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San Miguel and the Lady Hounds Kennedy on Friday the first round of play.

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Certified Ghosts?

Boerne Public Library gets certificate of paranormal activities

By **ELENA TUCKER**

Staff Writer

Unusual activities are indeed taking place in Boerne's Public Library, confirmed by the hobbyist group "Everyday Paranormal." They even bestowed their own version of a "certificate of occupancy" last week to Librarian Natalie Morgan who works in the historic city building.

In 1884, Joseph Dienger built the limestone structure to stand simply as a general store, not knowing that it would someday become a town landmark. However, today Dienger is best known for his mischievous doings within what is now the library — knocking books off shelves, and flipping lights on and off when no one is about.

"Joseph always acted up when there was alcohol served," said local historian Bettie Edmonds, "which there was at the Grand Opening of the library in 1991."

Hours later, the library director "found a whole lot of books in the library, between where the public computers are now and the main desk, thrown off the shelves," she said.

But some folks aren't convinced that the phantom is Dienger. Instead they maintain that it's a battered woman — her abusive husband drank in a saloon that later occupied the building — who is the cause of the unexplained events.

On Jan. 8, Everyday Paranormal founders Brad and Barry Klinge met with librarians Natalie Morgan and Sandy Miller for an after-hours, in-the-dark investigation.

"We shut all the lights down everywhere in the library and used only flashlights," said Morgan. "It was fun and creepy ... and very quiet." Wielding standard digital voice recorders and cameras, crews ventured through the library, using both vocal provocation and silence to lure unnatural occupants into evidence.

In a presentation last week to library staffers, the Klings presented their proof, including digital recordings of two to three measures of cheerful banjo-picking, a man's voice uttering something that sounds like "Rocko" and the voice of a young boy saying, "Ghosts."



Star photos by Elena Tucker

At top, Barry and Brad Klinge present librarian Natalie Morgan with a Certificate of Everyday Paranormal Activity. Right, an image captured by the Everyday Paranormal Activity teams shows what they say may be Boerne's library ghost. The white object on the left is what they say is a womanly apparition captured on film at the end of one of the facility's bookshelves.

