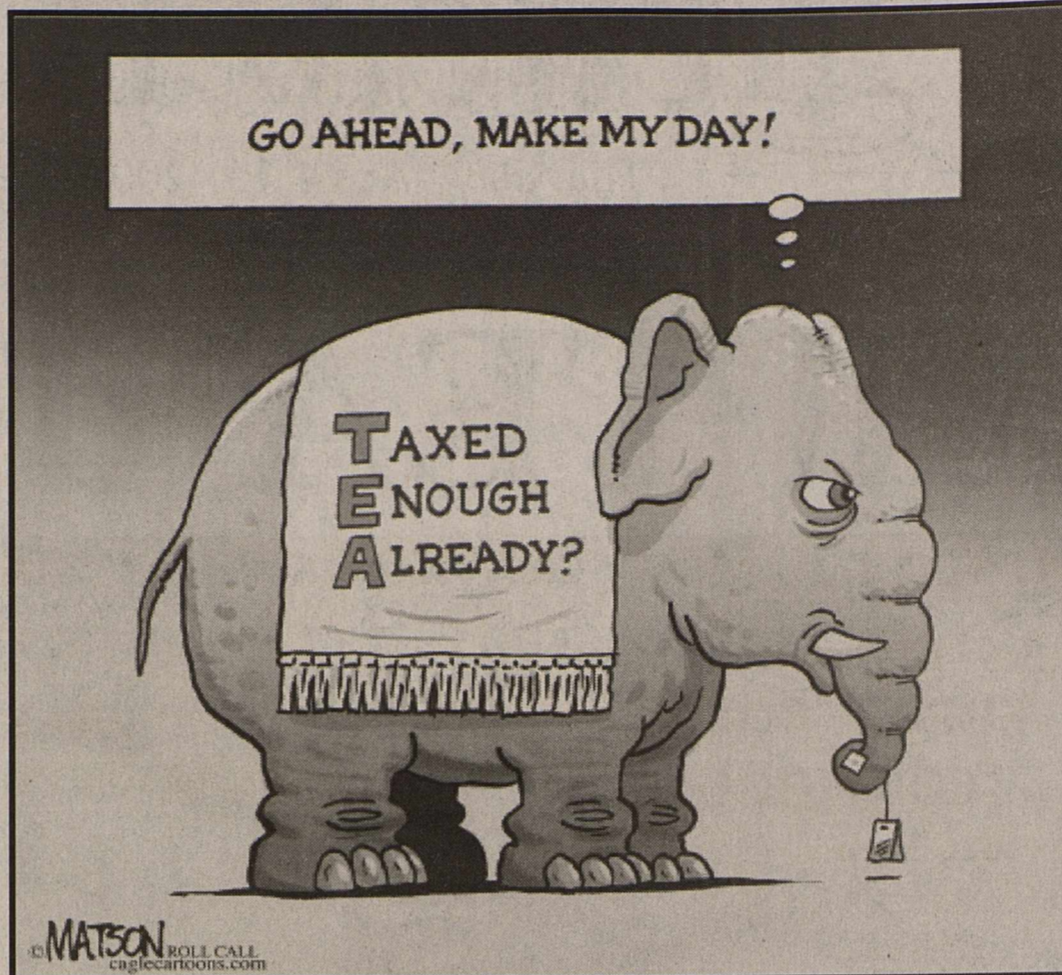
#7 Is the City paying Nemia a salary? What is it? Paid hourly? What is it? Is he receiving a reduced wage since he is not working in a full capacity? Did Nemia receive Holiday pay since his first day of employment was President's Day?

#8 At one time, Nemia was carrying an exposed firearm on his hip, but in recent weeks has not been doing so, why is this?

#9 Is the City aware of complaints that Nemia has been seen spending extended periods of time at local restaurants? What is the policy for lunch for this employee?

#10 What is Nemia doing all day? Please list the things he is expected to do. Please forward the job description for an administrative police chief and a police chief.

Here's what I do know... I have been UN-able to verify whether or not Thomas Nemia is actually a certified peace officer. I have called TCLEOSE (Texas Commission on Law Enforcement Officer Standards and Education) and at the time, the licensing department did not even have Nemia in their computer system. We are paying with tax dollars for a police chief and right this very minute we are not getting what we paid for. And please do not get silly and start saying that the people, including myself, are "haters" and we're just out to get poor Nemia for asking these tough questions. If he's not certified, then maybe the City should hire someone who is until this guy can get things taken care of, because right now I can park in front of the fire hydrant in front of the newspaper and all our current administrative police chief can do is give me a dirty look! If I am wrong, please call me out, but make sure you have the documentation in your hand and not just in your mouth when you do.  
Leigh V.



## Your tax refund: invest today for tomorrow's goals



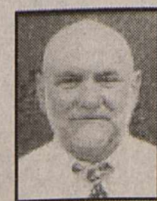
Emily Cooper

The tax-filing deadline arrives this week. Will you be getting a refund? If so, take the time to consider how best to use it because, when used wisely, your tax refund can give you a few added steps on the road toward achieving your financial goals. Of course, if you filed your taxes weeks ago, you might have already received a refund. But given the current economic environment, you might have kept the money in a "holding place" while you waited for an uptick in the financial markets. At any rate, if you have access to a refund this year, you now have the opportunity to put that money to good use. How? Here are a few ideas: Help fund your IRA. In 2008,

the average federal tax refund was \$2,429, according to the Internal Revenue Service. If you were to receive that amount, it would cover almost half of your IRA contribution for this year, as the annual limit is \$5,000. (You can put in \$6,000 if you're 50 or older). A traditional IRA grows tax deferred, while a Roth IRA grows tax free, provided you have held your account for at least five years and don't take withdrawals until you reach age 59-1/2. Your IRA may have taken a hit last year, but if you fund it with quality investments and avoid making withdrawals until retirement, you can take important steps to help rebuild your portfolio. Help build an emergency fund. You could use part of your refund for an IRA and part to help build an emergency fund. Ideally, you should have six to 12 months' worth of living expenses in a liquid account to help pay for unexpected costs, such as a major car repair, a new furnace or a costly medical bill. Without such an emergency fund, you

might be forced to dip into your long-term investments to pay for these costs and that can hurt your progress toward your financial objectives. Help rebalance your portfolio. Based on your risk tolerance, time horizon and long-term goals, you may have decided to put a certain percentage of your assets in "growth" vehicles and a certain percentage in income-oriented investments. At that point, your portfolio was in equilibrium. But during the long bear market, your portfolio may have sustained enough losses to become "unbalanced." In other words, some of your investments may have lost so much value that they no longer make up the percentage of your holdings that you had originally intended. Of course, you could wait for these investments to bounce back and they may, given enough time, but if you wanted to speed up the rebalancing process, you could use your tax refund to add the right types of new investments to your mix.

## THINK DIFFERENTLY!!!



Dr. Kent Lowery, D.C., FIAMA

When the minds of the people are closed and wisdom is locked out, they remain tied to disease. In the race to better health, many will try to offer quick and easy fixes, but real wellness comes from the steady reinforcement of the body's own natural drive to heal itself. Within your body is a root system more powerful than a mighty oak's. When pinched or obstructed, the ability for the body to function at its best is diminished.

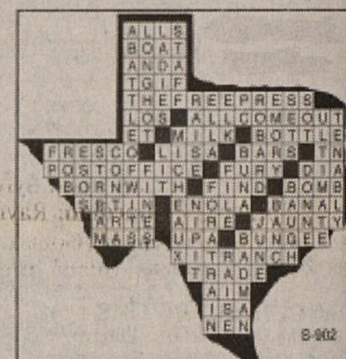
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## The Brackett News

**BRACKETT NEWS STAFF**  
Leigh Volcsko, Publisher  
Sara Rivas, Associate Editor  
Katie Brown, Reporter

www.mybrackettnews.com

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## Letter To Editor POLICY

The Brackett News 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 written to other publications. Unless otherwise noted, letters to the editor and columns on the opinion page reflect the opinion of the writers and not necessarily those of The Brackett News.

## The Brackett News

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or write to:  
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Property Tax Division  
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Austin, TX 78711-3528

or call: (800) 252-9121

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A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.

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Recursos es gratis. Versiones en español estan disponibles. Pida su copia hoy en:

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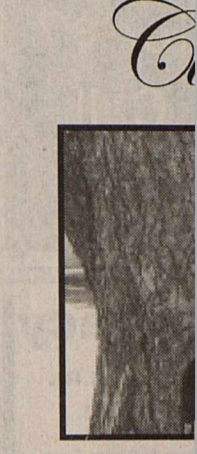
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# Ti

## BHS SE



Name of Senio Parents: Bret Siblings: Baile What are you tending Angel Kinesiology, v tion. What teacher has influenced has taught me What are you tion? Being ab on full respon What do you tion? I will m that I have ma ways have a s



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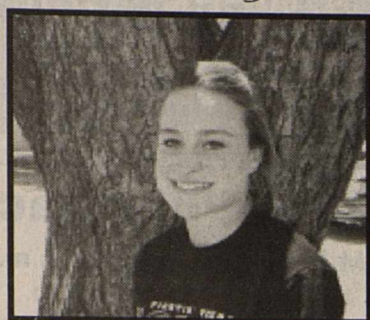
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## BHS SENIOR SPOTLIGHT

### Class of 2009



Summer Allen

**Name of Senior:** Summer Allen  
**Parents:** Bret & Nadalee Allen  
**Siblings:** Bailee, Korlee, & Tucker  
**What are your plans after graduation?** I will be attending Angelo State University in the fall, majoring in Kinesiology, with a minor in Early Childhood education.  
**What teacher influenced you the most?** The teacher that has influenced me the most has been Mrs. Edwards. She has taught me several life lessons through her teachings.  
**What are you most looking forward to after graduation?** Being able to live on my own & being able to take on full responsibility.  
**What do you think you will miss the most after graduation?** I will miss my family the most but also the friends that I have made throughout high school. They will always have a special place in my heart.



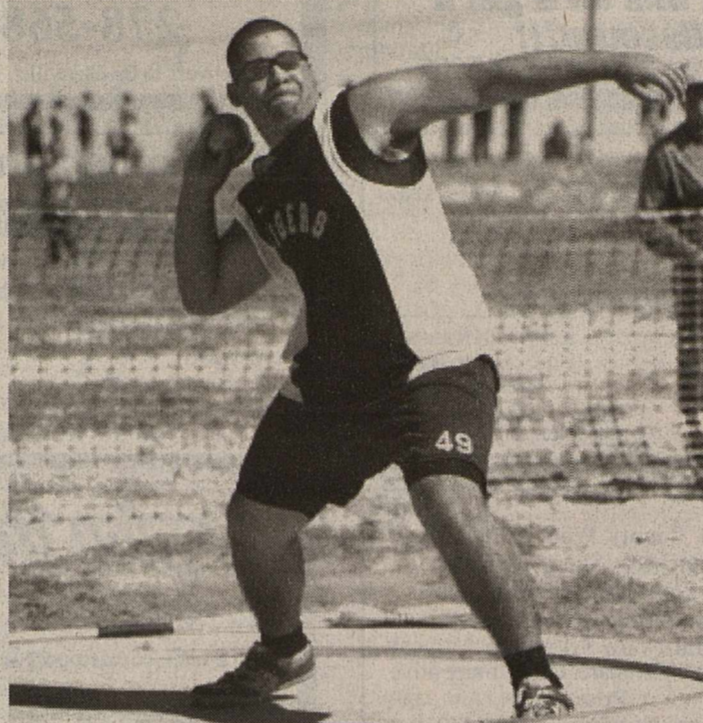
Roxy Gomez

**Name:** Roxy Gomez  
**Mother Or Guardian:** Sylvia Gomez  
**Father Or Guardian:** Raymond Gomez  
**Siblings:** Raymond Gomez Jr. & David Gomez  
**What are your plans after graduation?** To attend San Antonio College.  
**What teacher influenced you the most?** Mrs. Bruce influenced me to come to school when I didn't want to. Mrs. Hernandez influenced me to never give up.  
**What are you most looking forward to after graduation?** Living alone in a big city.  
**What will you miss most after graduation?** My mom, friends, family and soft ball.

## Girls track takes district championship

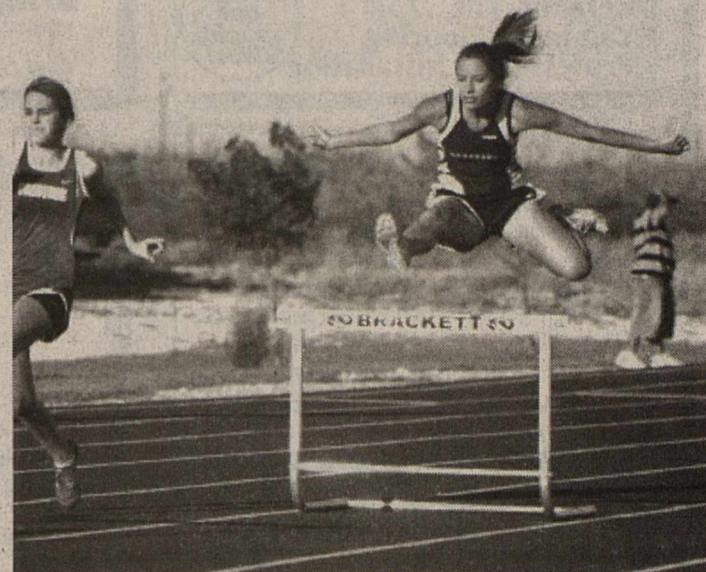
The Brackett varsity girls placed first at the district track meet on April 8. The team overall scored 159 points followed by Mason in second place with 105 points; S.A. Stacey 94 points; Junction: 66 points; Rocksprings: 59 points; La Pryor 43 points.  
 Individually:  
 Samantha Moore, Karley Harris, Brook Gose, and Cheyenne Smith placed first in the 400 meter relay with a time of 52.7.  
 In the 800 meter relay, Moore, Harmony Pettett, Bianca Terrazas, and Smith placed first with a time of 1:52.3.  
 Rachel Nash, Kelsey Bruce, Pettett, and Icela Rueda placed second in the 1600 meter relay with a time of 4:21.6.  
 In the 3200 meter race, Bruce placed second with a time of 11:59.4; Sahara Rodriguez: 4th, 13:09.7 and Erica Villanueva: 6th, 13:35.9. In the 800 meter race, Rueda placed 6th with a time of 2:44.3.  
 In the high hurdles Harris placed first with a time of 16.7; Gose: 4th, 18.9.  
 Smith placed 2nd in the 100 meter race with a time of 13.5,

followed by Natalie Aguirre in third place with a time of 13:57.  
 In the 400 meter race Nash placed 5th with a time of 66.2. In the intermediate hurdle race Harris placed first with a time of 49.3; Gose: 6th, 54.8.  
 In the 200 meter race, Terrazas placed 3rd with a time of 28.4; Aguirre: 5th, 29.2.  
 Bruce placed second in the 1600 meter race with a time of 5:35.8; Rodriguez: 5th, 6:11.8. Bianca Martinez placed second on the shot put competition with a throw of 31'1" and second in the discus with a throw of 108'8".  
 In the long jump competition Aguirre placed second with a jump of 14'10". Terrazas placed 3rd in the high jump by clearing 4'6"; Cheyenne Billings ties for 6th place with a jump of 4'4".  
 Twelve girls qualify for the AREA MEET (Thursday, April 16th) in Flatonia!  
 S. Moore; Sr. B. Terrazas; Sr. B. Martinez; Sr. N. Aguirre; Sr. H. Pettett; Sr. B. Gose; Jr. I. Rueda; Soph. C. Smith; Soph. R. Nash; Soph. K. Harris; Soph. K. Bruce; Soph. S. Rodriguez; Soph.



Shots Fired

Courtesy Photo By Pam Hale - BHS Senior Joe Anthony Sanchez throws the shot put at the Brackett Relays on April 2.



High Anxiety

Courtesy Photo By Pam Hale - BHS Junior Brook Gose gets a little air April 2 and will advance to area competition April 16, in Flatonia.

## After Prom Party

SATURDAY, APRIL 18<sup>TH</sup>

FREE MIDNIGHT BBQ AT FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

All high school students ARE INVITED!!!!

## Don't get hit with a penalty! "Render" your taxable property by April 15.

A "rendition" is a report to the appraisal district that lists all the taxable property you owned or controlled on Jan. 1st of this year.

### Who must file a rendition?

You must file a rendition if you own tangible personal property that is used to produce income—such as the inventory and equipment used by a business. If you render late, don't render or file an incomplete or false rendition, a 10 percent to 50 percent penalty may be imposed.

### Are there any advantages to you?

The advantages of filing a rendition are:

- You give your opinion of your property's value. The appraisal district must notify you in writing of any value change and explain how you can protest that value to the appraisal review board.
- You record your correct mailing address so your tax bills will go to the right address. If your bill is mailed to the wrong address, the law still holds you responsible for paying your taxes on time or paying extra charges for late payments.
- You can also file a "report of decreased value" to notify the appraisal district of significant depreciation of the value of your property in 2007. The district will look at your property before assigning a value in 2008.

### What's the deadline?

The last day for filing 2008 renditions is April 15. You can get an automatic extension to May 15 if you ask for it in writing on or before the April 15 deadline. The chief appraiser may grant an additional 15 days after May 15 for an owner who shows good cause in writing.

### Where do you file?

File renditions with your local appraisal district at:

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

For more information, stop by your appraisal district and pick up

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"



### Or contact:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
 Property Tax Division  
 P.O. Box 13528  
 Austin, TX 78711-3528  
 or call: (800) 252-9121

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.

## ¡Cúidese de las multas! "Presente" su propiedad antes del 15 de abril.

Una "declaración de propiedad" es un reporte para el distrito de valoraciones en donde Ud. enlista toda la propiedad que poseyó o controló el día 1º de enero de este año.

### ¿Quién debe hacer una declaración de propiedad?

Debe hacer una declaración de propiedad si Ud. es dueño y gana ingresos de una propiedad personal—por ejemplo, el inventario y equipo utilizado en un negocio. Si usted no declara a tiempo, o si presenta una declaración incompleta o falsa, se le puede imponer una multa de un 10 hasta un 50 por ciento.

### ¿Que ventajas me da?

Las ventajas de hacer una declaración de propiedad son:

- Ud. brinda su opinión sobre la valoración de su propiedad. El distrito debe avisarle por escrito y explicarle como protestar el nuevo valor y el cambio ante su junta de revisión.
- Registra su dirección correcta para que le puedan mandar sus tarifas de impuestos. Según la ley, Ud. es responsable por pagar sus impuestos sin demora o de pagar cualquier multa que resulte por haberlos pagado tarde—aunque la tarifa se haya mandado a una dirección equivocada.
- También puede presentar un "reporte de valoración disminuida" para avisar al distrito de cualquier reducción significativa en la valoración de su propiedad en el 2007. El distrito examinará su propiedad antes de designarle un valor en el 2008.

### ¿Cual es la fecha límite?

El 15 de abril es el último día para mandar sus declaraciones para el 2008. Puede obtener una extensión automática hasta el 15 de mayo si la pide por escrito en o antes del 15 de abril. El jefe de valoración/tasación puede extender su plazo otros 15 días después del 15 de mayo si usted puede mostrar una razón justificada para la extensión.

### ¿Dónde hago mi declaración?

Haga su declaración con su distrito local de valoraciones en:

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

Para más información, visite su distrito de valoración y obtenga una copia de

"Impuestos Sobre la Propiedad en Texas: Derechos, Recursos y Responsabilidades del Contribuyente de Impuestos"



### ó escribanos a:

Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
 Property Tax Division  
 P.O. Box 13528  
 Austin, TX 78711-3528

ó llámenos: (800) 252-9121

ó visítenos en la Web: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

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# Professional Services

Thursday, April 16, 2009 The Brackett News 4

## Connie's Gym

Condition your mind, body, and spirit, for a stronger, healthier, life-style. Speed up your metabolism, burn fat, build muscle tone, and strengthen bones. Lose inches, and weight, with absolutely no dieting.  
Call (830) 313-3697 or (830) 563-5110

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Walk-Ins Welcome  
Tues. - Fri. 10:00 - 6:00 • Sat. 10:00 - 12:00  
104 E. Crockett  
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This space could be yours for \$7 a week. Call **563-2852**

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Fax: (830) 278-6300  
Outside Uvalde call - (888) 278-4455

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Res. 830-563-2009  
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EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH OF AMERICA  
Corner of Fort & Henderson  
Sunday: Worship 9:00 a.m.  
Bible Study Wednesday 7 p.m. (October - April)  
Lutheran Church Women 11 a.m. Parrish Hall  
(Second Monday of Month)  
Email: www.ourredeemerlutheran.org  
PASTOR NATHAN LAFRENTZ 563-9607

**First Baptist Church**  
Sunday  
Bible study for all ages 9:45 a.m. Wednesday  
Worship Service - 11:00 a.m. 6 p.m. Children's Ministry  
Discipleship Training 6 p.m. 7 p.m. Bible Study  
Evening Service 7 p.m.  
Pastor Jeff Janca  
website: fbcbrackett.org  
Phone: 563-2245  
301 N. Ann St.

**St. Andrew's Episcopal Church**  
"Welcomes You"  
Sunday Worship 11:00 AM  
Wednesday Bible Study: 7:00 PM  
(October - April)  
Reverend Nathan Lafrenz 563-9607

**VISIT THE CHURCH OF YOUR CHOICE THIS SUNDAY**

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

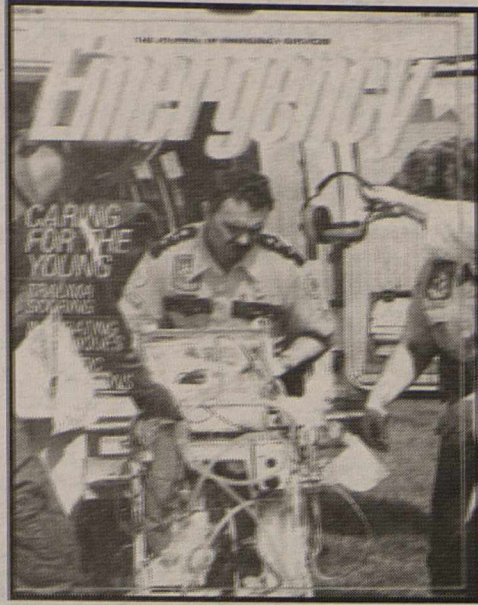
**Come to the Frontier**  
A Bible Based New Testament Church  
9:45 am Bible Study/Sunday School  
11:00 am Worship Service  
6:00 pm Sunday Night at the Movies or Bible study.  
7:00 pm Wednesday Night Service  
Nursery Provided  
Pastor: Ned Sitzes  
Frontier Baptist Church (SBC) Corner of Ann & El Paso

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808 N. Ann 563-2616  
Sunday AM, 9:30 Classes  
& 10:30 Worship  
Sunday Evening Service, 6:30 pm  
Wednesday PM 6:30 Classes  
Minister: Ray Melton

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## OBITUARY

**Michael John Gilbert**  
Paramedic Field Supervisor,  
Kinney County Fire Rescue



August 3, 1949 - March 22, 2009

Kinney County Fire Rescue Paramedic Michael John Gilbert passed away on March 22nd of this year. Many of you know him as "English Mike", or "Mate" as were the nicknames related to his origin. Mike came to us a few years prior by way of Uvalde EMS, and has proudly served this community for the last few years, helping us to elevate our standards of care above what many within our industry consider to be the "Gold Standard of Care". Mike was recently featured within the pages of our newspaper as the Paramedic who delivered a newborn baby in the back of the Kinney County Ambulance safely into the arms of her mother, and had been named several times previously as the Paramedic providing advanced levels of care to those in need within our community whether it be medical or traumatic problems. It didn't matter if it was day or night, raining, snowing, thunder or lightning, when the citizens of the county needed help, Mike was there. Michael was a Texas Paramedic for over 22 years, having previously created Emergency Medical Service's in rural areas where there were none, owned companies related to EMS, and been an EMS educator for several years, training Texas Paramedic's in the most advanced of care and standards possible within the industry. I'm proud to not only say that I was mentored by Mr. Gilbert during my year long sojourn into emergency medicine, but was able to work with him as his supervisor at Kinney County Fire Rescue, often sharing my day to day burdens with someone who was truly able to understand the dilemma's that were faced by a young leader, and as someone who was able to help me overcome any obstacle placed in front of me. We here at Kinney County Fire Rescue were truly blessed to be able to call Michael one of our Brothers, he was a leader of Paramedic's, a trainer and mentor to EMT's, and someone you could depend on no matter how bad the situation was. We as First Responder's are often called on by many to become the miracle in their time of need, Paramedic Michael Gilbert did so day after day selflessly, without thought of his own personal well being or safety so other's may live.

He survived by his wife of 39 years, Theresa Margaret Gilbert; his son Gordon Gilbert of Fredericksburg; his son and daughter-in-law, Jeffrey and Josefina Gilbert of Goldthwaite; his daughter, Marianne Caspar of Goldthwaite; his seven grandchildren, Alisandra Gilbert, James Gilbert, Christopher Gilbert, Priscilla Gilbert, Alexis Caspar, Natasha Gilbert, and Zachary Caspar, two great-grandchildren, Adrie Leah Gilbert and Shawn Michael Gilbert; his father, James Gilbert; two brothers, Robert Gilbert and Anthony Gilbert; and a sister, Barbara Gilbert. He was preceded in death by his mother, Phyllis Gilbert and his brother, Peter Gilbert.

We here at Kinney County Fire Rescue will never forget Michael's commitment to excellence, honor, and integrity that he was able to espouse upon us at this service, and to all the citizens within our community that he was able to serve in their time of need.

Forever our Brother,  
Bruce K. Hudgens FF/EMT-P  
Director of Emergency Services  
Kinney County Fire Rescue

## CHEER Classes

Do Well, Be Well with Diabetes

Sponsored by Wesley Nurse Health Ministries and CHEER  
9am-11am at Fritter Room in the Kinney County Library  
April 21st - May 26

- Lesson 1- What is Diabetes?
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- Lesson 3- One Diabetes Diet
- Lesson 4- Managing Your Blood Glucose
- Lesson 5- Nutritional Labels
- Lesson 6- Diabetes & Exercise
- Lesson 7- For Good Measure
- Lesson 8- Diabetes Medication
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## Kerzee family named YOM

On April 1, the FCSA Garden Club awarded the Yard of the Month to Pam and Maurice Kerzee of Unit 37. We admired the metal sculpture pieces complemented by a sitting bench and walkway path through the middle of the garden. The garden is punctuated with native cacti, lighting and small white stone landscape. The area is a lovely part of Fort Clark Springs. Take time to visit and appreciate this unusual and beautifying display.



## Kinney County Sheriff's Report



Tuesday, April 7

4:50 pm A woman called to report her neighbor had pulled her fence down and was cutting trees down on her property. She also stated her goats had been getting out and she wanted to file charges on her neighbor. A deputy was dispatched to the location.

Wednesday, April 8

5:29 pm A woman called to report a white pickup was shooting across Hwy 90 a mile west of 3008.

Thursday, April 9

2:34 am A woman called to report a truck had a blow out and almost rolled over, no injuries were reported. A deputy was notified.

Friday, April 10

2:35 am A man reported a black pickup was on his ranch off Tullarosa Road. A deputy was dispatched.

3:11 pm A man called to report his neighbor was filming him with a video camera and he

wants him to stop. A deputy was advised.

6:10 pm A man called to make a complaint against his neighbor involving his young daughter. A deputy was advised.

7:18 pm A woman called requesting a deputy at the apartments on 1st street. A deputy was advised.

7:55 pm A woman called requesting a deputy regarding someone had damaged her property line at the fence. A deputy was advised.

Saturday, April 11

5:16 am The border patrol dispatch called to report a possible grass fire on Hwy 277 near 693. A deputy was notified of situation.

12:30 pm A caller reported the car wash storage door was open with the lock on the door. A deputy was dispatched.

8:01 pm Fort Clark Security called requesting a deputy and Ems at the Swim Park for an accident. A deputy was dispatched.

11:57 pm A man called to report his wife was riding on a 4-wheeler and had an accident which caused facial injuries and had no feelings on her legs. He stated he would go meet them at the entrance of the ranch on Hwy 674 to escort EMS to where his wife was located. Deputies and EMS were dispatched to location.

Sunday, April 12

1:30 am Samuel Fernandez 29 of Brackettville, was arrested for public intoxication and resisting arrest. Samuel is still

held at present time.

10:15 am A man came the sheriff's office to report some individuals had trashed the outside of the Historical Society Building, with egg cartons and confetti all over the place. A deputy was notified of the situation.

11:27 am A man called to report a vehicle had gone through the crossing gate at a high speed on Hwy 131 and almost ran over an individual driving a gold/grey Lincoln traveling north on Hwy 131 towards Brackettville. The vehicle had a broken windshield. A deputy was notified of the situation.

11:54 am A woman called to report she had just hit a vulture with her vehicle and the windshield was broken. She also stated she had minor cuts and scratches. A deputy was notified of the situation.

2:50 pm A woman called to report someone had burned themselves with their radiator while working on their car at the roadside on Hwy 90 west of Brackett. Ems was notified of the

situation.

9:58 pm A woman called requesting a deputy for an intoxicated individual at the Senior Apartments property. A deputy was advised.

Monday, April 13

3:30 am A woman called to report someone was knocking on the windows at her mother's house. A deputy was informed.

4:34 am The FCS security requested a deputy to go to the motel room #4 for loud disturbance. A deputy was informed.

Tuesday, April 14

4:07 am A woman called to report her son had rolled his truck on Hwy 334 by Live Oak Creek. She later called back stating the accident was about 3 miles into Uvalde County. Notified the Uvalde dispatch of the situation.

7:15 am A man called to report he had lost his wallet. A deputy was informed.

1:00 pm Peter Cantu 23 of San Antonio was arrested for probation violation. Peter is still held at present time.

**Hwy 90 W**  
**Uvalde, Texas**

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## A variety of homestead exemptions could lower your property taxes!

A homestead exemption lowers the property taxes on your home by lowering its taxable 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 this year...and 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 over-65 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 to lock in 2008 taxes as the highest amount for 65 and older or disabled homeowners.) The over-65 homeowner's 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.

### Do I have to apply each year?

No. If you had a homestead exemption on your home in 2007, you won't need to reapply for 2008 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 2008. 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 by April 30 at your appraisal district office. If you need more time, contact us at:

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

For more information, stop in or call for a free copy of

"Texas Property Taxes: Taxpayers' Rights, Remedies and Responsibilities"

Or contact:



Texas Comptroller Susan Combs  
Property Tax Division  
P.O. Box 13528  
Austin, TX 78711-3528  
or call: (800) 252-9121

or on the Web at: [www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/](http://www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/proptax/)

A public service announcement courtesy of this newspaper.

## ¡Varias exenciones de residencia pueden rebajar sus impuestos de propiedad!

Una exención de residencia reduce sus impuestos de propiedad. Por ejemplo, si su residencia tiene un valor de \$50,000 y Ud. recibe una exención de \$15,000, sus impuestos se calcularán como si el valor de su residencia fuera de \$35,000.

### ¿Quién califica para una exención?

Cualquier dueño de una residencia principal el día 1º de enero tiene derecho a una exención de residencia de \$15,000 este año para rebajar sus impuestos escolares... y no importa si la residencia es casa, condominio o casa móvil. Los condados, ciudades y distritos especiales de impuestos también pueden ofrecer exenciones de residencia.

### ¿Hay otras exenciones?

Si Ud. está incapacitado—o si tiene 65 años o más—tiene derecho a una exención adicional de \$10,000 en sus impuestos escolares de propiedad. Y si califica para la exención de 65 años de edad o más o está incapacitado, también tiene derecho a un "tepe" permanente en sus impuestos escolares de residencia. (El condado, la ciudad o una universidad de dos años también puede adoptar un tope de impuestos en los impuestos del 2008 como la cantidad más grande para los dueños de hogar de 65 años o más o incapacitados.) La exención para los que ya cumplieron 65 años o más y el tope máximo se pueden transferir al esposo/esposa sobreviviente si el o ella tiene 55 ó más años de edad y es dueño/dueña de la casa en donde vive. Los dueños de 65 o más años de edad (o su esposa(a) sobreviviente de 55 años de edad o más) también pueden transferir el porcentaje del impuesto escolar pagado, en base al tope de su casa anterior, a su nueva casa.

### ¿Debo solicitarla cada año?

No. Si recibió una exención de residencia en el 2007, no hay necesidad de solicitarla de nuevo en el 2008—a menos que se lo pida su jefe de valoraciones. Sin embargo, si no ha recibido una exención en su residencia actual—o si ha cambiado de domicilio tendrá que solicitar una exención para el 2008. Si cumple 65 años durante este año, tiene hasta un año de esa fecha para solicitar una nueva exención. Si resultó incapacitado, tendrá que solicitar la exención de personas incapacitadas.

### ¿Dónde y cuando debo solicitar mis exenciones?

Debe presentar su solicitud en la oficina local del distrito de valoraciones antes del día 30 de abril. Si necesita más tiempo, puede contactarnos en:

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

Si desea más información, visítenos y obtenga una copia gratis de

"Impuestos Sobre la Propiedad en Texas: Derechos, Recursos y Responsabilidades del Contribuyente de Impuestos"

ó escribanos a:  
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