

The Brackett News

Thursday, September 10, 2009

Volume 21, No. 32

Serving the communities of Brackettville, Fort Clark Springs, Spofford and Kinney County
Kinney County Is Home To Byron and Jennifer Baggett and Family

1 Section, 6 Pages

Community News

OLD QUARRY CALLING
As the Old Quarry Society for the Performing Arts is beginning preparations for the 2009-2010 season, we are looking for a few good volunteers. The Old Quarry Society could never put on the productions you enjoy if we did not have dedicated volunteers. Our volunteers assist with sets, costumes, lights, sound, ticket sales, and box office to name a few. We are also looking for help with fund raising, as we are planning to replace the back stage curtains this year. If you have no experience, we will teach you. If you have experience, we will learn from you. To join us, please attend our monthly meetings, held the 4th Tuesday of each month, 7:00 p.m., Post Theatre. Or contact an officer: Wendy Knox, President; Donna Granchay or David Loftus, Vice-Presidents; Rosie Mattingly, Secretary; or Tom McNew, Treasurer. Season tickets will go on sale soon and the season will open in Nov. with the musical, "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown."

SPIRIT SHIRTS FOR SALE
The Brackett High Cheerleaders are taking orders for the 2009-2010 Spirit Shirts. All shirts are \$12 each, ranging in child to adult sizes. Shirts may be purchased from Cheer Sponsor Chica Hernandez after 3:30pm in Room #2 in the Junior High Building. All orders must be pre-paid and turned in by September 29.

LIONS CLUB PLANS SPECIAL MEETING
On Oct. 1, 2009, the Brackettville Lions Club will be hosting a special dinner meeting honoring Mr. Marion Wills. Mr. Wills was a charter member of the Brackettville Lions Club and Superintendent at BISD. Anyone who is a former Lion, who would like to become a Lion, who taught or attended school while Mr. Wills was there is invited to attend. RESERVATIONS ARE REQUIRED. If you want to attend Oct. 1st, FCS Service Club, please call 563-9229.

WATER BOARD MEETING TODAY
Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District KCGCD will hold a Public Hearing of the Rules for 2009-2010 on Thursday, September 10, 2009 at 1:00pm in the District Courtroom of the Kinney County Courthouse located in Brackettville.

CYBER CAFE HOURS
Kinney County Public Library Extends Hours
Starting September 8th the Library Annex (now known as the Library's Cyber Cafe) will extend its hours until 8:00 pm on Monday and Tuesday nights, thanks to volunteers that have offered to monitor the cafe. The Cyber Cafe has 11 public PC's and wireless access for the public's use. Come in enjoy a cup of coffee and surf the net. For more information call 830-563-2884.

KCCA DONATIONS
The Kinney County Church Alliance is in need of financial donations. Due to the increase need in our community the Benevolence account is depleted. Please send your check to KCCA Benevolence Fund P.O. Box 1109 Brackettville, Tx 78832. Your donations help purchase groceries, to pay utility bills, meet special needs of those who are struggling. For more information contact Nathan Lafrenz, Jean Reardon, Joe Goebel, or Jeff Jenca. Your help is greatly appreciated.

Creekside chef calls it quits Benjamin says Dorris cheated her out of pay



Holly Benjamin

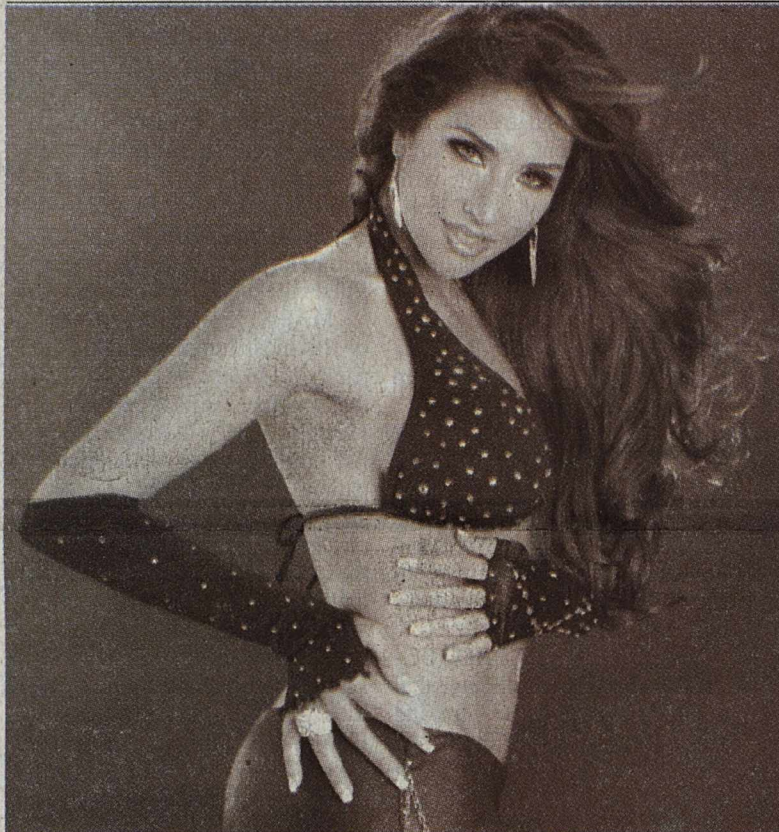
Creekside chef Holly Benjamin resigned her position on September 9, citing repeated shortages in her paychecks. Benjamin, an employee for the Creekside Restaurant located at the golf facility on Fort Clark Springs, stated she was not paid properly and was forced to resign. Benjamin said that she has been a loyal employee and, even in the face of all the controversy surrounding the restaurant and its owner/manager, she had given them the benefit of the

doubt for more than six months. Billy Jack Dorris, owner-manager of the restaurant is currently embroiled in a fraud case due to be heard in a Houston court in October. The case involves Dorris' non-payment of vendors in a turnkey well project in Liberty County. At the beginning of her employment with Creekside Benjamin agreed to be paid nine dollars an hour and be given thirty to forty work hours per week. In a recent review of her

paychecks, the chef said she discovered that she had been paid as little as \$6.25 per hour and has seen her hours decrease to about eight hours last week from forty plus hours per week in May. The current rate for minimum wage is \$7.25 per hour. An inspection of Benjamin's timesheets revealed that on more than one occasion, but specifically on August 25, she affirmed she worked a total of eight hours, but her gross pay was only \$50, or \$22 less than what

she should have received if paid at \$9 per hour. Benjamin says she is currently looking for another job, but feels betrayed by the Dorrises. Restaurant Owner Jacob Dorris said, via telephone Wednesday, that he did not know what we were talking about and when pressed, said he was unable to comment on the situation. Jacob then said his manager/father Billy Jack Dorris was not there to answer any questions either.

A rose by any other name: Hometown singer Jazmin Lopez releases new CD



By Katie Brown
The Brackett News
Juanita and Ignacio Lopez were migrant workers who followed seasonal work from Texas to Wisconsin. It was 1980 and Ronald Reagan would be elected the 40th President of the United States. Juanita and Ignacio had returned to Texas and stopped to visit a cousin, Joe Garcia, who lived in Brackettville. They were amazed to find that the Garcia children spoke English so well and they wanted that for their children who only spoke Spanish. They were told that the school system here was like a private school with small classes and that the children were only allowed to speak English. They made the decision to move to Brackettville to raise their children. Patricia Lopez, one of four children, was three years old and the second youngest at that time.
The Lopez' rented a place to live before buying a lot in Brackett. Juanita baked cookies and cakes out of their home to sell just as she baked and sold her baked goods in Wisconsin to supplement their income. They inquired about and eventually bought the empty building across from the school that had been vacant for years and prior to that had been the Tigers Den. People began requesting things like tamales, tortillas and barbacoa; so they

expanded their menu. Later they added hamburgers and fries with the school children in mind. In the meantime, Patricia began to take ballet classes through the Episcopal church here in Brackett. Juanita, who grew up in Guanajuato, Mexico, had attended Catholic schools and taken dance and piano lessons. She wanted that for her girls too. Little Patricia wanted to dance and according to her mother, took classes for years. During this same time period, she began taking piano lessons, first in Del Rio and then in Brackett from Lynn McNew. McNew recalled that, "She's always been very talented and very dedicated to her talent. She was a hard worker. She even played organ at church for a short while."
Mom's Patricia was Patty to everyone else. When Patty was fourteen, Alma Gutierrez, a teacher at BISD, held the first ever celebration for Cinco de Mayo and she asked Patty to be Selena Quintanilla-Perez, the "Queen of Tejano Music". Selena had died in April of that year. Patty was thrilled to have been asked; she knew how to dance but did not know that she could sing. So, she mimicked the words. There was also a Selena look-alike contest and a TV station from Eagle Pass came up to record the performance of

the girls. "She did it so good that a man from the station asked if I could bring her to the channel to do it over at the TV station," said her mother. "I told Alma and she said 'yes, let's go', so I said well, take the other girls too." At this time, Juanita was working at the school and was involved in many of the activities. Gutierrez said, "I always saw talent in Patty and encouraged her to pursue her dreams."
Patricia was invited to come to San Antonio to audition for the part of Selena in the proposed movie on her life. It would require a trip to New York City which they could not afford and as Juanita and Ignacio were both working to support their family they declined. Her mother recalled, "At the same time, a man from San Antonio said he could be a producer for her; she has everything she needs to be a singer. I said, she doesn't sing, she just mimics. He asked her to sing and handed her a microphone. She sang and he said 'See, she has everything she needs.'"
Patty took modeling classes in Del Rio and voice lessons from McNew. "All she wanted to do was Selena's music," McNew said. She sent her to see Rocco Fortunato, the person for anyone wanting to go professional. Rocco said that she "took what I gave her more

quickly than most students". In reflection he wondered if he did anything or if they even connected. She was obviously talented. When she later returned to Brackett to visit family she told Rocco how thankful she was for the help he had given her.
In school, she was a good student who received several achievement awards. Music and the arts permeated many of her activities including that as a cheerleader and a band participant. Patty was very active in sports also. Rocco Fortunato said that years later he ran into an individual who had umpired one of her games and remarked on how well Patty played ball and interacted with others.
Patty started recording in a studio and the producer in San Antonio started seeking a record label. Meanwhile she looked for a group she could perform with and found *Blue Magic* and then with *El Ultimo Tren* in Del Rio. Her mother accompanied her to every practice and performance, protecting her daughter who was still in junior high school. In 1998 they went to a dance in Acuña. The group that was performing was *Regional Del Bravo*. The lead singer was impressed with Patty and she joined the group, but he held her back, not giving her many

Water District seeks additional funding for water study
By Diana Ward
Special To The Brackett News
Louis Rosenberg, attorney for the Kinney County Groundwater Conservation District reported to the Board of Directors that he and representatives of the United States Geological Survey had met with representatives of Laughlin Air Force Base to request funding for the Western Edwards Water Balance Study. The purpose of the study is to determine how much water enters the county, how much is used, and how much leaves the county. The study includes Kinney, Edwards, and Val Verde counties.
"We met on the 13th," Rosenberg said. "I came down with two representatives, Mr. Joseph (state director) and George Ozuna (assistant state director) that made the presentation."
"The purpose was to take the study that we have outlined, that the board and the public has seen, and to give the Air Force the chance to opt in if they want to participate either as stakeholders' status or actively, or the real money issue at stake is do you want to put some money in to help provide additional funding for the project. We briefed them on the status of the project which is two fold. The initial \$300,000 is underway for being expended and the \$200,000 from GS for this fiscal year is going towards monitoring equipment. They expect to have most of the \$500,000 committed before the end of the fiscal year which would be by the end of September."
"The Air Force representatives said that they want to participate in a staff of technical basis in any event, but our real request was to get them to put some money in the pot to help the science go further. One of the reasons that we want the Air Force in, from the point of view of USGS, is the more federal agencies they can have involved in it, the better chance they've got to get their funding level sustained for the full five years that we have projected for the project."
"The National Park Service from Lake Amistad member did not make any promises about participating on more than a will-attend-the-meeting basis. (United States) Fish and Wildlife (Service) was unable to schedule to come down here, but the people that we talked with in connection with the Devil's River minnow both were invited and understand what the project is. We were trying to get all those federal agencies on the same frequency."

continued on page 2

Brackettville's 7-Day Forecast Sept. 10-16

This Week's Local Forecast

Thursday T-storms Likely 91/72	Friday T-storms 92/71	Saturday T-storms 91/69	Sunday T-storms 92/71	Monday Mostly Cloudy 91/68	Tuesday Partly Cloudy 90/68	Wednesday Partly Cloudy 92/70
Precip Chance: 70% Precip Chance: 50% Precip Chance: 50% Precip Chance: 30% Precip Chance: 20% Precip Chance: 10% Precip Chance: 10%						

Weather Trivia

Who developed the temperature scale?

Answer: In 1714, Gabriel Fahrenheit developed the scale.

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Brackett vs Harper



Tiger Gridiron
Thomas Hurney

There's an old adage in football (and in other sports too, I imagine) that at the end of the game the only numbers that matter are the ones on the scoreboard. Such was the case Friday night at Tiger stadium, as an opportunistic Harper team topped Brackett 28-13 in the Tiger's home opener.

The Tigers scored first, as junior Sam Stewart capped a typical (i.e., methodical) Brackett drive with a four-yard touchdown run on a second and goal. The PAT kick wouldn't have won many awards for aesthetics, but it succeeded, which is all that matters (see above) and the Tigers led 7-0.

The Longhorns took over at their own 41, but gained only six yards in three plays and had to punt. To be honest with you, I'm not sure what happened next, which is an awful thing for a reporter to have to admit, but there it is. As I said before, Harper had to kick, and the Tigers had the football, but at some point a routine running

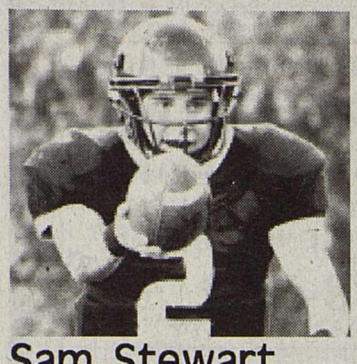
play became a loose (stripped?) ball, and, seconds later, a Longhorn touchdown.

At issue is the amount of time that passed between the end of the play and the referee's whistle. The home-team kids thought that the play was over, as did the fans, the coaches, Cash and I, and people who live in tents on the steppes of Mongolia, who don't know that much about American football, but they can tell you that a typical play should only run about six seconds, max.

At any rate, the referee casts the deciding vote in such matters, and he decided that the play hadn't ended, that a fumble had occurred, and that Harper had scored, so that was that. The PAT was good, and the two teams were tied at seven apiece, with just over nine minutes remaining in the half.

More fireworks in the second half, as Harper's Johnny Martinez took the second half kickoff all the way to the house, as they say. The Longhorns led 14-7, but the Tigers, unfazed, came right back with a 13-play, 72-yard drive, culminating in a 10-yard touchdown run by Sam Stewart, his second of the evening. The extra point was botched, though, and Brackett trailed by one.

Harper quarterback Jake Whitten is not possessed of a rocket arm, but he is resourceful, and he can run. He kept two Longhorn touchdown drives alive with his feet, and took it in himself on a quarterback keeper from the Brackett three to put the visitor's up 28-13, and thus the game ended with the Tigers on the wrong end of that 28-13 tally. Brackett hosts traditional rival Rocksprings Friday night at Tiger Stadium, with kickoff set for 7:30. As departed Cowboy's wideout Terrell Owens would say, bring your popcorn, because this should be a good one.



Sam Stewart

Photos By Brackett News Photographer Bruce Hudgens



The Tigerette Traveler



Morgan Knox

This summer I was lucky enough to visit New York City, New York. I had a lot of fun. New York City is about 32 hours from Brackettville. To get into New York City we had to go in a tunnel that went under a river. My first impression of the city was "WOW, COOL! There are a lot of high buildings." My tour was on a double-decker bus. I saw a lot of people, they were always getting in front of the cars, even on a green light! We started in Times Square. There were theatres and people selling things. We went past the humongous Empire State Building. There are 181 floors. It was a cloudy day and we could not even see the top. We went to China Town, which is a section of the city where Chinese people had immigrated. All the signs were in Chinese. Our next stop was the Statue of Liberty. You

catch the ferry in Battery Park. There was a huge metal ball with a flame burning near it. The guide told us it had landed there from the World Trade Center on 9/11. It is now a memorial to that day. The Statue of Liberty was awesome! The ferry went over the rough water, I slipped and slid on the deck, and felt kind of sick. France gave the statue to the US as a gift. There was a guy dressed up as the designer of the Statue who my sister and I got to talk to. I bought a crown and a torch so that I could go as the Statue of Liberty for Halloween. When we returned on the ferry to Bat-

tery Park there were people performing and dressed up like the Statue and even Spiderman. We ran back to our tour bus, we almost missed it. As we went to our next stop we passed the Brooklyn Bridge, which is over 100 years old. We ended with the United Nations, and Central Park. In the park there was a pond with ducks, you could rent a horse carriage to take you around the park. The air was nice and cool, and it was raining a little. We left New York after seeing the lights come on in Times Square. It was quite a thrill, I would love to live there!



Brackett VB vs. Carrizo



The Varsity Volleyball team was defeated by Carrizo Springs on September 8, 25-19, 23-25, 25-14; 25-23, 15-13.

Game contributors were: Aces — Rachael Nash(1), Digs — Nena Molinar(19), Kills — Paige Nowlin(8), Setting — Cheyenne Billings(18) and Blocks — Paige Nowlin(1).

The next Varsity Volleyball game will play in Brackett against Utopia on Saturday, September 12.

Pictured at left: Brackett Varsity Volleyball Team.



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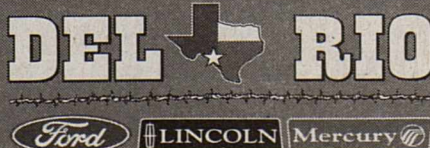
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Cryptogram
 A cryptogram is a puzzle where a sentence is encoded by substituting the
 actual letters of the sentence with different letters. The challenge of the
 puzzle is to 'decode' the sentence to reveal the original English sentence.
 We have provided a few of the decoded letters to help get you started.
Hint: Quote by Larry King
 A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z
 T _____ E _____
 _____ A _____
 S G V D X I G V G T O X D R Y Y X X L X L
 A A N N A N N N N
 T S T E K S G U E B T E L L V E S Z X E S U V E
 _____ A _____ N _____
 P R Y M T A X M U L L U E B S G X Z D X P O X D
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Sudoku Answer Page 6
 The challenge is to fill every row across, every column down, and every
 3x3 box with the digits 1 through 9. Each 1 through 9 digit must appear
 only once in each row across, each column down, and each 3x3 box.

8	4			1				
	1		5			3		
			7	8		2		
				5				
			6	2		5	4	
		5			7		9	
4	5							1
		3						
	1	7						9

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